



# LAST GIRL PROJECT

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## Kiwi, 25, Young Adult, she/hers

"Honestly, I liked juvenile hall and I felt happier when I was there, because people were just like, I felt less stressed and less chaos. I just felt like, fine when I was in there... I didn't even want to go home... I felt better in there than I did at home."

Welcome to the Last Girl Project's monthly newsletter, a communication providing latest updates on our research, upcoming events on trafficking, and other related news.

Through interviews with stakeholders and young adults, this project aims to understand the prevalence, drivers, and dynamics of domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST)/commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) in contemporary USA.

You're receiving this newsletter because you signed up for our mailing list or have communicated with one of our researchers. We look forward to providing you with timely and useful information that directly supports your work.

### DATA HIGHLIGHT

Interviews with young adults have begun to illuminate a more complicated picture regarding risk factors for entry into DMST/CSEC than what research suggest. While current research highlights interactions with juvenile justice systems as a severe risk factor for DMST, 66% of young adults we interviewed who were placed in juvenile justice halls or residential treatment programs recalled experiencing "safety," "stability" or "less stress" compared to "home."

### SO WHAT?

Identifying risk factors is a crucial part of understanding why DMST/CSEC happens, and for developing interventions to end it. However, risk factors are not unidirectional pathways to DMST/CSEC. Risk factors for some were protective factors for others -- pointing to a more nuanced picture of what a "risk factor" can be and how we think about them. This nuance is critical for us to consider when working with individuals and/or on system-wide interventions for ending DMST/CSEC, as it reinforces the fact that there is

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

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### ASU 2021 Human Trafficking Speaker Series: The Cultural Lens of Sex Trafficking in Tribal Communities

May 13, 2021 1PM - 3PM EST  
Virtual (Free)

This presentation will discuss the cultural implications and things to consider when working with tribal communities to combat sex trafficking. Tyesha Wood, former tribal police detective working in sex trafficking and a member of the Navajo Nation, will be leading the live webinar. [Register Here](#)

### Technologies' Impact on Human Trafficking and Social Media Exploitation

May 11, 2021 4:00 - 7:00 PM EST  
Virtual (Free)

This workshop is going to examine different technologies that are being used to facilitate and combat DMST/CSEC. From crypto currency to AI, Opal Singleton will explore multiple technologies and their impact on children and adult sex crimes through an in-depth study. [Register here](#)

### CSEC Training for Guardians

May 18, 2021 12PM-3:30 PM EST  
Virtual (Free)

This training for guardians uses a trauma responsive approach with an emphasis on "whole child " care when working with CSEC/DMST youth. This workshop aims to provide guardians caring for youth with tools in how to engage with children and minors who have experienced CSEC/DMST. [Register here](#)

For more trainings, workshops, and seminars, [click here](#)



### Ascent 121 Presents Build Beyond 2021 Conference

May 20-21, 2021 8 AM- 5 PM EST  
Virtual (Sliding Cost)

This two day training is clinically-focused, and includes talks on different intervention techniques, treatment models, information about the trauma recovery process, and subcultures within human trafficking. [Register here](#)



**ASCENT 121**



## Coalition to End Sexual Exploitation's Online Global Summit

July 20-24, 2021  
Virtual (Free)

This five day virtual summit brings together a variety of stakeholders focused on ending sexual exploitation globally. Hosted by the National Center on Sexual Exploitation, it brings over 100 speakers and provides a virtual space for everyone to learn from each other.



## Shared Hope's JuST (Juvenile Sex Trafficking) Conference

November 17-19, 2021  
Washington D.C. In Person (Sliding Cost)

This three day conference brings together a variety of stakeholders focused on understanding and ending DMST/CSEC. [Register here](#)

*If you would like to publicize an upcoming event, please send an email to [tra.tran@duke.edu](mailto:tra.tran@duke.edu) with a description and a link and we will do our best to get it in the next newsletter*

## CONTACT US

If you work on minor sex trafficking or the commercial sexual exploitation of children and would like to be interviewed, or have an event you'd like on the next newsletter, please contact [lastchildproject@gmail.com](mailto:lastchildproject@gmail.com)

If you have experienced minor sex trafficking, please take [this screener](#) to qualify and schedule an interview

Youth will be paid \$20 to participate in this 2-hour study with Duke University researchers, and can make an additional \$50 by successfully referring 5 friends

If you are in law enforcement, and would like to take our law enforcement survey, or would like to share the survey to your colleagues, please use this link:  
[https://duke.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_eRj4ZxAvzqH2QD3](https://duke.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eRj4ZxAvzqH2QD3)

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