



Cast

COALITION TO
ABOLISH SLAVERY
& TRAFFICKING

WWW.CASTLA.ORG

IMPACT REPORT 2022

Advancing a Human Rights Approach to Human Trafficking

From our CEO

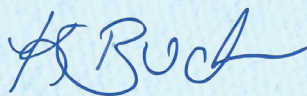
The world has changed so much since Cast was founded in 1998, and the issue of human trafficking and survivors' needs have evolved with it.

As Cast heads into our 25th year, we have much to celebrate and reflect on. For a quarter century, we have been directly serving human trafficking survivors and their family members in Los Angeles - 1,625 this year - and advocating for better protections for survivors across the United States, including the landmark Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000. Cast was the first nonprofit to be given the Presidential Award for Extraordinary Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Persons in 2014.

Learning from clients from all walks of life as they face their trauma and rebuild their lives, we are able to work on solutions to the big challenges that facilitate human trafficking. That is our vision for impact: bridging our learning in our direct services programs with much-needed systemic change, ensuring that new laws and policies are grounded in survivors' experiences and calls to action.

We advocate a human rights approach to human trafficking that sees survivors in the fullness of their humanity – moving away from relying on the criminal legal system to address trafficking, which has actually harmed survivors. People often ask us, 'what does a human rights approach to human trafficking really mean?' **This Impact Report explores three systemic issues that make people vulnerable to human trafficking – and that keep them vulnerable even after they escape – and how Cast is tackling them through a human rights approach.** We believe that collective responses to human trafficking should also advance the end of human trafficking. That is what justice looks like to us.

Thank you for supporting Cast's journey, for believing in survivors, and for seeking justice with us. Your faith in Cast has helped us endure the toughest years and has steeled us with resolve for the work ahead.



Kay Buck, CEO



Photo: Leroy Hamilton

1,625 Survivors and family members served

2,210 Hotline calls

14,091 People trained on human trafficking

*Through national training and technical assistance, and local training in partnership with the LA County Department of Child and Family Services.

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About Cast

Mission

To end human trafficking through education, advocacy and empowering survivors.

Vision

To create a bridge between practice and policy, where survivors are working with practitioners to inform a survivor-centered policy agenda.

What We Do

Cast is the United States' largest provider of comprehensive services to survivors of human trafficking and an advocate for groundbreaking policy and legislation.

About Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is the exploitation of human beings through force, fraud or coercion for the purposes of commercial sex or forced labor. Anyone under 18 who performs a commercial sex act is considered a victim of human trafficking, regardless of whether force, fraud, or coercion was present.

Human trafficking can happen to anyone but it affects marginalized groups more than others. At Cast, 89% of the survivors we have ever served are Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC).

“With Cast, I feel safe. Without them, I would have nothing.”

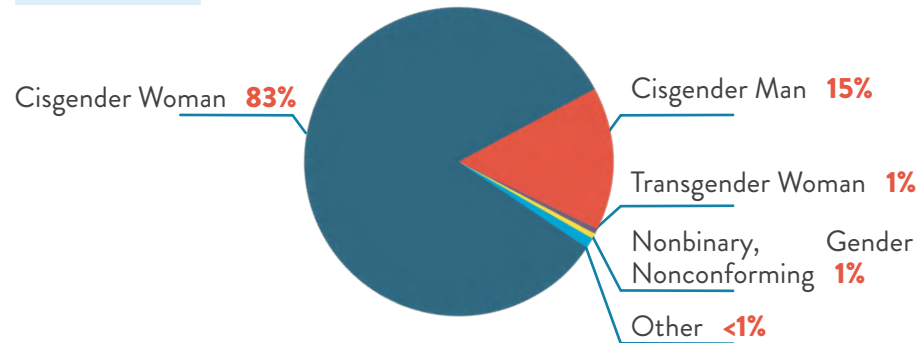
Jamila, 42, from Ethiopia, found herself lost on the streets of Los Angeles after escaping her trafficking situation, where she had been forced into domestic servitude. Cast was with Jamila every step to rebuild her life, including providing her with transitional shelter, connecting her to English classes and a job that supports her family, and reuniting her with her husband and son who she had not seen for six years.



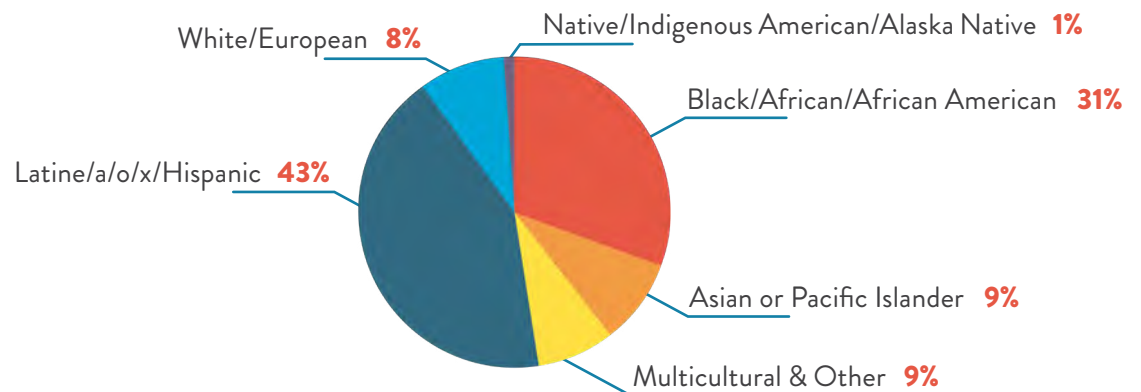
Who we serve

Survivors who Cast served over the past year and who reported their information:

