

The Shared Hope Story

In 1998 when U.S. Congresswoman Linda Smith traveled into the heart of the brothel district in Mumbai, India she witnessed the brutal exploitation and sexual slavery of women and children, compelling her to establish Shared Hope International to rescue and restore women and children enslaved in sex trafficking.

Our Mission

Shared Hope International strives to prevent the conditions that foster sex slavery, restore victims of sex trafficking, and bring justice to vulnerable women and children. We envision a world passionately opposed to sex trafficking and a committed community restoring survivors to lives of purpose, value and choice – one life at a time. Today, we lead prevention strategies, restoration programs and justice initiatives to combat trafficking in the U.S. and abroad.



What We Do: Prevent

Training – We equip first responders and community members to identify warning signs and employ intervention techniques.

- **Do You Know Lacy? Training:** This comprehensive training is designed to build a collaborative response among law enforcement, prosecutors, juvenile service providers, Defenders, youth advocates, and community members. Our team of national experts educates participants on key indicators of trafficking, methods of pimp control and recruitment, effective intervention techniques, practical action steps, and more.
- **Intervene Training:** This training course was developed by a multi-disciplinary committee of experts and survivors in the field of service provision for victims of domestic minor sex trafficking. This specialized training provides an in-depth look at the issue of DMST through the lens of service providers, along with insight and tools to effectively reach sexually exploited youth.
- **Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking Training:** This training tool offers a comprehensive guide to domestic minor sex trafficking

and the law, the role of vulnerability, pimp control, and effective responses. The accompanying 40-minute training video offers four 10-minute instructional courses that expand upon information presented in the guide and allows viewers to witness indicators and displays of trafficking.

Research – Our research promotes the creation of promising practices and the development of effective intervention and response.

- **DEMAND. Report (2007):** This study was commissioned by the U.S. Department of State, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons to serve as a comparative investigation of the commercial sex markets in Jamaica, Japan, the Netherlands and the United States.
- **The National Report on Domestic Sex Trafficking (America's Prostituted Children (2009):** Investigation into child sex trafficking in the U.S. is compiled in this report which reveals 100,000 American children are exploited through prostitution each year – the average age of entrance only 13 years old.
- **Rapid Assessments on Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (2009-2011):** Rapid assessments measured and evaluated the access to and delivery of services for victims in a community. Law enforcement, prosecutors, public defenders, juvenile detention, juvenile court, nongovernmental/ service provider organizations, and child protection organizations were interviewed to understand how a victim would be identified and routed through the criminal justice system or social service system for treatment.

Awareness – We advance the prioritization of this issue by initiating campaigns that raise alarm in communities.

- **Do You Know Lacy? National Billboard Campaign:** This campaign is part of the Do You Know Lacy? comprehensive awareness strategy. Advocates can rally their community to raise funds to purchase ad space on a billboard, and Shared Hope provides the art. The billboard campaign has been featured in over 10 states.
- **The Defenders USA:** This is a coalition of men who are opposed to all forms of commercialized sex; who take a pledge, and take action. Defenders educate, equip, and empower men to fight against the demand side of domestic minor sex trafficking.

Collaboration – We share our expertise and resources to accelerate solutions to combat trafficking.

Restore

Programs and Partners – We provide funding and hands-on support for safe homes, medical care, education, vocational training, therapy, and outreach and intervention services for survivors through programs operated by local partners in Fiji, India, Jamaica, Nepal and the U.S.

Women's Investment Network Program – Shared Hope's WIN training program is designed to help women develop skills and gain practical job experience. Our nine-month WIN training program, provides opportunity for these women to learn job skills so they can enter/reenter the work force and support themselves and their families. In addition to job skills, the women learn how to work in a professional business environment and develop personal life skills so they can begin to build confidence and self-esteem.

Restorative Shelter Working Group (RSWG) – A national network of experts on service and shelter provision to U.S. citizen victims of sex trafficking. The group acknowledges the critical importance of survivor leaders working in conjunction with other subject matter experts, such as child trauma experts, psychologists, forensic pediatricians, social workers, and victim advocates to deliver the highest quality care, enabling victims to be restored and reach their full potential.



Bring Justice

Policy Development – Our initiatives advance the development of stronger, targeted legislation and policy to combat injustice and protect victims.

- **The Protected Innocence Challenge:** Designed to inspire and equip advocates and bring accountability to states, this comprehensive law analysis provides an annual Report Card on the sufficiency of child sex trafficking laws in each state and recommendations for improvement.

Legislative Action – We offer a comprehensive online legislative action center to connect activists with legislators to advocate for stronger laws. We track bills, host advocacy days, and provide expert testimony at congressional hearings and briefings to prioritize this issue at a state and federal level.



Linda Smith

President and Founder

Shared Hope International
(U.S. Congress 1995-99)

About Our Founder

Linda Smith is a leader in the global movement to end sex trafficking of women and children around the world. Linda is the primary author of *From Congress to the Brothel and Renting Lacy* and co-author of *The National Report on Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking: America's Prostituted Children* and the *DEMAND* Report. As a foremost expert on the issue, Linda has testified before Congress, presented at national and international forums, participated in

more than 300 media interviews, and has been published in news outlets around the world. Linda served as a Washington State legislator (1983-93), before she was elected to the U.S. Congress in 1994. Her compassionate and uncompromising belief that every individual has dignity has carried her from advocating for permanent safe homes for children in the State Senate, to the halls of Congress, and ultimately to searching out victims in red light districts around the world.