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Ep: 34 | Fighting For Freedom: Uniting Against Global Sex Trafficking with Jackie Ellwood, Atlas Free | [SHOW TRANSCRIPT](#)

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00:01.25

Stephanie Jacobs

Jackie, welcome to the Love Light Stories podcast. Thank you for joining me today.

00:06.75

Jackie

Thank you so much for having me. I'm looking forward to our conversation today.

00:11.03

Stephanie Jacobs

Yes, I am as well. And I'm guessing our listeners are too. We're talking about a really, really important topic that I don't think we all fully understand yet, which is human trafficking in its various forms.

00:25.51

Stephanie Jacobs

um So if we could just like jump into the topic of trafficking from the very start and just help us understand the intricacies of it.

00:34.96

Jackie

he Absolutely. Well, human trafficking is really when someone is profiting from the abuse of another human being. So that could be for labor or for sex.

00:47.37

Jackie

And the human trafficking industry is is massive. It's actually the fastest growing criminal enterprise in the world, which is hard to wrap our brains around. and But it generates over \$200 billion dollars worldwide of illegal funds.

01:04.51

Jackie

And so it's a really profitable business. And I'll talk a little bit about that. But within human trafficking is sex trafficking. And that's what we're going to be focusing on today.

01:15.36

Jackie

And that is really when someone is using force, um lies, coercion to force someone to do a commercial sex act. So that could be in private.

01:26.03

Jackie

That could be um through prostitution or producing things like pornography. And so it's a massive industry. Sex trafficking specifically is truly making the world unsafe for six million men, women and children.

01:41.54

Jackie

So it's and it's growing.

01:42.06

Stephanie Jacobs

Mm-hmm.

01:44.00

Jackie

And so when we look at sex trafficking and just human trafficking in general, We want to look at what are kind of the main drivers? What is causing this to be a profitable industry? What is causing people to be trapped in exploitation? And so um there's really four key areas.

02:04.57

Jackie

and One is traffickers target vulnerable people. People who don't have jobs, don't have stability for one reason or another are ah perfect target.

02:15.54

Jackie

for a trafficker to to lure in somebody, to lie to them, to offer them an opportunity that is not what they think that it seems.

02:16.75

Stephanie Jacobs

Yeah. Yeah.

02:19.15

Stephanie Jacobs

yeah

02:25.00

Jackie

um The second is really barriers to freedom. So what that means is when someone's trafficked, it's really hard to get out of the life um because of physical harm, psychological harm, um many many different factors.

02:34.13

Stephanie Jacobs
yeah

02:40.48

Jackie

And so if there's no option or opportunity for them to escape, then it's it's really hard to get out of the life. And so you just continue that cycle of being trapped.

02:52.25

Stephanie Jacobs

Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

02:54.56

Jackie

The third is a weak justice system. So at the end of the day, if we cannot hold perpetrators accountable um for buying and selling human beings, then it continues to thrive, right?

03:06.29

Jackie

And so um over um over the last four years, there's um human trafficking convictions have dropped. by 25%.

03:15.74

Stephanie Jacobs

man

03:17.86

Jackie

And so it's a significant problem that has to continually be addressed and educated about. Um, and otherwise a weak justice system just doesn't hold anybody accountable for, for the human trafficking issue.

03:32.28

Jackie

Um, and then the fourth is, is demand.

03:32.60

Stephanie Jacobs

Right.

03:34.04

Jackie

You know, if you, you've got people who are wanting to buy human beings, they're wanting to buy sex. And so if you don't make it, um,

03:45.50

Jackie

problematic for someone who is purchasing, um or you don't raise awareness for why it's wrong, then the demand doesn't go away.

03:51.33

Stephanie Jacobs
yeah

03:53.03
Jackie

And therefore that that industry continues to thrive. And so We kind of summarize that across those those four areas, that that's those are really the the key drivers that um move the human trafficking industry, that that make it thrive, and that ultimately make it really hard for someone who's been exploited to lead the life of exploitation and experience the freedom of dignity and worth that we all deserve and all were born to have.