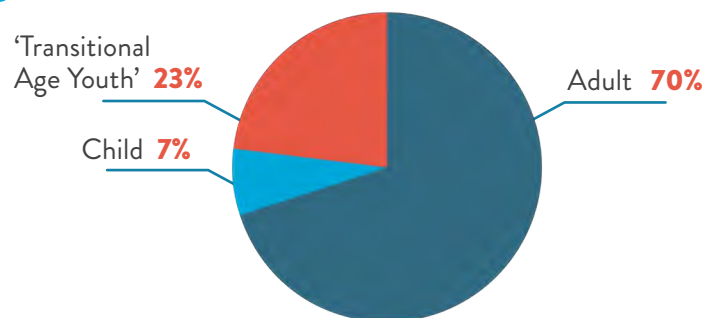
Gender



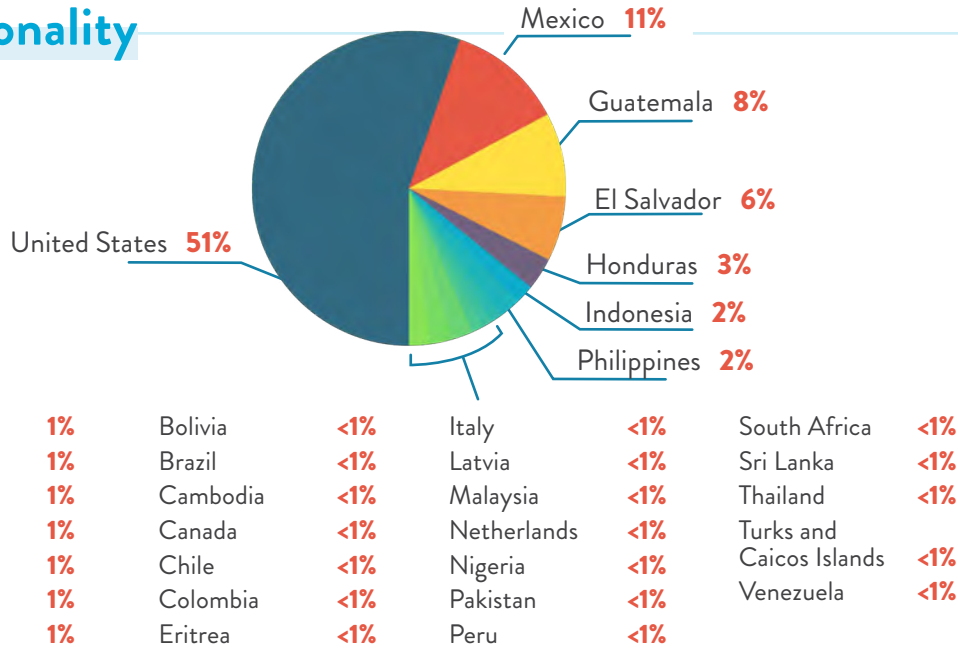
Race/Ethnicity



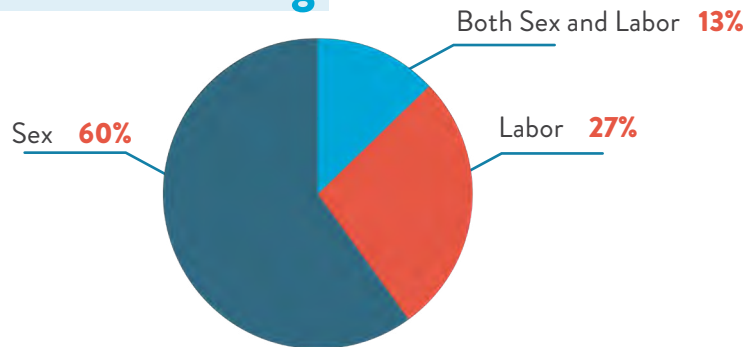
Age



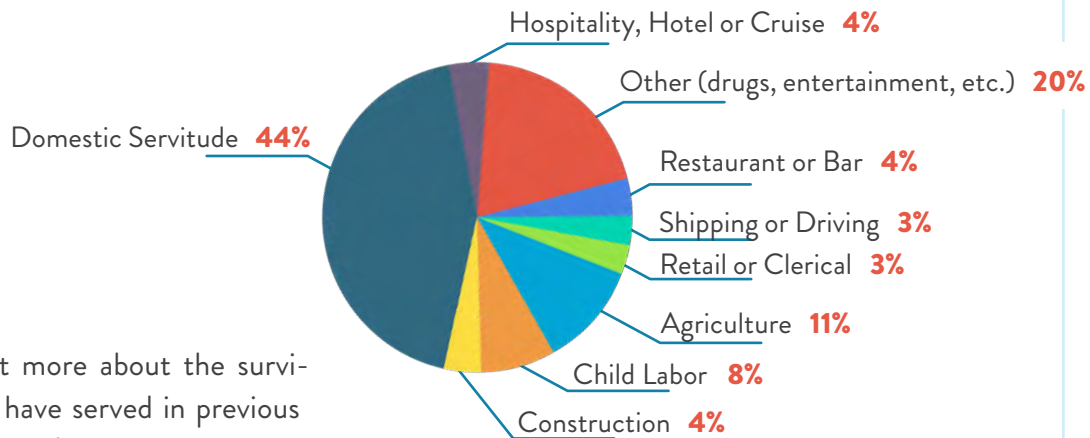
Nationality



Sex or Labor Trafficking



Industries where clients were trafficked



Find out more about the survivors we have served in previous years at castla.org.

Leading a human rights approach to human trafficking in the United States



“Human trafficking reflects and amplifies existing kinds of oppression and exploitation. These root causes are not addressed in any way by arrest, which only creates and increases vulnerability.”

Leigh LaChapelle, Associate Director of Survivor Advocacy, Cast

The way the United States has been dealing with human trafficking has ignored the root cause of it: the systemic oppression of women, BIPOC, immigrants, the LGBTQ+ community, people with disabilities and other marginalized groups; 89% of the survivors we have ever served are BIPOC. People who are systemically denied access to safe housing, healthcare, jobs and immigration are targeted by traffickers.

Despite being victims, survivors of human trafficking are being arrested for crimes they were forced to commit, which not only does not help, it worsens their future prospects and makes them vulnerable to being trafficked again. As a result, many survivors are too afraid to report to the police and their exploitation continues.

Since unjust systems enable human trafficking, we cannot end it through those same systems. Human trafficking is a human rights issue because it happens when human rights are systemically denied.

Honoring survivors' human rights is critical to preventing human trafficking. A human rights approach to human trafficking acknowledges that survivors often experience more than one kind of oppression, and that racism and white supremacy perpetuate human trafficking. Survivors not only deserve access to safe housing, healthcare, jobs, and immigration, but to live in a world in which we work together to prevent human trafficking by investing in the continued care of our communities.

Cast models this approach. Our partnership with healthcare providers is improving medical professionals' ability to identify survivors, since many go to hospitals after they escape, instead of going to the police. We are also training attorneys across the US to be race-conscious when they represent survivors. And we are leading calls to change laws that punish survivors for crimes they were forced to commit.

A human rights response to human trafficking is the key to preventing it.

Education

Human trafficking is complex. It doesn't look the same every time it happens. Despite good intentions, human trafficking has been misrepresented in the news and media. As a result, **many people have a sensationalized idea of what human trafficking survivors look like**, including some who work with survivors. Others exploit misconceptions about human trafficking for their own gain. This has caused great harm to survivors and is why education is key to our mission.

