

Every year, millions of men, women, and children are forced into a life of sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, and even sex trafficking. The latter is one of the fastest-growing criminal enterprises globally and is expected to surpass the drug trade in revenue in less than five years.

It is also a fact that no county in Texas has escaped the trauma of these cruelties. They are as prevalent in major metropolitan cities as in rural communities throughout Texas. It is difficult to comprehend what one human being will do to another, but it is important to comprehend the emotional, physical, and spiritual traumas that remain long after the crime has been committed.

The recent release of Sound of Freedom highlights the reality of the international sex trade. It is an unfiltered, factual look at a hidden evil and a call to action to stop the sale and protect the innocent. Domestic sex trafficking, as well as sexual exploitation and abuse, employs different tactics in cultivating its victims. Abusers prey on the vulnerability of their victims and on their desire to be loved and cared for. While some abusers and traffickers are gang members and drug dealers, many more are romantic partners and even family members.

Community awareness and vigilance are among the most powerful weapons in the war against sexual exploitation, sexual abuse, and domestic sex trafficking. The first step to victim recovery is knowing what to look for and how to report it. A critical step to healing is understanding the resources available to help these victims overcome sexual trauma. The ultimate step is knowing how to proactively protect your loved ones from falling prey to these injustices.

Life is a gift, and it should never be abused or for sale.

KERR UNITED AGAINST SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

A FREE Community Awareness Event



Tuesday, September 19, 2023

6:00 – 8:00 pm

Tivy High School

3250 TX-534 Loop, Kerrville, TX

Hear from those on the front lines fighting domestic sex abuse, exploitation, and trafficking in Kerr County and Texas:

Detective Joseph Scaramucci, nationally renowned law enforcement expert on human trafficking

Greg Longenbaugh, Criminal Investigator for the Kerr County Sheriff's Department

Karla Solomon, Survivor and Advocate with Mercy Gate Ministries

Teresa Lara, Child Sex Trafficking Care Coordinator with the Hill Country Crisis Council

Kerr County Care Coordination Team Agencies