1

00:00:01,310 --> 00:00:11,070

[Music]

2

00:00:13,679 --> 00:00:17,520

Hello and welcome to a special two-part

3

00:00:15,599 --> 00:00:19,279

edition of Law and Liberty, a Texas

4

00:00:17,520 --> 00:00:20,800

Attorney General Podcast.

5

00:00:19,279 --> 00:00:22,560

During National Human Trafficking

6

00:00:20,800 --> 00:00:24,720

Awareness Month we are giving you all

7

00:00:22,560 --> 00:00:25,840

the information we have on red flags for

8

00:00:24,720 --> 00:00:27,439

human trafficking

9

00:00:25,840 --> 00:00:30,000

and how Texas is leading the fight

10

00:00:27,439 --> 00:00:32,000

against this form of modern day slavery

11

00:00:30,000 --> 00:00:33,920

in today's episode I am joined by

12

00:00:32,000 --> 00:00:35,680

Section Chief Cara Foos Pearce and

13

00:00:33,920 --> 00:00:37,280

Assistant Attorney General Brooke

14

00:00:35,680 --> 00:00:40,160

Grona-Robb who lead our Human Trafficking

15

00:00:37,280 --> 00:00:42,079

Transnational Organized Crimes Section

16

00:00:40,160 --> 00:00:43,600

so I wanted to start out by asking the

17

00:00:42,079 --> 00:00:44,000

two of you how long you have been

18

00:00:43,600 --> 00:00:46,559

involved

19

00:00:44,000 --> 00:00:49,120

in this field and what got you involved

20

00:00:46,559 --> 00:00:51,520

so I became a prosecutor 12 years ago

21

00:00:49,120 --> 00:00:52,559

and I wanted to become a prosecutor

22

00:00:51,520 --> 00:00:55,920

because I wanted to help

23

00:00:52,559 --> 00:00:57,520

kids so when I started out on the

24

00:00:55,920 --> 00:00:58,559

federal side I was a United States

25

00:00:57,520 --> 00:01:00,719

attorney in Dallas

26

00:00:58,559 --> 00:01:01,600

for 12 years and after about two years

27

00:01:00,719 --> 00:01:03,600

in the office

28

00:01:01,600 --> 00:01:05,439

the United States Attorney at the time

29

00:01:03,600 --> 00:01:07,280

asked me to

30

00:01:05,439 --> 00:01:09,119

take over the human trafficking for the

31

00:01:07,280 --> 00:01:10,640

office and at that time I wasn't really

32

00:01:09,119 --> 00:01:12,640

familiar with what human trafficking was

33

00:01:10,640 --> 00:01:14,320

or what it wasn't um I had

34

00:01:12,640 --> 00:01:15,680

a misconception that it had more to do

35

00:01:14,320 --> 00:01:17,040

with human smuggling

36

00:01:15,680 --> 00:01:19,200

than they did having to do with helping

37

00:01:17,040 --> 00:01:20,720

kids and pretty quickly after getting

38

00:01:19,200 --> 00:01:21,119

into it actually after meeting Brooke and

39

00:01:20,720 --> 00:01:24,240

hearing

40

00:01:21,119 --> 00:01:27,360

rook talk when I was learning about it I

41

00:01:24,240 --> 00:01:29,600

knew that that was for me so

42

00:01:27,360 --> 00:01:31,439

I love the human nature of working on

43

00:01:29,600 --> 00:01:32,320

these cases there's a lot of people

44

00:01:31,439 --> 00:01:34,400

involved

45

00:01:32,320 --> 00:01:35,600

um there are a lot of families involved

46

00:01:34,400 --> 00:01:38,880

and

47

00:01:35,600 --> 00:01:40,720

it is the cases are difficult but at the

48

00:01:38,880 --> 00:01:42,320

end of the day you know you've taken a

49

00:01:40,720 --> 00:01:44,560

dangerous person off the street

50

00:01:42,320 --> 00:01:45,920

and you know that you've helped somebody

51

00:01:44,560 --> 00:01:47,520

hold their head up high

52

00:01:45,920 --> 00:01:49,520

and face somebody you hurt them so

53

00:01:47,520 --> 00:01:52,079

that's my primary question

54

00:01:49,520 --> 00:01:52,799

well I became a prosecutor 20 years ago

55

00:01:52,079 --> 00:01:54,799

and

56

00:01:52,799 --> 00:01:56,719

I was always interested in issues of

57

00:01:54,799 --> 00:01:58,000

juvenile justice I was interested in

58

00:01:56,719 --> 00:02:00,320

domestic violence

59

00:01:58,000 --> 00:02:02,000

and I was interested in child abuse and

60

00:02:00,320 --> 00:02:04,479

so about 15 years ago

61

00:02:02,000 --> 00:02:05,280

a position opened that involved

62

00:02:04,479 --> 00:02:07,600

computers

63

00:02:05,280 --> 00:02:08,479

and child issues internet crimes against

64

00:02:07,600 --> 00:02:10,399

children

65

00:02:08,479 --> 00:02:12,879

and I thought that would be a really

66

00:02:10,399 --> 00:02:14,239

neat way to fight child abuse and so i

67

00:02:12,879 --> 00:02:17,840

started with that

68

00:02:14,239 --> 00:02:20,480

um I then um was introduced to the

69

00:02:17,840 --> 00:02:22,239

concept of human trafficking and really

70

00:02:20,480 --> 00:02:23,840

it became my passion

71

00:02:22,239 --> 00:02:25,280

okay how did you find out about the

72

00:02:23,840 --> 00:02:27,280

concept of human trafficking

73

00:02:25,280 --> 00:02:28,720

so the Dallas County District Attorney's

74

00:02:27,280 --> 00:02:31,280

Office has actually been

75

00:02:28,720 --> 00:02:33,760

prosecuting um sex trafficking of

76

00:02:31,280 --> 00:02:36,560

children before the sex trafficking was

77

00:02:33,760 --> 00:02:37,680

was a statue and the Dallas police

78

00:02:36,560 --> 00:02:39,680

officers

79

00:02:37,680 --> 00:02:40,720

were had realized that there was a

80

00:02:39,680 --> 00:02:43,200

problem runaways

81

00:02:40,720 --> 00:02:44,800

and that the solution of returning a

82

00:02:43,200 --> 00:02:46,560

runaway to the home and letting the

83

00:02:44,800 --> 00:02:48,560

runaway run out the back door before the

84

00:02:46,560 --> 00:02:51,200

paperwork could even be completed

85

00:02:48,560 --> 00:02:52,239

wasn't solving the problem at all so

86

00:02:51,200 --> 00:02:54,879

they started

87

00:02:52,239 --> 00:02:55,840

a high-risk model where they would bring

88

00:02:54,879 --> 00:02:58,640

runaways

89

00:02:55,840 --> 00:02:59,440

um meeting certain criterias in for an

90

00:02:58,640 --> 00:03:01,280

interview

91

00:02:59,440 --> 00:03:02,560

to find out whether and how they've been

92

00:03:01,280 --> 00:03:04,319

commercially exploited

93

00:03:02,560 --> 00:03:06,080

and then they'd file uh cases with the

94

00:03:04,319 --> 00:03:08,239

Dallas District Attorney's Office

95

00:03:06,080 --> 00:03:10,720

um so that came to our Organized Crime

96

00:03:08,239 --> 00:03:13,280

Division and so once I saw

97

00:03:10,720 --> 00:03:15,280

um how heinous those offenders were and

98

00:03:13,280 --> 00:03:18,239

how vulnerable these victims were

99

00:03:15,280 --> 00:03:19,040

it really combined my interest in family

100

00:03:18,239 --> 00:03:21,040

violence

101

00:03:19,040 --> 00:03:22,560

my interest in child abuse and my

102

00:03:21,040 --> 00:03:25,120

interest in juveniles kind of all

103

00:03:22,560 --> 00:03:26,560

together in a perfect match almost

104

00:03:25,120 --> 00:03:28,560

and I wanted to ask you both if there

105

00:03:26,560 --> 00:03:30,239

was a particular case or instance that

106

00:03:28,560 --> 00:03:32,000

you knew about that was really impactful

107

00:03:30,239 --> 00:03:33,680

to you that made you think kind of

108

00:03:32,000 --> 00:03:35,760

people need to know about this and know

109

00:03:33,680 --> 00:03:39,599

that this is happening

110

00:03:35,760 --> 00:03:41,280

absolutely um my office when i

111

00:03:39,599 --> 00:03:43,599

worked in downtown Dallas faced the

112

00:03:41,280 --> 00:03:45,040

Greyhound bus station in downtown Dallas

113

00:03:43,599 --> 00:03:46,400

and I used to always make a joke that

114

00:03:45,040 --> 00:03:47,519

one day I'm going to be a witness in my

115

00:03:46,400 --> 00:03:48,560

own case I'm going to look out the

116

00:03:47,519 --> 00:03:50,319

window and I'm going to see something

117

00:03:48,560 --> 00:03:52,159

crazy happening at the greyhound

118

00:03:50,319 --> 00:03:53,519

and that case will be some guy running

119

00:03:52,159 --> 00:03:54,560

with a gun or something and i'll end up

120

00:03:53,519 --> 00:03:58,400

with that case

121

00:03:54,560 --> 00:04:00,720

well that actually didn't quite work out

122

00:03:58,400 --> 00:04:01,920

I the first human trafficking case I had

123

00:04:00,720 --> 00:04:04,959

was a

124

00:04:01,920 --> 00:04:06,720

runaway um girl who was 15 years old

125

00:04:04,959 --> 00:04:08,000

