

MEASURE BLACK PAPER:

DISRUPTING THE JEZEBEL STEREOTYPE TO PROTECT BLACK GIRLS

A Community-Led Project In Partnership With Truckers Against Trafficking



Angel Carroll
Meme Styles, MPA
Hillary Benanzer
Precious Azuree
Nathaniel Falck

JANUARY 2023

ABOUT MEASURE

Measure is an Austin based research and data-activism nonprofit working to support people impacted by social disparities and the accompanying narrative. Measure believes that, when used strategically, data provides a common language upon which community members can meet and increase their knowledge about the causes and work together to create equitable change and increase awareness.

ABOUT TRUCKERS AGAINST TRAFFICKING

Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT) is a 501(c)3 that exists to educate, equip, empower and mobilize members of the trucking, bus and energy industries to combat human trafficking. To further its mission, TAT strives to saturate its target industries with TAT materials, partner with law enforcement and government agencies to facilitate the investigation of human trafficking, and marshal the resources of its partners to combat this crime. Since its founding in 2009, TAT has registered over 1.34 million industry professionals as TAT Trained.



BACKGROUND

ABOUT THE INNOCENCE INITIATIVE

The creation of the Innocence Initiative was inspired by the Georgetown Center on Poverty and Inequality's Initiative on Gender Justice & Opportunity's publication of *Girlhood Interrupted: The Erasure of Black Girls' Childhood*, describing research on adultification bias led by Dr. Jamilia Blake. The study, which revealed that adults view Black girls as less innocent and more adult-like than their white peers even at early ages, suggested a root cause for punitive treatment against Black girls in school and the juvenile justice system. The study provided language and data to corroborate a form of discrimination commonly faced by Black girls.

After receiving the first social equity grant from Impact Austin, The Innocence Initiative launched in 2019 to address adultification bias within Austin, TX. Over the course of three years, a collaboration of five organizations led by Measure, translated national research into local action using a participatory action research model to ignite community mobilization and engage in collaborative thinking to disrupt adultification bias against Black girls and achieve equity (1).

As a result of this initial phase of The Innocence Initiative, three key themes emerged:

- Solutions to end adultification bias must be community-led.
- Stereotypes that harm Black girls must be dismantled.
- Policies and practices must be reformed to protect Black girls.

Using the themes identified by the community to disrupt adultification bias Measure has:

1. Trained over 1,000 attorneys, advocates, and community members in adultification bias and how to protect Black girls in partnership with Lone Star Justice Alliance.
2. Published "Hey Sis, Just Be You," a comic book to raise awareness of adultification bias, distributed to over 15,000 homes by Austin Women magazine and the Austin library.
3. Established the Travis County Girls Squad in partnership with Hearts 2 Heal, which directly supports Black girls ages 13-17 through resources for mental health, education, and basic needs. Four cohorts of 10 girls have completed the program.

Source

1. Initiative on Gender Justice and Equality. (2021, June 18). *The innocence initiative: Translating national research into local action in Central Texas*. The Georgetown Law Center on Poverty and Inequality. Retrieved December 7, 2022, from <https://genderjusticeandopportunity.georgetown.edu/report/the-innocence-initiative-translating-national-research-into-local-action-in-central-texas/>

4. Hosted FREE workshops in partnership with national stakeholders, educators, civil rights, and advocacy organizations. Which served as a first step in learning what adultification bias is and how community members can change the narratives dictating how our children are viewed and treated in schools and the justice system. In 2022, 100% of workshop attendees reported feeling more familiar with adultification bias and 73% said they felt more equipped to protect Black girls after attending the workshops.

As the initiative moves into it's next phase, it is essential that we continue to dream of an anti-racist future where Black girls flourish. To achieve this, we will continue to build upon the award-winning Innocence Initiative to aggressively dismantle the mindsets, behaviors, and structures that perpetuate the "Jezebel" stereotype which assigns unfair sexual judgments upon Black girls.

ABOUT THE REPORT

Human trafficking is a worldwide tragedy and Black girls are disproportionately affected by this crime. Measure and Truckers Against Trafficking came together to build upon the work of the Innocence Initiative to use Measure's CARE Model to form a consortium of individuals with lived experiences related to the issue, so that they can discuss actionable ways to bring about meaningful change. This report aims to shed light on the issue of human trafficking by presenting data on the scope of human trafficking of Black girls and exploring the root causes of adultification and exploitation. It will also present important insights from the community into the solutions that have been identified to combat such crimes. In doing so, this report seeks to equip professionals and community members with the necessary understanding to work together in developing effective strategies for ending all forms of human trafficking and reducing its devastating impact on communities around the world.





DEFINING HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND ITS IMPACT ON BLACK GIRLS

Human trafficking is defined as a federal crime in the United States by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000. Under the TVPA (2000), human trafficking occurs when an individual experiences commercial sexual exploitation or involuntary servitude through force, fraud, or coercion (2). In the State of Texas, human trafficking is defined as an act of modern-day slavery that involves the exploitation of individuals for commercial sex or forced labor by a profiting third party. Texas law recognizes four types of human trafficking offenses: adult sex trafficking, adult labor trafficking, child sex trafficking, and child labor trafficking (3).

According to the FBI, 50% of all juvenile prostitution arrests involve Black girls, with that number being more significant in metropolitan areas. For example, in Louisiana, Black girls account for nearly 49% of child sex trafficking victims. However, Black girls comprise approximately 19% of Louisiana's youth population, and in King County, Washington, 84% of child sex trafficking victims are Black. In contrast, Black children and adults comprise only 7% of the general population (4). Similarly, evidence from the U.S. National Human Trafficking Hotline shows that Hispanic/Latinx individuals are also disproportionately represented among human trafficking victims and labor trafficking survivors in particular (5).

Sex traffickers target Black girls because they are seen as easy prey. They are often lured in with promises of money, love, and attention. Once they are under the control of their trafficker, they are forced to perform sexual acts against their will. This is done through various means, including threats of violence, emotional manipulation, and physical coercion.

