



NEWSLETTER

Winter 2021: Volume 3, Issue 1



**GLOBAL
ASSOCIATION
OF HUMAN
TRAFFICKING
SCHOLARS**

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GAHTS NEWSLETTER

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Introduction Letter from GAHTS Research Scholar, Dr. Celia Williamson



Dear GAHTS Members,

The Global Association of Human Trafficking Scholars is an example of what is going right with the world. Together, we demonstrate that working in collaboration within our own countries and across countries is the best way to provide the knowledge needed to heal others and to end human trafficking. During this time, our work is more important than ever, as each of us works to answer and disseminate critical human trafficking focused research that can be used to support anti-trafficking policies, programs, and practices. Today, the world is wracked with disease, including the global Covid-19 pandemic, locus swarms in Africa, political dis-ease in the U.S., fires in Australia, Black Lives Matter movement protests around the world, and the growing concern for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women. GAHTS will continue to demonstrate that we support equity, opportunity, and full human rights, not because of a particular political persuasion, pressure from any government, or natural disaster, but because every human being has innate value and the right to be free, and we will continue to create knowledge that supports freedom.

- Celia Williamson, PhD

18th Annual International Human Trafficking & Social Justice Conference

Now accepting presentation submissions through
March 31st for the IHTSJ Conference hosted VIRTUALLY
on September 22-24, 2021.

Submit today at:

<https://www.traffickingconference.com/present-2021>





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GAHTS 2020 Progress Report

2020 was a successful year for the Global Association of Human Trafficking Scholars. Below are some of the highlights:



Increased Membership to
200 MEMBERS!

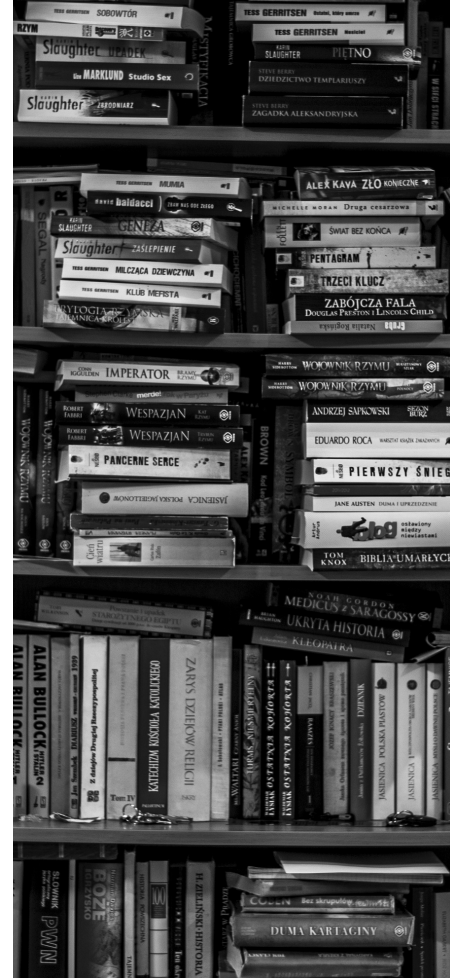
Expanded globally with members from 31 states and 24 countries



Created a perks systems for our various membership levels

Upcoming Workshops:

- **SOAR to Health and Wellness Virtual Human Trafficking Training:**
 - February 17th @ 1:00-3:00 pm EST
 - Designed to educate healthcare providers, social workers, public health professionals, and behavioral health professionals on how to identify, treat, and respond to those who are at risk or have been trafficked.
- **Ensure Justice 2021 Virtual Conference:**
 - March 5-6
 - Focus will be on early intervention solutions that build resilience, strengthen communities, and provide hope. Speakers will address topics such as resource scarcity, substance abuse and family violence, public health and mapping resources, and Adverse Childhood Experience tools.
- **The National Conference on Health and Domestic Violence- Futures Without Violence Virtual Conference:**
 - April 27-30
 - Features new research about risk and protective factors, physical/mental health effects of violence, health and advocacy-based innovations, and prevention; and partnerships between health management systems, providers, public health and Medicaid programs, legal systems, social service agencies, and domestic violence advocates.





Spotlight on a Researcher: Lauren Martin, PhD



Lauren Martin is an associate professor in the School of Nursing at the University of Minnesota. Her work uses qualitative, mixed-methods, collaborative and action research rooted in strengths, assets, meaning-making and experience to explore the ways that trading sex is a critical community health challenge, intertwined within other forms of structural oppression and violence. Specifically, Lauren works in collaborative teams to understand how the sex trades impact children and families, communities of color, indigenous people and other marginalized groups. She started this work with community partners in 2005. Lauren uses a community engaged and participatory action research approach in her work. Many people involved in transactional sex are marginalized and do not trust institutions, helping professions, law enforcement and researchers. In her work, Lauren has found that engaged approaches to research on sex trading, human trafficking, and community wellbeing are essential in order to build trust and engage people with lived experience in meaning-making. When those with lived experience who are most proximal to the issue are involved in research, we can better illuminate real-world implications, policy, prevention, and community health. Her most recent work focuses on three projects: (1) exploring the prevalence of sex trading among high school students, prevention, youth development and youth voice; (2) transdisciplinary research to develop mathematical models that identify the best ways to disrupt and dismantle trafficking operations; and (3) community-based work lead by Liberty Community Church's Northside Healing Space to promote rest, remembrance, resistance and revival for community healing from historical and racialized trauma leading to the sex trade. For more information visit: <https://uroc.umn.edu/sextrafficking>. For almost 10 years, Lauren was the Director of Research at the University of Minnesota's Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center (UROC); and she is an affiliated faculty member of UROC as well as at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs. In 2016, she was the recipient of the University of Minnesota, President's Engaged Scholar award. She conducts a wide range of community-based research on trauma, education, community development and more. Lauren received her PhD in Anthropology from the New School for Social Research in New York City. Her personal research mission is to co-create empirical knowledge in service of effective social change for justice and equity.

Lauren Martin's recent publications:

- **Martin, L.,** G. N. Rider, K. Johnston-Goodstar, B. Menanteau, C. Palmer, & B. McMorris (2020) Prevalence of Trading Sex among High School Students in Minnesota: Demographics, Relevant Adverse Experiences and Health-Related Statuses. *Journal of Adolescent Health*.
- Caulkins, J., Kammer-Kerwick, M., Konrad, R., Maass, K. L., **Martin, L,** & Sharkey, T. (2019). A Call to the Engineering Community to Address Human Trafficking, *The Bridge: National Academy of Engineering*. 49 (3), Fall 2019. 67-73.
- **Martin, L.,** & Hill, A. (2019) Debunking the Myth of Super Bowl Sex Trafficking: Media Hype Vs. Evidence-Based Coverage, *The Anti-Trafficking Review*. 13.
- **Martin, L.** (2019) Facilitation of Juvenile Sex Trafficking in a Community Context. In Dewey, S., Crowhurst, I., & Izugbara, C. (eds.), *International Handbook of Sex Industry Research* (Routledge).