

# 2023

## Annual Report

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## Our Mission

The Global Center on Human Trafficking (GCHT) is dedicated to reimagining the response to human trafficking in communities in the U.S. and around the world by empowering survivors and embedding their lived experiences and insights in research, policy and practice.



**“I want you to have an empowered imagination of what it means for a university to take on this assignment, and we are going to take on a lot of assignments, but none is more important than this.”**

*-Dr. Jonathan Koppell, Montclair State University President, at the Worldwide Launch of the Global Center on Human Trafficking*

The Global Center on Human Trafficking embodies Montclair’s commitment to serving the public interest and to engage closely with communities we serve to solve the most pressing problems of society.

A global crisis that impacts every community, human trafficking disproportionately impacts racial and ethnic minorities, women and girls, LGBTQI+ individuals, persons with disabilities, and other historically marginalized and under-served communities.

The GCHT leverages the expertise of the entire MSU faculty, staff, and students across a wide spectrum of disciplines to work together with survivors and leading public, private, and academic partners worldwide to better understand the problem of human trafficking and develop survivor-informed research, policy and practices to prevent and address trafficking in persons.



The Global Center on Human Trafficking works hand-in-hand with survivors and lived experience professionals to prevent human trafficking in all of its forms according to

## 4 Pillars

1. Survivor Empowerment
2. Innovation in Policy and Practice
3. Research and Knowledge
4. Next Generation



The Global Center on Human Trafficking seeks to achieve impact, by measuring our success across these key metrics:

- Partnerships Established
- Engagement of Montclair Faculty, Staff, and Students
- Education and Awareness Raising
- Survivor Empowerment and Engagement
- Program Participation
- Training and Technical Assistance Provided to Law Enforcement

# 2023

*in a snapshot*

27

Lived Experience Professionals Engaged in Research, Policy, and Practice.

304

Potential Survivors of Human Trafficking Referred for Services or to Law Enforcement

1500

Montclair Faculty, Staff, and Students Trained on Human Trafficking

1800

Community Members Trained on Human Trafficking

213

Law Enforcement Personnel Trained

26

Partnerships Established across the United States

12

Global Partnerships Established

# Leading the Way-Montclair Offers Certificate Program in Global Human Trafficking

In Fall 2022, Montclair launched a new certificate program that provides students with a comprehensive and critical understanding of global human trafficking, including extent, causes, impact, perpetrators, victims, and responses.

The program consists of 4 undergraduate courses and one internship with the Global Center on Human Trafficking.

## GCHT Creates First New Jersey Human Trafficking Resource Directory

Navigating the search for services can be daunting for both survivors and allies. This directory, developed by GCHT's lived experience professionals and interns, aims to bridge a significant gap by enhancing the accessibility of information for those in need of services. Our goal is for this directory to bolster our united efforts in preventing human trafficking, bringing traffickers to justice, and offering trauma-informed support and services to survivors throughout New Jersey. Scan to view:



# Making an Impact in Our Own Community-Legislative Breakfast Brings Together Key Stakeholders from Across New Jersey

As part of our **Innovation in Policy and Practice Initiative**, GCHT convened legislators, policymakers, advocates, survivors and lived experienced professionals from across the state to examine gaps in current laws and policies and how we can address them collectively. This event amplified the voice of survivors and lived-experience professionals and honored those who have made outstanding contributions to New Jersey's anti-trafficking efforts.





# Putting the 'G' in GCHT:

## GCHT Partners with Hope Education Project, Ghana

Traffickers exploit Ghanaian children for forced labor and sex-trafficking within Ghana and abroad.

The GCHT seeks to prevent the trafficking of children and youth in Ghana and to empower a generation of youth to adopt a human rights mindset regarding the crime of human trafficking.

GCHT is working in partnership with the **Hope Education Project**, to develop an evidence-based, survivor-informed, replicable human trafficking prevention pilot program that equips teachers, parents/guardians, and community members to educate, prevent, and disrupt the trafficking of young people in Ghana.

## Human Trafficking Academic Roundtable

In 2023, GCHT co-convened a roundtable discussion on human trafficking research gaps. The roundtable brought together research experts from research centers, universities, and non-governmental organizations across the United States. The event highlighted many areas of research in the field of human trafficking that are still underrepresented or not explored at all.

Tangible impacts of this roundtable include the establishment of a working group on familial trafficking and two special journal issue proposals discussing specific gap areas.