04:25.36
Jackie

um And so, yeah, so that's kind of at at large, you know, what human trafficking is and how it how it ah how it thrives.

04:25.51
Stephanie Jacobs
Right.

04:33.91
Stephanie Jacobs

Yes, definitely. Thank you for sharing that with us because I think human trafficking in general tends to be a topic that we don't ah we don't see very often. Like we hear about it, but we don't see it around us.

04:44.91
Jackie
Yeah.

04:46.01
Stephanie Jacobs
And that's by design, right?

04:46.94
Jackie
hmm. Mm hmm.

04:47.53
Stephanie Jacobs
Like it's this hidden underground world.

04:48.60
Jackie
Mm hmm. Mm

04:50.61
Stephanie Jacobs
a network, I guess you could say, in a lot of ways.

04:53.53

Jackie
hmm.

04:53.69

Stephanie Jacobs

And so can you just share a little bit too about how um sneaky or or how these things kind of come about, if that makes sense?

05:03.27

Jackie

Mm-hmm. Yeah. I mean, at the end of the day, traffickers are cunning, they're smart, they're highly networked. And so they're able to move people in and out of spaces um in the shadows.

05:19.25

Stephanie Jacobs

Hmm.

05:19.25

Jackie

A lot of what happens happens online. um And it just depends on the country and the region. In some areas, trafficking is very much in the front of culture. It's happening on the street.

05:34.03

Jackie

It's happening in in bars and clubs. Some areas of the world, it's commercial um industries that are driving tourism. People are coming to buy sex from that location. And so that's a little bit more in front.

05:49.76

Stephanie Jacobs

Wow.

05:49.78

Jackie

But in a lot of cases, it's online, it's on the black market, its it's happening behind closed doors. It's happening in places that we don't even realize. I remember walking through um a market one time that was just, you know, as your general market with food and um and just different goods. And when you walked all the way to the back of the market is where all of that was taking place.

06:18.52

Stephanie Jacobs

wow

06:18.93

Jackie

And so you wouldn't even know unless you knew to search for that.

06:23.60

Stephanie Jacobs

Mm-hmm.

06:23.77

Jackie

um But there's a lot of um grooming that's happening right in front of us that we just don't always see. And so we'll talk about a little bit of how to stay safe online later, but so much of that is happening online and there's things that we can be doing to be more aware of it.

06:43.49

Jackie

um But I think what makes it so sneaky is that oftentimes traffickers are targeting people that they know. So it could be a neighbor, it could be a friend, it could be a family member.

06:58.35

Jackie

um Oftentimes a victim knows, um or there's some kind of circle familiarity of the person who ends up trafficking them.

07:07.07

Stephanie Jacobs

Oh, wow. Okay.

07:08.62

Jackie

And so that's, yeah.

07:08.75

Stephanie Jacobs

So they have like this little bit of trust already established.

07:12.17

Jackie

Yes, yes.

07:12.28

Stephanie Jacobs

So it's easier. Wow.

07:14.24

Jackie

Mm hmm.

07:14.56

Stephanie Jacobs

Okay. Okay.

07:15.76

Jackie

And so that's, that makes it challenging, right? Because you you think you know someone, um but oftentimes you don't, you don't know the ulterior motive.

07:19.40

Stephanie Jacobs

Mm-hmm.

07:26.78

Jackie

and And so and and ah and sometimes it's what we call the lover boy method, right? Where Someone is targeting maybe a young girl or boy and um they're vulnerable for whatever reason and and develop a relationship with them um over time.

07:40.07

Stephanie Jacobs

Yeah.

07:45.36

Jackie

And traffickers are patient. I mean, really, they're patient and they're willing to really groom someone and develop a relationship with someone in some cases um so that it becomes incredibly confusing and deceiving.

