



June 2024

PATH EDUCATION



As Pride Month comes to a close, let's take a closer look at the vulnerabilities the LGBTQIA+ population, particularly youth face.

There are resources in this article that you are encouraged to fully read to help educate yourself on the vulnerabilities this population faces every day when it comes to trafficking.

[The Polaris Project states](#) "There is a direct link between anti LGBTQ+ discrimination and human trafficking. When someone's opportunities for a decent job or safe housing are constantly shattered because of discrimination based on who they are or how they look, that makes them vulnerable to human trafficking. Traffickers then have an open door to step in and offer "help" that turns out to be anything but. We know that traffickers operate by preying on vulnerable people - stepping in to fill a need they can't get elsewhere then tricking or coercing their victims into labor or commercial sex. [Read more.](#)

[The National Network for Youth provides a startling statistic regarding LGBTQIA+ and homelessness.](#) Research has shown that those who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning (LGBTQ+) have a 120% higher risk of experiencing some form of homelessness.[1] With up to 40% of the 4.2 million youth experiencing homelessness identifying as LGBTQ+[2] while only 9.5% of the U.S. population[3], LGBTQ+ youth disproportionately experience homelessness compared to their straight and cisgender peers. They are also more likely to experience assault, trauma, depression, and suicide when compared to non-LGBTQ+ populations while also being homeless. These statistics are even worse for Black and Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC)

LGBTQ+ populations who suffer from racial inequities and discrimination. [Read more.](#)

[Human Trafficking Search](#) delves further into the vulnerability a houseless LGBTQIA+ youth faces. There is a disproportionate number of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) youth in the commercially sexually exploited population. The majority of US based organizations working with this population attribute this to the high levels of homelessness among LGBT youth. [Forty-six percent](#) of homeless LGBT youth report running away from home due to family rejection of their sexual orientation and 17 percent ended up on the streets after they aged out of the foster care system. Spending time on the streets as a vulnerable young person can have dire consequences and within [48 hours of running away](#), 1 in 3 homeless youth will be recruited by a trafficker into commercial sexual exploitation. [Read more.](#)

[And let's remember that this is a global crime affecting LGBTQIA+ throughout the world.](#)
[Read more.](#)

[Additional Resources:](#)

[American Medical Association EdHub Article on Healing Centered Approach](#)

[United Way Fight Against Human Trafficking](#)

[ReportOut Global Scoping Report for the UN](#)

PATH has been fortunate to be on the frontlines of this work over the last few years. In 2021, we held a Queer Summit to help educate about the risks the LGBTQIA+ population experiences. In 2022, we were the recipient of a United Way grant to continue our educational efforts in this arena. And in 2023, we were invited to the KY Foster Care Review Board and to participate in the Youth Empowerment Conference for foster care youth.

As mentioned above, another vulnerable population is youth in the foster care system. For the 2nd year, PATH was invited to present at the Youth Empowerment Conference held in Lexington on June 10, 2024. Dr. Theresa Hayden, PATH treasurer, presented Human Trafficking 101 to a group of foster care youth and caregivers. At the end of the sessions, time was allotted for questions and Dr. Hayden was moved by the youth and their questions/concerns/experiences that they shared.



PATH IN THE BOARDROOM

On July 1st, the new slate of PATH Officers begins its' term. Jamieeca Jones concludes her time on the PATH board and her term as President. Under Jamieeca's lead the PATH board embarked on a new and exciting chapter by focusing on strategic planning to assist in the continued growth of the organization, expansion of the board of directors to focus on diversity of experiences, and a complete bylaw review and update.

The PATH board extends their sincere thanks for the time, talent and effort Jamieeca brought to the board and her willingness to step into the President role in 2022. We know great things are ahead for Jamieeca and can't wait to see her continue to shine her light.



PATH AND YOU



Save The Date

Give For Good, sponsored by the Community Foundation of Louisville, will be held on **Thursday, Sept. 12, 2024**. PATH will once again be participating in this day long fundraising event. You don't have to be local to Louisville to participate so tell your friends and colleagues to save the date as well. More information to come over the next few months.



PATH is pleased to announce 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](#)

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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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