We raise awareness of human trafficking by demonstrating that the oppression of marginalized people is why human trafficking exists and persists. We teach intersectional, anti-racist responses to human trafficking. Across our programs, we raise awareness of human trafficking in this way in group training and in one-on-one conversations with legislators, civic leaders, medical professionals, journalists, social workers, law enforcement, attorneys and the general public.



Our Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) program provides expert support and education on human trafficking to legal and social service professionals working with survivors across the United States. **Over the last year, we trained 4,337 people in 33 states**, increasing national capacity to serve survivors with services grounded in equity and justice. This year, the TTA team were fellows with the Racial Justice Institute at the Shriver Center on Poverty and Law.

In collaboration with the County of Los Angeles, Cast is providing training on human trafficking of children to those working with very vulnerable children including social workers and foster parents – and anyone can join.

“Great training! I have a much better explanation of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children. I really just knew what I saw on TV and it was way different than it is portrayed in the media.”

Training Participant

Trainings range from an entry-level understanding of human trafficking to the complexities of ‘trauma-informed’ legal representation. **Over the last 12 months, we trained 9,754 people.**

Advocacy



“The laws around human trafficking have not caught up. We fill in the gaps to effectively address human trafficking through awareness, education and advocacy, despite the law.”

Nagwa Ibrahim,
Director of Legal Services, Cast

Using two decades of evidence from working with survivors, we press local, state, national and global leaders to pass more and better policies to protect survivors and prevent human trafficking. Many elected officials want to do this but they need to understand the issue better - so they contact Cast or we approach them.

In June, we urged the G7 to address forced labor, including actions to address the exploitation of refugees, displaced people, migrant and informal workers, women, children and other marginalized groups.

Since the Trafficking Victims Protection Act 2000, Cast has been an integral voice in advocating for equitable funding for survivors, the inclusion of labor trafficking in laws, and shifting policies from criminalization to prevention. In April 2022, Cast staff and survivors provided expert testimony during an Informational Hearing on Child Sex and Labor Trafficking in California.

