



BE THE CHANGE: POLICY CHANGES TO ENABLE EMPLOYMENT POST-TRAFFICKING

VIDEO TRANSCRIPT

In Atlanta, somebody had mentioned earlier on the panel, Atlanta was really a hotbed for human trafficking. And once you realize that this is your state, this is your area, and you take that responsibility, I think that the Commission has done a great job of pulling everybody together. They first and foremost put the funding out.

We realized we didn't have enough beds for survivors. So even as people were going through, it was a huge issue and they were very quick to make sure that we had the funding and the adjustment and that we were putting up enough bed for survivors that were being rescued from this terrible life.

The second piece of that was really bridging into a whole different world with the policies and learning from our survivors leaders. People don't stop to think, "once you are rescued from this life, and even if you do have a bed, what happens after the fact?" So part of what I've been very passionate about is some of the policy changes. Some of these individuals have a criminal record and that criminal record stopped them from normal things, like gaining employment or having access or enrolling in school, so that required some significant policy changes, and the First Lady's office has taken that on.

The second piece of that is really where UPS came in again and it's been linking our survivors once they've been able to go through recovery and have the support that they need to start their lives over again, who is going to raise their hand and make sure that they are protected in a safe employment environment? And we have started to do that. Wellspring was mentioned earlier on the call; they have been fantastic to work with. We have a number of UPS employees that have been on their board, involved in volunteering hours to our survivors and I'm proud to say that we have a number of survivors that we've been able to link in with employment.