



OPERATION UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

2023 MID-YEAR

IMPACT REPORT



O.U.R. MISSION STATEMENT

We lead the fight against child sex trafficking and sexual exploitation around the globe. Our work has no boundaries - we go to the darkest corners of the world to assist law enforcement in rescuing children and ensure ongoing aftercare. We provide critical resources to law enforcement and preventative efforts that benefit at-risk children worldwide. Our resolve never falters, and we will faithfully persevere until every child is safe.

In the first 6 months of 2023, the O.U.R. Operations Team has been instrumental in rescuing over **300 survivors** and apprehending more than **150 predators.**

INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS

The global scourge of human trafficking necessitates a strong alliance between law enforcement and anti-trafficking organizations. The O.U.R. Operations Team takes action by promptly responding to requests from foreign governments for assistance in

operations and investigations. Our support is tailored to each government entity, encompassing the deployment of skilled operatives, state-of-the-art resources, intelligence gathering, and beyond. Together, we tackle this issue head-on.





Thanks to your donations, 104 survivors have been repatriated in 2023.

Labor and sex traffickers employ a cunning strategy: enticing vulnerable women with the promise of lucrative jobs abroad. However, once these women reach their destination, their passports are taken away and not returned unless they pay, leaving them trapped in debt bondage. Desperate and with limited options, they are coerced into forced labor or subjected to sexual exploitation.

At O.U.R., we collaborate with governments across the globe to rescue these women and ensure their safe return home. Our mission is to provide them with the necessary resources for healing and recovery.

O.U.R. Aftercare is committed to empowering survivors of human trafficking and exploitation by providing them with the essential support they need to heal and move forward.

In 2023, we empowered over 325 new individual survivors by providing personalized support, in addition to the survivors we continually support year after year.

This could mean that our in-house therapist offered counseling sessions, we assisted them in launching thriving businesses, or that we offered unwavering support throughout their legal proceedings to ensure their needs were met.



O.U.R. continues to expand its network of aftercare alliances, ensuring the ongoing support for survivors worldwide.

In 2023, O.U.R. has collaborated with 47 new carefully selected organizations, aftercare homes, and nonprofits to meet the unique needs of individual survivors.

"This life isn't long enough to thank you for what you've done."

- Survivor



Voices of Survivors: Resilience, Strength, and Inspiration

“Kristi”, 18 years old, translated from Spanish

I fell into the street life, since my mother kicked me out of the house because of her ex-partner, since on several occasions he touched my private parts, I told my mother and she replied that these were my lies...

[Later,] I found out that my mother was offering me to “friends” that would pay me to have sexual relations. It happened several times, we would meet somewhere, and they always told me that my mother already had the money (She never gave me anything, she never told me anything, it was only what she wanted and that’s it). One day I got tired of that and called the police to ask for advice on what was happening, the lady who answered me helped me a lot, she listened to me, and I don’t know how, but she got me help.

She told me that when I was ready to present the case, she would be supporting me, and just like the people who were supporting me and giving me strength, right now I feel like a free woman, I don’t feel obligated to have to sell my body to be able to buy even a plate of food, I feel happy.

I am finishing my bachelor’s degree. When I graduate, I plan to study law and take the branch of defense for minors since I have so much heart to help children and adolescents.

Thanks to your generous donations, we have been able to provide Kristi with essential support, including safe housing, prenatal care, assistance with her studies, and support in navigating her new role as a mom.

“Thank you guys for all that you are doing for me. I will take advantage of every opportunity, you have given me the maximum. I am always grateful for O.U.R. Aftercare and to know that I am not alone.”

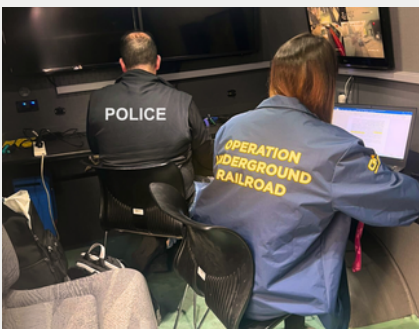
- Survivor

“O.U.R. taught me to love myself and helped me to understand that my body has no price. Not even 10 million dollars is enough to buy me.”