Sources

2. TVPA. (2000). Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000, Pub. L. 106-386, 114 Stat. 1464, codified as amended at 22 U.S.C. §§ 7101-7110.
3. Tex. Pen. Code § 20A.02 (2005). <https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/PE/htm/PE.20A.htm>
4. Racial Disparities, COVID-19, and Human Trafficking. Polaris. (2020, July 29). Retrieved December 21, 2022, from <https://polarisproject.org/blog/2020/07/racial-disparities-covid-19-and-human-trafficking/>
5. The Latino Face of Human Trafficking and Exploitation in the United States. Polaris. (2020, May 26). Retrieved December 21, 2022, from <https://polarisproject.org/resources/the-latino-face-of-human-trafficking-and-exploitation-in-the-united-states/>

Black girls victimized in trafficking can come from various backgrounds. They could live in poverty, have an unstable home life, be a part of the child welfare system, come from a middle class home, or have wealth. Understanding why Black girls are being targeted requires taking a critical look at those taking the girls. Statistics show that African-American men are overwhelmingly prosecuted for sex trafficking. However, these traffickers are marketing and selling the services of their victims to a predominantly white, affluent base (6). This indicates a demand for Black girls in the sex trafficking industry.

A vital component of the crime of human trafficking is the dehumanization and objectification of those being victimized, as traffickers rely on commodifying the exploitation of human beings to make a profit (7). The two factors exacerbating the risk of human trafficking of Black girls are the Jezebel stereotype and adultification bias (8). Per the Jezebel stereotype, Black girls are often hyper-sexualized within the dominating white, cis-hetero-patriarchal culture, allowing the sexual exploitation of Black girls to be masked within that culture. In addition, the intersecting gender and racial oppression experienced by Black girls help to fuel myths about Black girls being inherently sexual and “grown-up” enough to consensually participate in the commercial sex industry. These societal biases and assumptions about Black girls create barriers to being correctly recognized as victims of human trafficking—even though traffickers victimize them at disproportionately high levels (9).

Sources

6. Facts About Men Who Buy Sex. Demand Abolition. (2018, March 2). Retrieved December 21, 2022, from <https://www.demandabolition.org/research/facts-men-buy-sex/>
7. Essien, E. D. (2022). Commodification of Human Beings and Power Imbalance in Human Trafficking: Ethical Implications. In E. Essien (Eds.), *Handbook of Research on Present and Future Paradigms in Human Trafficking* (pp. 387–401). IGI Global. <https://doi.org/10.4018/978-1-7998-9282-3.ch025>
8. Butler, C. N. (2015). The Racial Roots of Human Trafficking. *UCLA Law Review*, 62, 1464.
9. Nanda, S. (2019). Re-Framing Hottentot: Liberating Black Female Sexuality from the Mammy/Hottentot Bind. *Humanities*, 8(161), doi:10.3390/h8040161



THE DATA

Human trafficking has been recognized as a significant social problem and human rights violation within the United States (10), and the State of Texas has garnered notable attention for particularly high levels of human trafficking identification. Throughout 2020, Texas was the only state to report more than 26 human trafficking arrests for commercial sex acts to the UCR-HT (Uniform Crime Reporting – Human Trafficking), a federal data collection program (11). According to the Attorney General of Texas, there were 185 human trafficking arrests in Texas in 2020, with 28 convictions coming from those arrests to date (12). Further, the most recent statistics published by Polaris indicate there were an estimated 6,877 cases of human trafficking in Texas between 2007 and 2020, and the second-most calls to the National Human Trafficking Hotline have come from Texas, behind only California (13).

In addition to existing data highlighting the prevalence of human trafficking in the State of Texas, many studies examining the characteristics of human trafficking incidents showcase the disproportionately high victimization of Black girls. A report published by the US Department of Justice

51%

of juvenile prostitution arrests
are Black youth

stated that based on human trafficking incidents recorded in the Human Trafficking Reporting System between 2008 and 2010, 40% of sex trafficking victims were identified as Black (14), despite no more than approximately 14% of people in the US identifying as Black during that time frame (15).

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Black youth comprised 51% of prostitution arrests for individuals under age 18 throughout 2019 (16), reinforcing the risk Black girls face of being criminalized for their victimization. Furthermore, human traffickers admitted to interviewers in a study conducted by the Urban Institute that they believed trafficking Black girls would garner less law enforcement attention and punishment than would trafficking white women (17). This data highlights the need not only for additional anti-human trafficking efforts at both a national and state level but also for the societal perception of Black girls as inherently sexual and older than their age (18) to be addressed within the formation and implementation of these efforts.

Sources

10. Farrell, A., & Fahy, S. (2009). The problem of human trafficking in the US: public frames and policy responses. *Criminal Justice Journal*, 37(6), 617–626.
11. Bureau of Justice Statistics. (2021). Human Trafficking Data Collection Activities, 2021. US Department of Justice. Retrieved December 21, 2022, from <https://bjs.ojp.gov/library/publications/human-trafficking-data-collection-activities-2021>
12. Human Trafficking Initiative. Human Trafficking Initiative | Office of the Attorney General. (n.d.). Retrieved December 21, 2022, from <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/initiatives/human-trafficking>
13. Statistics: Texas. National Human Trafficking Hotline. (2022). Retrieved December 21, 2022, from <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/state/texas>
14. U.S. Department of Justice. (2011). Characteristics of Suspected Human Trafficking Incidents, 2008–2010. Retrieved December 21, 2022, from <https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/cshti0810.pdf>
15. 2010 Census Shows Black Population has Highest Concentration in the South. United States Census Bureau. (2011, September 29). Retrieved December 21, 2022, from https://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/2010_census/cb11-cn185.html
16. Federal Bureau of Investigation, Crime in the United States. (2019). Table 4.3B. Retrieved December 21, 2022, from <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019/tables/table-43>
17. Dank, M., Khan, B., Downey, P. M., Kotonias, C., Mayer, D., Owens, C., Paafici, L. & Yu, L. (2014). Estimating the Size and Structure of the Underground Commercial Sex Economy in Eight Major US Cities. The Urban Institute. Retrieved December 21, 2022, from <https://www.urban.org/research/publication/estimating-size-and-structure-underground-commercial-sex-economy-eight-major-us-cities>
18. Epstein R. Blake J. J. González Thalia & Georgetown University. (2017). Girlhood interrupted : the erasure of black girls' childhood. Georgetown Law Center on Poverty and Inequality. Retrieved October 31 2022 from <http://arks.princeton.edu/ark:/88435/dsp01tx3lqm28z>.

