

USA – North Carolina Focus

Historically, the United States of America (United States) had been considered a destination country for human trafficking, without due consideration of domestic trafficking within its borders.¹ With the increased visibility of human trafficking however, along with a better understanding of the crime, it is clear that the victimised in the United States include both domestic, as well as foreign nationals.

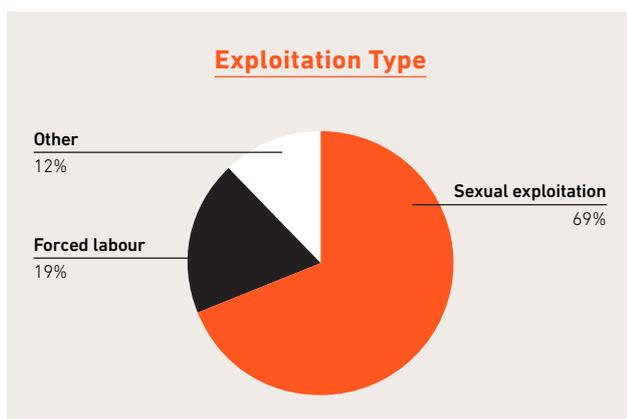
Vulnerability factors disclosed by survivors in 2020 include but are not limited to, homelessness, substance misuse, legal status and/or poverty.

COVID-19 Impact on Human Trafficking

According to the U.S. State Department Trafficking in Persons Report, prevalent forms of human trafficking in the United States include commercial sex, and labor exploitation in both legitimate and illicit areas, including but not limited to “hospitality, traveling sales crews, agriculture, janitorial services, construction, landscaping, restaurants, factories, care for persons with disabilities, salon services, massage parlors, retail, fairs and carnivals, peddling and begging, drug smuggling and distribution, religious institutions, child care, and domestic work.”² The State Department has identified the top three origin countries for survivors of human trafficking in the U.S. federal system as the United States, Mexico, and Honduras.³

COVID-19 affected all parts of the United States in varying degrees of travel restrictions and lockdowns. The United States officially declared a national emergency as a result of COVID-19 in mid-March 2020.⁵ On March 10, 2020, the state of North Carolina declared a state of emergency, resulting in shut-down of facilities including A21 NC’s “Freedom Center,” the primary avenue by which A21 NC provides in-person services to survivors. Consequently, the Freedom Center moved services to virtual platforms. Restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in significant economic impact in the United States, including both the temporary and permanent closure of non-essential businesses resulting in unemployment, increased homelessness, and poverty, all noted vulnerability factors for human trafficking.⁶ In 2020, use of public transportation decreased significantly in stark contrast with previous years, although with less disparity in private vehicle use.⁷ Mandatory quarantines and forced distance learning of children required use of the internet, and electronic devices, access to which is often contingent on individuals’ economic situation.

While individuals are trafficked both in commercial sex and labor, historically sex trafficking has been more predominantly identified, and labor trafficking under-represented at all stages.⁴ A21’s experience is consistent with these findings. A21’s operational programs in the United States are primarily administered in North Carolina (NC). In 2020, 69% of survivors assisted by A21 were victims of sexual exploitation, whereas 19% involved forced labor, with the remaining 12% categorized as “other.” Seventy-three percent of survivors in A21 North Carolina’s Aftercare program in 2020 were domestically trafficked, whereas 27% are foreign national survivors. Of the foreign national survivors, 76% of survivors originated from the Central American region, 14% from Africa, with the remaining 10% categorized as other/unknown.



IMPACT ON SURVIVORS

The life adjustments caused by the pandemic and ensuing restrictions also greatly affected survivors of human trafficking by creating additional barriers to overcome. Mental wellbeing, economic empowerment and education, social support, and physical wellbeing, amongst others, are critical components in determining risk of revictimization for survivors of violence and exploitation.⁸ The uncertainty, emotional stress and trauma imposed by the pandemic's restrictions became an additional layer of difficulty to overcome in addition to the trauma and ramifications from being trafficked. A number of survivors in A21 NC's Aftercare program diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) as a result of their trafficking and childhood traumas, found that mandatory lockdown and solitude retriggered their PTSD, as increased isolation echoed their traffickers' use of isolation as a means of control. Survivors with children also faced childcare challenges as schools closed, and distance learning was implemented. While all parents across the United States had these same challenges, often survivors experienced other extenuating circumstances such as being a single parent, single income, and/or economic instability.