For Human Trafficking Awareness Month in January, Cast produced a [PSA](#) with Nicole Scherzinger and the California Attorney General's office that was broadcast on television statewide and hosted a Twitter chat with his office, sharing information and resources.

At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, we saw survivors' needs increase and we knew that meeting those needs over the coming years would put a strain on service providers. We helped to advocate for a long-term solution, resulting in state funds for survivor services in California being tripled for the next three years. Our direct work with survivors enables us to be a movement builder.



Cast CEO Kay Buck; California State Assemblymember, Miguel Santiago; California Attorney General, Rob Bonta; Cast graduate Angela Guanzon; and actors and activists Mira Sorvino and Alyssa Milano in 2021. Cast and supporters successfully advocated for increased funds for agencies serving survivors of human trafficking. Photo: AP News/ Stefanie Dazio

Empowering Survivors of Human Trafficking

The National Survivor Network (NSN) is a coalition of survivors of human trafficking from the US and abroad. Its mission is to develop, equip, and empower survivors engaged in advocacy, education, peer-to-peer mentorship, prevention, and policy work. The NSN also educates and provides technical assistance to other organizations on how to meaningfully engage with survivor leaders, in order to build an anti-trafficking movement led by survivors.

Over the past year, the NSN strengthened by redefining its values: focusing on a human rights-based approach to human trafficking to build a more equitable and inclusive anti-trafficking movement. This was a necessary step to create an emergent space for survivors to share their ideas - especially those from communities that are often silenced or misrepresented. It has been validating and empowering for survivors who have felt excluded from the movement. We believe this will lead to positive outcomes for all human trafficking survivors and will get us closer to our mission of ending human trafficking.

“Our goal in carving out this values-defined space is to have a more inclusive movement overall.”

Chris Ash,
Survivor Leadership Program Manager, Cast

The NSN has been increasing the opportunities for survivors to build professional skills and get paid for their expertise on topics related to human trafficking. Skills-building sessions, training, financial assistance, and additional resources are available to all survivors of trafficking whether they are NSN members or not.

Cast is hiring more and more people with lived experience of human trafficking – from roles set aside specifically for survivors to all levels of leadership. This year we welcomed survivors of human trafficking in our legal and training teams for the first time.

What NSN members are saying

“I believe it’s very important to make sure that we’re all on the same page about human rights and dismantling all systems of oppression. I believe that organizations that adopt and honor a values-based system not only help avoid harm but actually help heal it for members who have experienced it.”

“The NSN is what I wish I had had around me when I was younger and struggling to find safe spaces anywhere at all.”



Find out more about
the National Survivor
Network



Jamila and her family. Photo: Cast/Michael Ojo



Cast provides emergency and transitional shelter to survivors experiencing homelessness.

Addressing the Housing Crisis

What makes someone vulnerable to homelessness also makes them vulnerable to human trafficking. They are both the result of systemic issues like poverty, marginalization and racism. In Los Angeles, members of the Black community disproportionately experience homelessness. Despite making up 9% of our county's population, they represent around a third of those experiencing homelessness and half of those who stayed at Cast's emergency shelter last year. Around 70,000 people in Los Angeles County do not have a safe place to live today.

For many survivors, a lack of safe housing was not only a cause of their trafficking experience but also a result of it. Many people are forced or tricked into

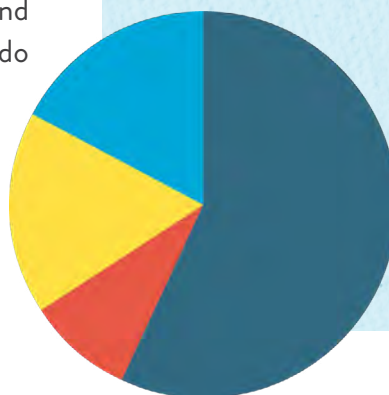
88%

Survivors experiencing homelessness when they called our hotline

100%

Survivors who had stable and safe housing when they graduated from Cast.

Survivors who stayed at Cast's emergency shelter and who reported their ethnicity were:



Black African African American	57%
White European	9%
Latine/a/o/x Hispanic	17%
Multicultural & Other	17%

living with their trafficker or in a place they cannot easily leave. When they do leave, most have nowhere to go and are extremely vulnerable again, including from their trafficker knowing their whereabouts. Many who were trafficked when they arrived in the US do not know where they are or who to turn to, and do not speak the local language. Incredibly, former Cast clients have spotted other recently-escaped survivors in public because they recognize their state of confusion, distress and fear, and have connected them to Cast.

Human trafficking survivors have a right to housing and it's one of their top needs. But rents are at their highest ever. If survivors cannot afford housing, they cannot easily access services or get a job, and are extremely vulnerable to being trafficked again.

Even when survivors can afford rent, they face another hurdle: landlords may not rent to them because of bad credit or criminal records which may be a direct result of their trafficking experience. BIPOC communities are most likely to face this barrier.

