



January 2024

PATH EDUCATION



As human trafficking awareness month comes to a close, let's remember there are countless organizations and people working to make a difference in this difficult work.

Rolling Stone Presents The Real Story of Human Trafficking

The following is an excerpt from a January 4th Rolling Stone magazine website article. We encourage you to read the full story. It gives a face to one member of law enforcement who worked hard to combat crimes against children, it tells the stories of those who are the victims in these crimes and it is another reminder that trafficking happens anywhere.

By Alex Morris

ON AN AUGUST night in 2003, a young woman who went by the name Paulina sank into the sofa of her modest, rented apartment, opened up her laptop, and began talking about sex with a man she'd recently met

in a Yahoo chat group. His name was Stephen Bolen. His first communications had been terse, but he soon warmed to Paulina. It didn't take long for both of them to begin to open up.

Paulina had told Bolen she lived in the Atlanta area, that she had a three-year-old daughter, that her daughter's father was no longer in the picture. Soon, she was sharing more intimate details: what it was like growing up a skinny white girl in a rough neighborhood outside of D.C.; how her dad, a Marine, had died by suicide two weeks before she was born; how her mom had been emotionally and physically abusive, and had never really shown her love. How she'd had a sexual relationship with her stepfather.

Paulina would put her daughter to bed and then she and Bolen would chat throughout the night, over Yahoo and sometimes on the phone. The back-and-forth could feel like dating, but with an added element of danger and risk: Both Paulina and Bolen knew they were tiptoeing up to a line to see if they trusted each other enough to cross it. It could take a while to figure that out.

Eventually, Bolen asked Paulina to send pictures of her daughter, and she agreed to do so, though the ones she'd shared were chaste — the little girl clothed and her face turned away from the camera or obscured behind an untamable halo of blond curls. After seeing the pictures, Bolen asked to meet. While a lot of the men Paulina had encountered in chatrooms like “Sex With Younger” just wanted to trade images and videos of children, to expand their illicit collections, Bolen was a “traveler,” someone looking to act upon his obsessions.

On Sept. 17, just as they'd arranged, Paulina sat on a bench outside Perimeter Mall with a stroller parked in front of her, scanning the parking lot nervously. Part of her hoped Bolen wouldn't show. When he did, she could see he was handsome, a preppy guy in a pink polo shirt and khakis. “Paulina?” he asked eagerly. She nodded. As he smiled and pulled back the blanket draped across the stroller, he found himself surrounded, handcuffs slipped around his wrists. “Paulina” watched his face fall, his confusion giving way to distress as FBI agents took him into custody. It was her first undercover arrest. It would be the first of many.

[Read the full article here](#)



OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Including the work we do here at PATH to help educate and raise awareness about human trafficking, below are some of the other organizations helping to raise awareness, helping victims, or providing services. We've highlighted quite a few of these in past newsletters but wanted to do so again, as Human

Trafficking Awareness Month comes to a close. This is by no means an exhaustive list and we appreciate all who are working to stop trafficking.

[Adelante Hispanic Achievers](#)
[Bakhita Empowerment Initiative](#)
[Hosea's House](#)
[Human Trafficking Research Initiative](#)
[Jefferson Juvenile Summit](#)
[La Casita Center](#)
[Scarlet Hope](#)
[Sycamore Farm](#)
[UNA USA Kentucky](#)
[US Catholic Sisters Against Trafficking](#)
[University of Louisville Women's Center](#)
[Youth Empowerment Conference](#)



The United Nations Association - Kentucky Division

The United Nations Association of the USA (UNA-USA) is a movement of Americans dedicated to supporting the United Nations. With over 20,000 members (60% under the age of 26) and more than 200 chapters across the country, UNA-USA members are united in their commitment to global engagement and their belief that each of us can play a part in advancing the UN's mission and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

As advocates of the United Nations and stewards of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, UNA-USA affirms its commitment to build a culture to engage and support all members and stakeholders regardless of race, creed, color, sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, disability, religion, marital status, political opinion, national origin, socio-economic status, or any other protected characteristics. Our goal is to ensure an organizational environment where members and stakeholders feel valued and empowered to support the principles and work of the United Nations, including the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

PATH (People Against Trafficking Humans Coalition of Kentucky) and United Nations Association of the USA Kentucky Division (UNA-USA KY Division) are partnering to advocate for state specific legislation to address the emerging issue of sextortion.



PATH IN THE BOARDROOM

PATH treasurer, Dr. Theresa Hayden, has joined the KY Foster Care Review Board. We are appreciative that Dr. Hayden has joined this board to give her perspective and share her knowledge about trafficking.

As you may know, one crucial aspect of the fight against human trafficking in the

United States that is often overlooked is the connection between the foster care system and human trafficking. The child welfare system is an important institution that serves to protect children whose parents are not able to take care of them. However, preliminary research has shown that anywhere from 50 to 90% of child trafficking victims have been involved in the foster care system at some point. Additionally, research from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children indicates that 60% of runaways who became subject to human trafficking had run away from the custody of state welfare agencies. Human trafficking is a clear and present danger for youth in the foster care system, but little research has been done to address this issue.

.....From Human Trafficking Search 2017 A Project of the O.L. Pathy Family Foundation

PATH AND YOU



PATH is pleased to announce that we are a beneficiary of the Kroger Community Rewards program. Please consider selecting PATH Coalition of KY as your community rewards recipient and PATH will receive a % of your shopping purchases over the course of the year. It's easy to set up and costs you nothing more than a few minutes of time.

Follow instructions here: [Kroger Community Rewards Instructions](#)

or

Sign in to your account at kroger.com, go to My Account, Select Community Rewards from the left hand menu, search for PATH Coalition of KY, click Enroll.

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