who stole money from her grandmother and

126

00:04:06,720 --> 00:04:09,760

took a bus and had a

127

00:04:08,000 --> 00:04:11,519

layover in that downtown Dallas

128

00:04:09,760 --> 00:04:12,080

greyhound station and while she was

129

00:04:11,519 --> 00:04:15,360

there

130

00:04:12,080 --> 00:04:17,759

she met a man who was involved in

131

00:04:15,360 --> 00:04:19,280

the trucking industry and he befriended

132

00:04:17,759 --> 00:04:20,560

her bought her some food

133

00:04:19,280 --> 00:04:21,840

and then called another friend and

134

00:04:20,560 --> 00:04:23,759

kidnapped her from the street in

135

00:04:21,840 --> 00:04:26,720

downtown Dallas in the middle of the day

136

00:04:23,759 --> 00:04:27,280

and um the the facts of the story were

137

00:04:26,720 --> 00:04:29,440

bad

138

00:04:27,280 --> 00:04:30,560

um she ended up being sexually assaulted

139

00:04:29,440 --> 00:04:32,479

by him

140

00:04:30,560 --> 00:04:34,000

he ended up taking her uh hitching a

141

00:04:32,479 --> 00:04:36,720

ride and an 18-wheeler

142

00:04:34,000 --> 00:04:38,320

to a truck stop outside of Houston where

143

00:04:36,720 --> 00:04:39,600

she was forced to have sex with men

144

00:04:38,320 --> 00:04:41,680

in the truck stop for several days

145

00:04:39,600 --> 00:04:44,400

before she was recovered and

146

00:04:41,680 --> 00:04:45,520

that really hit home with me because if

147

00:04:44,400 --> 00:04:47,040

this can happen

148

00:04:45,520 --> 00:04:49,040

in the middle of the day in downtown

149

00:04:47,040 --> 00:04:52,400

Dallas

150

00:04:49,040 --> 00:04:55,440

this can happen anywhere and I will say

151

00:04:52,400 --> 00:04:56,160

that case um is unique in the sense that

152

00:04:55,440 --> 00:04:59,120

so often

153

00:04:56,160 --> 00:05:00,720

trafficking victims are not kidnapped by

154

00:04:59,120 --> 00:05:01,759

strangers on the street in fact that's

155

00:05:00,720 --> 00:05:04,080

that's the exception

156

00:05:01,759 --> 00:05:06,320

not the rule the facts of that case but

157

00:05:04,080 --> 00:05:08,320

that case really brought home to me how

158

00:05:06,320 --> 00:05:10,320

this can happen anywhere this can happen

159

00:05:08,320 --> 00:05:11,680

with an eye side of my office I

160

00:05:10,320 --> 00:05:12,960

literally could look at my office and

161

00:05:11,680 --> 00:05:14,479

see where this occurs an active

162

00:05:12,960 --> 00:05:15,120

prosecutor right and I just didn't

163

00:05:14,479 --> 00:05:16,479

happen to

164

00:05:15,120 --> 00:05:18,160

I mean I wish I had been looking at my

165

00:05:16,479 --> 00:05:20,720

office at that time but again

166

00:05:18,160 --> 00:05:22,240

um so so that impacted me really

167

00:05:20,720 --> 00:05:22,560

profoundly but I do want to make clear

168

00:05:22,240 --> 00:05:24,080

that

169

00:05:22,560 --> 00:05:25,680

that is the exception not the rules so

170

00:05:24,080 --> 00:05:27,680

often people are trafficked

171

00:05:25,680 --> 00:05:29,120

by someone that befriends them over a

172

00:05:27,680 --> 00:05:30,320

longer period of time lots of times

173

00:05:29,120 --> 00:05:32,639

using the internet but in this

174

00:05:30,320 --> 00:05:35,360

particular case it was a quick

175

00:05:32,639 --> 00:05:35,840

um befriending and shoving into a car

176

00:05:35,360 --> 00:05:37,680

and

177

00:05:35,840 --> 00:05:40,720

you know led to several days of really

178

00:05:37,680 --> 00:05:43,680

bad experience for that survivor

179

00:05:40,720 --> 00:05:45,039

so we had had several um cases but I

180

00:05:43,680 --> 00:05:48,400

guess the first one

181

00:05:45,039 --> 00:05:49,120

that um really made me feel like this

182

00:05:48,400 --> 00:05:51,280

was

183

00:05:49,120 --> 00:05:52,479

what was for me and really committed me

184

00:05:51,280 --> 00:05:55,600

to the cause

185

00:05:52,479 --> 00:05:58,639

was a kiddo who she was probably

186

00:05:55,600 --> 00:06:01,759

15 or 16 at the time she testified um

187

00:05:58,639 --> 00:06:04,319

she was facing charges as often

188

00:06:01,759 --> 00:06:04,960

kids do not out of the sex sex that she

189

00:06:04,319 --> 00:06:08,479

was

190

00:06:04,960 --> 00:06:10,319

um compelled to commit but because

191

00:06:08,479 --> 00:06:12,080

that had led her kind of down a dark

192

00:06:10,319 --> 00:06:12,479

path that had ended up with her having

193

00:06:12,080 --> 00:06:14,639

some

194

00:06:12,479 --> 00:06:15,600

charges of her own to deal with so she's

195

00:06:14,639 --> 00:06:18,639

up on the stand

196

00:06:15,600 --> 00:06:21,840

and she's wearing um the juvenile

197

00:06:18,639 --> 00:06:23,199

um uniform juvenile jail uniform so

198

00:06:21,840 --> 00:06:26,479

she's in a jumpsuit

199

00:06:23,199 --> 00:06:29,360

and what really struck me is

200

00:06:26,479 --> 00:06:30,160

that the attorney wouldn't even remember

201

00:06:29,360 --> 00:06:31,840

her name

202

00:06:30,160 --> 00:06:33,759

her name was a little bit complicated

203

00:06:31,840 --> 00:06:37,600

and the attorney kept saying and

204

00:06:33,759 --> 00:06:39,280

making you know making um

205

00:06:37,600 --> 00:06:40,960

making variations of it but never

206

00:06:39,280 --> 00:06:42,240

actually saying her name correctly and

207

00:06:40,960 --> 00:06:44,319

it was one of the ways she was trying to

208

00:06:42,240 --> 00:06:46,800

dehumanize her to the jury

209

00:06:44,319 --> 00:06:48,639

um and I just felt so sorry for that

210

00:06:46,800 --> 00:06:50,560

kiddo up on the stand

211

00:06:48,639 --> 00:06:52,479

until the defense attorney took it a

212

00:06:50,560 --> 00:06:55,280

little bit too far and she kept doing it

213

00:06:52,479 --> 00:06:55,840

and finally the jury started correcting

214

00:06:55,280 --> 00:06:57,599

her

215

00:06:55,840 --> 00:06:59,360

correcting the defense attorney

216

00:06:57,599 --> 00:07:01,360

whichever she would say her name wrong

217

00:06:59,360 --> 00:07:03,759

and I realized that

218

00:07:01,360 --> 00:07:06,000

we had achieved the goal and that the

219

00:07:03,759 --> 00:07:09,360

jury was seeing the kid

220

00:07:06,000 --> 00:07:11,440

as a victim and as a human and

221

00:07:09,360 --> 00:07:13,599

was identifying with her in a way the

222

00:07:11,440 --> 00:07:16,560

defense attorney was really trying to

223

00:07:13,599 --> 00:07:17,280

shut her aside and to me that really

224

00:07:16,560 --> 00:07:19,840

made

225

00:07:17,280 --> 00:07:22,080

my vision of my job to make sure that

226

00:07:19,840 --> 00:07:25,199

all of my juries and all of society

227

00:07:22,080 --> 00:07:28,400

see this kid as a kid and not

228

00:07:25,199 --> 00:07:30,720

as a rejective society or as a throwaway

229

00:07:28,400 --> 00:07:32,000

that's powerful one thing I wanted to

230

00:07:30,720 --> 00:07:33,599

add on to that is

231

00:07:32,000 --> 00:07:35,120

something that I experience a lot in

232

00:07:33,599 --> 00:07:36,160

dealing with survivors especially

233

00:07:35,120 --> 00:07:39,199

younger ones

234

00:07:36,160 --> 00:07:43,280

is they end up defining themselves

235

00:07:39,199 --> 00:07:45,840

as I am a prostituter this is who I am

236

00:07:43,280 --> 00:07:47,280

and I always tell them that that's not

237

00:07:45,840 --> 00:07:48,319

who they are that's something that they

238

00:07:47,280 --> 00:07:51,440

did

239

00:07:48,319 --> 00:07:52,960

and that none of us want to be judged by

240

00:07:51,440 --> 00:07:54,639

some the worst thing that we've ever

241

00:07:52,960 --> 00:07:55,840

done none of us want to walk around and

242

00:07:54,639 --> 00:07:56,240

I don't want to walk around and say oh

243

00:07:55,840 --> 00:07:57,680

I'm

244

00:07:56,240 --> 00:07:59,039

I'm cara I'm the one who yells at my

245

00:07:57,680 --> 00:08:00,000

three-year-olds because I'm grumpy or

246

00:07:59,039 --> 00:08:02,800

whatever

247

00:08:00,000 --> 00:08:04,400

um and so that that is something and one

248

00:08:02,800 --> 00:08:06,240

thing I will say is I'm always very

249

00:08:04,400 --> 00:08:07,280

impressed with juries and how they do

250

00:08:06,240 --> 00:08:09,120