Increase in unemployment as a result of the pandemic also impacted initially employed survivors, subsequently laid off due to business closures, and without any financial assistance while awaiting unemployment benefits. COVID-19 also resulted in a noticeable shortage of emergency housing for often newly identified survivors. A number of previously available shelters ceased admitting any new survivors due to COVID-19 restrictions, with often no alternative option provided. In one case, A21 NC exhausted options after consulting with 15 different shelters that refused admission for a newly identified survivor, and ultimately paid for a hotel to serve as the survivor's emergency housing. All of these additional pandemic-related barriers contributed to a general detrimental impact on survivors, compounding pre-existing emotional trauma.

DISTANCE LEARNING

As a result of the pandemic, schools across the United States effectively shut down in-person classes commencing in March 2020, such that “[n]early every state either ordered or recommended that schools remain closed through the end of the 2019-20 school year.”⁹ The vast majority of students in the United States engaged in “distance learning” through use of online resources.¹⁰ As A21's educational materials are created for in-class use, A21 modified its curriculum for online use in response to COVID-19 restrictions.

A21's Response

A21 works nationally in the United States through general public awareness and targeted education programs, and locally in the Southeastern region of the

United States in its intervention and holistic aftercare efforts. A21 has operated in the United States as a direct service provider for survivors of human trafficking since 2012, originally opening its Aftercare program in South Carolina, and then moving to North Carolina in 2016. As a result of the pandemic, and the various lockdown measures taken throughout the United States in 2020, A21 adjusted its operational programs to ensure the continuation of services while still complying with newly issued and ever-changing government rules and regulations.

Awareness & Intervention Efforts

In the earlier part of 2020, prior to the full impact of the pandemic in the United States, A21 in its capacity as founding partner worked with the “It's A Penalty” Campaign to raise awareness about human trafficking during Super Bowl LIV in Miami, Florida.¹¹ Over 60 local Hilton hotel staff and management were trained to recognize human trafficking and exploitation. Three training sessions in both English and Spanish were provided to hundreds of Uber drivers and staff. These combined efforts reached 378.1 million people with awareness about human trafficking through media, and social media, and resulted in the physical distribution of 170,000 educational materials in Miami.



MODIFYING EDUCATION EFFORTS

Upon the imposition of COVID-19 restrictions, A21 tailored its human trafficking curriculum, “Bodies Are Not Commodities” (BANC) from the original in-person instruction to a digital platform. Although Dallas Independent School District (ISD) had anticipated delivering BANC in-person to an estimated 160,000 students in 2020, due to COVID-19, Dallas ISD reported only approximately 1,500 students were able to receive the condensed online version created by A21. A21 also created a hybrid instruction plan for Texas and Florida classrooms that included online powerpoint presentations and videos to accommodate distance learning, and explored a partnership with private entities to create an updated K-12 digital curriculum. A21's additional work in

Florida included: working with the Florida Department of Education's Title IV Part A team to research and draft a child trafficking prevention education guide; with safety precautions in place, conducting an in-person presentation of the BANC Curriculum to 10 Catholic Florida Diocese Superintendents in Tallahassee, Florida; providing access to A21's educational resources on five Florida Department of Education's webinar events for 74 school districts and during the Florida Attorney General's Statewide Human Trafficking Education Summit. Through the online efforts, in Florida in particular, A21's human trafficking education materials were able to be accessed and disseminated to key educators during the pandemic.

