Human Trafficking:

What you need to know

WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

What is Human Trafficking?

- Human trafficking is the exploitation of a person for their labour, services or commercial sex.

- It affects millions of men, women and children around the world, including those in our own communities.

- It is known as “a crime hidden in plain sight” meaning that it often presents itself as other social issues or situations such as :

- GBV
- Domestic workers
- Begging
- Sex workers
- Seasonal workers

What is Human Trafficking?

- It is based on the principle of supply and demand.
- Traffickers will do anything to supply the demand by making use of illegal, organized crime platforms.

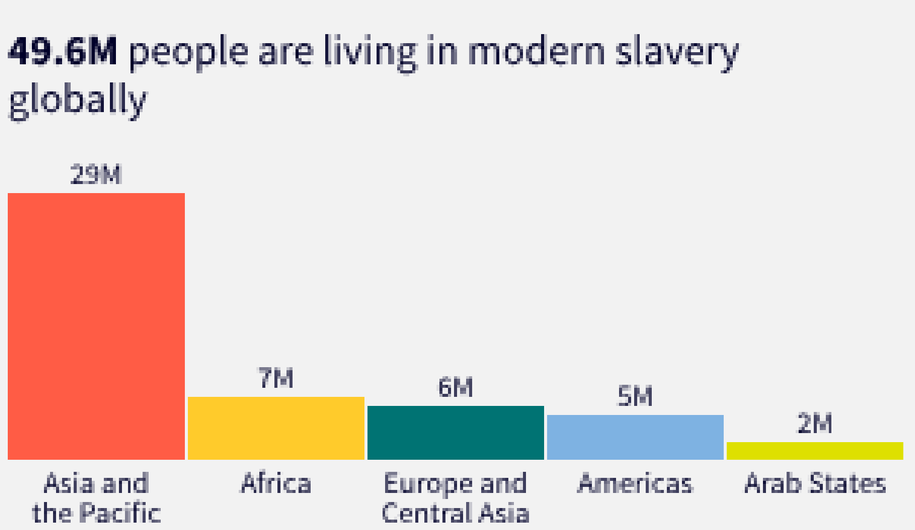
A GLOBAL CRISIS



Human trafficking generates an estimated $236 billion USD per year.[1]



Men, women, and children can all be victims of modern-day slavery:
54% women and girls
46% men and boys
1 in 4 victims are children [3]



52% of people in South Africa are vulnerable to trafficking.

Ref: [Human Trafficking | A21]
[www.slaveryindex.com]

Child labour CYSM Video

Can You See Me? – South Africa | A21

HOW DO THEY BECOME VICTIMS?