For those who experienced trafficking long ago, homelessness is still a looming threat, especially in recent times. Half of the survivors we provided pandemic-related 'micro-grants' to had experienced homelessness in the last year.

Cast is the only provider of housing dedicated to human trafficking survivors in Los Angeles, catering to their unique needs as a result of their trauma. Most other shelters in LA are designed to serve survivors of domestic violence or women experiencing homelessness – and they are full most of the time.

What Cast is doing

Housing is the top need among callers to Cast's 24-hour hotline, uniquely run by our shelter staff who provide expert, empathic support. Callers who go on to our emergency shelter are met by the same people they spoke to. Over the last year, we took 2,210 hotline calls from survivors, professionals and members of the public. 88% of the survivors who called told us they were experiencing homelessness.

Cast provides a continuum of housing services based on survivors' needs and choices, from emergency to permanent housing. Survivors staying at Cast's emergency shelter, Hummingbird Haven,

are usually escaping their trafficking situation; the shelter offers a safe place to sleep, eat, and get counseling. After up to 90 days there, if survivors need more support, Cast's transitional shelter, Mariposa Haven, provides up to 2 years' housing, along with a host of supports that directly address survivors' vulnerabilities to homelessness including education, training and jobs.

Launched in 2020, Cast's Rapid Rehousing Program has been extremely successful in supporting survivors who are ready to move into a permanent home with rental assistance and dedicated case management.

“Cast’s housing programs ensure that survivors feel safe for the first time and that they are in control of their own lives. This is why affordable, safe, and permanent housing is essential for them to flourish and become members of their communities.”

Rebecca Amado Sprigg, Associate Director of Equitable Housing, Cast

It is unacceptable that when survivors of human trafficking bravely escape their situation, they often have nowhere safe to go and find themselves in greater danger than ever. When Larissa called Cast’s 24-hour hotline, she and her three children - the youngest, a baby - were sleeping in her car, hiding from the trafficker. Since Cast’s shelter (run from a hotel during the height of the pandemic) was full, our Emergency Response team called over 30 other shelters, but none could accept the family. So Cast provided services to Larissa and her children in her car for a week, until a room at Cast’s shelter became available. They stayed at the shelter for a month and Cast then supported Larissa to find safe housing.

Ending the housing crisis in Los Angeles will help end human trafficking. To get there, we need an increase in the minimum wage, increased affordable housing, and a strengthened social safety net that is racially equitable. **We need to treat homelessness like an urgent public health issue.**

A ‘forever’ Emergency Shelter



Shelter living room. Photo: Cast



Shetler therapy room. Photo: Cast

After running our emergency shelter from a hotel throughout the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Cast finally acquired a permanent shelter residence in partnership with the City of Los Angeles. The shelter provides up to 90 days’ housing and crisis support for up to 15 adult women and is the only one of its kind in Los Angeles.

Berlyn's path to a place of her own

"Growing up was hard and happy. Jobs in the Philippines were only enough for rent or bills but not enough to give to your family. So, I decided to go abroad and send money. My family paid the agency for a cleaning job at a hospital but then they said, 'No, there is nothing'; it's fraud. I ended up as a domestic helper.

Living with the family was like killing myself: no love, only working 24/7, waking up in the night to get something they asked for. **I thought to myself, 'this is not right, but I have to'.** I thought I would die there. The mother would tell me off for cooking wrong and one time she told me that she was sending me back to the Philippines."

Through an incredible turn of events, after eight years, Berlyn was able to contact another woman who had escaped from the same family four years earlier.

"She cried, I cried. I was so glad I met her. She called Cast; she said they had helped her for two years and that they could

help me. I went straight to their emergency shelter. It was so nice and quiet. You feel welcome and safe when you get there."

After a month, Berlyn moved to Cast's transitional shelter, where she stayed for two years while she studied English, took a medical billing course and worked with Cast's counselor. In 2020, she was ready to move into her own place.

"Cast helped with everything - they helped me find this apartment and provided 100% rent for six months, and furniture.

They asked me if I would feel secure being away from the shelter. I told them, 'I think I will be okay.' They already gave me a lot of help. **I wanted something to prove to myself that I can do it on my own.**

Cast helped me so much. It's the only place that treated me like a family, whenever I needed help or somebody to talk to. It's the place that helped me to be me again, to move on and to take care of myself, to love myself."



Berlyn at home with her dogs.
Photo: Cast/Michal Ojo



Survivors' criminal records for crimes they were forced to commit are with them for life, like their own fingerprints.

Demanding an End to the Criminalization of Survivors

“Human trafficking laws haven’t caught up. Cast fills in the gaps.”

