



International
Women's Day
2021



PATHWAYS TO AN EQUAL FUTURE: WOMEN INSPIRING CHANGE

Proceedings of the online panel held on 8 March 2021
and Lessons Learned



GENEVA CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ADVANCEMENT AND GLOBAL DIALOGUE
مركز جنيف لحقوق الإنسان والحوار العالمي
CENTRE DE GENÈVE POUR LA PROMOTION DES DROITS DE L'HOMME ET LE DIALOGUE GLOBAL

In Special Consultative Status with the United Nations

ذو مركز استشاري خاص لدى الأمم المتحدة

Doté du statut consultatif auprès des Nations Unies

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Published in 2021

Rue de Vermont, 37-39 CP186
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

Email: info@gchragd.org
ISBN: 978-2-940639-06-9



The Geneva Centre for Human Rights
Advancement and Global Dialogue

**PATHWAYS TO AN EQUAL FUTURE:
WOMEN INSPIRING CHANGE**

GENEVA, MARCH 2021

Panellist Statement

Dr. Coralanne Griffith-Hunte (United States of America)

Human, Industrial and Trauma Psychologist, Founder of Created for Greatness Leadership Group, Inc.



Dr. Coralanne Griffith-Hunte is a Human, Industrial & Trauma Psychologist. She's the Founder and Chairwoman of Created for Greatness Leadership Group, Inc., a humanitarian organization with partnerships in the United States and abroad. In 2020, Dr. Griffith-Hunte joined the United Nations 58th Commission for Social Development to end homelessness around the world. In 2018, Dr. Griffith-Hunte was instrumental in advocating for the End Child Sex Trafficking Bill which was signed into legislation. Dr. Griffith-Hunte is the recipient of copious humanitarian, public service, leadership and educational awards and has appeared on TEDx and well-known publications.

International Women's Rights Day allows our global community to participate in courageous conversations. The Geneva Centre's theme "Pathways to an Equal Future: Women Inspiring Change" is the catalyst to truly shape the context of this conversation. As a global community, we must acknowledge both the impactful contributions that women have made while addressing the exploitation that women and girls continue to face around the world.

Desmond Tutu once said, "My humanity is bound up in yours, for we can only be human together." Indeed, those words should have permanent citizenship within the chambers of our hearts. Knowing that no one walks this journey of life without the need of having intimate human experiences and community.

As a Human, Industrial & Trauma Psychologist, I founded Created for Greatness Leadership Group, Inc., a humanitarian organization because I believe that everyone is essential to humanity regardless of culture, gender, religion, race or trauma. Therefore, I work on a daily basis with key government officials and other organizations at the state, local and federal levels to pass legislation favorable for the educational, human rights, mental health, anti-domestic violence, anti-human trafficking, anti-gang, prison reform, community engagement and empowerment mission for New York State families and the global community.

For the past 25 years, I have utilized my platform to advocate for laws to be enforced to protect women and children against human trafficking, domestic violence and all forms of injustices. In 2018, I was instrumental in advocating for the End Child Sex Trafficking Bill that was signed into legislation. The United Nations defines human trafficking as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons,

by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery, or practices similar to slavery, servitude, or the removal of organs.

According to the International Labor Organization, it is estimated that over 40 million people are enslaved around the world. Women and girls are disproportionately affected by human trafficking, accounting for an estimated 71% (29MM). Human trafficking has severe traumatic effects on the individual(s) involved. Research shows that trauma is the response to a deeply distressing or disturbing event that overwhelms an individual's ability to cope, causes feelings of helplessness, diminishes their sense of self and their ability to feel the full range of emotions and experiences.

Trauma has no boundaries with regards to age, gender, socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, or sexual orientation. Individuals with histories of trauma, toxic stress, and adversity are generally dealing with the consequences of acuity. Instead, they are dealing with the consequences of having multiple systems affecting each other, creating changes in body, behavior, social/emotional, and spiritual aspects of their lives.

Trauma isn't only what has happened to an individual, we must also acknowledge what trauma does inside of the individual. In all trafficking situations complex trauma occurs and effects the body on every level. It removes the ability to self-regulate and once this occurs the victim's cognitive perception is dismantled. How someone responds to a traumatic experience is personal. Therefore, as a psychologist, I bring insight through my training and development conferences that there's no "One size fits all" to explain the traumatic experience of human trafficking.

Nelson Mandela reminds us with the words, "For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others." I fight for the freedom for those who have experienced the atrocities of human trafficking, I fight for the freedom for those who have experienced the traumatic loss of a loved one due to senseless violence, I fight for those who are the victims of domestic violence, I fight for those communities that are plagued with drugs and poverty, for we must understand that an injustice to one is indeed an injustice to us all.

In order for us to ascertain pathways to an equal future, we must make the decision to fight for the women and girls around the world to ensure their safety and give value to their existence. Every female was created uniquely for a divine purpose. They individually make up the wonderful masterpiece of divine human existence. They are valuable and irreplaceable. The treasure of their purpose shouldn't be determined according to their labor or gender, but rather highlighting the beauty of their intellect,

innovation and uniqueness while creating a world that's safe for their souls to show up.

