



March 2026

PATH EDUCATION

If you have been watching the news lately, you will know that on March 25, 2026, a Los Angeles jury found Meta and YouTube negligent by creating platforms with design features considered to be addictive, particularly to younger users.

"This is the first time in history a jury has heard testimony by executives and seen internal documents that we believe prove these companies chose profits over children," said Joseph VanZandt, one of the plaintiff's lawyers.

This was one day after a New Mexico jury determined that Meta knowingly harmed children's mental health and concealed what it knew about child sexual exploitation on its social media platforms.

"Meta's house of cards is beginning to fall," said Sacha Haworth, executive director of watchdog group The Tech Oversight Project. "For years, it's been glaringly obvious that Meta has failed to stop sexual predators from turning online interactions into real world harm."

PATH's chair elect, Bonnie Wheeler, spoke to how this ruling is relevant to our work at PATH:

I wanted to share a brief reflection on the ruling and its relevance to the mission and ongoing work of the PATH Coalition of Kentucky.

This decision represents more than a legal outcome—it signals a growing recognition at the national level that platforms and systems contributing to harm, particularly involving the exploitation of children, must be held accountable. For PATH, whose mission centers on prevention, awareness, and coordinated response to human trafficking, this ruling reinforces the urgency and importance of our work.

Specifically, this ruling aligns with PATH's efforts in several key ways: First, it validates the need for continued education and awareness around online exploitation, grooming, and the ways technology can be used to facilitate trafficking. As we continue developing prevention materials and community training, this provides a timely and relevant example to strengthen those conversations.

Second, it underscores the importance of cross-sector collaboration. Addressing exploitation—especially involving minors—requires coordination between law enforcement, service providers, educators, and community partners. This is a core function of PATH, and this ruling highlights why that collaboration must remain strong and intentional.

Third, it supports the ongoing development of practical tools, such as the “what do I do if” guide and screening resources. As risks evolve in digital spaces, our community partners need clear, actionable guidance to respond appropriately when concerns arise.

Finally, it reinforces the need to keep survivor-centered and trauma-informed approaches at the forefront. While accountability is critical, so is ensuring that victims and survivors are met with support, resources, and pathways to healing. As we continue moving forward—especially in strengthening prevention and awareness efforts—this ruling can serve as a powerful reference point in both our messaging and training initiatives.

Other articles that may be of interest:

[BBC article](#)

[New York Times article](#)

[NPR article](#)

[NPR New Mexico trial article](#)

The Kentucky Statewide Labor Trafficking Report 2026 is now available.

Executive Summary

This 2026 Kentucky Labor Trafficking Report provides information specific to labor trafficking in Kentucky. The focus of the report is on data related to labor trafficking in the areas of (1) screening and identification, (2) investigation and prosecution, (3) specialized services for survivors of labor trafficking, (4) training, outreach, awareness, and prevention efforts, and (5) resources to address labor trafficking.

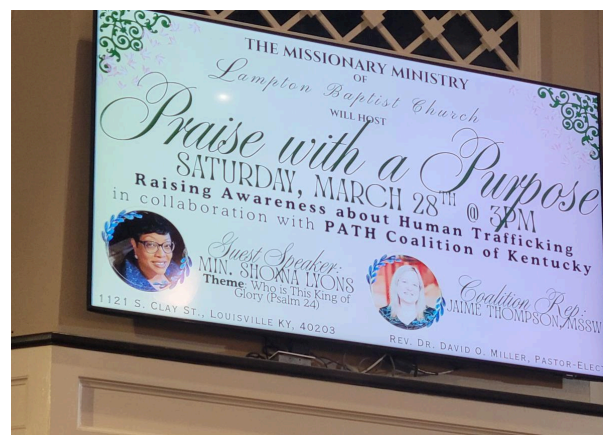
Federal and state level policy information are both provided as a resource.

Resources are cited throughout the report, many with hotlinks, to provide additional guidance and context for the report content.

An In-Depth Report on Labor Trafficking in Kentucky

[Read the report here](#)

PATH IN THE FIELD



PATH was honored to be invited to join with Lampton Baptist Church's *Missionary Ministry* on March 28th, 2026 for a special program. PATH's Director

of Programs, Jaime Thompson, delivered a presentation during the "Praise with Purpose: Raising Awareness about Human Trafficking" event. This collaboration yielded great conversations about how to prevent and respond to different types of trafficking. The themes of protection, love and understanding helped all in attendance understand the vulnerabilities of victims and the need to support them. We want to express a huge thanks for the \$260.00 raised and donated to PATH by the *Missionary Ministry* to support our mission and education initiatives.



PATH IN THE BOARDROOM

As PATH gears up for our annual change of officers this summer, we want to thank Stephanie Perry-LeBlanc for being nominated as Vice Chair. We appreciate Stephanie for lending her talents to potentially lead in this role.



PATH AND YOU



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