Nagwa Ibrahim, Director of Legal Services, Cast



Survivors of human trafficking are sometimes forced to commit crimes by traffickers. Despite being victims, survivors - especially BIPOC - are being arrested, charged, jailed and convicted of offences directly related to their trafficking. **Survivors’ criminal records for crimes they were forced to commit are with them for life, like their own fingerprints.**

Survivors are being victimized by the criminal legal system, which is perpetuating human trafficking rather than addressing it. California law protects survivors who were forced to commit nonviolent offenses from being criminalized - yet they are still being arrested, charged and convicted due to a lack of awareness of or disregard for survivors’ legal rights. As a result, survivors are afraid to ask law enforcement for help and

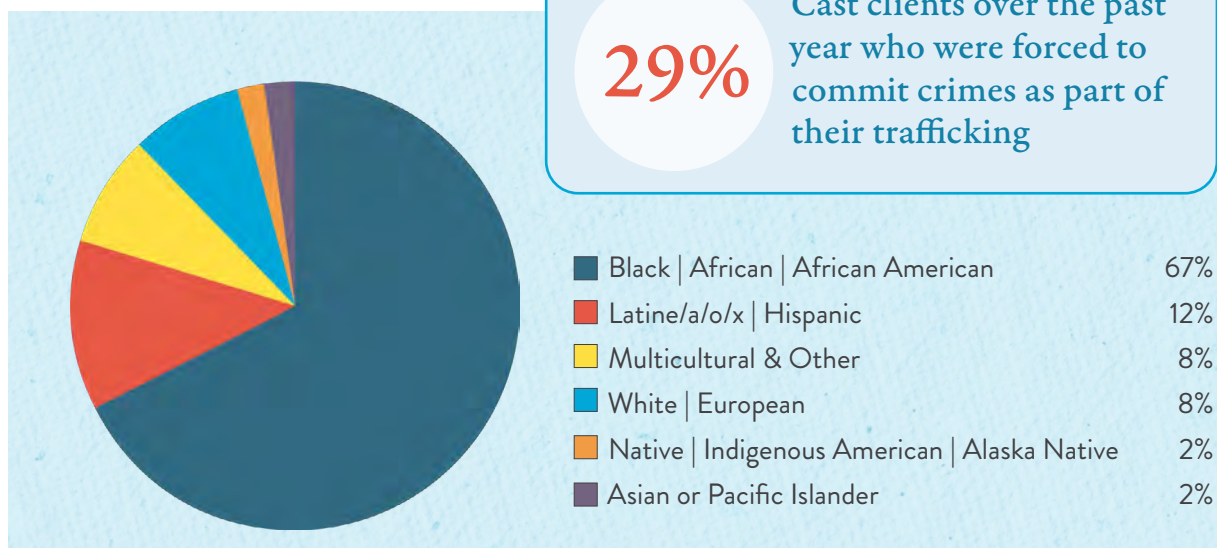
human trafficking continues to be grossly under-reported. When they do report, the experience is often traumatizing. **Survivors, particularly BIPOC, are very often not believed when they report to law enforcement or are threatened with criminalization if they do not cooperate with them.** There is also a lack of protection for survivors when they are forced to testify against their traffickers, which is not only triggering but can be extremely dangerous. Since the first federal law to address human trafficking was only enacted in 2000, there are still many gaps within the laws that do not account for the reality of what survivors of human trafficking endure and the legal protections needed to address human trafficking.

As they are criminalized and their criminal records follow them throughout their lives, survivors of human trafficking are forced to the margins of society once more. They can't get jobs or housing and are even more vulnerable to homelessness and exploitation, including being trafficked again. We know survivors who have gone to interview after interview, got a job, and were then fired for having a record. 31% of the survivors we served in the last year had criminal records.

29% of them had been forced to commit crimes - and 67% of this group are Black. **Structural racism within the criminal legal system, especially against the Black community, is not only harming survivors, it is also perpetuating human trafficking.**

Cast's team of staff attorneys spend countless hours clearing survivors' criminal charges and records that should have never happened. We raise awareness among prosecutors, public defenders, private criminal defense attorneys, and judges - as well as those writing the laws - on the complexity of human trafficking and the impact of harmful policies, and we advocate for better policies that honor survivors' human rights.

In partnership with the Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking (ATEST) and others, Cast supported the [Trafficking Survivors Relief Act of 2022](#), which if passed, will give survivors a path to clear their federal criminal records of non-violent offenses committed as a result of their trafficking.



POLICE

Understanding Forced Criminality



“Traffickers utilize force, fraud, and coercion to control their victims. We replicate these circumstances when we threaten survivors with prosecution. **By threatening arrest and incarceration, we show survivors that they cannot trust our systems, that they are not there to protect them.** These practices only make it more difficult for survivors to trust the services that are available to them such as housing, healthcare, and counseling.”

Leigh LaChapelle, Cast Associate
Director of Survivor Advocacy

When someone is forced to commit a crime as a result of their trafficking experience, it is called ‘forced criminality’. Sometimes a form of labor trafficking, forced criminality is grossly under-reported in the United States. For example, traffickers sometimes force people to sell drugs, engage in identity theft, credit card fraud, or other types

of theft. It is only since 2017 that California has protected survivors from being arrested or charged for some crimes related to trafficking and made it possible to clear their records if they already were. There is still no federal law protecting survivors from being unjustly criminalized for crimes they were forced to commit as a result of their trafficking.

