

# Stop Trafficking!

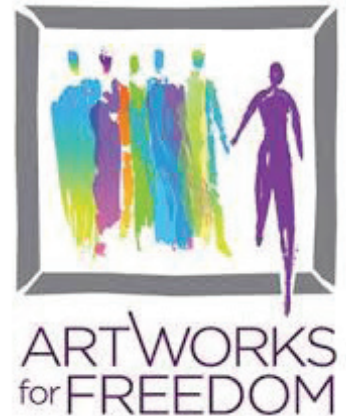
## Awareness Advocacy Action

Anti-Human Trafficking Newsletter • June 2020 • Vol. 18 • No. 6

**FOCUS:** Art therapy helps survivors of human trafficking give voice to the trauma of trafficking and helps in their rehabilitation process. The power of art is also used to raise awareness about human trafficking.

## Using the Power of Art to Raise Awareness About Human Trafficking

ArtWorks for Freedom engages art in all its forms to raise awareness about human trafficking. Working locally and globally, ArtWorks for Freedom educates individuals, communities and policy makers about modern-day slavery. Through exhibits, performances, film series, lectures, and creative opportunities for dialogue, they help transform public perceptions and inspire people to action. ArtWorks for Freedom empowers people to be part of the solution that will end human trafficking in their communities and globally.

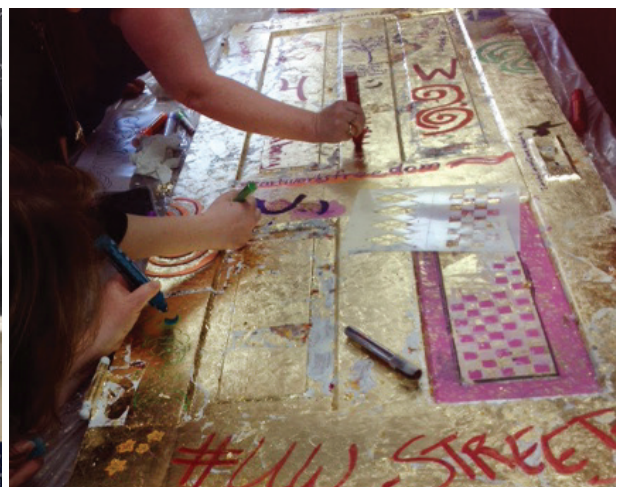


ArtWorks for Freedom partners with activists, organizations and funders who support a local campaign, ensuring on-the-ground participation and local fundraising. ArtWorks for Freedom draws from a selection of original artwork that shines a light on the horrors and complexities of human trafficking. They develop a plan for multiple weeks of events and exhibitions, encouraging the participation of local artists and arts organizations. ArtWorks for Freedom collaborates with local organizers, hosts and sponsors to engage participants through the exhibits, lectures and talks by the artists. An interactive web-based mobile site provides quizzes, maps and background information to participants.

By presenting quality work that avoids stigmatizing imagery and elevates the voices of survivors, audiences walk away informed and compelled to take action against human trafficking in their own communities. ArtWorks for Freedom has held campaigns in the United States and internationally, including in Mumbai, India, Singapore, Phnom Penh, and the Netherlands. To find out more about ArtWorks for Freedom and to bring a campaign to your community, please click [here](#) to view a 3-minute video.



UWSTREETS, Golden Doors to Freedom, ArtWorks for Freedom



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# Awareness



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## Golden Doors to Freedom

Golden Doors to Freedom is another participatory art project of ArtWorks for Freedom that turns abandoned doors into vehicles for drawing awareness to human trafficking. Guided by master gilder William Adair, trafficking survivors and allies in the community transform discarded wooden doors into “freedom portals.” After applying 23k gold leaf to the doors, participants write, stencil, draw, scratch, burnish, and embellish them with their own expressions about trafficking. Transforming a battered door into a beautiful work of art “tells us about our own capacity to change perceptions and create empathy in the place of indifference.” Click [here](#) to learn more.