RESPONDING TO ROAD TRAVEL AS THE PREFERRED METHOD OF TRANSPORT

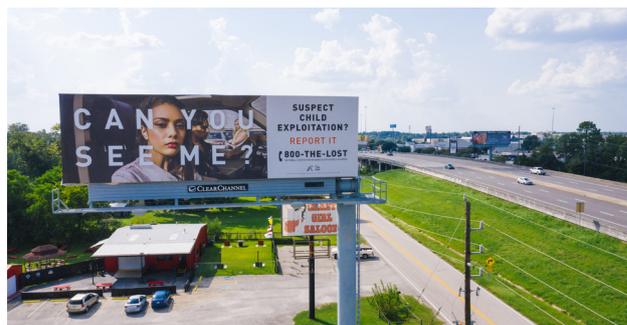
A21's "Can You See Me?"¹² (CYSM) public awareness campaign focuses on educating the general public on recognizing and reporting suspected human trafficking. Launched in the United States in 2018 with the support of the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), the CYSM USA campaign recognizes transportation hubs as not only significant in the facilitation of human trafficking, but also as avenues of communication to the general public. In 2020 as a result of the pandemic, 22% of the general public modified their travel plans from flying to driving.¹³ Notably, research suggests the top three methods of transportation used in facilitating human trafficking in the United States all involve roadways.¹⁴ In response to these trends, in the Fall of 2020, CYSM USA focused awareness efforts on roadways through a partnership with Lamar Advertising resulting in 300 donated digital billboards on the roadways, and 400 physical billboards from partnerships with Lamar Advertising, Clear Channel, Renfroe Outdoor, and reduced printing costs provided by Circle Graphics and Out of Home for Good. Through a partnership with Orange Barrel Media, interactive digital kiosks featuring CYSM video clips were distributed throughout various cities throughout the country primarily at public transportation access stops such as bus stops and metro transit rails. The CYSM materials continue to be used as public service announcements in various airports throughout the United States.

UTILIZATION OF ONLINE WEBINARS DURING THE PANDEMIC

The pandemic, lockdown, and general restrictions resulted in A21's increased activity online in both prevention and awareness, and intervention efforts. In May 2020, A21 introduced a new CYSM USA scenario featuring the dangers of online child sexual exploitation in collaboration with non-governmental organization (NGO) the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). A21 launched this scenario through an educational webinar featuring a panel of specialists from the U.S. Department of Justice, Internet

Crimes Against Children, and NCMEC. Moderated by A21, the webinar discussed the increase of online child sexual exploitation correlated to the lockdown, as well as provided key prevention information and downloadable resources for parents and children. Thereafter, A21 conducted a Facebook and Instagram online campaign from July to September 2020, targeting minors and educating viewers on online child sexual exploitation, and encouraging reports to the NCMEC CyberTipline. The online campaign resulted in 24.4 million impressions, reaching 9.6 million unique viewers, with over 100,000 clicks to the CYSM website, which contained additional related resources. NCMEC confirmed that at least 20 reports were submitted to its CyberTipline as a direct result of the online campaign.¹⁵

Canceled in-person government and intergovernmental conferences also regrouped online in the latter part of 2020. The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Transportation Working Group's anti-trafficking efforts spearheaded by the USDOT, refocused efforts to an online platform, and sponsored two online webinars featuring panelists, including A21, to discuss collaborative efforts to combat human trafficking in the transportation sector in the APEC region. In December 2020, the USDOT sponsored an end-year webinar with panelists including A21, focused on transportation sector counter-trafficking efforts in the United States. Continuing with virtual webinars and gatherings, A21 participated in a virtual panel discussion with the White House, hosted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Task Force to Eradicate Human Trafficking, to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on human trafficking. The more than 180,000 participants were educated on basic human trafficking and provided with access to prevention resources.



PROACTIVE VICTIM IDENTIFICATION EFFORTS DECREASE

In previous years, A21 regularly supported law enforcement efforts to proactively identify victims of human trafficking through law enforcement-led "outreach" efforts where law enforcement would often arrange a situation resulting in the identification of victimized and potential victims of trafficking. A21 staff would accompany law enforcement, and be available to engage with the potential victim upon request. Historically, A21 NC has assisted law enforcement with at least one coordinated identification outreach effort each quarter,

resulting in numerous in-person victim identification screenings, and opportunities to provide direct services.

In 2020 however, due to the pandemic, law enforcement did not request A21's assistance in any proactive identification efforts whereas, in 2019, A21 NC participated in four such proactive outreach efforts. Notably, in 2019, A21 NC was involved in the identification of 48 survivors of trafficking through law enforcement outreach operations, unsolicited calls, and emails to A21, which also resulted in survivor referrals to the A21 NC Aftercare program. In 2020, identifications from these same sources continued, albeit with a decrease to 29. Overall in 2020, as a direct result of the pandemic, A21 NC noticed a visible decrease in survivors identified as well as referred to A21's Aftercare program, not just by law enforcement but by other referral sources such as hospitals. In particular, one hospital that operated its own internal human trafficking identification program effectively ceased operations during the pandemic. Referrals of newly identified survivors from hospitals into A21's Aftercare program consequently decreased from 22 in 2019 to 14 in 2020. In sum, 26 new survivors entered into A21's Aftercare program in 2020, in contrast to 36 new survivors in the preceding year.