VULNERABILITY → RECRUITMENT → EXPLOITATION







VULNERABILITY

Domestic Servitude CYSM Video

Can You See Me? – South Africa | A21

Vulnerability factors in South Africa

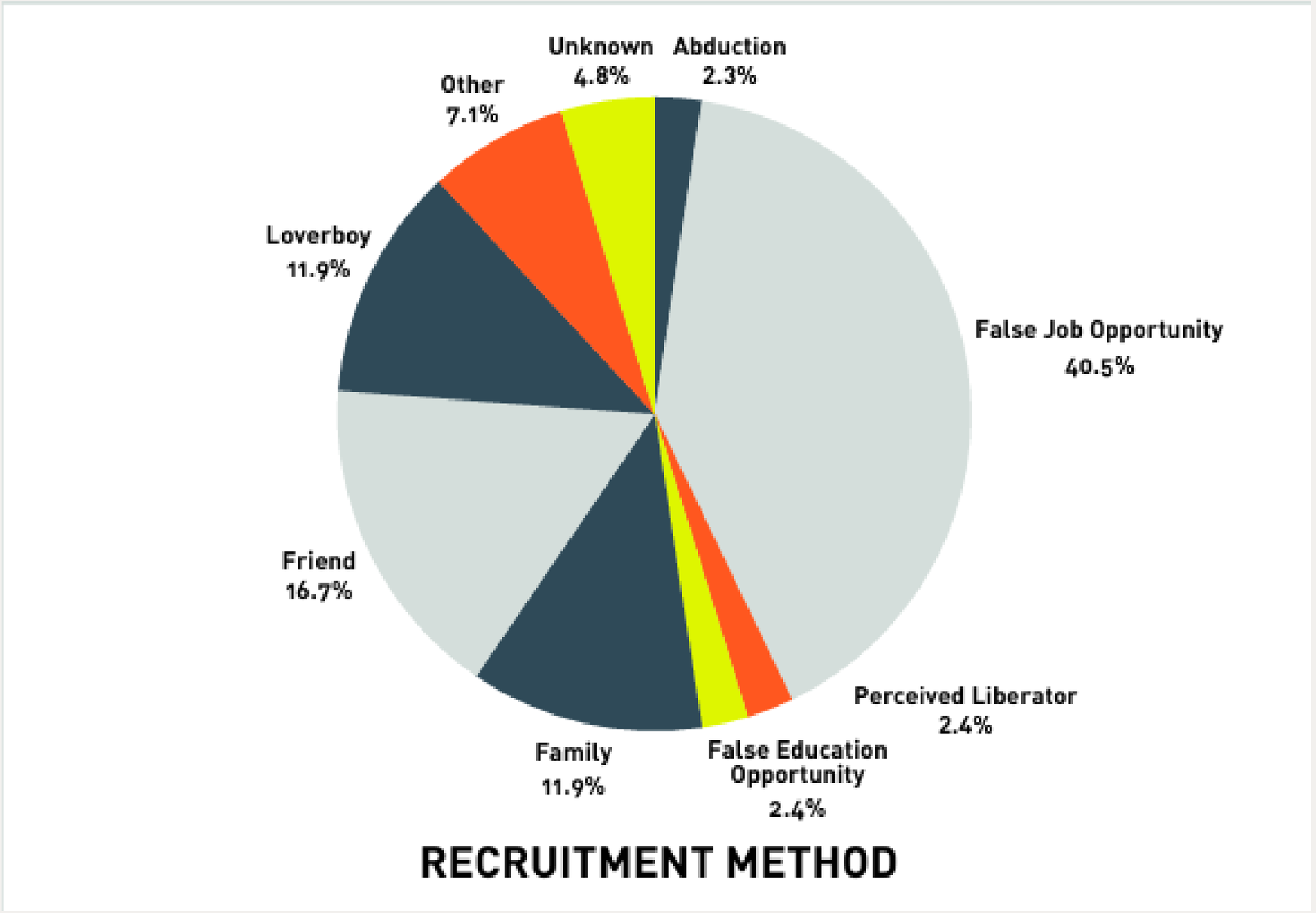
- Illegal immigrants or people without proper documentation
- Pregnant women
- Poor education systems
- Addiction
- Unaccompanied or orphaned children
- Domestic violence

Vulnerability factors in South Africa

- Unemployment
- Financial desperation
- Unstable political and economic conditions
- Corruption
- Cultural beliefs and customs
- Crime and lack of law enforcement

RECRUITEMENT METHODS

A21 HOTLINE STATISTICS IN SA – 2025



Ref: [Human Trafficking | A21](#)
A21_Hotline_Report_2025_SouthAfrica

Sex Trafficking CYSM Video

Can You See Me? – South Africa | A21

Common recruitment methods in South Africa

- Loverboy method either online or in person
- False job opportunities/better future
- Sold by family members/friends
- False/Forced marriages
- False/Forced migration
- Owning a debt
- Social media
- Online gaming

FALSE JOB OPPORTUNITIES



- Too good to be true!
- The salary is larger than the average salary.
- The company is using free email addresses e.g. Gmail/Yahoo
- Spelling mistakes in job listing.
- Ask for your ID card (or withholds it), instead of asking for the details.
- You are being told that you will be picked up for your interview.
- There is no contact person mentioned or/and any contact information about him/her.

FALSE JOB OPPORTUNITIES



- Get payment before starting the work
- Address of the exact workplace is not given
- No experience or specific qualification needed
- No example of a contract or does not mention any contracts
- All transport costs are being paid for
- Visas and passports are being organized on your behalf
- Have to pay a lump sum before starting the work
- Working conditions and hours are not clear
- Accommodation and location is not clear

Social media and online gaming



What is Online Sexual Exploitation?



Online Child Sexual Exploitation covers a range of illicit activities, including the creation, distribution, and possession of child sexual abuse images, sextortion, grooming, or enticing a child to engage in sexually prohibited activity, among others."

Online Child Sexual Exploitation

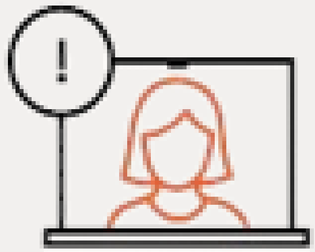
CYSM Video

Can You See Me? – USA | A21

What are we currently facing?