“ENSNARED, Part of the “Anxiety” series by quilter Judy Kirpich, evokes the horrors of modern slavery, conveying the tension of being trapped, both physically and emotionally, and captures the global nature of human trafficking. “Ensnared” includes rusted hand dyed fabrics and various quilting techniques. With bits of steel wool and wire, the artist utilizes a rough texture to capture the feeling of barbed wire without being literal. The slash and stitch technique, where the artist cuts repeatedly through the assembled fabric, expresses anxiety and anger, which mirrors the artist’s feelings regarding enslaved labor and sex exploitation. The lines cut through each other making a dense maze that is vaguely in the shape of a globe and circular stitching in the center of the piece echoes this shape. The piece is intentionally somber and for the most part monochromatic.” (ArtWorks for Freedom)

“WALKING IN THEIR FOOTSTEPS, Kat Rohrer’s participatory drama, takes the audience through a reenactment of the stages of human trafficking. Watch participants in Jacksonville, Florida, step into the shoes of those who are bought and sold for their labor around the world. The journey takes them from the friendly lures of the job recruiter to dehumanizing objectification, to being threatened, emotionally manipulated, abused and trapped. All of these stages characterize modern slavery.” Click [here](#) to watch the video.



## Airports to Freedom

Most people traveling by air spend between 60-90 minutes at the airport before boarding. This makes airports the perfect venue to bring light to the hidden world of human trafficking to as large an audience as possible. Airports to Freedom is a multimedia project of ArtWorks for Freedom and its partners which will actively engage audience participation. The total estimated viewing experience of the entire installation and films will be about 20 minutes. Each film lasts approximately one minute and will present an individual survivor’s story.

Pastor Donna Hubbard, a survivor of human trafficking who works as a flight attendant for American Airlines, introduces each story: “I am Donna Hubbard and I AM a survivor of human trafficking. The story you are about to listen to is real. Afterward you will be given the opportunity to help us end this awful practice once and for all.”

The installation in airports is a central component of the Airports to Freedom global human trafficking awareness campaign with partners such as Airline Ambassadors International, Saving Jane and Stop The Traffik. The campaign will also offer training in human trafficking awareness skills, a survivor speaker program, a safe house legacy program, and a free educational syllabus with teacher’s guide, all to enable people with an opportunity to help end human trafficking. Click [here](#) to learn more.

## Missing, a National Art Project

In India, an estimated 1.2 million children work in the sex industry and tens of thousands of girls go missing each year, many trafficked into prostitution. Last year, artist Leena Kejriwal launched Missing, a national art project, as a memorial to those affected by slavery. Silhouettes of young girls were painted in more than 150 urban locations, with most in Kolkata, which has a large red- light district. Kejriwal has studied the effect of art on those recovering from trafficking throughout her career and is now growing the project to include iron and fiberglass sculptures in 10 Indian cities.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

## Street Art for Mankind

Years ago, street art was once the only way marginalized groups could have a voice. Today bold murals serve as backdrops for movies and television shows. Street Art for Mankind teaches that street art can still be a great tool to call attention to important issues.

Street Art for Mankind is a non-profit organization pulling together street artists, local government, international organizations and corporate sponsors to raise awareness about child labor, slavery and trafficking. They have exhibited in many major cities in the United States and at the United Nations.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

# Awareness



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*“We can’t merely walk over the most marginalized people in our communities — those who fall through the metaphoric cracks.”*

(Molly Gochman)

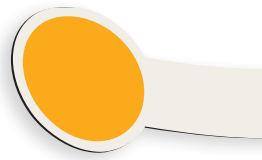
When Molly Gochman learned about the tragedy of human trafficking in our world, she knew she had to do something about it. In 2014, she started the first Red Sand Project with the goal to get people involved in raising awareness about human trafficking. She filled the cracks of sidewalks in and around the Art Basel Miami Beach pavilion with red sand. The red sand symbolize the vulnerable individuals who fall through the cracks — whether the cracks of our social, economic, and political systems or those of our personal consciousness. It is these vulnerable individuals who are most at risk for human trafficking.