see through

251

00:08:07,280 --> 00:08:10,720

those kind of tactics and they see the

252

00:08:09,120 --> 00:08:12,000

victim as a person

253

00:08:10,720 --> 00:08:15,120

and they don't expect people to be

254

00:08:12,000 --> 00:08:16,400

perfect they understand that

255

00:08:15,120 --> 00:08:17,759

you don't have to be perfect to be a

256

00:08:16,400 --> 00:08:18,560

victim and sometimes that's actually

257

00:08:17,759 --> 00:08:20,720

contributes

258

00:08:18,560 --> 00:08:22,160

to you becoming a victim so I'm always

259

00:08:20,720 --> 00:08:23,039

really impressed that juries are able to

260

00:08:22,160 --> 00:08:24,800

see through some of those

261

00:08:23,039 --> 00:08:26,560

tricks and to recognize a child that's

262

00:08:24,800 --> 00:08:27,840

under pressure immense pressure that no

263

00:08:26,560 --> 00:08:30,879

child should face like that

264

00:08:27,840 --> 00:08:30,879

absolutely yep

265

00:08:31,680 --> 00:08:34,719

so another um thing that I wanted to

266

00:08:33,360 --> 00:08:36,159

touch on with you guys is the numbers

267

00:08:34,719 --> 00:08:38,800

that we see for trafficking are

268

00:08:36,159 --> 00:08:40,000

shocking to put importantly it's way

269

00:08:38,800 --> 00:08:40,800

over the scale that most people would

270

00:08:40,000 --> 00:08:43,200

think it is

271

00:08:40,800 --> 00:08:44,800

and we see something like 25 million

272

00:08:43,200 --> 00:08:45,760

people worldwide or trafficked at any

273

00:08:44,800 --> 00:08:47,200

given moment

274

00:08:45,760 --> 00:08:48,880

I was hoping that you guys could get

275

00:08:47,200 --> 00:08:50,720

into some statistics for Texas

276

00:08:48,880 --> 00:08:54,080

specifically like what are we looking at

277

00:08:50,720 --> 00:08:56,080

real time here in the state so

278

00:08:54,080 --> 00:08:57,680

um a great thing about working at the

279

00:08:56,080 --> 00:08:59,360

Texas ag's office and with

280

00:08:57,680 --> 00:09:01,040

our state and federal and local law

281

00:08:59,360 --> 00:09:02,320

enforcement partners is we do have

282

00:09:01,040 --> 00:09:04,800

access

283

00:09:02,320 --> 00:09:06,839

and ways to track certain things I will

284

00:09:04,800 --> 00:09:09,680

say a caveat at the beginning

285

00:09:06,839 --> 00:09:10,080

is we can only track what's reported

286

00:09:09,680 --> 00:09:11,279

correct

287

00:09:10,080 --> 00:09:13,279

and there's a lot that doesn't get

288

00:09:11,279 --> 00:09:14,800

reported for various reasons so

289

00:09:13,279 --> 00:09:16,399

as I'm going over some of the numbers

290

00:09:14,800 --> 00:09:19,040

that we have for 2020

291

00:09:16,399 --> 00:09:19,839

um just keep in mind that those are just

292

00:09:19,040 --> 00:09:21,920

you know you know

293

00:09:19,839 --> 00:09:23,600

that the best that we can find um i

294

00:09:21,920 --> 00:09:24,399

think that it underrepresents the

295

00:09:23,600 --> 00:09:27,600

problem

296

00:09:24,399 --> 00:09:31,600

um we asked the department of public uh

297

00:09:27,600 --> 00:09:33,040

safety to run um to use

298

00:09:31,600 --> 00:09:35,600

internet technology to determine the

299

00:09:33,040 --> 00:09:38,880

number of online commercial sex ads

300

00:09:35,600 --> 00:09:41,040

that we had in 2020 um

301

00:09:38,880 --> 00:09:42,240

and even I've been doing this for 10

302

00:09:41,040 --> 00:09:43,600

years and Brooke has been doing it

303

00:09:42,240 --> 00:09:44,560

longer than me were shocked at the

304

00:09:43,600 --> 00:09:46,959

numbers

305

00:09:44,560 --> 00:09:47,760

uh during a time in which businesses are

306

00:09:46,959 --> 00:09:50,560

down

307

00:09:47,760 --> 00:09:51,200

most many businesses are struggling and

308

00:09:50,560 --> 00:09:54,160

um

309

00:09:51,200 --> 00:09:56,800

are closed trafficking flourishing there

310

00:09:54,160 --> 00:10:00,160

were over 1.6 million

311

00:09:56,800 --> 00:10:02,399

in distinctive online commercial sex abs

312

00:10:00,160 --> 00:10:03,279

that were posted during 2020 in just one

313

00:10:02,399 --> 00:10:05,680

year in one year

314

00:10:03,279 --> 00:10:06,480

and that's for the State of Texas within

315

00:10:05,680 --> 00:10:08,640

that

316

00:10:06,480 --> 00:10:10,399

maybe even a more startling number they

317

00:10:08,640 --> 00:10:13,279

use certain algorithms

318

00:10:10,399 --> 00:10:14,160

um to determine which ads are likely

319

00:10:13,279 --> 00:10:16,800

posting

320

00:10:14,160 --> 00:10:18,640

sexual um services of children and that

321

00:10:16,800 --> 00:10:21,600

number was over 25

322

00:10:18,640 --> 00:10:22,560

of that 1.6 Million uh posted suspected

323

00:10:21,600 --> 00:10:25,680

children

324

00:10:22,560 --> 00:10:27,440

um another number that uh that

325

00:10:25,680 --> 00:10:29,760

was startling to me and not yet not

326

00:10:27,440 --> 00:10:33,760

surprising to me based on my experience

327

00:10:29,760 --> 00:10:34,800

was that the average age of a young

328

00:10:33,760 --> 00:10:36,560

person to get

329

00:10:34,800 --> 00:10:37,920

traffic for the first time is 15 years

330

00:10:36,560 --> 00:10:41,279

old

331

00:10:37,920 --> 00:10:42,560

and something that is

332

00:10:41,279 --> 00:10:44,959

startling and disappointing to me about

333

00:10:42,560 --> 00:10:46,079

the State of Texas is we are the second

334

00:10:44,959 --> 00:10:48,160

worst for the number

335

00:10:46,079 --> 00:10:49,920

of reported trafficking cases in the

336

00:10:48,160 --> 00:10:51,839

united states

337

00:10:49,920 --> 00:10:52,959

um that is not something that we should

338

00:10:51,839 --> 00:10:53,760

be proud of that's something we should

339

00:10:52,959 --> 00:10:56,959

be ashamed of

340

00:10:53,760 --> 00:10:59,519

um the fact that there's so much demand

341

00:10:56,959 --> 00:11:01,600

to purchase sex in the State of Texas is

342

00:10:59,519 --> 00:11:03,440

something we really need to work on

343

00:11:01,600 --> 00:11:05,440

but I would also add although I think

344

00:11:03,440 --> 00:11:07,600

second is disgraceful

345

00:11:05,440 --> 00:11:09,519

I do think part of that comes because we

346

00:11:07,600 --> 00:11:11,279

are looking and we are finding and we

347

00:11:09,519 --> 00:11:13,360

are prosecuting traffickers

348

00:11:11,279 --> 00:11:14,959

in a country where there are many states

349

00:11:13,360 --> 00:11:16,800

you still aren't finding

350

00:11:14,959 --> 00:11:19,360

the kids who aren't looking for the kids

351

00:11:16,800 --> 00:11:20,079

and so as much as I don't want us to be

352

00:11:19,360 --> 00:11:22,160

second

353

00:11:20,079 --> 00:11:23,279

I don't want us to turn to blind eye

354

00:11:22,160 --> 00:11:26,240

either um

355

00:11:23,279 --> 00:11:28,000

and so if we are looking we have to also

356

00:11:26,240 --> 00:11:30,079

expect our numbers to be high

357

00:11:28,000 --> 00:11:31,680

and so then hopefully there'll be a

358

00:11:30,079 --> 00:11:34,320

curve where we can

359

00:11:31,680 --> 00:11:35,920

affect it by prosecuting highly and

360

00:11:34,320 --> 00:11:37,279

preventive work and all the other things

361

00:11:35,920 --> 00:11:39,279

that we do

362

00:11:37,279 --> 00:11:40,959

another thing that's very positive is

363

00:11:39,279 --> 00:11:42,800

the number of

364

00:11:40,959 --> 00:11:44,399

charity organizations that support

365

00:11:42,800 --> 00:11:45,360

victims in the State of Texas yes

366

00:11:44,399 --> 00:11:47,279

that's something that Brooke and I have

367

00:11:45,360 --> 00:11:48,000

recently been working on and it is the

368

00:11:47,279 --> 00:11:51,120

number

369

00:11:48,000 --> 00:11:53,360

is amazing it's over do we say over 500

370

00:11:51,120 --> 00:11:54,639

organizations that focus and provide

371

00:11:53,360 --> 00:11:55,920

services for

372

00:11:54,639 --> 00:11:58,160

sex trafficking victims labor

373

00:11:55,920 --> 00:12:01,040

trafficking victims adults children

374

00:11:58,160 --> 00:12:02,240

um so that there's a lot of encouraging

375

00:12:01,040 --> 00:12:03,279

numbers out there as well if we're going

376

00:12:02,240 --> 00:12:05,200