500,000
PREDATORS

are estimated to be online and active each day. [2]



78% of reports regarding online enticement for sexually explicit content were directed towards girls.[2]



1 in 3 Internet users worldwide is under 18 years of age.[1]

1 in 4
CHILDREN

have experienced some form of online abuse, including sexual exploitation. [3]

What about the situation is South Africa?

Southern & Eastern Africa have the highest rates of online child sexual abuse & exploitation.

1 in 5 children in RSA has become a victim (20%). Up to 60% of children in RSA have seen pornography by the age of 9 or 10.

New research indicates that some children are already exposed in preschool.

10% of visitors to pornography sites are children under the age of 10.

22% of children said that they have been asked for sexual information about themselves

Information retrieved from the webinar by Robyn Wolfson Vorster
https://forthevoiceless.co.za/

Child Sexual Exploitation CYSM Video

Can You See Me? – USA | A21

Know the signs of Online Sexual exploitation

- Break in relationships
- Isolating him/herself
- Losing interest in daily activities
- Changes in sleep/eat patterns
- Changes in appearance
- Becoming more secretive
- Leaving the house without explaining why
- Lying and
- Becoming aggressive and disrespectful
- Seems distracted and distant
- Suddenly have new clothes/jewellery/gifts

Educate yourself by watching the Global Freedom Summit



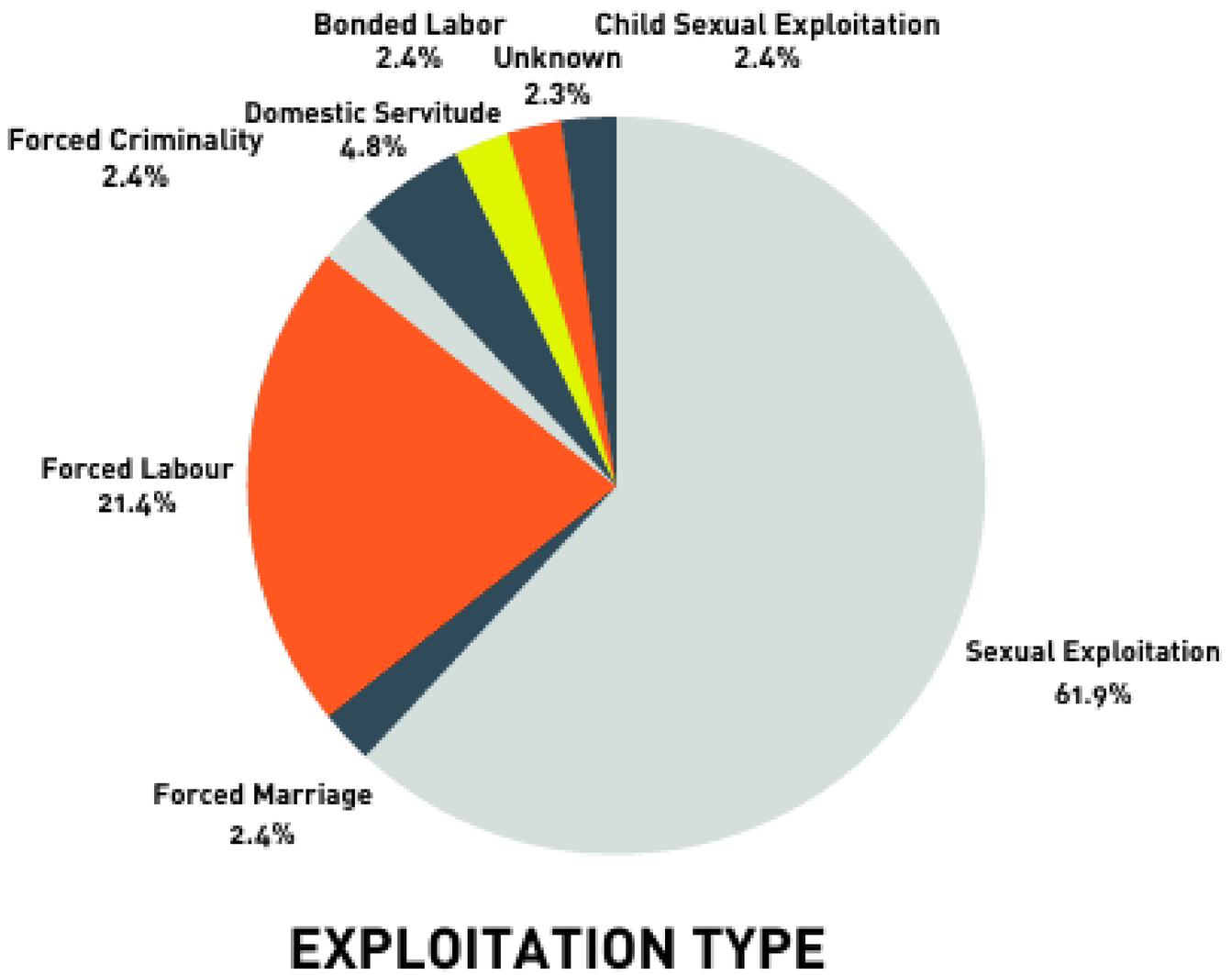
In a world where exploitation is evolving faster than ever, we don't need more fear or noise. We need solutions, trustworthy information, and people equipped to act.