- Survivor

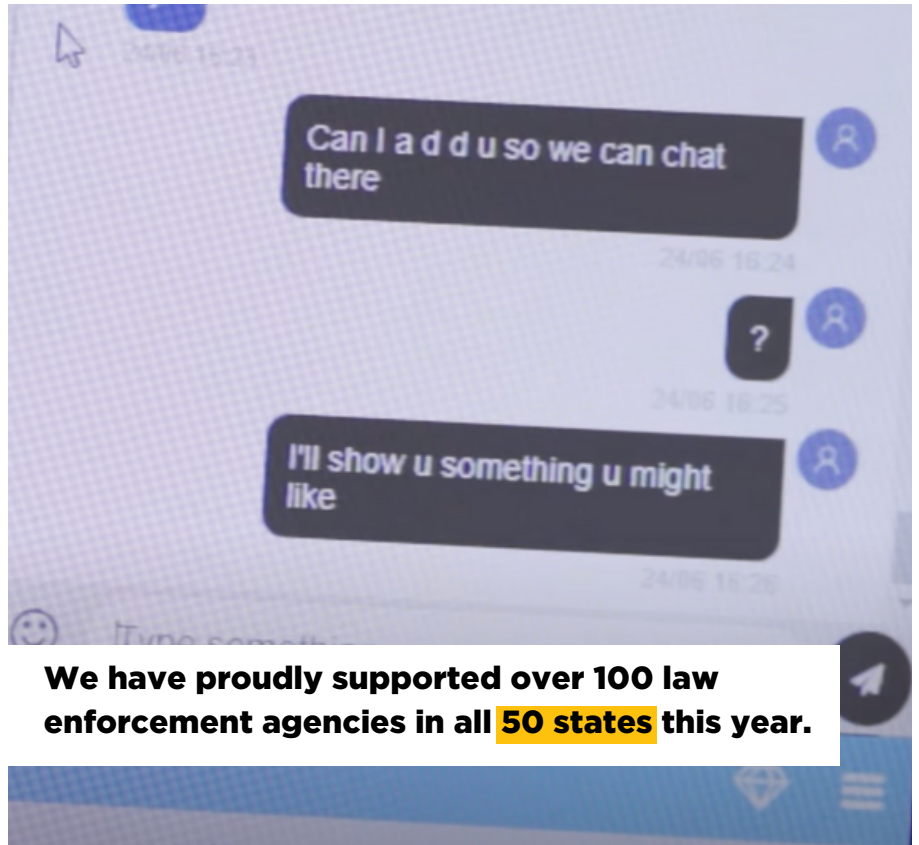


Operation Underground Railroad is committed to eradicating human trafficking and sexual exploitation worldwide. To achieve this, we have established regional operations directors and regional aftercare directors across the globe. Their presence ensures the development of essential resources for both survivors and governments.



"No one has ever told me that they would help me with no strings attached."

- Survivor



We have proudly supported over 100 law enforcement agencies in all 50 states this year.

Our domestic program is focused on building strong relationships with law enforcement agencies across all 50 states and multiple provinces in Canada. We don't duplicate the efforts of our brave police force; we amplify their fight against human trafficking and exploitation.

We provide essential funding to these agencies in key areas that directly impact anti-human trafficking efforts. This includes supplying forensic equipment like hardware and digital extraction software, Electronic Detection K9s, or scholarship funds to officers, allowing them to receive specialized training in this critical field.

Our Domestic Law Enforcement Relations Team has proudly supported over 100 law enforcement agencies in all 50 states this year.

We have a strong commitment to increasing our efforts in protecting children within our own country.



EUROPE

We recently assisted a survivor who was rescued in Greece and wished to return to Moldova. In a country where resources are scarce, we were able to offer her the personalized assistance she needed, ensuring her well-being and recovery. This emphasizes our mission to ensure that any survivor rescued in our operations receives the care they need.

The Greek Ministry of Public Safety and Citizenship Protection has now made O.U.R. and A21 part of the Greek National Action Plan to combat human trafficking there. This is based on the outstanding operations we have conducted there over the past year.

O.U.R. trained 48 of Romania's top police and prosecutors on how to interview underage victims of human trafficking and online and sexual exploitation while not causing further trauma. This was the first training of this type that these officers had received.

We signed a formal Cooperation Agreement with the Italian State Police to work with their Cyber Crimes Child Exploitation Unit. This agreement solidifies our partnership and footprint in the region.

In Bulgaria, we have invested in building a child center to provide crucial support for victims of pedophilia in an underserved community.





CENTRAL AMERICA

We are delighted to share that a survivor we rescued in 2018 recently completed an internship with O.U.R. Aftercare while pursuing a degree in social work.



Our funding and placement of two K9s in Costa Rica and Guatemala have proven to be invaluable assets to our police partnerships.

Through our undercover operations in Honduras and Belize, we were able to assist law enforcement in rescuing over 50 individuals and arresting 10 traffickers.

We have formed collaborations with key entities like Homeland Security and the US Embassy in Honduras, Belize, and Guatemala. As a result, we are now actively working joint operations alongside their Cyber Crimes Unit.

We answered the call from the Guatemalan government to implement a renovated victim receiving room for survivors attending court hearings. One survivor shared that before the remodel, they were reluctant to come, but now they are happy and enjoy playing games with their sibling.

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SOUTH AMERICA

In Peru, we successfully repatriated more than 40 survivors back to their home countries.

We stood by two courageous survivors as they bravely addressed the court during the sentencing of Herbert Fletcher, a 42-year-old American man who exploited minors in Colombia.