to be talking about numbers

377

00:12:03,279 --> 00:12:06,639

yeah there are and um that's actually a

378

00:12:05,200 --> 00:12:08,560

little bit um ahead

379

00:12:06,639 --> 00:12:10,079

I did want to talk to you guys about

380

00:12:08,560 --> 00:12:11,760

steps that we can take for

381

00:12:10,079 --> 00:12:13,279

victims and what resources there are for

382

00:12:11,760 --> 00:12:15,200

victims of human trafficking

383

00:12:13,279 --> 00:12:16,720

how can they reach out to us or get in

384

00:12:15,200 --> 00:12:18,320

touch with someone who can help them not

385

00:12:16,720 --> 00:12:20,560

just get out of that situation but to

386

00:12:18,320 --> 00:12:22,320

improve their lives for the future

387

00:12:20,560 --> 00:12:24,240

so there are several different ways to

388

00:12:22,320 --> 00:12:26,240

go about that the most important thing

389

00:12:24,240 --> 00:12:27,760

is the National Human Trafficking

390

00:12:26,240 --> 00:12:29,279

Hotline

391

00:12:27,760 --> 00:12:31,360

the Human Trafficking Hotline serves

392

00:12:29,279 --> 00:12:32,399

various purposes but perhaps it's most

393

00:12:31,360 --> 00:12:34,880

important

394

00:12:32,399 --> 00:12:37,760

is having a comprehensive list of victim

395

00:12:34,880 --> 00:12:40,000

services providers in the state of Texas

396

00:12:37,760 --> 00:12:41,839

so if you are a victim or you're working

397

00:12:40,000 --> 00:12:44,079

with a victim that needs services

398

00:12:41,839 --> 00:12:45,680

the best way the best first step is to

399

00:12:44,079 --> 00:12:48,399

call the National Hotline

400

00:12:45,680 --> 00:12:49,600

and reach out to them and find out about

401

00:12:48,399 --> 00:12:50,880

service providers

402

00:12:49,600 --> 00:12:53,680

they have a lot of information about

403

00:12:50,880 --> 00:12:56,800

what services they do provide

404

00:12:53,680 --> 00:12:58,880

and can and can be a great first step

405

00:12:56,800 --> 00:13:00,959

but also we would be remiss if we didn't

406

00:12:58,880 --> 00:13:02,800

say that if there's an emergency

407

00:13:00,959 --> 00:13:04,800

you should always call 9-1-1 because the

408

00:13:02,800 --> 00:13:05,519

hotline is not an emergency response

409

00:13:04,800 --> 00:13:07,760

system

410

00:13:05,519 --> 00:13:09,519

it's for a a little bit of a slower

411

00:13:07,760 --> 00:13:11,040

response if you see something that you

412

00:13:09,519 --> 00:13:12,560

think needs to be immediately reported

413

00:13:11,040 --> 00:13:14,399

then you have to call 9-1-1

414

00:13:12,560 --> 00:13:15,680

yes and that is something that we really

415

00:13:14,399 --> 00:13:16,880

want to encourage the community to

416

00:13:15,680 --> 00:13:19,040

participate in

417

00:13:16,880 --> 00:13:20,000

if you see something that doesn't sit

418

00:13:19,040 --> 00:13:21,680

right with you

419

00:13:20,000 --> 00:13:23,440

perhaps you see someone who seems

420

00:13:21,680 --> 00:13:24,800

extremely submissive and someone else is

421

00:13:23,440 --> 00:13:27,839

making decisions for them

422

00:13:24,800 --> 00:13:28,959

or you see um you see something that

423

00:13:27,839 --> 00:13:30,639

just doesn't sit right

424

00:13:28,959 --> 00:13:32,880

that that hotline that I just mentioned

425

00:13:30,639 --> 00:13:34,320

is a great place to call and report the

426

00:13:32,880 --> 00:13:35,760

information that you do see

427

00:13:34,320 --> 00:13:37,200

but I absolutely agree with Brooke if

428

00:13:35,760 --> 00:13:38,480

you see something urgent someone

429

00:13:37,200 --> 00:13:39,839

assaulting someone something like that

430

00:13:38,480 --> 00:13:41,040

don't call the hotline because it'll

431

00:13:39,839 --> 00:13:41,839

take a little while for law enforcement

432

00:13:41,040 --> 00:13:44,240

to respond

433

00:13:41,839 --> 00:13:45,839

call 9-1-1 and going off a little bit

434

00:13:44,240 --> 00:13:48,000

what you said i'd like to get into some

435

00:13:45,839 --> 00:13:49,760

of the red flags so people can recognize

436

00:13:48,000 --> 00:13:51,040

human trafficking and it's not just okay

437

00:13:49,760 --> 00:13:52,560

this is something shady this

438

00:13:51,040 --> 00:13:54,399

very well might be trafficking I should

439

00:13:52,560 --> 00:13:55,120

report it what should people look out

440

00:13:54,399 --> 00:13:59,040

for

441

00:13:55,120 --> 00:14:01,680

so for labor trafficking specifically um

442

00:13:59,040 --> 00:14:03,760

I think one of the biggest red flags is

443

00:14:01,680 --> 00:14:06,000

people who are living where they work

444

00:14:03,760 --> 00:14:07,680

and when people are not free to leave

445

00:14:06,000 --> 00:14:09,040

when they're working excessive hours

446

00:14:07,680 --> 00:14:11,199

when they don't have

447

00:14:09,040 --> 00:14:12,160

um any control over at all over their

448

00:14:11,199 --> 00:14:14,560

schedule

449

00:14:12,160 --> 00:14:15,839

um when they're being transported to and

450

00:14:14,560 --> 00:14:19,600

from

451

00:14:15,839 --> 00:14:21,760

the place of business by their employer

452

00:14:19,600 --> 00:14:23,839

that really shows the control and that

453

00:14:21,760 --> 00:14:27,440

the person might not have

454

00:14:23,839 --> 00:14:29,600

avenues of escape or avenues to

455

00:14:27,440 --> 00:14:31,040

make decisions or avenues to choose to

456

00:14:29,600 --> 00:14:34,079

or not to work

457

00:14:31,040 --> 00:14:36,079

and someone else holding their documents

458

00:14:34,079 --> 00:14:37,199

their driver's license or their

459

00:14:36,079 --> 00:14:40,079

immigration papers

460

00:14:37,199 --> 00:14:41,199

or threatening them with immigration

461

00:14:40,079 --> 00:14:43,440

process

462

00:14:41,199 --> 00:14:44,240

could be a sign of pro trafficking as

463

00:14:43,440 --> 00:14:47,279

well

464

00:14:44,240 --> 00:14:50,800

um and then I might also add

465

00:14:47,279 --> 00:14:54,079

that um if you see someone who's really

466

00:14:50,800 --> 00:14:56,079

not able to speak for themselves um they

467

00:14:54,079 --> 00:14:58,240

uh you ask them a question and they

468

00:14:56,079 --> 00:15:00,880

defer to someone else um

469

00:14:58,240 --> 00:15:02,079

they're unusually fearful of authority

470

00:15:00,880 --> 00:15:05,519

or unusually

471

00:15:02,079 --> 00:15:07,279

um submissive to an employer that might

472

00:15:05,519 --> 00:15:10,240

also be a sign as well

473

00:15:07,279 --> 00:15:10,880

no thank you one other thing that

474

00:15:10,240 --> 00:15:13,360

sometimes

475

00:15:10,880 --> 00:15:14,480

happens in labor trafficking is they may

476

00:15:13,360 --> 00:15:16,720

not

477

00:15:14,480 --> 00:15:19,040

live where they work but they may be

478

00:15:16,720 --> 00:15:20,959

transported to and from work

479

00:15:19,040 --> 00:15:22,959

um there are certain industries and

480

00:15:20,959 --> 00:15:24,320

businesses that will hire a large group

481

00:15:22,959 --> 00:15:25,199

of people and will pay for them to all

482

00:15:24,320 --> 00:15:26,880

live together

483

00:15:25,199 --> 00:15:28,720

in a house but they will drive them to

484

00:15:26,880 --> 00:15:30,639

and from work and they aren't

485

00:15:28,720 --> 00:15:32,160

free to leave the home otherwise or or

486

00:15:30,639 --> 00:15:33,120

it's very limited those are some other

487

00:15:32,160 --> 00:15:34,880

signs that they may be

488

00:15:33,120 --> 00:15:36,399

being tracked as well could you give me

489

00:15:34,880 --> 00:15:38,320

some examples of industries this is

490

00:15:36,399 --> 00:15:40,880

prevalent

491

00:15:38,320 --> 00:15:42,320

the one that I saw um the most was

492

00:15:40,880 --> 00:15:45,920

domestic servants

493

00:15:42,320 --> 00:15:47,600

so um where somebody would maybe sponsor

494

00:15:45,920 --> 00:15:47,920

someone to come to the united states

495

00:15:47,600 --> 00:15:49,360

from

496

00:15:47,920 --> 00:15:50,800

another country sometimes it might be

497

00:15:49,360 --> 00:15:52,079

their country of origin or it might just

498

00:15:50,800 --> 00:15:53,920

be another country

499

00:15:52,079 --> 00:15:55,680