To take a deeper look into local data, Measure submitted a request to The Austin Police Department Research & Planning Division to review yearly counts of female victims of incidents involving human trafficking offenses and yearly counts of female arrestees charged with prostitution broken down by race and age for the last 10 years.

Data activists at Measure conducted a comparative analysis by pulling data by gender, race, and age for Travis County from the Census Department, and used this to calculate female victims of human trafficking and prostitution arrests per 100,000 people. (Note that 2022 population data was not available at time of data analysis). The following trends identified are below:

1. Overall victims of human trafficking crimes in Austin have decreased substantially, from 9.4 female victims per 100,000 female residents in 2015 to less than 1 female victim per 100,000 residents in 2021. Arrests for prostitution have similarly fallen across racial groups in the same period.
2. Over the last two years, Black females in particular are the most likely demographic to be victims of human trafficking, at 5.4 victims per 100,000 residents, compared to the overall population average of 0.9 victims in that period.
3. Across racial groups, girls (females below age 20) are more likely to be victims of human trafficking than adults, with 2.7 juvenile victims per 100,000 residents compared to 0.9 victims per 100,000 residents across age groups over the last two years (2020-21)
4. There have been no juvenile arrests for prostitution since 2015.
5. Despite the decrease of reported victims of Human Trafficking, Black women remain over 4 times more likely than non-Black women to be victimized (3.0 victims per 100,000 Black residents vs. 0.7 victims per 100,000 non-Black residents in 2021).
6. Black women are also disproportionately likely to be arrested for prostitution and are nearly 3 times more likely than non-Black women to be arrested over the past 10 years (14.1 arrests per 100,000 Black women vs. 4.9 arrests per 100,000 non-Black women).






During the analysis Measure was concerned about the lack of Hispanic/Latinx victimized by human trafficking reported in Austin and sought clarification. While racial data on the victimization of sex trafficking are hard to come by, over 47% of victims of labor-related human trafficking are thought to be Hispanic/Latinx (19). In a state where human trafficking of migrants is frequently in the news (20), having no female Hispanic/Latinx victims of human trafficking since 2012, despite representing 32.5% of the population is concerning.

Understanding the complexities of identity within the Hispanic/Latinx community is paramount for accurately understanding and evaluating data about their population. Upon further investigation Measure found that Federal policy defines “Hispanic” not as a race, but as an ethnicity. Quite often when officers are asked to answer a binary yes/no question about Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin they have no other option than to mark individuals’ race as white. The separation of race and ethnicity in reporting causes an inaccurate picture of the Hispanic/Latinx community and others who are often marked as white even though they do not identify as such.

Sources

19. Polaris Analysis of 2020 Data from the National Human Trafficking Hotline. Polaris. (2022). Retrieved December 22, 2022, from <https://polarisproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Polaris-Analysis-of-2020-Data-from-the-National-Human-Trafficking-Hotline.pdf>

20. Villasana, J. (2022, September 14). Feds dismantle Texas human trafficking ring smuggling migrants in Crates. <https://www.kwtx.com>. Retrieved November 17, 2022, from <https://www.kwtx.com/2022/09/14/feds-dismantle-texas-human-trafficking-ring-smuggling-migrants-crates/>



"By taking vocal stances against harmful stereotypes, we can become closer to affirming the humanity of Black women. It is our collective responsibility to challenge and reject the systems that have allowed this stereotype to exist and ensure that everyone has equitable access human rights."

-Angel Carroll

UNPACKING ADULTIFICATION BIAS & THE JEZEBEL STEREOTYPE

Adultification bias is the phenomenon of Black girls and women being perceived as more mature and sexualized than their white counterparts. This perception puts Black girls at a greater risk for violence, as they are seen as more dangerous and less in need of protection. Black girls have long been subjected to laws and policies that treat them as adults, even when they are children. This treatment is often justified by the belief that Black girls are more sexually experienced and promiscuous than white girls. Today the media, law enforcement, and the general public regularly objectify and sexualize Black girls contributing to the further perpetuation of adultification bias. This objectification contributes to the discrimination and violence that Black girls and women experience throughout their lives.

The Jezebel stereotype is a racist and sexist construction of Black girls' sexuality where it's used to justify violence against Black girls and to police their bodies and sexual behaviors. The Jezebel stereotype has its roots embedded in American history, starting during slavery when white enslavers sought to control and exploit Black girls' sexuality. Today, the Jezebel stereotype continues to be used as a weapon against Black girls. It's used to justify discrimination and violence, and it serves to uphold systems of oppression. The Jezebel stereotype is harmful and destructive and must be understood and challenged to create a more just and equitable world.

HISTORICAL TIMELINE

An overview of key historic events has been documented in the historical timeline graphic, "History of Violence Upon Black Girls' Bodies". Use the link below to view the timeline created in partnership with Truckers Against Trafficking in a larger format. Sources in the historical timeline reference citations (21-35) on the "Works Cited" pages of this report.



AUTHORS

Measure
See page 3 for Works Cited

HISTORY OF VIOLENCE UPON BLACK GIRLS' BODIES

PAGE | 1

December 2022

1600

ENFORCEMENT OF CHATTEL SLAVERY SYSTEM



JEZEBEL STEREOTYPE ENDOUSEMENT

The sexual objectification and dehumanization of Black girls is a long-standing problem in the United States that can be traced back to the 16th-century enslavement of Africans and their descendants. The enforcement of the chattel slavery system resulted in significant race-based mistreatment, including numerous sexual and reproductive acts of violence against enslaved African American women. Sources suggest that a staggering 50% of enslaved women aged 15-30 years were sexually assaulted by their owners or other white men during this period. These activities were widely less which defined the women as property, thus denying them any legal protection from sexual or exploitation.

Black girls were often portrayed as Jezebels, fleshy and over-sexualized temptresses who seduced white men. This stereotype was used to justify the sexual abuse of Black girls by white men and to subordinate the belief that Black girls did not deserve the same level of respect or protection under the law. Unfortunately, this stereotype has persisted in many forms throughout the years and can still be seen in how Black girls are often portrayed in the media. Another damaging stereotype that originated during slavery is that of the Welfare Queen. This term conjures up images of a lazy, welfare woman who is more interested in collecting government handouts than working for a living. Systems of oppression and those who participate in them used the stereotype to discredit Black girls struggling to make ends meet and paint them as a drain on society. This stereotype has persisted over the years and can still be heard today whenever there is a discussion about welfare recipients.