A21 North Carolina Operations

A21 North Carolina provides a holistic aftercare program utilizing trauma-informed services uniquely designed to meet the different needs of individual participants through its comprehensive restorative services and reintegration support for survivors of trafficking. Understanding that any recovery plan is not limited to just survivors, but also their families, A21 NC provides the two-generation approach to aftercare services, taking the needs of certain survivors' family members into consideration when developing their individualized plans. The two-generation approach as applied in A21 NC's Aftercare program encompasses equal and intentional services and opportunities for the survivor, both adult and minor, and their respective children or adult guardian(s). A21 NC caseworkers address any hardships that a qualifying family member, either adult guardian of a minor survivor or minor child of a survivor, may be experiencing that impacts the survivor's ultimate wellbeing and the chance of long-term success in the survivor's individualized case management plan, by articulating and tracking outcomes for both children and adults simultaneously. In 2020, A21 NC assisted 33 qualifying family members of survivors in its Aftercare program, including minor children of survivors as well as guardians of minor survivors. A21 NC also assists survivors both with domestic relocation support within the United States, as well as international repatriation for foreign national survivors.

THE FREEDOM CENTER

A21 NC outworks most of its aftercare case management through the A21 Freedom Center, which functions as a

drop-in center. At the Freedom Center, A21 NC caseworkers work alongside survivors to create personal goals, and then individualized plans, noting the necessary life skills and emotional support to reach a survivor's self-set life goals. In addition to case management, the Freedom Center provides meals, a child-friendly space for survivors' children to use while survivors receive services, technology services in the form of laptops and tablets, referrals to free and low-cost resources in the surrounding community, and no-cost access to essential items, such as clothing, toiletries, pantry items, school supplies, etc., from the "Grab N' Go Room."

While the vast majority of survivors in A21 NC's Aftercare program reside in North Carolina or nearby states such as South Carolina, some survivors receive case management services remotely. Many of these survivors initially entered A21's Aftercare program in North Carolina, but after relocating elsewhere in the United States have chosen to remain in the program. Similarly, survivors trafficked elsewhere in the United States can receive services in-person from A21 NC should they wish to relocate to North Carolina or engage in remote case management services.¹⁶ To maintain a personal connection for those enrolled in remote case management services, A21 NC regularly utilizes video conferencing with survivors. Similar to the in-person support provided, A21 NC caseworkers provide support to survivors receiving remote case management through consistent encouraging messages via text messages, phone calls, or video meetings. While outside services for survivors engaged in remote case management services may be more limited, when possible, A21 NC coordinates services with resources in the survivor's respective community. For example, several survivors enrolled in remote case management were struggling with grocery budgets and lack of transportation due to their remote locations. In response, A21 NC partnered with a local service provider who coordinated meal deliveries, and provided transportation services to medical appointments and other key locations within the community. Such partnerships enable A21 NC to provide a sense of community and support regardless of physical distance. Finally, A21 NC staff takes proactive steps to celebrate all major events, such as by mailing gifts on birthdays, to maintain intimacy and care with survivors being supported remotely.



In response to the effects of the pandemic, A21 NC's Aftercare program adapted its response and care services

immediately with the new COVID-19 guidelines. Consistent with the government mandate, A21 NC closed its Freedom Center on March 16 but continued its services to survivors virtually, similar to its remote case management services. Recognizing the emotional neglect produced by the pandemic, A21 NC made a concerted effort to provide an intense level of support to meet the emotional well-being and needs of each survivor and their families. Noting the specific needs of 2020, a generous donation of laptops enabled A21 NC to gift these laptops directly to survivors in its Aftercare program in need of such electronic devices. A21 NC re-directed additional funding to purchase any additional laptops/tablets needed, as well as internet service, to ensure that each survivor enrolled in A21's Aftercare program had continued access to services through virtual means, including continued communication with their caseworkers. Caseworkers also provided survivors with training sessions on use of equipment and relevant programs. A21 NC also provided an array of different streaming packages, in-home activities, paid for virtual counseling sessions with licensed professionals and much more to decrease feelings of isolation. Through the use of these devices, survivors in A21's Aftercare program continued to engage in online case management services with A21 caseworkers, access counseling, education, and vocational training, as well as have a mechanism by which to connect with the world during the mandated lockdown period. Despite the emotional struggles induced by the pandemic, through efforts to prioritize the emotional well-being of survivors, A21 NC staff did not encounter any major mental health emergencies, such as mental health related hospitalizations, substance overdoses, or suicide threats, with survivors during the difficult period of the most restrictive portions of the governor's "Stay At Home" order.