um and they'll have them come live with

500

00:15:53,920 --> 00:15:57,199

them under the guise of them being a

501

00:15:55,680 --> 00:16:00,800

housekeeper or nanny

502

00:15:57,199 --> 00:16:02,720

and then they either don't pay them

503

00:16:00,800 --> 00:16:04,480

pay them very little limit their

504

00:16:02,720 --> 00:16:07,199

movements isolate them

505

00:16:04,480 --> 00:16:09,279

a big part of domestic servant

506

00:16:07,199 --> 00:16:11,440

trafficking is isolation

507

00:16:09,279 --> 00:16:13,120

oftentimes oftentimes that there could

508

00:16:11,440 --> 00:16:14,959

be someone in your neighborhood

509

00:16:13,120 --> 00:16:16,560

in this situation and you may see the

510

00:16:14,959 --> 00:16:18,639

family out all the time and every once

511

00:16:16,560 --> 00:16:20,880

in a while you'll see someone with them

512

00:16:18,639 --> 00:16:22,000

um but that that's how they maintain

513

00:16:20,880 --> 00:16:24,320

control a big thing

514

00:16:22,000 --> 00:16:26,079

in both sex and labor trafficking is

515

00:16:24,320 --> 00:16:28,480

control and coercion

516

00:16:26,079 --> 00:16:29,440

and um so that that's one of the

517

00:16:28,480 --> 00:16:31,199

industries I've seen

518

00:16:29,440 --> 00:16:33,519

what about you so I've seen it in

519

00:16:31,199 --> 00:16:34,000

agriculture where um people were forced

520

00:16:33,519 --> 00:16:37,360

to work

521

00:16:34,000 --> 00:16:39,600

um farms or farm work type of labor

522

00:16:37,360 --> 00:16:40,480

and without being adequately paid or as

523

00:16:39,600 --> 00:16:43,600

servants

524

00:16:40,480 --> 00:16:44,800

um and I've seen it a lot or a decent

525

00:16:43,600 --> 00:16:45,519

amount in the restaurant business as

526

00:16:44,800 --> 00:16:48,720

well

527

00:16:45,519 --> 00:16:50,160

where um the employers for all of the

528

00:16:48,720 --> 00:16:52,720

employees from a restaurant

529

00:16:50,160 --> 00:16:53,440

lived together in fact they were seen

530

00:16:52,720 --> 00:16:56,959

because

531

00:16:53,440 --> 00:16:58,880

um a neighbor gave a tip that all of the

532

00:16:56,959 --> 00:17:00,959

employees at the restaurant arrived

533

00:16:58,880 --> 00:17:02,959

together and they all left together

534

00:17:00,959 --> 00:17:04,559

and those were the only staff other than

535

00:17:02,959 --> 00:17:05,919

the manager at the restaurant and so

536

00:17:04,559 --> 00:17:07,520

that raised some red flags to the

537

00:17:05,919 --> 00:17:08,559

community and they got law enforcement

538

00:17:07,520 --> 00:17:10,160

involved and

539

00:17:08,559 --> 00:17:12,559

they were able to find traffickers at

540

00:17:10,160 --> 00:17:14,319

that restaurant

541

00:17:12,559 --> 00:17:15,679

that's really good to know I'm sure a

542

00:17:14,319 --> 00:17:17,199

lot of people see things that strike

543

00:17:15,679 --> 00:17:19,760

them as a little bit unusual but they're

544

00:17:17,199 --> 00:17:21,039

not sure if it's enough to report and

545

00:17:19,760 --> 00:17:23,039

you can let them know that it's always

546

00:17:21,039 --> 00:17:24,559

okay to report that if it's suspected

547

00:17:23,039 --> 00:17:26,799

trafficking don't call 9-1-1

548

00:17:24,559 --> 00:17:28,720

with a suspected trafficking incident

549

00:17:26,799 --> 00:17:29,600

but absolutely report something shady if

550

00:17:28,720 --> 00:17:31,039

you see it

551

00:17:29,600 --> 00:17:32,720

right because they'll pass it on to law

552

00:17:31,039 --> 00:17:34,000

enforcement and law enforcement isn't

553

00:17:32,720 --> 00:17:35,600

going to start a trafficking

554

00:17:34,000 --> 00:17:37,600

investigation by

555

00:17:35,600 --> 00:17:40,000

raiding a restaurant they're going to

556

00:17:37,600 --> 00:17:41,760

use that tip and they're going to

557

00:17:40,000 --> 00:17:43,840

get some information and start an

558

00:17:41,760 --> 00:17:45,280

investigation from there so

559

00:17:43,840 --> 00:17:48,559

I think that it's always better to

560

00:17:45,280 --> 00:17:51,600

report it than to not report it

561

00:17:48,559 --> 00:17:54,000

another thing let's say in a restaurant

562

00:17:51,600 --> 00:17:56,559

situation if you have questions

563

00:17:54,000 --> 00:17:57,919

you can try to speak to the employee not

564

00:17:56,559 --> 00:18:00,160

necessarily say are you being trafficked

565

00:17:57,919 --> 00:18:02,000

but just start a conversation um

566

00:18:00,160 --> 00:18:03,360

and ask them oh where are you living or

567

00:18:02,000 --> 00:18:05,440

you know do you

568

00:18:03,360 --> 00:18:06,960

do you have family or I don't start

569

00:18:05,440 --> 00:18:07,840

asking some questions because sometimes

570

00:18:06,960 --> 00:18:09,600

people

571

00:18:07,840 --> 00:18:10,880

will use that as an opportunity to say

572

00:18:09,600 --> 00:18:14,080

something to you

573

00:18:10,880 --> 00:18:14,880

um but I know sometimes people are

574

00:18:14,080 --> 00:18:16,480

hesitant

575

00:18:14,880 --> 00:18:18,080

they say I don't want to get involved i

576

00:18:16,480 --> 00:18:19,760

don't want to get cause anyone to go to

577

00:18:18,080 --> 00:18:20,480

jail or get the police in someone's

578

00:18:19,760 --> 00:18:22,799

business

579

00:18:20,480 --> 00:18:24,320

I will say this it is better if your gut

580

00:18:22,799 --> 00:18:26,720

tells you something's not right

581

00:18:24,320 --> 00:18:28,880

to call the national hotline and give as

582

00:18:26,720 --> 00:18:31,039

much detailed information as you can

583

00:18:28,880 --> 00:18:32,320

and just know that that law enforcement

584

00:18:31,039 --> 00:18:33,840

is well trained in this and they are not

585

00:18:32,320 --> 00:18:34,960

going to ruin someone's life over a

586

00:18:33,840 --> 00:18:37,039

false tip

587

00:18:34,960 --> 00:18:38,400

but isn't it better to have them look

588

00:18:37,039 --> 00:18:41,039

into it

589

00:18:38,400 --> 00:18:42,480

than to have then you know out of the

590

00:18:41,039 --> 00:18:43,760

fear of oh what if I accidentally

591

00:18:42,480 --> 00:18:44,799

falsely report someone it won't be

592

00:18:43,760 --> 00:18:47,280

viewed as that

593

00:18:44,799 --> 00:18:48,640

um no one will be arrested off of your

594

00:18:47,280 --> 00:18:50,480

tip alone there will be a lot of

595

00:18:48,640 --> 00:18:51,919

subsequent investigation so people it's

596

00:18:50,480 --> 00:18:52,960

better to if you see something say

597

00:18:51,919 --> 00:18:55,200

something

598

00:18:52,960 --> 00:18:56,160

and um we went over some of the signs of

599

00:18:55,200 --> 00:18:58,160

labor trafficking

600

00:18:56,160 --> 00:18:59,679

sex trafficking is also very prevalent

601

00:18:58,160 --> 00:19:00,400

especially in Texas like we touched on

602

00:18:59,679 --> 00:19:02,080

earlier

603

00:19:00,400 --> 00:19:03,760

what are some of the red flags of sex

604

00:19:02,080 --> 00:19:05,360

trafficking so sex

605

00:19:03,760 --> 00:19:06,960

trafficking uh one thing I want to make

606

00:19:05,360 --> 00:19:09,120

sure we highlight in this

607

00:19:06,960 --> 00:19:10,000

all forms of trafficking can have

608

00:19:09,120 --> 00:19:13,360

victims that are

609

00:19:10,000 --> 00:19:15,200

female or male adults or children

610

00:19:13,360 --> 00:19:16,400

um and that's something to keep in mind

611

00:19:15,200 --> 00:19:17,840

because I think lots of times people

612

00:19:16,400 --> 00:19:20,160

think of sex trafficking and they think

613

00:19:17,840 --> 00:19:20,880

only kids are only females and that is

614

00:19:20,160 --> 00:19:22,960

not the case

615

00:19:20,880 --> 00:19:24,320

and in any area to any neighborhood it

616

00:19:22,960 --> 00:19:26,960

doesn't have to be kind of a

617

00:19:24,320 --> 00:19:28,320

shadier area it's anywhere in the state

618

00:19:26,960 --> 00:19:31,360

absolutely i

619

00:19:28,320 --> 00:19:33,840

we participated in the Dallas area in

620

00:19:31,360 --> 00:19:35,679

um sex trafficking operations that were

621

00:19:33,840 --> 00:19:38,559

at wonderful nice hotels

622

00:19:35,679 --> 00:19:40,799