Tracy was forced to make an impossible choice



A recent Cast client had an experience that we see time and again, especially among Black survivors.

Tracy was sex trafficked for eight years by someone who she was romantically involved with before she turned 18. She tried to report him to the police three times but they turned her away, saying it was a domestic matter.

When other victims came forward, the police finally asked to speak with her.

Tracy had no attorney with her during the interview. She admitted that she was forced to commit crimes as part of her trafficking.

The police then told her that she had to testify in front of the trafficker and that if she did not, they would charge her for those crimes she was forced to commit.

Tracy had to choose between a criminal record and testifying in front of the man who exploited her, which put her safety at risk. She chose the latter.

Cast represented Tracy in court, making sure she was protected during the process, and got older charges related to her trafficking dismissed.

“We work with prosecutors and public defenders to ensure that victims are not further victimized by the criminal legal system through unjust criminalization or the threat of it.”

Nagwa Ibrahim, Director of Legal Services, Cast



What Cast is doing

For over two decades, Cast has witnessed the impact of forced criminality and the wrongful criminalization of survivors. This year, we have been talking about it more with those who have the power to make a difference. We:

- Raised awareness of forced criminality with the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, asking for a focus on services for victims, rather than convictions. Cast spoke about human trafficking at two town halls, provided non-stereotyped messaging in advance of the Superbowl, and provided survivor feedback to the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs on posters that businesses are required to post in workplaces.
- Advised attorneys across the United States on using a race equity lens when supporting survivors, for example how victim rights advocacy can be a tool for anti-racism in the criminal legal system.
- Supported the passing of the Safer Streets for All Act, repealing a California law that allowed police to engage in discriminatory policing of Black, Brown and transgender communities especially. This law was being used to criminalize and punish survivors based on race, gender and sexual orientation. [Read more](#) about how this law will help to prevent human trafficking.

Immigrants are especially vulnerable

We applied for T visas and Green Cards for survivors with a success rate of 99% and 100% respectively. The T visa allows foreign national survivors to stay in the US and entitles them to public benefits. It is a lifeline for many who come to the US to help support their families at home but whose vulnerability as immigrants is exploited.

At 18, David was ready to start studying law in Mexico but when his family fell on hard times, he came to the US to find work. After doing odd jobs for a few years, he heard about a well-paid opportunity on a farm and agreed to do it. But the job was a sham and he was brought to a building with

guard dogs, locks on the door, and people with guns who took his possessions and identity documents. He was forced to work all night. The next day, law enforcement arrived and arrested the traffickers, who were running an illegal marijuana farm. Even though David was a human trafficking victim who had been forced to work there, he was also arrested and charged. Thanks to Cast, David's charges were dismissed and he was able to receive a T visa so that he could work legally and safely. Our next step with David will be applying for his Green Card.

Public safety laws should not allow bias and racism to lead enforcement practices. We want laws and systems that better protect survivors and prevent trafficking from happening in the first place, including: improving the process for clearing survivors' criminal records, ending the practice of criminal records following people for life, reducing

over-policing of Black and Brown communities, allowing access to work authorization while T visa applications are pending, and increasing the ability of transgender people to access safety. These are examples of what we mean by a human rights response to human trafficking.



Cast's 24-hour hotline connects survivors with emergency housing, food and medical care.

Promoting Survivors' Health and Wellbeing

“As a human being, what are we wanting most? Security and love. If we're not getting them because systems are broken, traffickers say, ‘I will love you, I will take care of you, I will give you housing, I will give you work.’”

Angie Rodriguez-Watkins, Cast Clinical Supervisor

For everyone including survivors of human trafficking, wellbeing isn't just about a healthy mind and body - it is also about having safety, stability and a good quality of life. With access to education and well-paid work, survivors may never have been trafficked in the first place.

Because of systemic racism, BIPOC are more likely to experience homelessness,

the foster care and juvenile systems as well as human trafficking, and BIPOC survivors often face the most barriers to wellbeing like being able to get good jobs and housing. Survivors who are not US citizens experience extra barriers to work or accessing public benefits.

The experience of being trafficked is traumatic and forces people to live in a perpetual

state of fear and survival. It causes and exacerbates developmental delays and mental health problems - 67% of new clients this year had post-traumatic stress disorder. Some survivors have traumatic brain injuries, memory loss and suicidal ideation. Poor mental health makes it even harder for survivors to access services or find suitable housing and jobs.

The survivors we served the past year have reported untreated injuries, chronic pain, poor vision, major dental problems and disabilities. Those being trafficked are not free to access healthcare and even when they escape, they may not know how to get help or they may be excluded from it. When survivors are not able to fully process what happened to them, they can be triggered even when life seems stable.

Cast saw this happen at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, when survivors who had graduated from our programs asked for our help again. What made them vulnerable to trafficking the first time made them vulnerable again, and systemic racism and the pandemic have compounded their trauma.

“A lot happened during the pandemic and survivors have been left with all of this trauma to carry because they haven’t been able to process it.”