Soon after this first project, Molly started a website which offers Red Sand Project toolkits. These toolkits include packets of red sand and facts about human trafficking in the United States and globally. Her goal is that individuals will physically connect with this cause and engage in discussions about trafficking. Today, the Red Sand Project has taken place in all 50 states and in 70 countries, with more than one million participants.

In 2015, Molly added earthworks — large-scale, site-specific outdoor land art installations — to Red Sand Project. These projects stretch for hundreds of feet in the shapes of political borders. Earthworks highlight how borders, drawn arbitrarily through history, divide communities and make individuals more vulnerable to trafficking. The Red Sand Project has installed four earthworks to date, with more planned in the future. Click [here](#) to learn more.



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## Art to Heal Victims of Trafficking

When Margeaux Gray, a survivor of human trafficking, testified during a United States Senate hearing on trafficking, she called for an increase in services for survivors, including art therapy. Therapists that work with those who have experienced trauma have used art therapy as part of the rehabilitation process. Art therapy can cover various forms, from drawing to photography to poetry; from clowning troupes to puppet theatres. Most programs are supported financially by grants from art councils or fundraising in the local community. Click [here](#) to learn more.



*“Art therapy is defined as using an application of art in a therapeutic context. This can take many different forms, from painting and drawing to sculpture making and pottery, to music and poetry.”*



## Healing Through Art

Human trafficking survivors have experienced physical trauma and violence that result in emotional wounds that can last a lifetime. Many organizations that work with survivors are incorporating art therapy with mental health care to help survivors overcome the stigma that can be imposed on them by their culture. Advocates find art therapy as a non-invasive, non-verbal means for survivors to express their stories and feelings.

Artistic creation has the power to instill feelings of self-worth and confidence so survivors can rebuild their self-esteem. It can also lead

to self-discovery by helping the survivor to acknowledge and recognize their feelings, which they may have buried deep within themselves.

Art therapy is defined as using art form in a therapeutic context. This can include painting and drawing, sculpture making and pottery, music and poetry. Art therapy can take place in an open studio with minimal guidance, using one on one coaching, or in a structured class. Each setting for art therapy has their own benefits. An individual therapy session can help establish a bond between the victim and therapist while group therapy sessions are excellent for building healthy connections with others, particularly helpful for survivors finding it difficult to develop relationships.

Although the art therapy shows promising results in improving a survivor's mental health and rehabilitation, funding to support art therapy for human trafficking survivors can still be a challenge. Many art therapy programs are supported by grants from art councils or local community fundraising. To help raise funds for human trafficking survivors and post-trauma rehabilitation, some of the artwork produced by survivors may be showcased at local art exhibits or museums and sponsored by human trafficking advocacy organizations to raise awareness and to educate the community about the economic and social effects of human trafficking.

While art therapy usually plays a small role in the rehabilitation process for survivors, it provides positive and meaningful value to the mental health of human trafficking survivors. From protecting survivors from relapses to helping them gain social and economic independence, art therapy is more than creating something, it's a powerful resource that allows survivors to creatively choose their own effective method of healing. Click [here](#) to learn more.

## Art Therapy Exhibitions: Exploitation or Advocacy?



*In 2017, when this article was published, Terri Davis was a physician assistant and third-year medical student at West Virginia University School of Medicine in Morgantown, VA. After meeting members of the Hope and Liberation Coalition in preparation for working on this issue, she coordinated an exhibit with them at West Virginia University's Health Sciences Center and the Morgantown Art Center for National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month.*

Therapists working with human trafficking survivors often use art therapy to allow a survivor to give voice to the trauma of trafficking. Artwork created by human trafficking survivors is sometimes used to promote awareness of human trafficking. The display of their artwork often promotes a feeling of self-worth and helps facilitate the healing processes of survivors.

The survivor often donates their work to these exhibitions. However, some organizations that use this work have been accused of exploiting the survivor-artist, attracting interest by drawing explicitly upon the survivors' painful experiences. Terri Davis suggests that organizations develop protocols around the use of using artwork by survivors. The focus of these protocols would be to allow survivor-artists choices about when and how their work would be used and to ensure that participation nurtures their healing. Protocols should also include mandatory training on the nature and effects of trauma for all advocates who interact with survivors.