and ones that were not as nice of hotels

623

00:19:38,559 --> 00:19:42,720

or motels and

624

00:19:40,799 --> 00:19:44,559

traffickers work out of both of those

625

00:19:42,720 --> 00:19:46,720

locations um

626

00:19:44,559 --> 00:19:48,240

so you're right it can it crosses

627

00:19:46,720 --> 00:19:50,960

socioeconomic

628

00:19:48,240 --> 00:19:52,400

lines as well some signs for trafficking

629

00:19:50,960 --> 00:19:54,960

and some of these are more focused on

630

00:19:52,400 --> 00:19:54,960

children but

631

00:19:55,039 --> 00:19:58,799

people who run away a lot frequent

632

00:19:57,039 --> 00:20:00,400

runaways those are people that if you

633

00:19:58,799 --> 00:20:02,559

come into contact with them

634

00:20:00,400 --> 00:20:04,320

through your job or as a friend of your

635

00:20:02,559 --> 00:20:07,520

child that's somebody that

636

00:20:04,320 --> 00:20:08,240

is at higher risk to be trafficked um if

637

00:20:07,520 --> 00:20:11,679

they

638

00:20:08,240 --> 00:20:13,280

get if you notice new tattoos on

639

00:20:11,679 --> 00:20:16,960

someone in your life ask them about the

640

00:20:13,280 --> 00:20:19,840

tattoos in some instances pimps

641

00:20:16,960 --> 00:20:21,360

will brand or tattoo or label write

642

00:20:19,840 --> 00:20:21,919

their name or write something having to

643

00:20:21,360 --> 00:20:25,120

do

644

00:20:21,919 --> 00:20:25,919

with commercial sex acts or money as a

645

00:20:25,120 --> 00:20:29,120

way of showing

646

00:20:25,919 --> 00:20:29,120

ownership over that person

647

00:20:29,520 --> 00:20:33,039

a lot of trafficking survivors and

648

00:20:32,240 --> 00:20:34,720

victims

649

00:20:33,039 --> 00:20:36,960

will not make eye contact with people

650

00:20:34,720 --> 00:20:40,159

for various reasons they are very

651

00:20:36,960 --> 00:20:40,720

um subtle you know submissive in in

652

00:20:40,159 --> 00:20:42,799

public

653

00:20:40,720 --> 00:20:44,080

and don't like to interact with people a

654

00:20:42,799 --> 00:20:44,720

lot of the same things for labor

655

00:20:44,080 --> 00:20:46,799

trafficking

656

00:20:44,720 --> 00:20:48,960

taking direction from someone else yeah

657

00:20:46,799 --> 00:20:50,320

if you encounter someone

658

00:20:48,960 --> 00:20:51,840

and you even let's say you work at a

659

00:20:50,320 --> 00:20:52,240

restaurant you encounter someone and

660

00:20:51,840 --> 00:20:54,080

they

661

00:20:52,240 --> 00:20:55,200

are an adult and will answer anything

662

00:20:54,080 --> 00:20:56,320

and we'll look at you and someone else

663

00:20:55,200 --> 00:20:57,280

is telling

664

00:20:56,320 --> 00:20:58,960

that doesn't necessarily mean they're

665

00:20:57,280 --> 00:21:00,320

trafficking victim it could just be

666

00:20:58,960 --> 00:21:01,760

people in a fight or something but

667

00:21:00,320 --> 00:21:04,080

you know disagreement but those are the

668

00:21:01,760 --> 00:21:04,400

kinds of signs because what traffickers

669

00:21:04,080 --> 00:21:07,600

do

670

00:21:04,400 --> 00:21:08,080

is they mentally and emotionally break

671

00:21:07,600 --> 00:21:10,159

down

672

00:21:08,080 --> 00:21:11,840

their victim to gain control and with

673

00:21:10,159 --> 00:21:14,559

that you can see a lot of outward signs

674

00:21:11,840 --> 00:21:16,080

of that type of behavior

675

00:21:14,559 --> 00:21:18,480

if you notice someone has multiple

676

00:21:16,080 --> 00:21:21,760

social media accounts

677

00:21:18,480 --> 00:21:22,960

um maybe a friend or a friend of your

678

00:21:21,760 --> 00:21:24,480

child or someone has vote

679

00:21:22,960 --> 00:21:26,159

check out the social media accounts if

680

00:21:24,480 --> 00:21:26,640

you see a lot of sexually provocative

681

00:21:26,159 --> 00:21:28,400

stuff

682

00:21:26,640 --> 00:21:30,240

on one or more of them that could be a

683

00:21:28,400 --> 00:21:33,600

red flag changing

684

00:21:30,240 --> 00:21:35,520

an appearance changing into um

685

00:21:33,600 --> 00:21:36,880

being more sexually provocative can be a

686

00:21:35,520 --> 00:21:40,400

sign also

687

00:21:36,880 --> 00:21:42,640

um knowledge of certain kinds of

688

00:21:40,400 --> 00:21:44,080

sex-based terms there's certain it's

689

00:21:42,640 --> 00:21:45,360

almost there's almost a language in the

690

00:21:44,080 --> 00:21:48,240

sex trafficking world

691

00:21:45,360 --> 00:21:49,280

and if you it's number one it is but but

692

00:21:48,240 --> 00:21:51,120

people who are in it

693

00:21:49,280 --> 00:21:52,080

know it and so if if you're speaking to

694

00:21:51,120 --> 00:21:52,880

someone they start using a bunch of

695

00:21:52,080 --> 00:21:54,159

words you don't know what they're

696

00:21:52,880 --> 00:21:56,240

talking about

697

00:21:54,159 --> 00:21:57,520

um that might be a sign you may want to

698

00:21:56,240 --> 00:21:58,960

ask them what does that mean you know

699

00:21:57,520 --> 00:22:01,280

ask a few more questions

700

00:21:58,960 --> 00:22:01,280

um

701

00:22:02,159 --> 00:22:06,559

sometimes traffickers will take all the

702

00:22:04,799 --> 00:22:08,159

identifying information of their victim

703

00:22:06,559 --> 00:22:08,880

and they do that in labor trafficking

704

00:22:08,159 --> 00:22:12,640

instances

705

00:22:08,880 --> 00:22:15,039

they also do that for children or adults

706

00:22:12,640 --> 00:22:16,400

because there's a lot of if I if i

707

00:22:15,039 --> 00:22:17,280

control your driver's license or your

708

00:22:16,400 --> 00:22:20,320

school id

709

00:22:17,280 --> 00:22:22,640

I control you you can't get on a bus

710

00:22:20,320 --> 00:22:23,679

or get on an airplane or drive a car or

711

00:22:22,640 --> 00:22:25,520

there's a lot of things you can't do

712

00:22:23,679 --> 00:22:26,960

without your id so if

713

00:22:25,520 --> 00:22:28,480

somebody doesn't you know they have an

714

00:22:26,960 --> 00:22:30,080

id and they don't have it on them and

715

00:22:28,480 --> 00:22:31,600

they say oh so so-and-so has it that

716

00:22:30,080 --> 00:22:34,000

could be another red flag

717

00:22:31,600 --> 00:22:36,000

so parents ask a lot um and teachers

718

00:22:34,000 --> 00:22:37,679

sometimes as well as to what might be

719

00:22:36,000 --> 00:22:38,559

the signs that you might see in your own

720

00:22:37,679 --> 00:22:40,320

child or in

721

00:22:38,559 --> 00:22:42,080

your child's friend the only thing that

722

00:22:40,320 --> 00:22:44,320

I would want to make clear is that a lot

723

00:22:42,080 --> 00:22:46,880

of this recruitment happens online

724

00:22:44,320 --> 00:22:47,840

and so if your child drastically changes

725

00:22:46,880 --> 00:22:50,880

their internet

726

00:22:47,840 --> 00:22:52,880

usage or how they're using it

727

00:22:50,880 --> 00:22:54,320

or where they're using it that could

728

00:22:52,880 --> 00:22:55,600

also be a red flag

729

00:22:54,320 --> 00:22:56,960

especially when it's coupled with as

730

00:22:55,600 --> 00:22:57,840

kara said changes in how they're

731

00:22:56,960 --> 00:22:59,760

behaving or

732

00:22:57,840 --> 00:23:01,120

or their appearance um and how they're

733

00:22:59,760 --> 00:23:02,640

reacting to things

734

00:23:01,120 --> 00:23:04,640

it's so hard because sometimes that's

735

00:23:02,640 --> 00:23:05,440

just a normal teenage I have teenagers

736

00:23:04,640 --> 00:23:07,360

myself

737

00:23:05,440 --> 00:23:08,720

sometimes it's just a normal teenager

738

00:23:07,360 --> 00:23:11,520

but when you see that

739

00:23:08,720 --> 00:23:12,480

um that drastic change and the suddenly

740

00:23:11,520 --> 00:23:14,159

you know out

741

00:23:12,480 --> 00:23:16,480

one's outgoing child is now suddenly

742

00:23:14,159 --> 00:23:17,760

super secretive um and only wants to be

743

00:23:16,480 --> 00:23:18,480

on their phone in the bathroom or in

744

00:23:17,760 --> 00:23:19,840

their room

745

00:23:18,480 --> 00:23:21,679

you know sometimes that can be a sign

746

00:23:19,840 --> 00:23:22,320

that someone who's is trying to recruit

747

00:23:21,679 --> 00:23:23,919

them that

748

00:23:22,320 --> 00:23:25,360

you don't want them to be having contact