A21 NC's biggest challenge during the pandemic was the availability of appropriate housing for survivors. Many shelters simply ceased admitting new individuals. The few shelters that had availability changed their intake process to require a 14-day mandatory quarantine at a hotel as a prerequisite to shelter admission, and/or required a negative COVID-19 test prior to admission. In spite of these hurdles and limited availability of resources, A21 NC successfully assisted all referred survivors in 2020, either through entry into its Aftercare program or through emergency transitional support. For each new survivor entering into its Aftercare program, A21 NC provided both access to and funding for COVID-19 testing, as well as temporary hotel accommodations while awaiting admission into a shelter. A21 NC also mitigated against the risk of potential homelessness of survivors in its Aftercare program due to emergent housing needs and economic strife during this critical time, through constant interactions to address these issues and financial support for emergency housing as needed.

A21 NC's Freedom Center reopened on September 1, 2020 to permit in-person meetings between A21 caseworkers and survivors with mandatory safety regulations, consistent with recommendations issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in place. Survivors were given the option of attending in-person

meetings with A21 caseworkers, subject to compliance with safety guidelines, and limited to one survivor at a time, or to continue receiving support remotely. Social distancing and safety precautions were successfully implemented, and many survivors chose to attend in-person meetings at the Freedom Center after its reopening.

THE TRAFFICKING VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Despite the additional hurdles, through appropriate modifications, A21 NC continued to offer its holistic support to survivors in its Aftercare program with eight survivors effectively graduating and exiting out of A21's Aftercare program in 2020, and survivors in A21's Aftercare program successfully obtaining a total of 36 jobs.¹⁷ While 2020 held unexpected challenges, A21 NC's Aftercare program continued growing especially in the demographics of the survivor population assisted. In the Fall of 2019, the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants who administers the U.S. Health & Human Services (HHS) Trafficking Victim Assistance Program (TVAP), which provides assistance to foreign national adults and minors who have experienced trafficking and are pursuing official certification, approached A21 NC to engage in its program, after noticing a void in case management services for this sect of human trafficking survivors in North Carolina.¹⁸ As a consequence of this engagement, A21 NC began accepting TVAP survivors into its Aftercare program commencing in August of 2020, resulting in a significant increase in the percentage of both foreign national survivors and forced labor trafficking survivors in A21 NC's Aftercare program. Labor trafficking survivors in A21 NC's Aftercare program increased from 6% in 2019 to 19% in 2020, and foreign national survivor program participants increased from 11% to 27%.



LEGAL ASSISTANCE COORDINATION

Amidst the pandemic, prosecutions continued forth throughout 2020 at times through remote court hearings, and later in-person with safety precautions. In 2020, two defendants were successfully convicted in federal court for numerous criminal violations, including sex trafficking.

This prosecution was especially significant, as it involved eight survivors in A21's Aftercare program, who served as victim-witnesses in the prosecution. A21 supported each of these survivors through trial preparation, including accompanying the survivors to court for their testimony. After the conviction, A21 NC staff provided emotional support, transportation assistance, and in-court support during sentencing. Survivors participated in-person at the sentencing by either reading their victim impact statements aloud or having their statements read aloud by the prosecutor. This process provided the court with the necessary information to thoughtfully consider the impact of the perpetrators' criminal acts on each individual survivor; to employ a victim-centered approach during the sentencing proceeding; and ultimately impose a sentence of life imprisonment against both defendants. A21 NC also continued to support survivors who are named victim-witnesses in various stages of other pending prosecutions against their perpetrators.