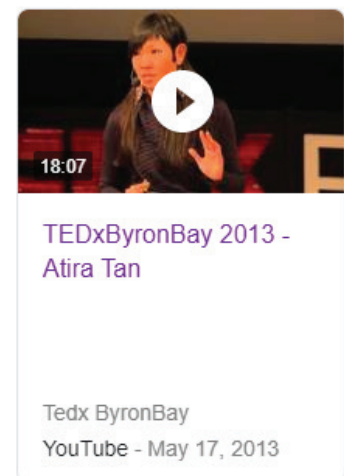
Click [here](#) to learn more.

### Art2Healing Project

The Art2Healing Project works with sex trafficking survivors in India and Nepal. Atira Tan, the director of the project, states that “the process of art-making can provide a safe place where the story can be told creatively and in a non-invasive way.” Tan stresses that the focus always must be on the survivors. Seeing the focus as a “successful rehabilitation” could put the survivors at risk. Tan has found that art therapy has a positive impact on survivors when it is delivered long term, including after survivors have regained the confidence to rebuild their lives.

Prior to her work in India and Nepal, Tan collaborated with Agir Pour Les Femmes En Situation Précaire (AFESIP) in Cambodia in 2005, to provide psychological support to trafficking survivors. Many of these women and children had been removed from brothels. Tan collected data and monitored the mental health needs of survivors, which was then used to lobby the government for legislation and policies to prevent trafficking. She also used the information to teach NGOs and government agencies the importance of art therapy as a research tool. The data also serve to increase funding for art therapy. The collaboration resulted in exhibitions that educated the public on human trafficking and mental health issues.

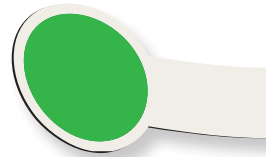
Please click [here](#) to view an 18-minute TED talk where Atira Tan speaks about her work with the Art2Healing Project.



## Rescue Arts

Rescue Art is a tool used by therapists and organizations, such as Project Rescue in India, to bring healing from trauma through creative arts. The basis for Rescue Art includes opportunities for expression, processing and relationship development by using a creative medium. This necessarily includes a safe venue for survivors to express themselves and opportunities to process inwardly as well as in a safe group setting. A group-oriented segment allows survivors to realize that they are not alone. Click [here](#) to learn more.

## Action



## A Survivor Speaks

*“I might have been through this struggle. But I’m a survivor as well. So, when you ask me who I see in the mirror looking back at me, I’m gonna say a girl who survived hell.”*

When Jatia was just six years old, her father died of a brain tumor. She moved in with her aunt to what she thought was a safer environment, but she became a victim of human trafficking. After years of abuse, Jatia struggled to trust men. But that all changed when she met Covina Valley USD Fairvalley High principal Dana Craig. It was Craig’s open-door policy and gentle demeanor that allowed Jatia to open up about her tumultuous childhood. As she began to heal, Jatia turned to writing and poetry to sift through her experiences. Her resilience, bright smile and deep empathy are only some of the strengths she shows when reading her poems. Her future is bright but no matter what comes, Jatia is a survivor. To view her story please click [here](#).

## Survivor’s Ink

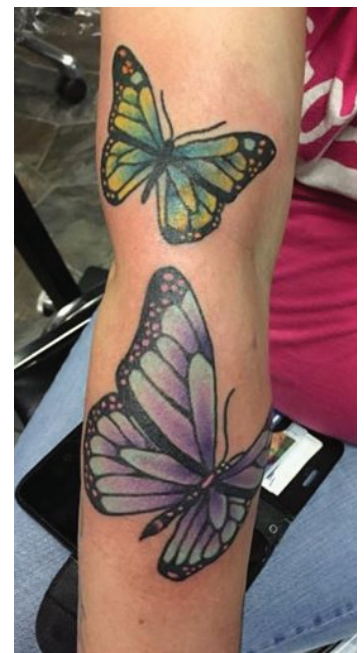
Survivor’s Ink uses a different kind of art to help trafficking victims cope. Traffickers often “brand” their victims, tattoos to show “ownership.” Survivor’s Ink works to empower survivors by breaking the psychological chains of enslavement through beautifying, removing, or covering their physical scars, markings and brandings that are constant reminders of a violent past.