Miriam Ochoa, Cast Senior Case Manager

131

In-person emergency responses

92%

to BIPOC survivors

2,210

Hotline calls

67%

Survivors who had PTSD symptoms when they came to Cast

10%

Survivors who had PTSD symptoms when they graduated from Cast

\$525,000

Survivors’ lost income compensation won to date

140

Microgrants (up to \$1,000) made to survivor leaders, totaling \$62,500

What Cast is doing

Survivors in crisis – or anyone who is concerned – can call Cast’s 24-hour hotline for help. **Last year we took 2,210 hotline calls - over half were from potential survivors.** We provided emergency response to 131 survivors who had mostly just escaped; responding virtually has enabled us to help survivors faster than before. As well as providing wraparound services including access to healthcare, our focus is on creating rapport and providing emotional support to survivors for as long as they need it.

When survivors struggle to make ends meet, Cast explores every possible avenue to address this, especially by connecting them to training and good jobs and covering upfront fees. In the short term, lost income compensation from the state of California pays survivors back for pay stolen from them while they were trafficked. **This year, we won \$175,000 in compensation for survivors.** We also provided 140 micro-grants worth \$60,000 to survivor leaders across the US who were facing financial hardship or who wanted to start a course or small business. Survivor leaders who are active in the anti-trafficking movement are often still living precariously and need basic as well as professional support to be successful.

“Unfortunately, the thing standing in between so many of us survivors and a life of safety is money. Direct financial aid is a live-saving service.”

Survivor of human trafficking and the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women epidemic, who used funds to regain her independence after leaving an abusive partner.

Our **Survivor Advocate Program** shows how Cast is responding to human trafficking and laying the foundation for a public health response that can help end it. When people escape a trafficking situation, they often go to a hospital because they are too afraid to go to the police, but most healthcare professionals don’t know how to identify them. Through this program, hospitals call Cast when they suspect their patients are human trafficking survivors, and our staff with lived experience of trafficking respond and connect survivors to services. They also educate healthcare professionals on human trafficking and how to identify it in healthcare settings so that in the future, survivors can be spotted sooner and treated better.

Cast's **Youth Program** hosts regular group activities and workshops to increase youth survivors' confidence and life skills.

“What youth survivors most enjoy is the opportunity to just be themselves, have fun, and be in community with other survivors.”

Miriam Ochoa, Cast Senior Case Manager

Beyond healthcare, we have been **training child welfare professionals in LA County** on how foster children are at very high risk of trafficking; and training attorneys and social workers across the US on how intersecting marginalized identities make people more vulnerable to trafficking – reaching over 14,000 professionals.

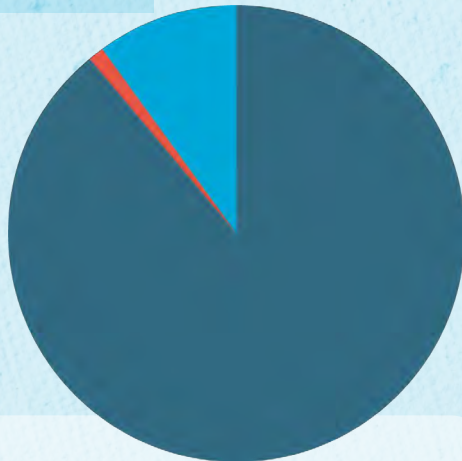
“I feel more at ease with myself and learned to have more patience with myself and others. I also learned that it is important to give others a second chance and learned to accept myself and what happened to me.”

SM, Cast Client

Human trafficking is happening everywhere. We all have a role to play in addressing and ending it, and that starts with treating it like a public health issue. We need more outreach programs like the one connecting Cast to hospitals, and less that arrest survivors for being victims. We need those working in schools and community centers – and anywhere vulnerable people are – to be able to spot human trafficking and to know what to do. And we need to make quality healthcare accessible to all survivors, if we ever want them to recover.

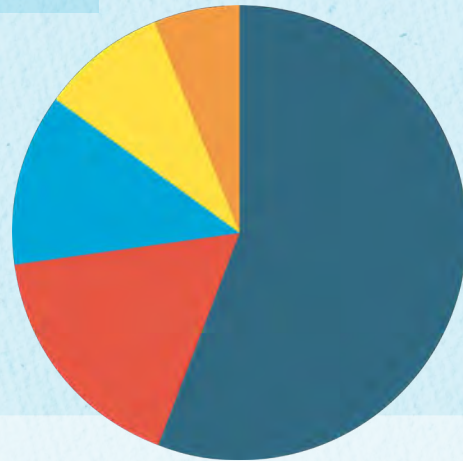
Governance

Expenditure



Programs	86%
Fundraising	5%
Administration	9%

Income



Government	56%	Individuals	9%
Foundations	17%	Other	6%
		In-kind	12%

* To be confirmed in our 2022 Financial Statement

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Cast

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Front cover: Cast graduate, Berlyn, at the apartment Cast helped her find and move into.
Photo: Cast/Michael Ojo

Back cover: Cast graduate, Jamila. Photo: Cast/Michael Ojo