



# **I AM YOU AND YOU ARE ME: THE AWARENESS PROJECT**

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The Leadership Scholars Certificate Program is a two-year selective, interdisciplinary certificate program that prepares Rutgers undergraduate women to be informed, innovative, and socially responsible leaders.

Leadership Scholars design and implement social action projects to expand their understanding of issues and problems and to develop leadership skills.

This project gives Scholars the opportunity to apply the theoretical knowledge they have gained about leadership, advocacy, and social change with the practical and experiential knowledge they have developed about a particular policy issue or problem through the field site placement. It also further develops leadership skills by giving undergraduates the opportunity to *practice leadership through* action.

To find out more please visit the Institute for Women's Leadership's website at <http://iwl.rutgers.edu>.

# MISSION STATEMENT

I am You and You are Me: The Awareness Project seeks to make visible the realities of International Human Trafficking within New Jersey. Human trafficking can happen to anyone and the public being aware of the issue is being allies to the victims and survivors and proving to them that they are not disposable.

I am You and You are Me is saying that no matter where the victims and survivors come from, they will be assisted and cared for as the next person because this is an issue that could happen to anyone.

- ❖ Gender-based sexual violence against women during wartime and peacetime.



- ❖ Took an interest in International Human Trafficking in the University Classroom.



- ❖ As I began to research, it became clear that International Human Trafficking is a hidden crime in the United States, according to John Oldham (2018), a psychologist.



# BACKGROUND

## **NEW JERSEY AS A HUB.**

- ❖ Human Trafficking: the use of force, fraud, and coercion in order to obtain some sort of commercial sex and labor.
- ❖ According to the Department of Health and Human Services, between 50,000 and 14 million individuals are brought into the United States annually and forced, coerced, and defrauded into providing sexual and labor services.
- ❖ Eileen Overbaugh (2009) defines New Jersey as a state that is a transportation hub and a farming center that allows for the movement of human trafficking on a regular basis and demands more labor.
- ❖ The places that human trafficking have been recorded at a high rate in NJ are Atlantic city, Plainfield, Newark, and Trenton. Specifically Bergen and Essex counties with 20 complaints and 147 statewide (Flammia, 2019).



## NEW JERSEY AS A HUB: STATISTICS

- ❖ The National Human Trafficking Hotline uses information from phone calls, texts, online chats, emails and hotline tip reports (Hotline statistics, 2019).
- ❖ According the NHTH, in 2019 there was a total of 11,500 human trafficking cases reported and out of 23 states, NJ was #12 with an estimate of 247 cases. 41 of the victims/survivors were Foreign Nationals and 17 were U.S. Citizens.
- ❖ According to the NHTH, since 2007, New Jersey has had an estimate of 4,624 cases of human trafficking.



Image: Trasatti, M., O'Rourke, A., Tuttle, H., & Cremer, P. (2019, September 06). <http://www.rmmagazine.com/2019/09/03/21519/>



# New Jersey Spotlight

## 2019 National Human Trafficking Hotline Statistics

The National Human Trafficking Hotline provides survivors of human trafficking with vital support and a variety of options to get help and stay safe. The data below do not represent the full scope of trafficking in New Jersey. Lack of awareness of human trafficking or of the National Hotline can lead to significant underreporting, particularly among labor trafficking populations or by certain racial or ethnic groups. However, this information can shed some light on trafficking in New Jersey which can help put traffickers out of business and help survivors find the services they need.

Victims Identified

**487**

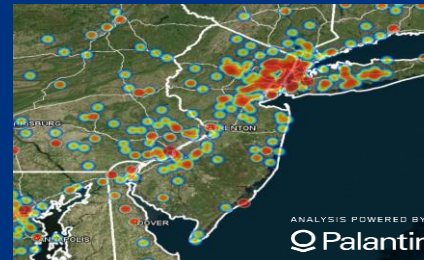
Traffickers Identified

**110**

Trafficking Businesses

**85**

### Locations of Trafficking<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup>Some cases may involve multiple locations.

### Communication to the National Hotline



Phone Calls  
**378**



Webforms  
**57**



Emails  
**11**



Texts  
**28**



Webchats  
**8**



The data in this report represents signals and cases from January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019 and is accurate as of July 30, 2020. Cases of trafficking may be ongoing or new information may be revealed to the National Hotline over time. Consequently, statistics may be subject to change as new information emerges.

### 247 Trafficking Cases



Sex Trafficking  
**207 Cases**

Sex & Labor Trafficking  
**13 Cases**

Labor Trafficking  
**19 Cases**

Form Not Specified<sup>2</sup>  
**8 Cases**

<sup>2</sup>Cases where trafficking type is not specified are typically a result of callers self-identifying as victims or service providers or law enforcement seeking referrals for trafficking victims without providing further details about the presence of forced work or forced commercial sex.