Since the early days of American history, Black girls have been unfairly equated to limited, one-dimensional roles like being used as sexual Harlots who willfully sacrifice their own needs to care for others. In addition, the Jezebel stereotype has emerged in recent years, depicting Black girls as angry, vengeful temptresses. And last but not least is the strong Black woman or superwoman archetype, who sometimes responds to do it all - often at the expense of her own mental and physical health.

These stereotypes are harmful not only because they're flat and one-dimensional but also because they're based on racial stereotypes and false assumptions about Black girls. They paint Black girls as a monolith, only when they are a diverse group of individuals with unique experiences and perspectives. In recent years, there has been a growing movement to combat these harmful stereotypes and provide a more balanced and accurate portrayal of Black girls in the media. While there is still much work to be done, it is hoped that these damaging stereotypes will eventually be relegated to the history books, where they belong through education and awareness-raising. (24)

1910

WHITE-SLAVE TRAFFICKING ACT, (MANN ACT)

The White Slave Traffic Act of 1910, commonly known as the Mann Act, is a federal law that outlines taking a woman or girl over state lines for the purposes of prostitution, debauchery, or "any other immoral purpose."

The act was a landmark legislation that sought to combat the rising "white slavery" issue in America. This term was brought about by moral crusades created by the Industrial Revolution, including increased urbanization and immigration, as well as modifications to traditional gender roles and existing standards of morality. The creation of the White Slave Act of 1910 reflected an underlying racism and prejudice that was pervasive in the era. While the law presented a potential lifeline to women looking to escape prostitution, it only applied to victims transported across state lines and largely ignored those trafficked within their own state.

The White Slave Act of 1910 was originally designed to protect young women from being lured into prostitution, but it quickly became a tool for targeting consensual sexual activity between adults, and parents. Its creation reflected an underlying racism and prejudice that was pervasive in the era. While the law presented a potential lifeline to women looking to escape prostitution, it only applied to victims transported across state lines and largely ignored those trafficked within their own state. The name itself intentionally excluded nonwhite women from legal protection. And was used to persecute, rather than protect, people of color.

African American victims of sex trafficking often reinforce the idea of an "innocent victim" - a vulnerable victim who is forced into prostitution against their will and deserves sympathy. However, this image disproportionately affects Black girls, who are more likely to be criminalized as selling participants than other groups due to underlying and pervasive racialized stereotypes. This exclusion from help not only degrades Black girls of services and resources that desperately need, but also perpetuates existing stereotypes and criminalization of them. To be effective in preventing sex trafficking, anti-sex trafficking efforts must recognize that not all victims in the generalized conception of "innocent victim" and expand their scope accordingly to include victims across all races, identities and circumstances. Only by providing targeted support to everyone affected by the sex industry can we ensure protection for these vulnerable people. (25,26)



1930

JIM CROW

The Jim Crow era was a time of great oppression for African Americans. Not only were they subjected to segregation and violence, but they also had to contend with the constant threat of rape. White men used rape as a tool of intimidation to justify violence against African American men and to remind African American women that their bodies were not their own. In many cases, rumors of rape were enough to spark a lynch mob. This climate of fear profoundly impacted the lives of African Americans, who lived in constant anxiety and danger. The legacy of the Jim Crow era continues to be felt today, as the scars of racial violence remain a salient concern in the African American community.



On February 10, 1918, in New Orleans, a 14-year-old Black girl named Nellie McGraw was shot and killed by a white man who attempted to rape her. McGraw's brave response to the officer's sexual assault shortly contrasts the pervasive view of Black girls as sexually available property. As Patricia Hill Collins observes, "The image the property of a few white men, African American women (and girls) became sexually available to white men." The sexual exploitation of Black girls was justified by a narrative of Black sexual deviance that cast them as sexually licentious and available. This false characterization served to excuse violence against Black girls and perpetuated their second-class status in society. In reality, Black girls have always been strong and capable of resisting sexual violence. Nellie McGraw's story is just one example of the strength and resilience. (2)

2017

THE ADULTIFIED BLACK GIRL



In recent years, there has been increasing attention to the unique experiences of Black girls in the United States. A study by Georgetown Law Center on Poverty and Inequality concluded that "Black girls were more likely to be viewed as behaving and sounding older than their stated age, more knowledgeable about adult topics, including sex, and more likely to take on adult roles and responsibilities than what would have been expected for their age." This research demonstrates that Black girls are often seen as less innocent and more aware of adult matters than their white counterparts.

As a result, they are often held to higher standards and given less latitude in terms of their behavior. In addition, Black girls are often assumed to be sexually experienced, regardless of their experience. This perception can lead to harmful stereotypes and assumptions that can harm their lives. The Georgetown study provides valuable insight into the unique experiences of Black girls in the United States and underscores the need for further research on this critical topic. (2)

2020

THE INNOCENCE INITIATIVE



The Innocence Initiative is a collaborative effort between five organizations - Measure, Girl Scouts of Central Texas, the Texas Justice Alliance, and Community Advocacy and Healing Project - to address the adultification of Black girls in Central Texas. The initiative focuses on education, on a social or cultural stereotype based on how adults perceive children. According to the research, Black girls are seen as more adult-like than their white counterparts, and this perception can impact the way the justice system treats them. For example, Black girls are more likely to be charged with serious offenses and less likely to be offered diversion programs. They are also more likely to be sentenced to detention or prison, and their sentences are often longer than those of white girls. The Innocence Initiative aims to raise awareness of this issue and advocate for changes in the law and the way Black girls are treated in our schools and justice systems. (23)

2021

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE ACKNOWLEDGES HISTORICAL AND ONGOING HARM



In 2021, the U.S. Department of State took an important step towards recognizing the role that systemic racism plays in human trafficking. It called on Americans to combat the negative legacies of chattel slavery, Indigenous dispossession and racial contempt of violence, fear and trauma that have greatly contributed to current disparities in our society. Such acknowledgment accurately reflects the reality that human trafficking is a global problem made worse by inequality and discrimination. By advocating for Americans to address these legacies, the Department has created an opportunity for us to create a more equal society free from exploitation and fear. It is now up to us, as citizens of this nation, to rise to that challenge and build a future where all people have access to safety and justice.