# GCHT Convenes National Expert Roundtable Discussion

## Understanding and Improving Law Enforcement Investigation of Sex Trafficking and Labor Trafficking

Human traffickers largely operate with impunity. The number of investigations and prosecutions across the United States represents a tiny fraction of the actual cases of human trafficking. In an effort to improve investigations of human trafficking, GCHT brought together leading law enforcement experts, advocates and lived-experience professionals to discuss current challenges and best practices and provide recommendations to the field.



## Community Engaged Learning: The Intersection of Libraries and Human Trafficking

In response to the first case of human trafficking in New Jersey identified by a library social worker, GCHT is leading a community engaged learned research project examining the role of libraries in addressing human trafficking.

The first study of its kind, GCHT staff and interns will survey libraries across New Jersey to increase understanding of the role that libraries play or can play in preventing and addressing human trafficking.



# Knowledge is Power!

## Educating and Raising Awareness of Human Trafficking

The Global Center on Human Trafficking has been involved in dozens of events across campus, within the community, and virtually including these highlights:

- Panelist at the Bonner Leadership Summit
- Held a Human Trafficking 101 training each semester
- Bi-Annual Out of the Shadows: Blue People Awareness Campaign
- Presented workshop to the Dunworking Club of Montclair
- Led a workshop at the World Fair's Day/Vision Board Making Event
- Conducted a workshop for participant's of the Covenant House Sleep Out, held on the Montclair Campus
- Lived-Experience Panel on the Intersection of the Gaming Industry and Human Trafficking held at Seton Hall Law School
- Provided lived-experience panelist for the Montclair Alumni Sorority, Delta Pheta Sigma Human Trafficking Training



Photo: GCHT Interns and Student Ambassadors hosting end-of-year safe space event.

# Partnerships are Key to Our Success



## Multi-Disciplinary Partners at Montclair State University

- Center for Community Engagement
- Center for Research and Evaluation on Education and Human Services
- Center for Student Involvement
- Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)
- Department of Justice Studies
- Department of Social Work and Child Advocacy
- Feliciano Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation
- Government Relations and Community Affairs
- Montclair State University Police Department
- Health Promotion Drop in Center
- Office of the Dean of Students
- Pre-Law Program
- Recreation Center
- School of Communications and Media
- School of Nursing
- Writing Studies

## Law Enforcement

- Homeland Security Investigations HSI-NJ
- Homeland Security Investigations HSI-NY
- Pound Ridge Police Department
- Tarrant County Sheriff's Office
- FBI Miami - Palm Beach RA

## National/International Partners

- Fermata Discovery
- Gallaudet University
- Global Association of Human Trafficking Scholars
- Hope Education Project, Ghana
- Human Trafficking Legal Center
- International Association of Chief of Police
- International Organization for Adolescents (IOFA)
- Karana Rising
- University of Graz, Institute of Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure Law and Criminology

## Community Partners

- Bella Channel Mentoring Program
- Covenant House-NJ
- Family Service League/SAVE of Essex County
- Long Branch Library
- Montclair Library
- NJ Coalition Against Human Trafficking
- Saving Jane
- Seton Hall Law School
- Volunteer Lawyers of NJ
- Westchester County Anti-Trafficking Task Force
- Westchester County Department of Social Services, Safe Harbour Program

# 2024

## *our vision*

**As the GCHT enters its third year, we are excited to expand our programming and engagement, especially at the global level.**

**Here are some of our plans for next year:**

- Hold the 2nd Annual Legislative Breakfast addressing the issue of homelessness and human trafficking.
- Pilot Phase 1 of GCHT’s Survivor Leadership Program—The Possibilities Program. The Possibilities Program is a campus-based program exploring educational and career opportunities for girls ages 11-17.
- Launch the Lived Experience Anti-Trafficking Professional Partnership Program (LEAP), a survivor-led program that aims to facilitate sustainable, ethical, and inclusive collaboration between lived experience professionals and the anti-trafficking field.
- Form Advisory Council for the Engaging Libraries in Addressing Human Trafficking, a Community Engaged Research Project.
- Develop 3-5 Professional Development Courses on Human Trafficking.
- Expand partnerships, especially globally.
- Develop a Human Trafficking Safe Space training to educate and engage faculty and staff across campus.
- Hold law enforcement training with Homeland Security Investigations.
- Develop research projects with multi-disciplinary partners.