In addition to providing support to survivors in ongoing criminal prosecutions of their traffickers, A21 NC provides survivors in its Aftercare program support in their civil legal cases. Upon determining a survivor's civil legal need, such as child custody or immigration issues for

example, A21 NC provides referrals to trusted pro bono attorneys who represent survivors in court, assist in legal applications, and provide legal counsel as necessary. In the past, A21 NC staff attended civil hearings to emotionally support survivors and at times provided letters of support outlining the services provided to the survivor from A21's Aftercare program.¹⁹ Ultimately, the submission of such evidence assists survivors' legal position in their civil cases. In 2020, in compliance with COVID-19 adjustments, A21 NC attended civil court proceedings virtually with survivors when permitted, as well as continued to liaise survivors with pro bono legal providers.

As evidenced throughout this report, combating human trafficking is multi-faceted, encompassing prevention and awareness, proactive intervention efforts, and the provision of restorative aftercare services. A21 NC strives to always recognize the individuality of each person when administering services. Therefore, restorative aftercare services are unique to each survivor's needs as each survivor is unique. The exceptional work of A21 NC was recognized as one of the 2020 recipients of the Presidential Award for Extraordinary Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Persons for its work to reduce vulnerability and provide essential aftercare services to survivors.

Partnerships with Pro Bono Attorneys Ensure Access to Justice for Survivors of Trafficking in North Carolina

Access to justice and protection under the law is a fundamental part of the restoration process for survivors of human trafficking. Successfully combating human trafficking is never done alone, but in concert with other stakeholders.

A21 NC works closely with prosecutors and law enforcement during the criminal justice process to advocate for and ensure that survivors are afforded every protection under the law. Often, survivors' intersection with the legal system is not only in relation to the prosecution of their trafficker, but also to ensure that they are not prosecuted themselves for acts committed while being trafficked. A21 staff works with survivors who have been not only victimized but also coerced to recruit others by their trafficker. A21 NC advocates not only for survivors' protection from prosecution but whenever possible to qualify as a "victim" under the relevant statutes to afford them every protection and right under the law. Due to distrust of law enforcement and the legal system which often have failed survivors, A21 often works as an intermediary between

law enforcement/prosecutors and survivors to bridge miscommunication and establish trust. Notwithstanding involvement in the trafficking prosecution, survivors are often faced with other pending legal issues, ranging from child custody matters, smaller criminal infractions committed while being trafficked, immigration, and even traffic court. In such situations, through partnerships with pro bono legal NGOs or pro bono attorneys and law firms, survivors are provided with legal representation at no cost. A21 extends gratitude and recognition to the Battered Immigrant Project of Legal Aid of North Carolina and to Moore and Van Allen's Human Trafficking Pro Bono Project, whose pro bono legal services to survivors ensured access to justice for the most vulnerable. A21 NC partners with these attorneys when survivors in its Aftercare program need criminal or civil legal representation or general legal advice. These attorneys have provided, and continue to provide indispensable legal advice to survivors officially designated as named victim-witnesses in the criminal prosecution against their perpetrators. In the past,

these pro bono attorneys have assisted survivors with expungement of criminal records accrued during their trafficking situation, domestic violence court hearings, child custody, credit restoration, guidance on victim-impact statements, coordination of assessments needed to determine restitution, immigration status, and much more. In 2020, A21 North Carolina's pro

bono attorneys provided legal assistance to 22 survivors enrolled in A21's Aftercare program, resulting in survivors obtaining custody of their children, being awarded domestic violence protective orders against violent partners, receiving T-VISAs to obtain legal status in the United States, and qualifying for disability vouchers to assist with income, amongst others.

