

# MY JOURNEY – Human Trafficking

by [Rebekka Lien](#)

Due to the introduction of sin into this world, what should have been has been corrupted. This includes self-worth, or how people value themselves, and how they view others. Greed and lust took over, corrupting the good things God had made—including beauty, love, and intimacy in marriage.

Because of this corruption, some began viewing their fellow human beings as mere products. Sex has become a commodity rather than romance and bonding for married couples. People are viewed in terms of “What can I get from you?” rather than being loved for simply being human. We need to realize the condition of the human heart—“The heart is deceitful above all things. And desperately wicked; Who can know it? I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind” ([Jeremiah 17:9-10](#)). It takes a miracle to change the human heart.

My interest in **abolishing human trafficking** began when I was a freshman in high school. I watched a video about human trafficking and nearly cried my eyes out thinking about what is going on in the modern world. In the most developed countries, human trafficking is pervasive. It is hidden in homes, businesses, screens, and even schools.

I started researching in high school and college. I participated in fundraisers that utilized fashion as a means to fundraising for the cause. I styled for a few fashion shows and was actively raising awareness through social media. I had an idea that I could build a company that would enable women to make a sustainable living through life skills such as sewing.

At first I felt alone in my passion, but God soon put an entourage of strong women leaders who would help, encourage, and support me. I am so extremely blessed to have them—women barely in their 20s.

I discovered that human trafficking is an issue linked and connected to every area of life. This includes immigration, the porn industry, schools, education, retail stores, factories that make our clothes, the food industry, everything you can possibly think of. As a fashion industry designer and production assistant, I wanted to make a change through my work in the industry. Also I saw that this was such a **HUMAN** issue that reaches below the superficial; it deals with the human body, soul, mind, and spirit and affects all aspects of society and culture.

I have actively fought human trafficking and misunderstandings regarding pornography through speaking out. Human trafficking isn't some far-fetched issue overseas; it starts from the hearts of people right here in our neighborhoods. With God's help I vow to treat each human being with respect and love, knowing that my actions and words toward them may put them in positions of vulnerability and harm. Many young people who have been abused verbally or physically by parents or people around them become extremely vulnerable to pimps and perpetrators. The pimps and perpetrators were also once young innocent men and women that were neglected or perhaps influenced in ways that we can't begin to understand.

Human trafficking, thus, isn't just an issue. It is a relational, philosophical, spiritual, and social issue that requires all of us to understand that our world is NOT what it should be, and this causes us to dig deeper into the human condition, the human soul, and where it is headed. More importantly, how can we fight it, not just with human power, but with God's power behind us? God wanted the earth to be filled with love and respect, not chaos and suppression. How can we start with ourselves? To realize how unconditionally loved we are, and with that we are then able to “love others as we love ourselves.”

The reason so many people are hurting others is because they are hurting as well. Hurt people hurt people.

How can we heal our society in order to bring about change? I think that is what abolitionists should consider as we not only learn about the issue, but come face to face with the human condition and our own condition. We in the church should be so thankful that we know this glorious truth, that we have been given a heart of flesh, that we may look to Jesus Christ and be changed for the better in this life, and that we, with Jesus Christ, will then be able to help the people in the world who need our help. I believe there is hope, more than hope. God has already overcome for us. We need to realize these problems are bigger than we are. Christ will have to return to this earth in power before any of this can be fully corrected.

But we should take heart because this promise is given:

**“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh” (Ezekiel 36:25-27).**