The de-branding program also helps to connect survivors to job connections, emotional support services, housing, and government resources.

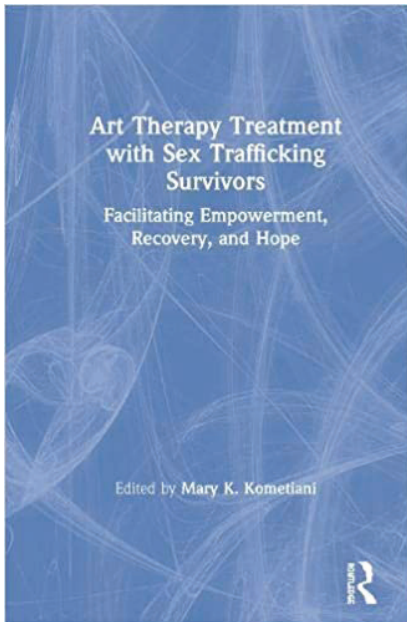
Survivor’s Ink was founded by trafficking survivor Jennifer Kempton who was formerly branded. Survivor’s Ink strives to keep the survivor’s voice at the center of what they do and they urge other organizations to do the same. The tattoo artists are screened, and all measures are taken to ensure that the survivor is properly cared for and not exposed to further exploitation.

Survivor’s Ink provides scholarships to individuals who are confirmed victims of human trafficking. Marks must be directly related to traffickers, abusers, or the survivor’s time of enslavement. Applicants must have completed or been actively participating in some form of safety or drug rehabilitation program and be at least six months removed from the lifestyle of enslavement and drug abuse.

Please click [here](#) to find out more about Survivor’s Ink.



[www.survivorsink.org](http://www.survivorsink.org)



## *Art Therapy Treatment with Sex Trafficking Survivors: Facilitating Empowerment, Recovery, and Hope* by Mary K. Kometiani

Published in late 2019, this groundbreaking book introduces and researches art therapy as a creative and effective treatment for survivors of human sex trafficking. Strong examples and best practices are provided through the contributors' expertise and knowledge in the field of art therapy. Art therapy facilitates emotional catharsis, a personal sense of worth and empowerment through making choices; supports connection to others and the inner self; resolves trauma, grief, and shame; and provides hope for the future and recovery. This book explores art therapy interventions and outcomes through detailed case studies for sex trafficking survivors in the United States, India, and Nepal, and includes international recommendations for survivor treatment and recovery, as well as staff support programming. Professional helpers and learners from mental health, social services, medical care, and those who work with trafficking and sexual abuse survivors will benefit from this guide.



## ART to HEALING

Art to Healing is an international team of volunteers who are specialist trauma-informed practitioners, therapists and researchers dedicated to the psychological and emotional recovery of children and women who have experienced child sex slavery, exploitation and sexual abuse. Art to Healing works in shelters and drop-in centers integrating art therapy as part of trauma-informed programs for women and girls who are survivors of trafficking. Therapy may also include awareness-based practices such as yoga, meditation, Somatic Experiencing™, reproductive and sexual health programs. They conduct evidence-based research to deliver the most effective, individualized care so to empower each person to be a contributing member of society. To read more about Art to Healing, please click [here](#).

## DRAMA

### Human Trafficking Victim Using The Arts To Raise Awareness

Imagine being kidnapped and forced into a world of prostitution. It's an all too real nightmare for victims of human sex trafficking. Please click [here](#) to view a 2 minute video on how a survivor of trafficking uses theater to raise awareness about human trafficking.



## Websites on Human Trafficking & Art

*Click below to visit these sites.*



[Art Works for Freedom](#)



[Red Sand Project](#)



[Art to Healing](#)



[Survivors Ink](#)



[Airports to Freedom Campaign](#)

**NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE**

- CALL** 1-888-373-7888
- TEXT** "BeFree" (233733)
- LIVE CHAT** [humantraffickinghotline.org](http://humantraffickinghotline.org)

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