Questions by participants to Dr. Coralanne Griffith-Hunte

Do you believe that people are still too afraid to come forward and give their experiences due to the lack of services available that can fully understand how to help women who have lived through traumas? And how can changes be made to progress in this area? Especially if it is not an important agenda for the political parties in power at any given time.

I do believe that some women experience fear in coming forward because society has not always created a safe space for this type of courageous dialogue to occur. Research shows that women have experienced negative repercussions because they shared their truth. Blaming victims creates a lack of trust for both institutions and individuals, which suppresses women from expressing their traumatic experiences and beginning their journey to healing.

Trauma isn't an easy topic for most women to discuss because of guilt and shame. Many women experienced trauma within their childhood (e.g., emotional & sexual abuse, domestic violence, homelessness, physical & emotional neglect, discrimination, mental illness, and poverty) and never shared their experience with anyone.

Research on Adverse Childhood experiences (ACE's) indicates that the toxic stress during childhood can harm the most basic levels of the nervous, endocrine, and immune systems. Such exposures can even alter the physical structure of DNA (epigenetic effects).

In addition, research also connects childhood trauma to a variety of negative outcomes in adulthood such as substance abuse, risky behaviors, incarceration, and suicide. The habits of trauma generally leads to patterns that have dramatic physiological impact in our bodies and ultimately dictate our very own quality of life.

In an effort to create change, there must be a multi-generational and stakeholder trauma-informed care approach. A trauma-informed approach reflects adherence to six key principles:

- Realization & Safety
- Recognition, Trustworthiness & Transparency
- Collaboration & Mutuality
- Empowerment of Voice and Choice
- Respond with Cultural, Historical and Gender Respect.
- Resist Re-traumatization

We must also look to create policies that denounce and dismantle the over sexualization within the media, women being viewed as sexual objects, the normalization of violence against women that violate their human rights. And lastly, promote a safe

space for women to not only share their lived experiences but also to be believed.

How many children per year are trafficked for sexual purposes in the USA (and worldwide if you know)?

1 in 7 children reported by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children become victims of sexual trafficking. It's important to understand that the majority of victims are trafficked within the borders of their own country. An estimated 58 percent in 2016, an increase from just 27 percent in 2010. According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Recognizing that there is domestic trafficking within the United States will allow for better report rates, prevention, and rehabilitation for those who have been trafficked.

There is not an exact number of children trafficked because there are cases there are unreported. However, there is an estimate of 10,000 children that are trafficked for sex purposes in the U.S each year.

Source:

<https://love146.org/>

Child Trafficking in the U.S. Happens in All 50 States (unicefusa.org)

<https://polarisproject.org/blog/2020/08/what-we-know-about-how-child-sex-trafficking-happens/>

It is estimated that between 18,000 and 20,000 victims are trafficked into the United States annually.

Source: womenscenterofyfs.org

Worldwide: 40 million people are being victimized in situations of trafficking and exploitation. 25% of these are children. 25% = 10,000,000

Source: <https://love146.org/>

Additional information:

Children raised in foster care have a greater chance of becoming victims. In 2013, 60% of child victims the FBI recovered were from foster care. In 2017, 14% of children reported missing were likely victims of sex trafficking, and 88% of those had been in child welfare, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children reported.

Source: <https://www.state.gov/reports/2019-trafficking-in-persons-report/>

Has your government implemented a program to monitor children trafficked for sexual purposes?

The FBI addresses human trafficking through its Crimes Against Children Programs. The Violent Crimes Against Children Section (VCACS). VCACS has made domestic sex trafficking of minors a priority under the Innocence Lost National Initiative, started in 2003 in conjunction with CEOS and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. VCACS's work to fight child sex trafficking encompasses:

- Seventy-four Child Exploitation Task Force Investigating online sexual exploitation of children and child sex trafficking.
- Operation Cross Country (OCC), a nationwide law enforcement initiative to recover minors who are commercially sexually exploited. OCC expanded internationally in 2016, and included Canadian, Cambodian, Thai, and Filipino law enforcement.
- The Innocent Images National Initiative, a proactive, intelligence-driven, multi-agency, international operation to combat the proliferation and production of child pornography worldwide.
- The Child Sex Tourism Initiative targeting U.S. citizens traveling abroad to engage in sexual activity with children.
- The Child Abduction Rapid Deployment Team, consisting of approximately 80 members, to provide a national law enforcement resource for missing children investigations.
- Project Safe Childhood is a Department of Justice initiative launched in 2006 that aims to combat the proliferation of technology-facilitated sexual exploitation crimes against children.

In January 2020, the White House hosted a Summit on Human Trafficking: Honoring the 20th Anniversary of the TVPA, during which President Trump signed Executive Order 13903 on Combating Human Trafficking and Online Child Exploitation in the United States.



Rue de Vermont 37-39, CP 186 - 1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland
Tel.: +41 (0)22 748 27 80
www.gchragd.org