This acknowledgment is a critical step in recognizing how systemic racism contributes to human trafficking and other forms of exploitation. Through collective effort and dedication to understanding and challenging the inequalities that lead to exploitation, we can move closer to creating an equitable society in which all individuals are safe from harm. (2)

[View Here](#)

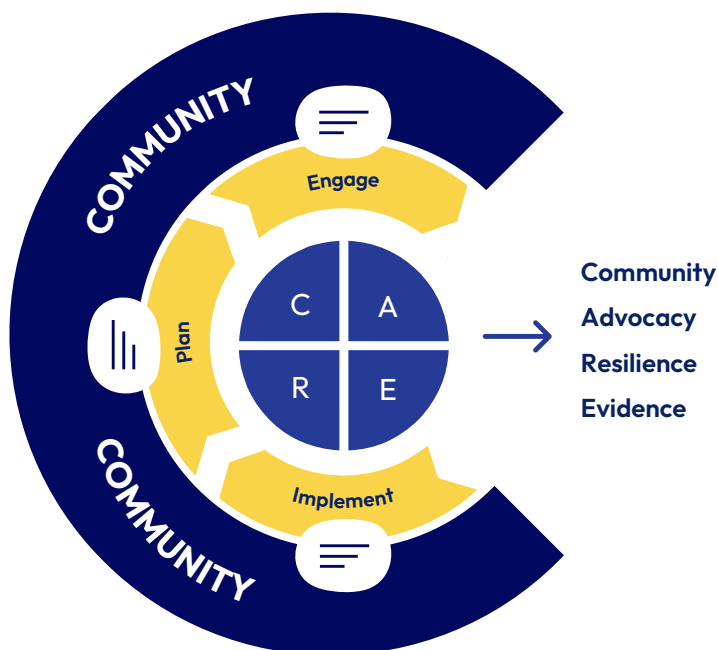
THE CARE MODEL AS A TOOL TO CREATE SOLUTIONS FOR STOPPING ADULTIFICATION BIAS

To combat human trafficking, we must address the underlying issues that make Black girls especially vulnerable to exploitation. This includes addressing adultification bias by mobilizing our community and advocates to protect Black girls directly and systematically.

Drawing upon the theme that "solutions to stopping adultification bias must be community-led," Measure deployed The CARE Model, an antiracist evaluation tool. Advocates and community members in Austin, TX - who have been negatively impacted by human trafficking met using the Measure CARE Model. This model is based on the idea that communities know best what solutions will work for them and can create lasting change by working together. It provides a means for increasing meaningful engagement and minimizing potential trauma to the community. The CARE model encourages participants by providing direction to help communities lead the work.

The Measure CARE Model

Using this facilitated method, advocates and community members met for 12 weeks to identify a problem that perpetuates the trafficking of Black girls, unpack the problem's history, and create solutions and metrics to measure progress. This group of 14 people made up the "CARE Team." 6 of the 14



members were Powerful Black People who also had lived experience of the problem. CARE Team members with the lived experience received compensation for their time while participating in the process.

The CARE Model is based on four guiding principles:

- C- Community involvement from the beginning
- A- Advocate with community to address disparities
- R- Resilience oriented solutions
- E- Evidence for data-informed decisions



Using this facilitated method, advocates and community members met for 12 weeks to identify a problem that perpetuates the trafficking of Black girls, unpack the problem's history, and create solutions and metrics to measure progress. This group of 14 people made up the "CARE Team." 6 of the 14 members were Powerful Black People who also had lived experience of the problem. CARE Team members with the lived experience received compensation for their time while participating in the process as a result a [community mobilization guide](#) was created. This strategic guide outlines the projects theory of change, community impact metrics, and data collection plan to address the social complex problem of human trafficking.

Defining the Problem

The CARE model is scalable and assists with setting measurable targets. By utilizing the strategies and mechanisms outlined in the CARE model, organizations will have programs that result in equitable changes and represent community members' voices, coupled with a means for accountability and transparency while encouraging communities to be active in generating solutions. Each letter in the CARE model represents a component of the community mobilization process and the people who will address problems.

By raising awareness of adultification bias, community members created solutions that addressed the problem. This case study shows how important it is for community members to come together and share their experiences in order to develop interventions to address the problem.

PROBLEM STATEMENT FROM THE COMMUNITY'S PERSPECTIVE

Black Girls are victimized in the crime of human trafficking at disproportionately high levels (32). Exacerbating the negative effect of human trafficking on Black girls is the misconception that sex traffickers most often target white, upper-class women and girls. Adultification bias may suggest a root cause of why people may not “see” Black girls as worthy of protection from exploitation. It may also result in the inability of Black Girls to be “seen, heard or believed” by those in the transportation ecosystem who could be best positioned to report what's happening. Overlooking the heightened vulnerability of Black women and girls to human trafficking has hindered their likelihood of not only being rightfully identified as victims—but also of receiving ample restorative services or justice. Structural and institutional racism has perpetuated adultification bias.

In order to combat the trafficking of Black girls, we must address adultification bias by mobilizing our community and advocates to protect Black girls. This understanding led the CARE Team to propose the following solutions that will guide the goals of the Innocence Initiative over the next 3 years.

Measure will:

- 1 Launch a collaborative awareness campaign entitled "Protecting Our Daughters" to demonstrate the urgency in protecting Black girls now from trafficking, and
- 2 Use a data-driven tool called Risk Terrain Modeling to evaluate transportation planning approaches that incorporate community design and policies that prioritize the protection of Black girls.