08:00.14

Stephanie Jacobs

yeah

08:00.28

Jackie

um of what's actually happening to you. And so that development of trust happens also on the side of the trafficker oftentimes. And so that's what makes it so sneaky in a lot of cases.

08:13.21

Stephanie Jacobs

Right, right. Wow, very scary.

08:14.58

Jackie

Mm-hmm.

08:15.97

Stephanie Jacobs

Okay, we'll probably get into that a little bit more later in the conversation, but help us understand what you at Atlas Free do and your different focus areas, your model, um and how you work ultimately to fight against this trafficking.

08:16.38

Jackie

Mm-hmm.

08:27.34

Jackie

Mm-hmm.

08:30.85

Jackie

Yes. Wellness is the best part, right? Because although it is a massive issue, there is so much hope in freedom. There is so much hope in the individuals whose lives are completely transformed as a result of providing a way out and providing resources to heal.

08:48.48

Stephanie Jacobs

Yeah.

08:50.15

Jackie

And I've been with Atlas Free for seven years and it's been a journey, but it's been truly a joy to, um, to see life change and not just immediate life change, but, um, long-term life change for these survivors and to watch them find their voice.

09:11.43

Jackie

And so, um, that's what we, that's what we celebrate and that's what we, we strive for.

09:11.66

Stephanie Jacobs

yeah

09:16.41

Jackie

So Atlas Free is working in 26 countries around the world, um, including the United States, to fight sex trafficking and to ultimately put sex trafficking out of business is what we like to say.

09:30.48

Stephanie Jacobs

Mm hmm.

09:32.00

Jackie

um it's ah Right now, it's a very profitable business model and it's very low risk because there's very little accountability for traffickers.

09:43.26

Jackie

So we are tackling those four areas that I talked about, those four vulnerabilities that And i' I'll go through those. So one is we do a lot of work on targeted prevention. So what that means is increasing awareness.

09:57.94

Jackie

There are so many corners of the world that are unaware that when someone comes to their village and offers them a job, that that is not a real job.

10:07.82

Stephanie Jacobs

Yeah.

10:07.79

Jackie

They're not going to have money.

10:08.01

Stephanie Jacobs

Mm-hmm.

10:08.96

Jackie

And it's a lie. And so raising awareness for these families and these communities of what is trafficking look like and what are the signs and how can we um help prevent your family member from being trafficked is critical.

10:26.32

Jackie

And we'll talk about an example in a bit, but some of it's education too. a lot of um those who are targeted are young, right? They're under the age of 18. And so they're already vulnerable. And if um They're given an opportunity for safety, an opportunity for education um or vocational training if they're older.

10:49.01

Jackie

and That is all part of preventing the the lie of trafficking and and um ultimately being able to. ah avoid um that kind of offer.

11:01.32

Stephanie Jacobs

Yeah. Yeah.

11:01.40

Jackie

So targeted prevention is one way that we're working on tackling sex trafficking. The second is survivor care. So that means a couple of things. so One is providing a way out of the life of exploitation.

11:13.61

Stephanie Jacobs

yeah

11:15.05

Jackie

So providing freedom for people to escape the life. Um, ah Some are, ah everybody's escaping in in different ways, but ultimately they need ah way out of the life of exploitation and then they need a place to go.

11:28.58

Jackie

And so we are offering residential and non-residential care for survivors all around the globe um to receive trauma-informed counseling, which is critical. This is touch a deeply complicated ah psychological challenge and healing journey.

11:46.92

Stephanie Jacobs

Yeah. Right.

11:48.39

Jackie

and And then things like medical care, in many cases, education, vocational training, essentially all the tools that someone would need to begin to heal and then to ultimately start a new life.

12:01.85

Jackie

um And so that's a big part of what we do.

12:01.96

Stephanie Jacobs

right

12:04.59

Jackie

and the third is the policy and advocacy. So ultimately, we're working with the US government, states, and then countries all over the world to um to build laws for protecting the victim and to hold and to hold perpetrators accountable.