The **Global Freedom Summit** is designed to bring that directly to you.

- Global Freedom Summit 2026 | A21
- or visit A21.org

TYPES OF EXPLOITATION

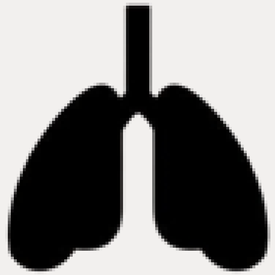
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A21_Hotline_Report_2025_SouthAfrica

FORCED LABOUR

Forced labour refers to situations where a person is forced, coerced, or tricked and manipulated to work against their will for little or no pay. Forced labour can occur in many different industries and sectors.



ORGAN HARVESTING



CHILD SOLDIERS

DOMESTIC SERVITUDE

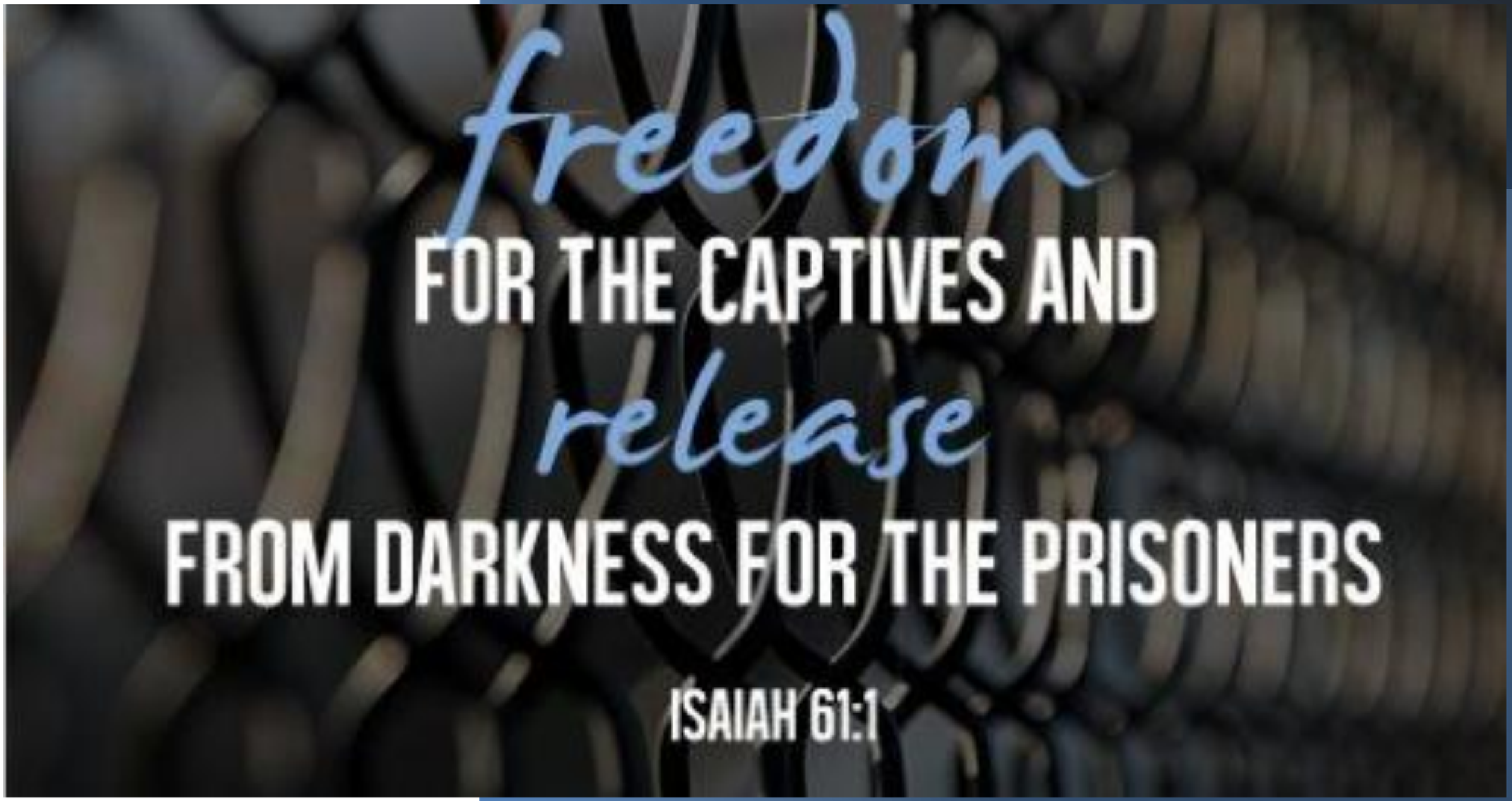
When a person is forced to work and live in the same place for little or no pay. It consists of an individual working in a private residence, making inspection by authorities more difficult. Domestic workers often are not given the same basic benefits and protections that are ordinarily bestowed upon workers.

