

Cast

COALITION TO
ABOLISH SLAVERY
& TRAFFICKING

Our Mission

Ending modern slavery through education, advocacy and empowering survivors of human trafficking.

Our Story

A Los Angeles–based nonprofit, CAST is one of the pioneers of the U.S. anti-trafficking movement. The organization was founded in 1998 by Dr. Kathryn McMahon, the Thai CDC and a group of community activists, in response to the discovery of 72 Thai workers that had been kept for seven years in slavery and debt bondage in Los Angeles County.

Our Work

CAST provides life-saving services to survivors of human trafficking and mobilizes citizens to build a future where modern slavery no longer plagues our communities, our city or our world. Through partnerships with over 100 cultural and faith-based community groups, healthcare organizations, government agencies and law enforcement, CAST provides support at every phase of a human trafficking survivor's journey to freedom.

24-HOUR HOTLINE

A call to CAST's 24/7 hotline is a first step towards freedom. (888) KEY-2-FREE | (888) 539-2373
The hotline provides around the clock response to victims of human trafficking and law enforcement and serves as a resource to the community for referrals, technical assistance and reporting potential human trafficking cases. CAST's emergency response team provides immediate, short-term services to ensure the safety and well-being of victims when they escape their trafficking situation.

SOCIAL SERVICES

CAST's intensive case management program offers a client-centered, trauma-informed approach to helping survivors along their journey to freedom and independence. The program begins with a comprehensive assessment to determine goals and necessary next steps. Services include basic necessities, safety planning, supportive counseling, medical, education, life skills training, employment, transportation, applying for state/federal benefits and more.

LEGAL SERVICES

The legal services program works collaboratively with survivors, community-based organizations, public-interest attorneys and numerous government agencies to ensure survivors of human trafficking are provided culturally-sensitive, victim-centered legal representation. Along with its in-house legal team, CAST's pro bono attorneys dedicate their time and talent assisting with immigration advocacy, criminal victim-witness advocacy, civil litigation, family law and cutting edge policy initiatives.

SHELTER

CAST's shelter provides physically and emotionally safe housing for trafficking survivors. Through a host of supportive programs and services, the shelter is designed to help clients establish independence and self-sufficiency, to build community and to expand their own supportive networks. Shelter residents are also taught skills in conflict resolution, job training, independent living and financial planning.

SURVIVOR LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

CAST's survivor leadership programs, the Survivor Advisory Caucus and National Survivor Network, bring together a community of survivors of human trafficking for peer-to-peer mentorship and survivor-led advocacy. Their voices on policy and public awareness have led to the development of stronger protections for victims in both California and federal anti-trafficking laws. By connecting survivors across the country, CAST is able to support and encourage survivors to realize their own leadership qualities and to value their insight, not just as survivors, but as experts in the field.

PUBLIC POLICY

Drawing from over 18 years of direct experience with survivors, CAST has catalyzed first-of-its-kind legislation and has won the respect and partnership of a diverse group of policy leaders. CAST begins all of its policy initiatives by engaging its main constituents – survivors themselves. Its policy initiatives center on survivor experiences and highlight survivor advocacy. CAST not only introduces anti-trafficking legislation at the local, state and federal level, but also works hard to ensure its implementation.

TRAINING & OUTREACH

CAST provides vital training to law enforcement, service providers, government agencies, law firms, corporations, faith-based organizations and community groups. It is a go-to resource for the media, policymakers, law enforcement and the philanthropic community to access information about modern slavery.

#itendswithus