12:23.83

Jackie

So how do we effectively make sure that a victim is protected, even if they have a record?

12:29.27

Stephanie Jacobs

Yeah.

12:31.45

Jackie

um And then how do we ultimately um get traffickers behind bars to pay the the time? for a the injustice that they've done. And so a lot of the focus is on that so that we can strengthen the justice system.

12:46.24

Stephanie Jacobs

Right.

12:46.63

Jackie

and then the And then the fourth is perpetrator accountability.

12:46.92

Stephanie Jacobs

Right.

12:49.27

Jackie

So that's addressing that and demand piece. And we actually do a lot of this in the United States. We'll talk about that a little bit. But if there's no consequences to buying sex, then it That's just not going to go away.

13:01.23

Jackie

Right. We have sinful nature in our world.

13:01.90

Stephanie Jacobs

Right.

13:04.64

Jackie

And so how do we make it costly for someone to purchase sex? How do we educate someone who is so that they can understand that what they're doing is is illegal and is taking away the dignity of a human being?

13:18.60

Jackie

um And so those are kind of the four key areas that Atlas Free is is tackling to ultimately make a huge difference in the fight against sex trafficking and We are able to do this through a network of partners. So there's over 100 local organizations that we have found that are experts in their field. they They know the language, the culture, they know where the red light districts are. And we essentially come alongside them in various ways.

13:50.74

Jackie

And we work together to fight sex trafficking in their region. And because we do it this way, um we're able to have a massive impact. um ah across the globe in the fight against sex trafficking, that's really only possible by by doing it that way.

14:07.10

Jackie

um And it's effective because it's local, right? And so um in in so many cases, and victims are, ah they need a familiar environment.

14:09.91

Stephanie Jacobs

Yeah.

14:18.00

Jackie

they They have, at every country, trafficking looks different. And so the healing process and the services that they're going to need look vastly different.

14:28.14

Jackie

And so we have to take a localized approach in order to help someone heal as an individual um based on their needs. So that's what we're doing Atlas Free.

14:37.69

Stephanie Jacobs
Right, right.

14:40.43

Jackie

And we've been growing over the last several years. And right now, because of this network, where be we're able to um provide freedom for eight men, women, and children every day.

14:54.22

Stephanie Jacobs
That is insane.

14:54.75

Jackie
So

14:55.42

Stephanie Jacobs
That's amazing.

14:55.72

Jackie
Which is insane.

14:56.26

Stephanie Jacobs
Yes.

14:56.56

Jackie
Yes, it's incredible.

14:56.82

Stephanie Jacobs
Yes.

14:58.43

Jackie

And it's incredible growth. and But at the end of the day, that's eight people. you know While we're sitting here talking, and that's eight people that are able to start their life over again and to have restored dignity and freedom that they deserve.

15:12.50

Stephanie Jacobs
Yeah.

15:17.72

Jackie
Mm-hmm.

15:18.10

Stephanie Jacobs

Right, right. Wow. Could we just dig into your network members a little bit and understand that for those listening?

15:24.78

Jackie

Mm-hmm.

15:25.19

Stephanie Jacobs

um Because I think it's very important and unique in that you're able to coordinate your efforts right across the globe in this work.

15:32.01

Jackie

Yes. Mm-hmm.

15:34.78

Stephanie Jacobs

And like you said, that's really necessary to kind of fight against this issue.

15:37.56

Jackie

Mm-hmm.

15:39.44

Stephanie Jacobs

And so how does and how do you support your network members or what does that network look like, I guess?

15:39.66

Jackie

Mm-hmm.

15:46.34

Jackie

Yeah, that's a great question. So essentially, we come alongside them with funding, and we are providing mentorship, resources, um we do conferences ah with many of them.

15:59.64

Jackie

And it's essentially um providing a connection point, you know, a lot of these um individual organizations are alone.