Source

36. Table 43: Arrests by Race and Ethnicity, 2019. FBI: UCR. (2019, September 22). Retrieved December 21, 2022, from <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019/topic-pages/tables/table-43>



LIVED-EXPERIENCE DATA & STORYTELLING



our experience
makes us
EXPERTS

"I participated in the CARE model as a community stakeholder and was also given the opportunity to invite several other community members into the process. The care and intentional relationship building, the co-created shared meaning and language setting led to an inclusive and trusting process that generated broader solutions. As a person who has dedicated my life to ending abuse and knowing that Black Girls are victimized in the crime of human trafficking at disproportionately high levels, it was important for me to learn more about causes and solutions to this problem. Multiple voices and innovative ideas led to more solid solutions. Adultification bias and how to disrupt it are not well known concepts in the anti-domestic violence/anti trafficking field or in the community at-large. I would like to see an increased number of funded community trainings about disrupting adultification bias and how to increase visibility and protective factors specifically for Black girls. I believe in training not only the transportation ecosystem employees but also those to whom they make reports. This is the one of the only ways to increase visibility, understanding, responsive services and justice."

- Shannon Sandra, LPC, Senior Director of Expect Respect

"Black women are fighters, my granddaughter literally has been since birth. She was born at 24 weeks and on at least three occasions medical staff suggested we steady ourselves for what might likely be her passing. She did not die, she (with God at her side) fought and lived. She has endured many health trials and overcome them; we were overjoyed when the therapist suggested we extend her toy selection to include a baby doll. Imagine our heartbreak when online shopping resulted in our seeing white dolls priced at one price point and dark skinned dolls price substantially lower. What kind of system places a higher value on the skin color of toys; certainly not one based on equality and respect. The women in our family are a rainbow of colors, each person loved for who they are, not what hue they possess. Our hope is that society will follow suit; living in fight mode is mentally and physically exhausting."

- A Black woman

"As someone who has worked with survivors of trafficking in a therapeutic setting for the last 3 years, the intersection of adultification bias and sex trafficking is something that is extremely prevalent in my experience, and is so concerning. I look forward to following the progression of this problem statement and the policy it impacts".

- Service provider

COMMUNITY-LED SOLUTIONS

During the deployment of the CARE model process community members recognized that adultification bias is a major contributing factor to the trafficking of Black girls. These are the solutions identified by the community that Measure will incorporate into their strategic plan over the next 3 years.

SOLUTION #1. LAUNCH OF PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN: PROTECTING OUR DAUGHTERS

It's nearly impossible to protect Black girls from trafficking if the community is not aware of the complexities of the problems they face. By raising awareness of adultification bias, community members can create solutions that better fit the problem. The Protecting Our Daughters public awareness campaign will bring recognition of adultification bias through media, messaging, an interactive toolkit, and an organized social media campaign. The free toolkit will focus on the intersection of trafficking and the protection of Black girls and serve as a prevention tool to increase the visibility of Black girls at-risk for victimization.

SOLUTION #2. RESEARCH ON TRANSPORTATION PLANNING THAT INCORPORATES COMMUNITY DESIGN AND POLICIES THAT PRIORITIZE THE PROTECTION OF BLACK GIRLS

The issue of human trafficking is a pressing one that disproportionately affects Black girls. To better protect these girls, evaluating the city planning design and policies of bus stop locations and transportation accessibility is essential. Measure will use a data-driven tool called Risk Terrain Modeling, to conduct this evaluation in Austin, TX.

Risk terrain modeling (RTM) is a crime analysis tool that helps answer questions about where and why crime happens. RTM finds critical spatial patterns in data and uses this information to make accurate and actionable predictions. Using RTM makes every dollar spent on public safety more effective. When cities use RTM, they can better allocate resources and target their efforts to reduce crime.

While the scope of the problem is vast, human trafficking often involves specific common locations, such as transportation venues. Evaluation of bus stop locations and transportation accessibility could bring to light barriers to human trafficking prevention. With better research and city planning, we can reduce the risks of trafficking of Black girls in Austin, TX.

As our society continues to advance and embrace the role of technology in aspects of our everyday lives, it's important to ensure that technology does not bring unintentional harm to communities of color. Measure seeks to protect these vulnerable populations from potentially biased algorithms and other forms of technology-driven discrimination.

Measure has begun an important process of thoughtful evaluation and research. We are taking a proactive approach by exploring and investigating the distinct implications of Risk Terrain Modeling (RTM) from multiple perspectives. Low-income communities of color have often been disproportionately impacted by the development or lack thereof of emerging technologies, which is why we endeavor to assess and evaluate RTM with critical discernment before implementing it. By interrogating this technology with curiosity, Measure takes into account whether its use could result in any harm to these communities before understanding its potential utility.





CONCLUSION

Creating an anti-racist future is an imperative dream that can be achieved when mindsets and structures are actively dismantled. In order to take meaningful action, redirecting attention to effortless yet priceless gifts that Black girls bring should be paramount. That begins with ending the false belief of the “Jezebel” stereotype which values them based on their outward appearance rather than who they are.

With 50% of all juvenile prostitution arrests involving Black girls, they are disproportionately affected by human trafficking. Black girls are especially vulnerable to trafficking due to several factors, including poverty, surviving sexual/physical abuse, and a history of child protective services involvement. Once trafficked, Black girls often face a lifetime of exploitation and abuse.

Human trafficking is an immense and complex problem that requires extensive and holistic solutions. The Measure CARE Model provided a framework, allowing communities to create strategies that are tailored towards protecting Black girls. Two of these proposed solutions are the launch of a public awareness campaign called Protecting Our Daughters, as well as research on transportation planning that incorporates community design and adultification bias-focused policies.

All of these efforts seek to ensure the safety and protection of Black girls who are disproportionately affected by human trafficking. Understanding the connection between adultification bias and human trafficking is key for lasting solutions so that victims can gain access to necessary resources for a successful recovery. We must nurture a safe space and create opportunities that ensure Black girls live without judgment or stereotypes. As a society, it's our collective responsibility to make sure Black girls do not get left behind in this crisis.

RESOURCES

If You or Someone You Know are in Danger and Need Immediate Help:

- Contact the National human Trafficking Hotline:
 - Call: 1-888-373-788 (TTY:711)
 - Text: 233733
 - Chat Online: [Human Trafficking Hotline Web Chat](#)
- If you think that you or someone you know might be a victim of trafficking or sex exploitation, please contact our SAFEline by phone at [512-267-SAFE \(7233\)](#), by text at [737-888-7233](#) or by online chat at [safeaustin.org/chat](#).