One brave survivor we work with in Colombia recently secured a business contract to produce uniforms for the navy unit that played a vital role in her rescue several years ago.

We played a crucial role in Argentina by delivering trauma-informed care training to government officials and NGOs, empowering them to improve support for survivors.

The Colombian National Police (CNP) DIJIN and the Colombian Immigration Police (PJI) successfully carried out a major operation with the support of the O.U.R. Operations Team. After months of gathering intelligence, they executed search and arrest warrants that resulted in the rescue of 10 females and the arrest of 10 members of a dangerous international criminal organization. O.U.R. played a vital role in this investigation, providing undercover agents, overall investigative assistance, and financial support.

In November 2022, O.U.R. empowered Peruvian law enforcement with Operation Steam Roller, aimed at bringing down a Transnational Criminal Organization. The initial operation successfully saved 99 victims, captured 30 criminals, and confiscated a variety of heavy weaponry, including grenades. Throughout the first half of 2023, Operation Steam Roller expanded into several related investigations, leading to the rescue of 84 more victims. Shockingly, among them were 8 children who had been held captive while their mothers were coerced into sex work. Additionally, 13 more individuals involved in these crimes were apprehended.



MEXICO & THE CARIBBEAN

Following our participation in Operation Catleya in late 2022, we continue to support numerous survivors. We are assisting six individuals in launching small businesses and empowering ten others in furthering their education.



Our operators have demonstrated remarkable flexibility and maintain active alliances with operational units in the Dominican Republic. One highlight was when our undercover teams collaborated seamlessly to intercept Dominican fugitives seeking refuge from the law after running a trafficking ring out of Haiti, Dominican Republic, the United States, and Canada.

We successfully signed an official alliance agreement with the Saint Lucian Government, achieving a significant milestone by helping them move from the Tier 2 Watch List to a Tier 2 rating in the official Trafficking in Persons report.

As a part of our new alliance in Saint Lucia, O.U.R. helped launch a national anti-human trafficking campaign that was aired on popular TV and radio stations, displayed on billboards along major highways, and showcased through eye-catching posters at the airports. We also provided top-notch forensic training to several agents at the St Lucia Police training facility and send our undercover agents to team up with the local police on operations, leading to the discovery of numerous new leads.



AFRICA & THE MIDDLE EAST

We have forged strong alliances with 10 aftercare shelters in Uganda and Ghana to provide comprehensive support to survivors of human trafficking and exploitation.

In Ghana, we stepped in to fund a crucial surgery for a brave young survivor who had suffered burn wounds as a result of her traumatic experiences.



In Kenya, we have two highly skilled members of our law enforcement team now embedded with the Nairobi and Mombasa Anti-Human Trafficking and Child Protection Units. Their crucial role involves triaging and analyzing cyber tips, assisting with investigations, and overseeing OUR funding. By working closely with local police colleagues, we are making a significant impact in the fight against these heinous crimes.

In Ghana, we have been building on our strong relationship with the police force by providing essential training and support to both police and immigration officers. Our efforts have recently been recognized when our involvement from the very beginning led to the conviction and a 50-year jail term for a man who had raped his daughters. This successful outcome highlights our commitment to supporting investigations and ensuring victim protection in the region.

ASIA

Across the countries we work in, numerous survivors have enrolled in university and trade school programs, and one remarkable individual recently graduated with a nursing assistant degree.



We implemented surveillance systems and a counseling / interview house at the border between Nepal and India. As a result, there are 40 girls intercepted every month.

We are actively combatting Online Sexual Exploitation of Children (OSEC Safeguard) in Thailand. Through targeted training sessions at multiple schools, we equip students with the knowledge and tools to protect themselves from online harm. Additionally, we have aided Thailand's new CSECC unit by providing essential office equipment and undercover training opportunities for one of their detectives.

In West Jakarta, we have established a Child Forensic Interview Room and Investigator Room at the local police station. By prioritizing the needs of victims, we provided a secure environment where children feel comfortable sharing vital information for legal proceedings. The investigator room promotes efficient collaboration among those fighting against child exploitation and human trafficking.



UNITED STATES & CANADA

“O.U.R. has been a godsend, considering the fiscal constraint my service operates under. Many rescued victims unknowingly owe much of their gratitude to O.U.R.”

-Officer from Medicine Hat, AB



Thanks to your generous donations, these agencies have been able to make over 600 arrests and successfully identify or rescue over 140 victims.

The K9 Handlers have reported incredible results with the K9s donated by O.U.R., with over 250 arrests made and over 120 victims rescued or identified through their invaluable assistance in investigations.

O.U.R. provided ten laptops to an aftercare home for minors so they can continue their schooling while in treatment.

We funded the repair of a survivor’s car engine, recognizing her financial constraints as she diligently pursues her education.



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