15:59.88

Stephanie Jacobs

Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

16:08.80

Jackie

There's, there's one that I'm going to talk about that's literally in a remote village in Uganda. They, there is no one else around them. And so this network also allows these organizations to connect with each other.

16:17.13

Stephanie Jacobs

no

16:22.86

Jackie

And the power of that is that we don't have time or resources, um, to reinvent the wheel.

16:32.84

Stephanie Jacobs

Yeah.

16:32.94

Jackie

We need to be sharing knowledge, sharing expertise, and, um, and sharing resources to be able to do this the best that we can all over the world.

16:44.89

Jackie

um And there are different cultural contexts and each network member will take those resources and utilize them in the way that makes the most sense in their region. But ultimately they don't feel alone anymore.

16:58.90

Jackie

They're connected with each other to be able to do their work the best that they can in their region.

17:05.00

Stephanie Jacobs

Mm-hmm.

17:06.09

Jackie

And then also on kind of a practical level, and there's a lot of situations where ah women and children are being trafficked to another country. And so and there are situations where they need to be sent back or repatriated to their country of origin if it's safe for them.

17:24.38

Jackie

And so there are so many examples of how we've been able to actually bring them back home because we have a network member in both locations, both where they were trafficked as well as where their home is.

17:38.83

Jackie

And we're able to do that safely because as I said earlier, traffickers are networked, they're smart.

17:41.14

Stephanie Jacobs

Yeah. Mm-hmm.

17:45.59

Jackie

And so they're going to be waiting on the other side. And so we need a safe, um, place And we need a safe person to meet them at the airport.

17:56.14

Jackie

We need a safe and and secure location for that person to then be able to go back home. And so at the end of the day, that's only possible if network members know each other and are able to connect and trust each other.

18:12.52

Jackie

in that And so that's really why that's really how this works.

18:14.15

Stephanie Jacobs

Right.

18:17.38

Jackie

And so Atlas Free is working to facilitate those connections um to and meet with them on one to help mentor them as they are growing their nonprofit.

18:22.12

Stephanie Jacobs

Mm

18:29.78

Jackie

Right. Ultimately, the goal is that all of these network members are growing because we have a lot of work to do.

18:34.86

Stephanie Jacobs

hmm.

18:37.08

Jackie

And anything that we can do to help facilitate that is is a win for for the human trafficking space.

18:44.99

Stephanie Jacobs

Yeah. And essentially, as you mentioned, the traffickers are well-networked. And so you fighting against that also have to be well-networked, right?

18:52.83

Jackie

Yes, yes, absolutely.

18:53.36

Stephanie Jacobs

Yeah. All right. So you mentioned Uganda. Let's hop into some of the work that you're doing internationally. um Just share about, why don't we start with Uganda? Share share what's going on there.

19:04.60

Jackie

Yes, yes. So there's some pictures that you can see on the podcast page for a couple of these examples. But I wanted to highlight our work in Uganda. and In this remote village that I was speaking to, um women and girls are sold for less than the price of a goat, which is just hard to imagine.

19:28.98

Jackie

and But it is a like I said, it's a remote area. So um what had been happening up to this point is if once women were rescued in this area,

19:41.23

Jackie

They were taken to safe homes that just didn't look like their home. It just didn't um feel like their home. And so there was less success for them in their healing journey.

19:53.05

Jackie

And so and a network member that we are now partnering with decided to do it differently and create a space that emulated their home.

20:04.20

Stephanie Jacobs

yeah.

20:04.20

Jackie

And so you'll see in the picture that their huts, they, they look like the huts that these women, um, came from their, their homes that they came from.

20:08.17

Stephanie Jacobs

yeah

20:14.75

Jackie

Um, but they're, they're beautiful inside and they're safe homes for these women to, um, go through their journey of healing. And, um, we partnered with them and were able to, um, double their capacity. So we were able to help them build three more huts, um, because there's,

20:33.46

Jackie

a lot of women who need these safe homes.