AUSTIN METROPOLITAN RESOURCES

SAFE CARES

SAFE CARES (Collaboration, Advocacy, Response, and Engagement) provides a comprehensive response for survivors of exploitation by creating opportunities to be, and feel safe and connected. CARES drop-in services provide a physical location in the community where survivors can access trauma-informed individualized case management and therapeutic services to meet their safety needs and connect with other survivors.

CARES advocacy response includes a team of survivor-centered advocates who provide crisis response and relational support for survivors in the community to help them feel safe and connected.

Refugee Services of Texas

RST's Survivors of Trafficking Empowerment Program (STEP) is designed to help survivors of trafficking throughout their transition to stable, independent lives. Serving in 6 cities across Texas, RST serves all survivors of human trafficking, labor and sex trafficking, adults and minors, foreign-born and domestic born. RST serves survivors regardless of race, color, national or ethnic origin, age, religion, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or veteran status.



Refugee Services of Texas also provides services to victims of crime including sexual assault, dating violence, domestic abuse, child abuse & neglect, human smuggling, kidnapping, stalking, Visa/Identification fraud, and wage theft.

Learn more [HERE](#).

Allies Against Slavery

Allies Against Slavery is an Austin-based organization working to end modern-day slavery.

Learn more [HERE](#).

NATIONAL RESOURCES

HEAL Trafficking

HEAL Trafficking is an integrated network of over 3,500 survivors and multidisciplinary professionals in 35 countries dedicated to ending human trafficking and supporting its survivors from a public health perspective. The network provides training materials, guidebooks, speaker opportunities and publications from medical journals and newspapers for health care practitioners.

Learn more and access resources on the [HEAL Trafficking website](#).

Office for Victims of Crime (OVC)

OVC assists crime victims by providing leadership and funding on behalf of crime victims. OVC strengthens the victim service response to human trafficking through grant funding, training and technical assistance, and leadership in the field.

[Learn more and access resources on the OVC Human Trafficking website.](#)

Polaris

Polaris serves victims and survivors through the National Human Trafficking Hotline. It also builds a dataset that illuminates how human trafficking works, in real-time, and turns knowledge into targeted systems-level strategies to disrupt and prevent human trafficking.

[Learn more and access resources on the Polaris website.](#)

SUGGESTED READING

[Girlhood Interrupted: The Erasure of Black Girls' Childhood](#) by Center on Poverty and Inequity at Georgetown Law

[Acknowledging Historical and Ongoing Harm: The Connections between Systemic Racism and Human Trafficking](#) by the United States Department of State

[Snapshot on the State of Black Woman and Girls: Sex Trafficking in the U.S.](#) by the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation

[The Typology of Modern Slavery](#) by Polaris

[Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor & Human Trafficking](#) at the Department of Labor



WORKS CITED

1. Initiative on Gender Justice and Equality. (2021, June 18). The innocence initiative: Translating national research into local action in Central Texas. The Georgetown Law Center on Poverty and Inequality. Retrieved December 7, 2022, from <https://genderjusticeandopportunity.georgetown.edu/report/the-innocence-initiative-translating-national-research-into-local-action-in-central-texas/>
2. TVPA. (2000). Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000, Pub. L. 106-386, 114 Stat. 1464, codified as amended at 22 U.S.C. §§ 7101-7110.
3. Tex. Pen. Code § 20A.02 (2005). <https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/PE/htm/PE.20A.htm>
4. Racial Disparities, COVID-19, and Human Trafficking. Polaris. (2020, July 29). Retrieved December 21, 2022, from <https://polarisproject.org/blog/2020/07/racial-disparities-covid-19-and-human-trafficking/>
5. The Latino Face of Human Trafficking and Exploitation in the United States. Polaris. (2020, May 26). Retrieved December 21, 2022, from <https://polarisproject.org/resources/the-latino-face-of-human-trafficking-and-exploitation-in-the-united-states/>
6. Facts About Men Who Buy Sex. Demand Abolition. (2018, March 2). Retrieved December 21, 2022, from <https://www.demandabolition.org/research/facts-men-buy-sex/>
7. Essien, E. D. (2022). Commodification of Human Beings and Power Imbalance in Human Trafficking: Ethical Implications. In E. Essien (Eds.), *Handbook of Research on Present and Future Paradigms in Human Trafficking* (pp. 387-401). IGI Global. <https://doi.org/10.4018/978-1-7998-9282-3.ch025>
8. Butler, C. N. (2015). The Racial Roots of Human Trafficking. *UCLA Law Review*, 62, 1464.
9. Nanda, S. (2019). Re-Framing Hottentot: Liberating Black Female Sexuality from the Mammy/Hottentot Bind. *Humanities*, 8(161), doi:10.3390/h8040161
10. Farrell, A., & Fahy, S. (2009). The problem of human trafficking in the US: public frames and policy responses. *Criminal Justice Journal*, 37(6), 617-626.
11. Bureau of Justice Statistics. (2021). Human Trafficking Data Collection Activities, 2021. US Department of Justice. Retrieved December 21, 2022, from <https://bjs.ojp.gov/library/publications/human-trafficking-data-collection-activities-2021>
12. Human Trafficking Initiative. Human Trafficking Initiative | Office of the Attorney General. (n.d.). Retrieved December 21, 2022, from <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/initiatives/human-trafficking>
13. Statistics: Texas. National Human Trafficking Hotline. (2022). Retrieved December 21, 2022, from <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/state/texas>
14. U.S. Department of Justice. (2011). Characteristics of Suspected Human Trafficking Incidents, 2008-2010. Retrieved December 21, 2022, from <https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/cshti0810.pdf>
15. 2010 Census Shows Black Population has Highest Concentration in the South. United States Census Bureau. (2011, September 29). Retrieved December 21, 2022, from https://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/2010_census/cb11-cn185.html
16. Federal Bureau of Investigation, Crime in the United States. (2019). Table 43B. Retrieved December 21, 2022, from <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019/tables/table-43>
17. Dank, M., Khan, B., Downey, P. M., Kotonias, C., Mayer, D., Owens, C., Pacifici, L. & Yu, L. (2014). Estimating the Size and Structure of the Underground Commercial Sex Economy in Eight Major US Cities. *The Urban Institute*. Retrieved December 21, 2022, from <https://www.urban.org/research/publication/estimating-size-and-structure-underground-commercial-sex-economy-eight-major-us-cities>
18. Epstein R. Blake J. J. González Thalia & Georgetown University. (2017). *Girlhood interrupted: the erasure of black girls' childhood*. Georgetown Law Center on Poverty and Inequality. Retrieved October 31 2022 from <http://arks.princeton.edu/ark:/88435/dsp01tx3lqm28z>.
19. Polaris Analysis of 2020 Data from the National Human Trafficking Hotline. Polaris. (2022). Retrieved December 22, 2022, from <https://polarisproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Polaris-Analysis-of-2020-Data-from-the-National-Human-Trafficking-Hotline.pdf>
20. Villasana, J. (2022, September 14). Feds dismantle Texas human trafficking ring smuggling migrants in Crates. <https://www.kwtx.com>. Retrieved November 17, 2022, from <https://www.kwtx.com/2022/09/14/feds-dismantle-texas-human-trafficking-ring-smuggling-migrants-crates/>