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- ¹ See generally U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, *Human Trafficking Into and Within the United States: A Review of the Literature*, <https://aspe.hhs.gov/system/files/pdf/75891/index.pdf>.
 - ² United States Department of State, *2020 Trafficking in Persons Report*, June 2020, <https://www.state.gov/reports/2020-trafficking-in-persons-report/united-states/>.
 - ³ US State Dep't, *2020 TIP Report* (USA).
 - ⁴ Leila Miller, *Why Labor Trafficking is So Hard to Track*, April 24, 2018, PBS Website <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/article/why-labor-trafficking-is-so-hard-to-track/>.
 - ⁵ White House Briefing Room, *Notice on the Continuation of the National Emergency Concerning the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic*, Feb. 24, 2021, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/02/24/notice-on-the-continuation-of-the-national-emergency-concerning-the-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-pandemic/#:~:text=On%20March%2013%2C%202020%2C%20by,and%20safety%20of%20the%20Nation>.
 - ⁶ Jordan Greenbaum, Hanni Stoklosa and Laura Murphy, *The Public Health Impact of Coronavirus Disease on Human Trafficking*, 29 Oct. 2020, Vol. 8 Article 561184 at page 1.
 - ⁷ The National Academies of Sciences Engineering Medicine, *COVID-19 Trends Impacting the Future of Transportation Planning and Research*, Aug. 17, 2020 (updated Jan. 27, 2021), <https://www.nationalacademies.org/trb/blog/covid-19-trends-impacting-the-future-of-transportation-planning-and-research>
 - ⁸ International Justice Mission, *Assessment of Survivor Outcomes Validation Study (ASO)*, July 2018, <https://www.ijm.org/studies/assessment-of-survivor-outcomes-validation-study>.
 - ⁹ Education Week, *Map: Coronavirus and School Closures in 2019-2020*, March 06, 2020 (Updated: September 16, 2020), <https://www.edweek.org/leadership/map-coronavirus-and-school-closures-in-2019-2020/2020/03>.
 - ¹⁰ Kevin, McElrath, *Nearly 93% of Households With School-Age Children Report Some Form of Distance Learning During COVID-19*, Aug. 26, 2020, <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2020/08/schooling-during-the-covid-19-pandemic.html>.
 - ¹¹ The "It's a Penalty" (IAP) NGO is a global public awareness campaign that harnesses the power of sports to raise awareness about child exploitation and human trafficking. Understanding that human trafficking and child exploitation necessarily crosses borders, IAP raises awareness globally and has run campaigns for the World Cup, Olympics, Ruby Sevens, Commonwealth Games, and the Super Bowl.
 - ¹² The "Can You See Me?" (CYSM) campaign is a global anti-human trafficking public awareness campaign of A21. The concept behind CYSM focuses on the "hidden but in plain sight" reality that underlies modern-day slavery. This campaign seeks to educate the public with the subtle indicators of human trafficking in order to expose a seemingly innocuous situation with the reality of the human trafficking that is occurring. As the campaign is country or region-specific, various iterations of the campaign exist specific to the country/region of distribution. CYSM focuses on collaborating with relevant stakeholders in the particular country. In each country, CYSM has a call to action and provides the relevant hotline number for that country.
 - ¹³ Kenneth Kiesnoski, *Travel changed after 9/11: Here's how it will look after the Covid-19 pandemic finally recedes*, CNBC (May 10, 2020, 10:50am EDT), <https://www.cnbc.com/2020/05/10/heres-how-travel-will-change-after-the-covid-19-pandemic-recedes.html>.
 - ¹⁴ Brittany Anthony, et. al., *On-Ramps, Intersections, and Exit Routes: A Roadmap for Systems and Industries to Prevent and Disrupt Human Trafficking at 25* (July 2018), <https://polarisproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/A-Roadmap-for-Systems-and-Industries-to-Prevent-and-Disrupt-Human-Trafficking-Transportation-Industry.pdf>) (noting trafficker's vehicle, taxis, and rental vehicles as the top three methods of transportation used to facilitate exploitation in the United States, according to survivor surveys).
 - ¹⁵ Due to the nature of the evidence generated by an online child sexual exploitation report, even one report to NCMEC's CyberTipline can result in the identification of countless children and perpetrators worldwide, after further investigation.
 - ¹⁶ Survivors who receive case management services remotely from A21 NC are typically referred to A21 from a number of different federal agencies or other NGOs.
 - ¹⁷ Some survivors found multiple employment opportunities after holding a position for a short period of time.
 - ¹⁸ U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Office on Trafficking in Persons - An Office of the Administration for Children & Families, *Victim Assistance Grants*, Last Reviewed: December 17, 2019, <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip/victim-assistance/victim-assistance-grants#foreignnatl>.
 - ¹⁹ In the past, A21 NC has also provided affidavits in support of applications for T-Visas, served as bilingual translators for Spanish speaking survivors during court proceedings, gathered critical documents such as passports, birth certificates, and the like, for a survivor's immigration application, and served as conduits of communication between pro bono attorneys and their survivor-clients, to prevent confusion and increase awareness of legal rights afforded to foreign national trafficking survivors.