

Human Trafficking Panel Hearing

My name is Chantee' Vernille and I have worked in safe houses with women, children and youth coming out of Human Trafficking since 2016. It is an honor and privilege to be here today to speak on behalf of Human Trafficking Survivors known and unbeknown to us.

Rescued...

Often individuals don't realize that the life they've been living is called Human Trafficking. Unable to recognize victimization.

They might believe that the trafficker loves them/be too frightened to stay away from the trafficker for fear of someone in their family being harmed.

Survivors often feel a sense of loyalty due to them providing clothing/shelter/protection from others harming them.

Even when it's an unhealthy environment the rescued survivors are often left dealing with the aftereffects of the trauma they have endured.

This may include sexually transmitted diseases, physical and internal (reproductive damage) wounds...wounds that cannot be seen to others but felt. As well as PTSD, night terrors, struggles with alcohol and drug abuse.

Restored...

Providing a safe and structured environment. Allows survivors to identify and "feel" feelings. To process in a Trauma Based Therapeutic Environment. A place to unpack their invisible trauma filled suitcase. To learn coping and life skills. Finding out who they are instead of what they were told to do or feel. Survivor Rescue includes a multitude of supports including trauma informed care. As well as keeping the individual and staff safe. While writing this testimony a individual rescued from Human Trafficking in protective custody was filled with so much trauma and rage that they threw furniture, destroyed property, screamed at the top of their lungs at staff. Although its difficult to fully comprehend it takes years and years of trauma