



October 2024

PATH EDUCATION

During our October PATH board meeting, a discussion was had about the recent news stories regarding high profile, famous individuals who have been charged with trafficking, both sex and labor, assault and racketeering to name a few.

There are a few topics from our conversation we would like you to consider:

1. Human trafficking continues to be a misunderstood crime in many spaces - by the public, by law enforcement, by the judicial system and by victims themselves. The definition informs us that human trafficking involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act. Traffickers and buyers who hold power and influence often use it to force or coerce those they know, sometimes intimately, into trafficking situations. If you ask the victims and/or survivors in these cases, it is not uncommon to hear them share that during their trafficking situations they did not understand that they were trafficked or were too scared and/or unable to report the crime. During our conversation we reflected on the question: If victims and survivors are unable to recognize or understand the decades of laws that have been established to protect them and hold those who harm and exploit them accountable for these terrible violations and exploitations of their human rights, how can our criminal justice system and other systems increase their efforts to help identify victims and bring traffickers to justice? We believe there are multiple answers to this question. We are motivated to continue our work at PATH to answer this question and promote efforts to reduce those misunderstandings of this crime. It takes dedicated, informed, and honorable people to stand up for people who too often continue to be unable see themselves as a victim, and to bring those who perpetrate the crime of trafficking to justice.
2. We must do better for our children and young people living in our country and world. They say it takes a village to raise a child. The dangers to children and young people have increased exponentially over the years. Previous generations didn't have the worry of electronic media and its' sway over a whole generation and the world around them. We reflected on our concerns that too many young people lack the understanding that what they put out there (in our massive digital landscape) doesn't go away when they hit delete. Hearing about the increasing number of young people who are unaware of who they are communicating with electronically made us feel it is urgent that they need more tools and instruction about being intentional, careful, watchful, and to keep their guard up, no matter what

the situation. It is clear we need more attention and protections for young people seeking opportunities or attention in certain industries while trying to "make it big" or be "Instagram famous" as the news cycle in recent times show us that human trafficking is happening all around us and children and young people are particularly vulnerable in these spaces due to many factors. It takes all of us repeating that message to all the children and young people in our lives if we are to be successful in changing behaviors and increasing understanding of the intentions of traffickers and exploiters. If these messages increase youth protection policies and education, it will indeed save lives and prevent the trauma victims and survivors face. Join us at PATH if you have a desire to help us with our efforts to spread important messages and important facts our young people are depending on us to provide.

3. Finally, October is Mental Health Awareness month. Our discussion a few weeks ago centered around the anxiety, worry and fear we were all feeling for people we didn't know, in situations we couldn't control or change and how those feelings were affecting us and our mental health. Educating the public on human trafficking is not easy work. It's not for the faint of heart, but we, at PATH, want to change the narrative. We want people to know the crime, understand its' many nuances, be better able to report it and know and feel confident they are doing the right thing when reporting suspicions they have witnessed or learned about a trafficking situation. We want them to know the resources available to help keep their children safe, digitally and otherwise. But doing this work means we must keep ourselves safe and healthy as well, particularly mentally. We had our discussion in a safe space amongst friends and we needed to be able to share for ourselves as much as anyone else. If you need to talk it out, find that space and group of people where you can take care of your own mental health.

References:

[PATH website](#)

[National Human Trafficking Hotline](#)

[Polaris Project](#)

[Keeping Children Safe Online DOJ](#)

[Enough Is Enough](#)

[Findsupport.gov](#)

[988 Toolkit](#)



PATH IN THE FIELD



On October 12th, PATH Vice Chair, Dr. Theresa Hayden, participated with Bonnie Wheeler of Silverleaf Sexual Trauma Recovery Services at a training event for the Kentucky Constable Association. Approximately 20 constables were required to participate in video training focused on human trafficking, forced labor and sexual predator training earlier in the week and then join the in person session with Dr. Hayden and Ms. Wheeler during the 2024 Statewide Training Weekend.

The format of the training was conversational with the constables having opportunity to ask Dr. Hayden and Ms. Wheeler questions about the video training they took earlier in the week and then Dr. Hayden and Ms. Wheeler had the opportunity to "test" the constables on what they learned and then be able to expand further on that training.

Kentucky is one of only 23 states who have the position of constable. Constables are peace officers with broad powers of arrest and authority to serve court processes. They may execute warrants, summonses, subpoenas, attachments, notices, rules and orders of the court in all criminal, penal and civil cases. Constables are exempt from the Department of Criminal Justice Training Academy, but must complete basic law enforcement training to make arrests or exercise full police powers.

PATH appreciates the opportunity to offer valuable training on human trafficking to the Kentucky Constable Association and thanks them for their generous donation to continue our educational work.

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PATH AND YOU

2025 **UPCOMING** EVENTS

SAVE THE DATES

9 JANUARY

16 JANUARY

23 JANUARY

30 JANUARY

DURING HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH, PATH WILL PRESENT FOUR VIRTUAL WEBINARS ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING TOPICS INCLUDING HUMAN TRAFFICKING 101.

SAVE THE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR AND WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON.

EACH WEBINAR WILL BE PRESENTED FROM 11:30AM-1:00PM EASTERN.

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PATH Coalition of Kentucky | [Website](#)

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