749

00:23:23,919 --> 00:23:26,880

with that's going to know and every

750

00:23:25,360 --> 00:23:28,880

parent and teacher should know that

751

00:23:26,880 --> 00:23:30,400

that's something to look out for sure

752

00:23:28,880 --> 00:23:32,159

and it's also important to know

753

00:23:30,400 --> 00:23:33,760

if especially if it is a child your

754

00:23:32,159 --> 00:23:34,159

child or child that's friends with your

755

00:23:33,760 --> 00:23:35,600

child

756

00:23:34,159 --> 00:23:38,799

if all of a sudden they have a bunch of

757

00:23:35,600 --> 00:23:41,919

stuff that they didn't have before

758

00:23:38,799 --> 00:23:44,159

extra cell phones fancy purses that is

759

00:23:41,919 --> 00:23:47,760

something that traffickers do to lure in

760

00:23:44,159 --> 00:23:49,279

victims they will often promise money

761

00:23:47,760 --> 00:23:50,960

love affection things like that and

762

00:23:49,279 --> 00:23:53,679

sometimes they will give

763

00:23:50,960 --> 00:23:55,120

people gifts to get them to trust them

764

00:23:53,679 --> 00:23:58,240

and then they'll lure them away

765

00:23:55,120 --> 00:24:00,400

and then start exploiting them

766

00:23:58,240 --> 00:24:02,080

yeah I know this is a really heavy topic

767

00:24:00,400 --> 00:24:03,600

it's a lot of there's a lot of darkness

768

00:24:02,080 --> 00:24:04,159

in it there's a lot of seriousness in

769

00:24:03,600 --> 00:24:06,400

this

770

00:24:04,159 --> 00:24:08,080

and I wanted to ask both of you who are

771

00:24:06,400 --> 00:24:08,720

in it every single day on the front line

772

00:24:08,080 --> 00:24:12,159

this fight

773

00:24:08,720 --> 00:24:15,600

what keeps you motivated to keep going

774

00:24:12,159 --> 00:24:19,200

so I would say um really what

775

00:24:15,600 --> 00:24:21,120

what I do is so um so small compared to

776

00:24:19,200 --> 00:24:22,400

what the survivors are doing to try to

777

00:24:21,120 --> 00:24:25,200

recover from

778

00:24:22,400 --> 00:24:26,799

their victimization and move to a

779

00:24:25,200 --> 00:24:30,080

healthy and productive life

780

00:24:26,799 --> 00:24:33,360

um that um whenever I think about that

781

00:24:30,080 --> 00:24:34,720

my my part seems so minimal um

782

00:24:33,360 --> 00:24:36,400

and that really helps me keep it in

783

00:24:34,720 --> 00:24:40,000

perspective I can do

784

00:24:36,400 --> 00:24:42,640

my little job my few steps um

785

00:24:40,000 --> 00:24:44,000

but they're moving mountains and they

786

00:24:42,640 --> 00:24:47,360

are

787

00:24:44,000 --> 00:24:48,960

trying to recover from something that as

788

00:24:47,360 --> 00:24:50,640

we talked earlier in the conversation

789

00:24:48,960 --> 00:24:52,480

many people would just say

790

00:24:50,640 --> 00:24:53,840

you don't have choices in life anymore

791

00:24:52,480 --> 00:24:55,840

and um

792

00:24:53,840 --> 00:24:57,200

for these survivors to realize that they

793

00:24:55,840 --> 00:24:58,640

have choices that they can make a

794

00:24:57,200 --> 00:25:00,080

difference that they can move forward

795

00:24:58,640 --> 00:25:03,760

and recover from this

796

00:25:00,080 --> 00:25:06,799

is just is something to be uh to admire

797

00:25:03,760 --> 00:25:10,159

definitely and care how about you what i

798

00:25:06,799 --> 00:25:12,000

focus it on in the job is

799

00:25:10,159 --> 00:25:13,840

accepting people for how they are when i

800

00:25:12,000 --> 00:25:15,440

first meet them especially survivors but

801

00:25:13,840 --> 00:25:18,480

really everyone

802

00:25:15,440 --> 00:25:19,760

um and what I live for is watching that

803

00:25:18,480 --> 00:25:22,559

person

804

00:25:19,760 --> 00:25:24,080

go from you know a bad dark phase of

805

00:25:22,559 --> 00:25:24,480

their life and these cases take a while

806

00:25:24,080 --> 00:25:27,120

to

807

00:25:24,480 --> 00:25:28,720

come to fruition and watching them get

808

00:25:27,120 --> 00:25:32,240

back in school

809

00:25:28,720 --> 00:25:33,600

get healthy get counseling have goals

810

00:25:32,240 --> 00:25:34,240

and dreams that's one of the things

811

00:25:33,600 --> 00:25:36,400

about

812

00:25:34,240 --> 00:25:37,440

especially the child survivors that is

813

00:25:36,400 --> 00:25:38,960

the most motivated

814

00:25:37,440 --> 00:25:40,880

they still believe the world is a good

815

00:25:38,960 --> 00:25:42,240

place they still believe that they can

816

00:25:40,880 --> 00:25:44,400

do things and so

817

00:25:42,240 --> 00:25:46,720

I feel like part of my job is to support

818

00:25:44,400 --> 00:25:47,200

that to be a good role model for them

819

00:25:46,720 --> 00:25:50,240

about

820

00:25:47,200 --> 00:25:52,640

how how adults should treat them

821

00:25:50,240 --> 00:25:54,000

um be very respectful be very supportive

822

00:25:52,640 --> 00:25:56,480

but I love

823

00:25:54,000 --> 00:25:57,360

at the end of the case watching that

824

00:25:56,480 --> 00:26:00,640

survivor

825

00:25:57,360 --> 00:26:04,320

hold his or her head up high face

826

00:26:00,640 --> 00:26:06,400

the person or people that hurt them and

827

00:26:04,320 --> 00:26:07,520

you know speak their truth and be able

828

00:26:06,400 --> 00:26:10,320

to move on

829

00:26:07,520 --> 00:26:11,600

um how empowering for them it is well

830

00:26:10,320 --> 00:26:13,039

it's a challenge for me because I really

831

00:26:11,600 --> 00:26:15,279

grow to care about these people

832

00:26:13,039 --> 00:26:17,039

um a lot and some of them if they want

833

00:26:15,279 --> 00:26:18,000

to I stay in touch with you know after

834

00:26:17,039 --> 00:26:20,720

cases are over things

835

00:26:18,000 --> 00:26:21,039

it's so neat watching them get married

836

00:26:20,720 --> 00:26:24,159

get

837

00:26:21,039 --> 00:26:24,880

jobs have babies um just this entire

838

00:26:24,159 --> 00:26:28,400

second be

839

00:26:24,880 --> 00:26:30,240

great people yeah um and so

840

00:26:28,400 --> 00:26:31,600

that's that's a big part of my self-care

841

00:26:30,240 --> 00:26:33,360

for all this is watching

842

00:26:31,600 --> 00:26:36,080

that and then the other part is I focus

843

00:26:33,360 --> 00:26:37,600

on I try to leave work at work

844

00:26:36,080 --> 00:26:39,600

it's a little harder right now when work

845

00:26:37,600 --> 00:26:42,880

is home you know never seen home but

846

00:26:39,600 --> 00:26:44,080

I try to to also just mean you know keep

847

00:26:42,880 --> 00:26:46,240

not to think about it and talk about it

848

00:26:44,080 --> 00:26:48,960

all the time um but

849

00:26:46,240 --> 00:26:49,919

it is it is a tough job but it is in my

850

00:26:48,960 --> 00:26:52,320

opinion the best job

851

00:26:49,919 --> 00:26:53,279

there is and no kidding about a tough

852

00:26:52,320 --> 00:26:55,600

job you guys are

853

00:26:53,279 --> 00:26:57,360

investigators prosecutors you help out

854

00:26:55,600 --> 00:26:58,880

victims you're spreading awareness and

855

00:26:57,360 --> 00:27:01,039

training throughout all of Texas and

856

00:26:58,880 --> 00:27:02,960

you're a tight-knit team

857

00:27:01,039 --> 00:27:04,720

what do you need for these next steps

858

00:27:02,960 --> 00:27:06,400

what are you looking for that'll be

859

00:27:04,720 --> 00:27:08,480

the next push forward for human

860

00:27:06,400 --> 00:27:10,960

trafficking unit

861

00:27:08,480 --> 00:27:12,799

um there are more resources that are

862

00:27:10,960 --> 00:27:14,480

needed we need

863

00:27:12,799 --> 00:27:16,000

more people fighting this fight we need

864

00:27:14,480 --> 00:27:17,520

more people trained to fight this fight

865

00:27:16,000 --> 00:27:20,399

we need

866

00:27:17,520 --> 00:27:21,440

more local places for victims to go we

867

00:27:20,399 --> 00:27:24,559

need

868

00:27:21,440 --> 00:27:27,600

more people working to help victims

869

00:27:24,559 --> 00:27:28,559

I do think that another important step

870

00:27:27,600 --> 00:27:30,720

that

871

00:27:28,559 --> 00:27:32,960

we have to take in Texas is to find the

872

00:27:30,720 --> 00:27:36,159

vulnerable victims that we've missed

873