20:36.57

Stephanie Jacobs

Yeah.

20:36.66

Jackie

And so um the picture really does it justice, but um each hut is really just a beautiful picture of dignity and freedom. These women are able to go through the healing process and they are having a higher success rate for women staying out of the life of exploitation and successfully healing.

20:55.77

Jackie

um On average, it takes about seven times for someone to leave the life of exploitation to stay out of the life of exploitation.

21:02.25

Stephanie Jacobs

wow

21:05.87

Jackie

So in many cases, an environment that they feel safe in that they recognize is critical to their healing journey.

21:16.81

Jackie

They can be given an opportunity to leave the life, but the psychological, emotional, and physical trauma that they've gone through makes it really hard to stay out.

21:27.43

Jackie

of the life of exploitation. And so, and so providing a place like that is as critical to their success.

21:34.16

Stephanie Jacobs

and

21:34.63

Jackie

And so, yeah.

21:35.57

Stephanie Jacobs

Can you dig into that a little bit more? um What makes it so hard for them to stay out for those of us listening?

21:43.89

Jackie

Absolutely. and So we have a very specific trauma-informed counseling program that we share with our entire network.

21:51.70

Stephanie Jacobs

Mm-hmm.

21:54.66

Jackie

And it is a combination of a lot of different methods because human trafficking, when you're trafficked, you have multiple traumas. So like you and i we have trauma in our lives and from various things like car accidents or a situation that we've been in.

22:12.58

Jackie

um There's trauma all around us, right?

22:12.66

Stephanie Jacobs

Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

22:14.58

Jackie

And so ah trafficking victim is experiencing trauma on a massive level every single day. They're being bought and sold regularly. um multiple times a night,

22:27.62

Jackie

um That's multiple traumas a night. um In addition to that, they're often abused by their trafficker as well. um And then in a lot of cases, their families are being threatened.

22:39.87

Jackie

um There's just a lot of different factors. And so what that means is the trauma is so deep that often there's a trauma bond that develops between the victim and the trafficker.

22:48.87

Stephanie Jacobs

Mm-hmm.

22:51.78

Jackie

And so even if a way is offered out, first of all, they don't trust. anyone? Why would you trust anyone anymore?

23:01.78

Stephanie Jacobs

yeah

23:01.85

Jackie

um And so trying to build that trust with someone to offer a way out um takes time and um and relationship building.

23:13.73

Jackie

and And oftentimes because of that trauma bond, it's it's really hard for them to understand that um that they deserve better.

23:24.32

Jackie

And so oftentimes it's this psychological lie that they don't deserve anything different, that they don't deserve anything better.

23:31.54

Stephanie Jacobs

The shame and guilt.

23:33.97

Jackie

There's shame and guilt.

23:34.79

Stephanie Jacobs

Yeah.

23:35.20

Jackie

Absolutely. um And yeah, there's, there's a lot of different factors, but at the end of the day, so much of it is that psychological manipulation um that is happening.

23:45.94

Stephanie Jacobs

Right.

23:47.88

Jackie

That makes it really challenging to believe that there's something better and that something better is even safe for them.

23:52.91

Stephanie Jacobs

Right. Right. Okay. That makes a lot of sense. Thank you for explaining that because um I can imagine, you know, you do hear stories of people escaping on their own.

24:04.85

Stephanie Jacobs

And um so when you hear those stories and then you hear that there's people going back, you start to wonder why they might be going back.

24:05.19

Jackie

Yes.

24:10.83

Jackie

Mm

24:12.20

Stephanie Jacobs

But is it perhaps the people that are escaping? Are they often escaping early on in the trafficking situation where they're less... um enveloped in this trauma or is that not necessarily the case?

24:25.20

Jackie

hmm. That's.

24:28.36

Jackie

It's a great question. It's not necessarily the case.