Source: Polaris Project, 2020. <https://polarisproject.org/myths-facts-and-statistics/>

# METHOD: DIGITAL PLATFORM

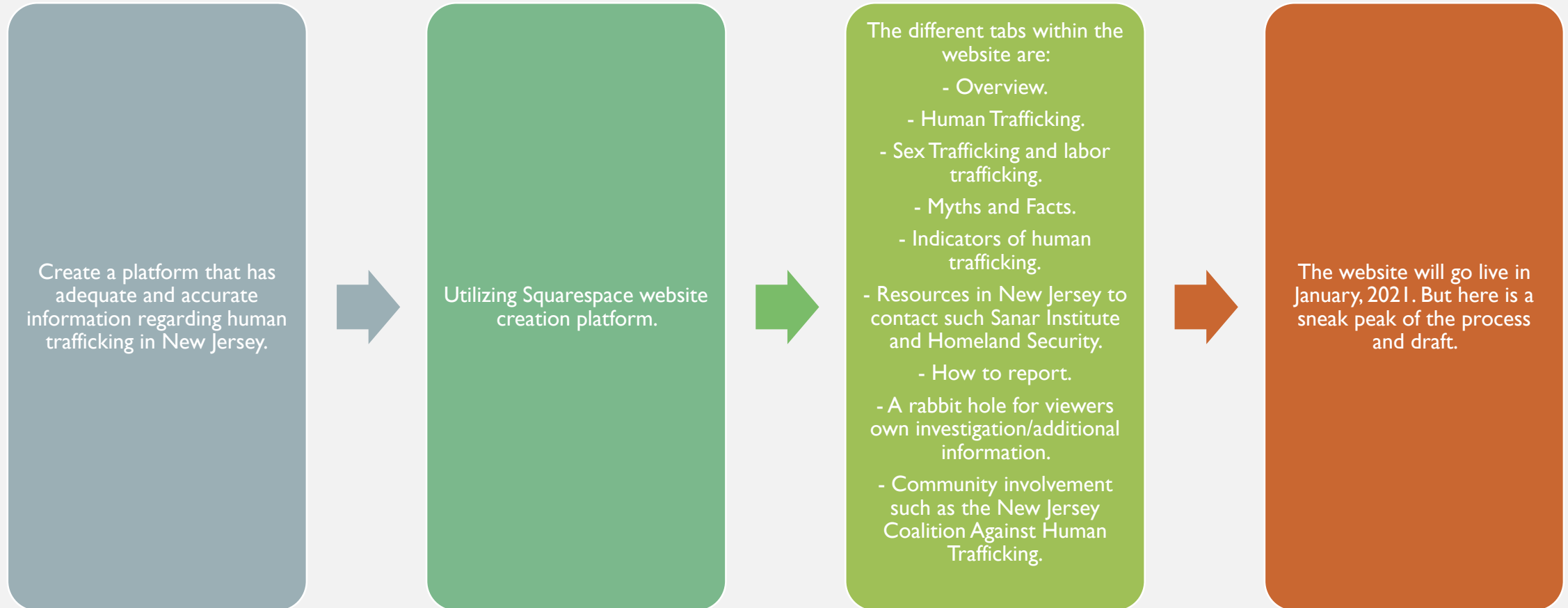






Image: Nguyen-Swift, A., & Myles, B. (2019, January 10). It is Time to Arm Financial Institutions with Weapons to Fight Human Trafficking. Retrieved from <https://www.acamstoday.org/it-is-time-to-arm-financial-institutions-with-weapons-to-fight-human-trafficking/>

Feminist Leadership: According to Overbaugh (2009), human trafficking is a phenomenon that typically targets women with the use of the “Boyfriending” method. However, this issue crosses gender lines. According to the NHTH, in the 247 cases NJ had in 2019, 207 were females, 26 males, and 3 gender minorities.

I have learned that the statistics provided by the Polaris Project and the NHTH are in reality more devastating than what they are able to provide. So, bringing awareness to this issue will give people the chance to report quickly and efficiently. This allows for organizations and law enforcement to have more statistics, so they can act accordingly.

The projected impact of my work is that awareness will lead to more action. The public will be more knowledgeable about these issues and know that they have a part to play in assisting in the fight to stop human trafficking.

Future Leadership Scholars can build on this work by researching and exploring how the concept of supply and demand has affected the continuous practice of human trafficking, especially internationally. Also, they could further analyze the implications of the T-visa.



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The image features a background of colorful confetti (yellow, green, red, blue, black) arranged in a circular pattern that radiates from a central point. A white rectangular box is overlaid on the image, containing the text "THANK YOU!" in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

**THANK YOU!**