

## World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women (WFMUCW)

### UN NGO Update from CSW65

Submitted by Joan Capel

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW65) convened virtually beginning March 15<sup>th</sup>, ending March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021. There were many Side Events as well as Parallel Events offered.

My report will cover “Girls Fighting Human Trafficking in the Time of Covid-19: How Youth Lead in Peer-to-Peer Prevention” **The Sponsoring Organization:** Live2Free World Without Exploitation Youth Coalition

**Ruthi Hanchett**

Global Center for Women and Justice

Adjunct Professor

**Alexandria Hurst**

Live2Free

President

**Caitlen Macias**

World Without Exploitation

World Without Exploitation

Youth Coalition’s Chair

Live2Free is an organization that empowers youth to end human trafficking through raising awareness at Vanguard University.

Through Peer-to-Peer education, college members of Live2Free educate and train other youth from Jr high, senior high and college about modern day slavery, the risks of human trafficking and the ways they can be involved in ending the demand for slavery.

World Without Exploitation is a movement to end human trafficking and sexual exploitation, coming together to create a world where no person is bought, sold or exploited.

Data shows that that 80% of those sold into sexual slavery are under the age of 24, with some as young as 6 (The average age is 12). Peer-to-Peer education is an invaluable tool to get the message to those in that age group.

The greatest number of traffickers come from Asia, followed by Central and Southeastern Europe and Western Europe however, there is human trafficking being conducted in the United states as well. California, New York, Florida and Texas are consistently among the worst for modern slavery.

There are some conditions that are conducive to human trafficking

- Major North/South corridors
- Agriculture, large migrant population
- Large, transient military populations (surrounded by sex-based businesses)
- Special events – Super Bowl (US)
- International borders
- Coastlines
- Travel hubs

It was also revealed that in their work with families, one of the biggest challenges they encounter is convincing parents that their children are at risk and helping them realize that their children need to be made aware of the risks online so they can be empowered to recognize a dangerous situation and remove themselves from it.

There were many resources shared that are available to organizations. COVID-19 has greatly reduced in person training but there are resources available online:

- We-Live2Free- have recorded presentations for youth and will give 'live' virtual presentations. Live2Free.org
- [L2F@vanguard.edu](mailto:L2F@vanguard.edu)
- [Ruthi.hanchett@vanguard.edu](mailto:Ruthi.hanchett@vanguard.edu) to request a survivor to speak and also show videos.
- Link to Live2Free's Online Safety Webinar <https://youtu.be/fN-f53lw16Y>
  
- UNODC is one of several UN agencies working to combat human trafficking and the smuggling of migrants and is underpinned by the United Nations Convention on Transitional Organized Crime and its protocols on trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling.
  
- The European Union (EU) and UNODC have launched the Global Action to Prevent and Address Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants (GLO.ACT))

This was a very informative and enlightening session. It made me aware that there is much work to do to rid the world of the scourge.