00:27:32,960 --> 00:27:38,399

I feel like we've um really over the 20

874

00:27:36,159 --> 00:27:42,559

years since Texas has enacted

875

00:27:38,399 --> 00:27:44,960

trafficking laws um we really have

876

00:27:42,559 --> 00:27:45,840

done a lot for sex trafficking of

877

00:27:44,960 --> 00:27:49,279

females

878

00:27:45,840 --> 00:27:52,320

I think we have to find ways to identify

879

00:27:49,279 --> 00:27:54,559

and rescue or recover

880

00:27:52,320 --> 00:27:56,720

uh male victims absolutely and I think

881

00:27:54,559 --> 00:27:58,640

we have to find labor victims

882

00:27:56,720 --> 00:28:01,200

and I would say that those are two

883

00:27:58,640 --> 00:28:03,600

vulnerable populations that we're just

884

00:28:01,200 --> 00:28:04,240

we're not we're not finding yet um and

885

00:28:03,600 --> 00:28:06,399

so

886

00:28:04,240 --> 00:28:08,000

uh my challenge I think is to try to

887

00:28:06,399 --> 00:28:11,120

figure out how to

888

00:28:08,000 --> 00:28:13,760

help us um develop systems that

889

00:28:11,120 --> 00:28:14,720

find those vulnerable people who haven't

890

00:28:13,760 --> 00:28:17,360

been found yet

891

00:28:14,720 --> 00:28:17,760

that'd be wonderful my most important

892

00:28:17,360 --> 00:28:20,720

thing

893

00:28:17,760 --> 00:28:22,559

that we can do in the state of Texas is

894

00:28:20,720 --> 00:28:26,159

to start attacking

895

00:28:22,559 --> 00:28:28,640

um people who are purchasing sex

896

00:28:26,159 --> 00:28:29,200

trafficking is a multi-billion dollar

897

00:28:28,640 --> 00:28:33,039

industry

898

00:28:29,200 --> 00:28:34,880

across the world and um it is a business

899

00:28:33,039 --> 00:28:37,520

people think of it as oh it's a crime it

900

00:28:34,880 --> 00:28:39,120

is often fueled by organized crime

901

00:28:37,520 --> 00:28:40,960

and people making decisions or making

902

00:28:39,120 --> 00:28:42,880

business decisions because their primary

903

00:28:40,960 --> 00:28:45,840

motivation is money

904

00:28:42,880 --> 00:28:47,520

the way that you decrease the supply is

905

00:28:45,840 --> 00:28:50,640

to attack the demand

906

00:28:47,520 --> 00:28:54,080

and um a great part about

907

00:28:50,640 --> 00:28:56,240

my job is that I get to work um with the

908

00:28:54,080 --> 00:28:59,600

Texas human trafficking task force

909

00:28:56,240 --> 00:29:01,520

and part of that work is

910

00:28:59,600 --> 00:29:02,960

getting to speak to people who work at

911

00:29:01,520 --> 00:29:04,000

non-profits people who work in law

912

00:29:02,960 --> 00:29:06,159

enforcement

913

00:29:04,000 --> 00:29:07,840

um federal prosecutors district

914

00:29:06,159 --> 00:29:10,399

attorneys to talk about

915

00:29:07,840 --> 00:29:11,039

the biggest issue and one of our big

916

00:29:10,399 --> 00:29:13,200

issues and

917

00:29:11,039 --> 00:29:14,480

a legislative recommendation that the

918

00:29:13,200 --> 00:29:17,600

task force is making

919

00:29:14,480 --> 00:29:20,559

this year is to raise the penalty

920

00:29:17,600 --> 00:29:22,399

for purchasing sex in the state of Texas

921

00:29:20,559 --> 00:29:25,120

right now it is a misdemeanor

922

00:29:22,399 --> 00:29:26,480

right now very few people go to jail for

923

00:29:25,120 --> 00:29:28,399

purchasing sex

924

00:29:26,480 --> 00:29:29,840

now is a felony if the person that you

925

00:29:28,399 --> 00:29:32,240

purchase as a child

926

00:29:29,840 --> 00:29:33,360

um so that that's already a felony and

927

00:29:32,240 --> 00:29:34,720

there's a you get a substantial

928

00:29:33,360 --> 00:29:36,960

punishment but for now

929

00:29:34,720 --> 00:29:38,880

but the thing with sex buyers is they so

930

00:29:36,960 --> 00:29:40,159

often don't care if you're 15 or you're

931

00:29:38,880 --> 00:29:42,000

20.

932

00:29:40,159 --> 00:29:44,080

and so they almost roll the dice and

933

00:29:42,000 --> 00:29:47,200

think well if I'm gonna get caught

934

00:29:44,080 --> 00:29:48,480

purchasing sex oh 50 you know 80 chance

935

00:29:47,200 --> 00:29:50,880

that it'll be a misdemeanor

936

00:29:48,480 --> 00:29:52,480

I won't go to jail I won't lose my job i

937

00:29:50,880 --> 00:29:54,320

won't have to no one will find out about

938

00:29:52,480 --> 00:29:58,480

it i'll just hire a lawyer and

939

00:29:54,320 --> 00:30:00,880

go forward so by making it a felony

940

00:29:58,480 --> 00:30:01,679

um Texas will be the first in the

941

00:30:00,880 --> 00:30:05,200

country

942

00:30:01,679 --> 00:30:06,799

for purchasing sex to be a felony um

943

00:30:05,200 --> 00:30:09,919

we are the second worst in the country

944

00:30:06,799 --> 00:30:13,039

for trafficking so let's be the first

945

00:30:09,919 --> 00:30:15,200

to go after buyers

946

00:30:13,039 --> 00:30:16,880

my hope is and law enforcement supports

947

00:30:15,200 --> 00:30:19,039

me on this that

948

00:30:16,880 --> 00:30:20,880

it may deter some people from purchasing

949

00:30:19,039 --> 00:30:23,840

sex they may think twice

950

00:30:20,880 --> 00:30:25,520

um because then maybe their family would

951

00:30:23,840 --> 00:30:26,640

find out their employer would find out

952

00:30:25,520 --> 00:30:28,720

they wouldn't be able to live in the

953

00:30:26,640 --> 00:30:30,799

shadows anymore because it's hard to to

954

00:30:28,720 --> 00:30:34,240

get around a felony

955

00:30:30,799 --> 00:30:35,919

so if I could get one thing done

956

00:30:34,240 --> 00:30:38,320

in Texas this year for human trafficking

957

00:30:35,919 --> 00:30:40,640

it would be that

958

00:30:38,320 --> 00:30:42,240

I feel like that and thank you both so

959

00:30:40,640 --> 00:30:43,840

much for being here we're going to wrap

960

00:30:42,240 --> 00:30:45,360

up for this episode today but i

961

00:30:43,840 --> 00:30:47,200

appreciate all the information i

962

00:30:45,360 --> 00:30:47,600

appreciate your hearts in this fight

963

00:30:47,200 --> 00:30:50,000

you're

964

00:30:47,600 --> 00:30:51,600

wonderful people is there anything that

965

00:30:50,000 --> 00:30:54,399

you would like to add in for our viewers

966

00:30:51,600 --> 00:30:57,519

before we close out here

967

00:30:54,399 --> 00:30:59,840

I don't think so I don't think so either

968

00:30:57,519 --> 00:31:01,039

if anybody is interested after viewing

969

00:30:59,840 --> 00:31:02,399

this um

970

00:31:01,039 --> 00:31:04,080

you can get on the Texas attorney

971

00:31:02,399 --> 00:31:04,880

general's website we have it under the

972

00:31:04,080 --> 00:31:06,320

initiatives

973

00:31:04,880 --> 00:31:08,399

tab we have more information about

974

00:31:06,320 --> 00:31:09,760

trafficking um our

975

00:31:08,399 --> 00:31:11,200

sections email address is on there if

976

00:31:09,760 --> 00:31:12,240

you have a question for us you can email

977

00:31:11,200 --> 00:31:13,760

us that way

978

00:31:12,240 --> 00:31:15,360

that's all I can think of there are

979

00:31:13,760 --> 00:31:15,919

hundreds of ways across the state to be

980

00:31:15,360 --> 00:31:18,000

involved

981

00:31:15,919 --> 00:31:20,080

and if this is your passion please find

982

00:31:18,000 --> 00:31:21,519

please find a way to be involved in it

983

00:31:20,080 --> 00:31:23,760

this is just the beginning of the fight

984

00:31:21,519 --> 00:31:25,760

yeah thank you both so much I appreciate

985

00:31:23,760 --> 00:31:27,600

you thank you thank you

986

00:31:25,760 --> 00:31:29,519

thank you for tuning in to this episode

987

00:31:27,600 --> 00:31:30,799

of Law and Liberty a Texas Attorney

988

00:31:29,519 --> 00:31:32,240

General Podcast

989

00:31:30,799 --> 00:31:34,080

if you haven't already check out our

990

00:31:32,240 --> 00:31:35,840

other installment during National Human

991

00:31:34,080 --> 00:31:37,760

Trafficking Awareness Month

992

00:31:35,840 --> 00:31:39,600

and find more information about how

993

00:31:37,760 --> 00:31:41,360

Texas is leading the fight against human

994

00:31:39,600 --> 00:31:45,600

trafficking and how you can get involved

995

00:31:41,360 --> 00:32:01,840

at www.texasattorneygeneral.gov

996

00:31:45,600 --> 00:32:01,840

thanks y'all