SEX TRAFFICKING

When someone is forced, deceived, or coerced into performing a commercial sex act. Sex trafficking can include commercial sexual exploitation in sex tourism, pornography, and strip clubs.

Ref: [Human Trafficking | A21]

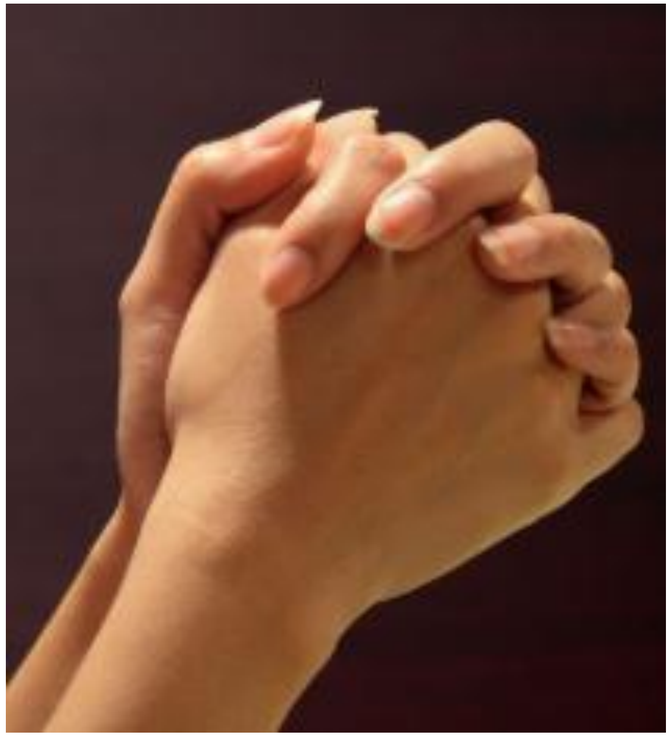
WHAT IS OUR ROLE?


freedom
FOR THE CAPTIVES AND
release
FROM DARKNESS FOR THE PRISONERS
ISAIAH 61:1

Our biggest weapon as Christians is PRAYER!!!

Pray for:

- Victims
- Parents to be alert and knowledgeable
- Traffickers to know Christ
- Churches and schools to take action
- Children’s protection
- Children to speak to up when facing exploitation



SHARE!! SHARE!! SHARE!!

A21 Gauteng

A21 A-team Gauteng

IF YOU SUSPECT IT - REPORT IT!

0800 222 777

NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE

If you suspect it, report it.

- Toll free;
- Open 24/7, 365 days per year;
- Tele-interpreting services available;
- Job-vetting service available
- Able to:
    - Receive reports of suspected human trafficking from potential victims, professionals, and community members;
    - Coordinate a response with multiple stakeholders and follow up;
    - Provide feedback where possible.



NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE

WhatsApp Chatbot

- Privacy;
- Job-vetting service available.
- Download all resources for free.
- Once a report is made, one of A21's call specialists takes over the Chatbot and continues the communications.
- URL: a21.org/chat-sa
- WhatsApp Number: +1 256 242-0318

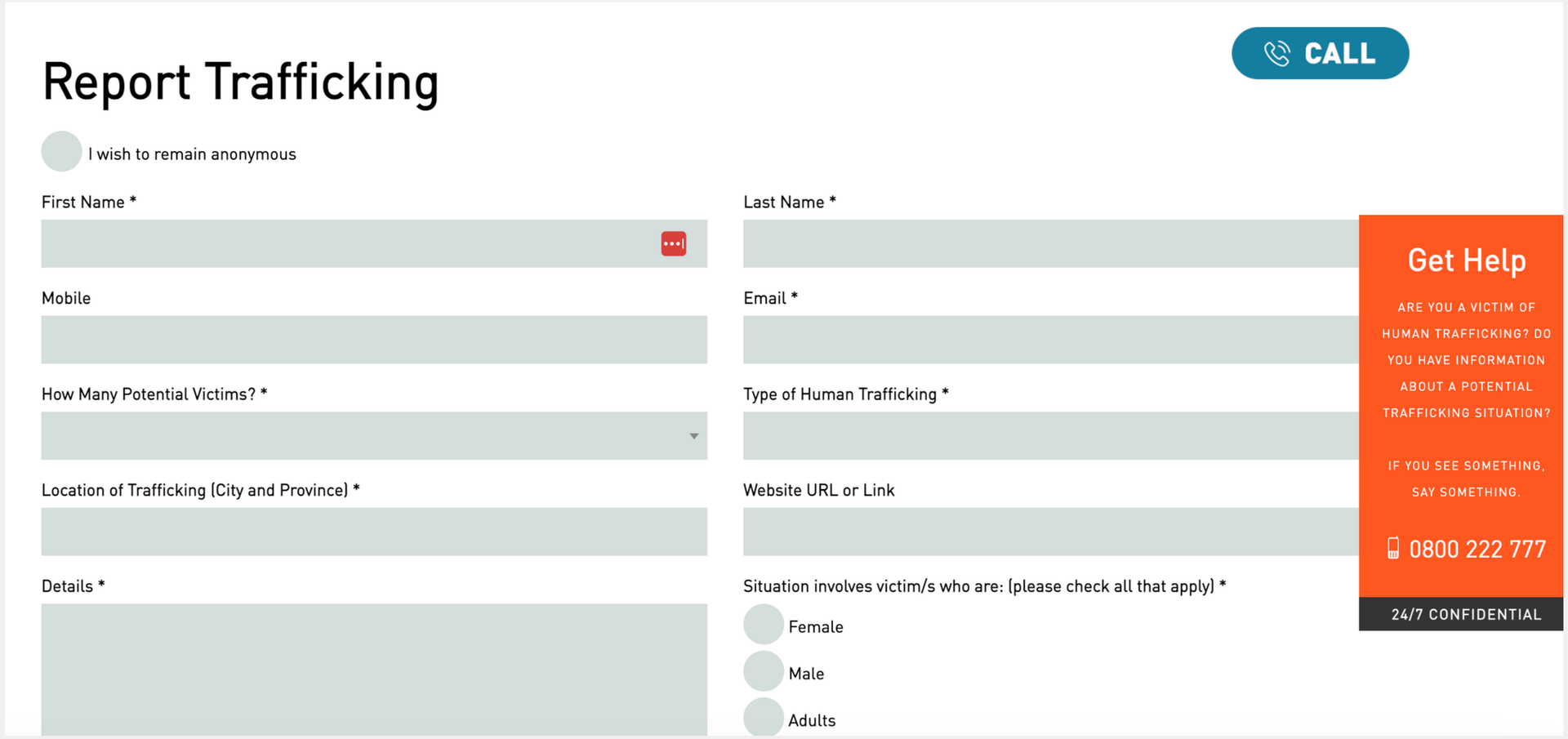


NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE

If you suspect it, report it.

Online Report: [0800222777.org.za](0800222777.org.za)

Email: info@0800222777.org.za



PROUDLY SUPPORTING · PROUDLY SUPPORTING · 21

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

John 16:33

THANK YOU!

Karen Menkveld

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