WORKS CITED, CONTINUED

21. Race and Ethnicity: Debates and controversies. (2001). United Kingdom: Routledge.
22. Green, D. (2018). Ain't I...? The Dehumanizing Effect of the Regulation of Slave Womanhood and Family Life. *Duke Journal of Gender Law & Policy*, 25(2), 191+. <https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/A553628827/AONE?u=anon~71677a00&sid=googleScholar&xid=ec454849>
23. Sommerville, D. M. (2004). *Rape and race in the nineteenth-century South*. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press.
24. Prather, C., Fuller, T. R., Jeffries, W. L., 4th, Marshall, K. J., Howell, A. V., Belyue-Umole, A., & King, W. (2018). Racism, African American Women, and Their Sexual and Reproductive Health: A Review of Historical and Contemporary Evidence and Implications for Health Equity. *Health equity*, 2(1), 249–259. <https://doi.org/10.1089/heaq.2017.0045>
25. Donovan, R. A. (2007). To blame or not to blame: Influences of target race and observer sex on rape blame attribution. *Journal of interpersonal violence*, 22(6), 722–736.
26. Jones, J. (2009). *Labor of love, labor of sorrow: Black women, work, and the family, from slavery to the present*. Basic Books.
27. Walters, T. L. (2008). Still Mammies and Hos: Stereotypical Images of Black. *Zadie Smith: Critical Essays*, 123.
28. Ashley, W. (2014). The angry black woman: The impact of pejorative stereotypes on psychotherapy with black women. *Social work in public health*, 29(1), 27–34.
29. King, T. (2019). *Redefining the Black superwoman: Racial and gender microaggressions at predominantly white institutions* (Doctoral dissertation, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign).
30. Piley, J. R. (2010). *Any Other Immoral Purpose: The Mann Act, Policing Women, and the American State, 1900–1941* (Doctoral dissertation, The Ohio State University).
31. Butler, C. N. (2015). The racial roots of human trafficking. *UCLA L. Rev.*, 62, 1464.
32. Bartholomaeus, C. (1995). WHAT WOULD YOU BE?" RACIAL MYTHS AND CULTURAL SAMENESS IN" INCIDENTS IN THE LIFE OF A SLAVE GIRL. *CLA Journal*, 39(2), 179–194.
33. *The Louisiana Weekly*, New Orleans's black newspaper headline from February 22, 1930 headlining the murder of a 14 year-old African American girl, Hattie McCray.
34. Epstein, R., Blake, J. J., González, T., & Georgetown University. (2017). *Girlhood interrupted: The erasure of black girls' childhood*.
35. *Acknowledging Historical and Ongoing Harm: The Connections Between Systemic Racism and Human Trafficking*. (n.d.). United States Department of State. <https://www.state.gov/acknowledging-historical-and-ongoing-harm-the-connections-between-systemic-racism-and-human-trafficking/>
36. Table 43: Arrests by Race and Ethnicity, 2019. FBI: UCR. (2019, September 22). Retrieved December 21, 2022, from <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019/topic-pages/tables/table-43>





ABOUT OUR DATA ACTIVISTS



ANGEL CARROLL

Angel is a leading advocate for systemic change and restorative justice practices. Her lived experience is an invaluable tool that enables her to be a powerful voice for system-involved individuals.

As the Director of Advocacy & Strategic Partnership she drives the community power building strategy engaging with Powerful Black, Brown and Indigenous organizations, foundations and corporate partners to advance the mission of Measure.



MEME STYLES, MPA

In 2015, Meme Styles founded MEASURE to promote the use of evidence-based projects and tools to tell real-life stories behind the numbers. She's a Just Tech fellow with the Social Science Research Council. She was also a MIT Solver for Antiracist technology, AARO Fellow, Austin 40 under 40 WINNER 2019, and the 2021 DivInc Nonprofit Leader of the Year.



HILLARY BENAZER

Hillary Benazer received a bachelor's degree in psychology from Ohio University in 2020, where she contributed research efforts to the fields of psychotherapy and human judgement and decision-making. She completed her master's degree in criminal justice at the University of Cincinnati in 2021, with a concentration in law enforcement and crime prevention. At the University of Cincinnati, Benazer contributed research efforts to the field of human trafficking and published research on county-level correlates of human trafficking arrest levels in the state of Ohio. She was hired as the data analyst at Truckers Against Trafficking in September 2021, where she has continued to work within the broader anti-human trafficking movement by collecting, analyzing and disseminating relevant data to further enhance training materials and facilitate systems change.





ABOUT OUR DATA ACTIVISTS



PRECIOUS AZUREEE

Precious is an impassioned strategic communications expert and leadership consultant. Also known as The Clarity Coach, she's sought out by entrepreneurs, business owners, and nonprofits seeking clarity on their brand strategy, systems to boost productivity, and accountability for growth.



NATHANIEL FALCK

Nathaniel Falck is a management consultant working with mission-driven organizations focused on economic mobility, workforce systems, and K-12 education. He lives in east Austin with his wife, son, and two dogs, and was previously the CFO and COO of Ubuntu Life, a social enterprise based in dedicated to empowering rural Kenyan women through skilled employment. Nathaniel holds an MPhil in economics from the University of Oxford and a BA in political science from Stanford.

**THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY OF DONORS
AND OUR AMAZING SUPPORTERS**