24:30.52

Stephanie Jacobs

Okay. Okay.

24:31.26

Jackie

and Yeah. so So the likelihood of going back to the life is is similar in either scenario, whether someone is escaping on their own or escaping with assistance.

24:38.75

Stephanie Jacobs

Okay.

24:43.21

Jackie

It just depends on how long they've been trafficked, to what kind of trafficking they're experiencing. and and even how young they were, right, um when they were trafficked.

24:51.82

Stephanie Jacobs

Mm-hmm.

24:54.00

Jackie

So a lot of different factors.

24:55.45

Stephanie Jacobs

Okay.

24:56.68

Jackie

But, yeah, it's a good question. Mm-hmm.

24:58.42

Stephanie Jacobs

Yeah. Okay.

24:59.59

Jackie

Mm-hmm.

24:59.69

Stephanie Jacobs

Well, um let's go back to the work that you're doing internationally. um We talked about the safe homes in Uganda. Is there anything else you wanted to say on that before we move forward to anywhere else you're working?

25:05.87

Jackie

Mm-hmm.

25:10.37

Jackie

No, that's great. That's great.

25:11.52

Stephanie Jacobs

Okay.

25:11.97

Jackie

it's It's one example of of of many. Yeah.

25:15.23

Stephanie Jacobs

Yeah. Yes. Yes.

25:16.36

Jackie

Yeah.

25:16.59

Stephanie Jacobs

Okay. So how about um in Mexico? I know there were some things you wanted to share there.

25:22.23

Jackie

Yes. Yes. um So we just had a team go down and actually visit the the network member recently. And um so I was able to get some recent photos that you will get to see of of this facility. But um this we are operating a an elementary school in a red light district in Tijuana.

25:42.52

Jackie

And um this is relevant always, but especially relevant um at this time today. um They're reaching some of the poorest children in Mexico.

25:48.96

Stephanie Jacobs

Yes.

25:51.69

Jackie

And for many of these kids, their moms or their siblings are potentially being trafficked or they may be under the control of a cartel or a gang within the region.

26:04.53

Jackie

And so um these kids are able to in the red light district, go to a safe location and receive an education. And so like we were talking about earlier, that that's that prevention piece for many of them is if they don't have another option, they will fall into the same situation as a family member or a friend

26:18.31

Stephanie Jacobs

yes

26:29.84

Jackie

it's, it's inevitable. And so the um way to provide freedom for kids is going to be that education component. So it's a school that's operating there. And um just within the last year, there was a story that we were able to, to talk about a little bit of a nine year old girl. And she had, she's part of the school.

26:52.76

Jackie

And, um, a trafficker approached her and offered her an opportunity. And she said no.

27:00.94

Stephanie Jacobs

Wow.

27:01.28

Jackie

And she said no because she has a safe place to be. and She's at school. She's getting an education. She has friends. She has a community. She has mentors who are looking out for her, um who are monitoring what's happening around her to prevent her from being trafficked. And that's just one one story of the power of the prevention component.

27:26.98

Stephanie Jacobs

right

27:28.82

Jackie

And that specifically is critical um in many regions, but in Tijuana, especially. And so ah many of the moms are just being marginalized and controlled under drugs. And and so it's it's it's hope.

27:46.22

Jackie

It's hope in the middle of darkness.

27:46.42

Stephanie Jacobs

Yeah. Yeah.

27:49.16

Jackie

And that's when I picture this school, I just picture light in the middle of a really dark place and um just hope radiating from that school.

28:00.80

Stephanie Jacobs

yeah

28:03.42

Jackie

And just imagine these kids growing up and um not only personally being able to thrive, but ultimately also showing their family and their community that hope is possible.

28:14.81

Stephanie Jacobs

right

28:17.55

Jackie

And um because otherwise they don't see an alternative, the community doesn't see an alternative.

28:24.11

Stephanie Jacobs

Right.

28:24.15

Jackie

And so that's, that's one of the things that we're doing in Tijuana and um the photos are are really powerful, but those are just a couple of examples. and We're doing doing this kind of work, like I said, in 26 different countries um with 100 networks members.

28:40.13

Jackie

So that's only two, two of 100 that are really taking a localized approach.

28:41.66

Stephanie Jacobs

Yes.

28:46.34

Jackie

Like I said, you know, in Tijuana, education is critical.

28:46.89

Stephanie Jacobs

Mm-hmm.

28:50.71

Jackie

In this remote village in Uganda, having a safe place that looks like home is the critical component there. And so we really work to

28:58.14

Stephanie Jacobs

yeah

29:00.95

Jackie

to fight sex trafficking in the ways that are needed in that region.

29:04.62

Stephanie Jacobs

Right, right. And again, it's your network members that are able to do that through that localized approach, right?

29:10.11

Jackie

Yes.

29:11.28

Stephanie Jacobs

So that's really wonderful. Amazing. Okay, so let's work focus on the work being done in the United States because you have grown tremendously recently, correct?

29:20.16

Jackie

Yes.

29:20.80

Stephanie Jacobs

Share a little bit about that.

29:20.98

Jackie

Yes. Yes, absolutely. So um we have doubled in size in the network members in the United States and Why that matters um is that that's more safe beds for women and children who need a ah safe place to be.

29:39.23

Jackie

um But ultimately there's just so much work to do in the United States. And so this is broadening our ability to meet more needs um and provide more freedom for people. And so we're really focusing on three kind of key areas in fighting sex trafficking in the United States.

29:58.50

Jackie

um One is that safe home component. So either a residential home or a non-residential facility where victims can receive legal aid, trauma-informed care, um and ultimately can um thrive out of the life of trafficking is a big part um of what we're doing in the United States.

30:16.96

Stephanie Jacobs

Yeah.

30:18.99

Jackie

um But also there's two other components that we haven't touched on um as much yet um that are a big focus in the US just because it's a that's a large problem. so One is disrupting demand. So we talked about the demand for sex.

30:34.34

Jackie

How do you stop that? How do you make a dent in that? How do you educate? um

30:40.28

Stephanie Jacobs

yeah

30:40.79

Jackie

And so we are working with a network member to operate a chat bot. We actually, Atlas Free, worked with Microsoft to um to to create this partnership.

30:51.38

Jackie

And they were able to develop this AI technology where this chat bot is communicating at the point of sale. So when someone is having a conversation with whom they think is um someone that they're going to buy for services, um it's actually this chatbot and it's smart. It's it's a learned...

31:13.97

Jackie

ah tens of thousands of ah words um and slang to be able to sound like a person. And they're communicating with this buyer until the point of sale.

31:20.52

Stephanie Jacobs

Wow.

31:24.82

Jackie

And then they're communicating that about what they're doing is illegal. um And it's also providing resources for the person who's trying to buy sex to learn about what the, the, the effects of what they're doing.

31:39.55

Stephanie Jacobs

Yeah.

31:39.61

Jackie

Um, and up until this point, so this chat bot's been piloted for about a year. um and, uh, there's been, i believe it's about 30% of those that have been intercepted, um, have, have said yes to those resources.

31:55.46

Stephanie Jacobs

wow

31:55.47

Jackie

A lot of times people who are buying sex, it's, it's become a cultural norm for them.

32:00.62

Stephanie Jacobs

yeah

32:00.76

Jackie

It's not necessarily something that, um, They even maybe sought out personally right away. You know, some are addicted, but some are recreationally um engaging. And so if you can educate someone like that to understand what they're doing and why it's wrong, there's power in that as well.

32:23.31

Jackie

um And then it ultimately reduces exploitation because they're not going to be able to buy that sale and they're not going to be able to make that sale.

32:28.20

Stephanie Jacobs

Right. Right.

32:30.91

Jackie

um So that's that's um one of my favorite things that we're doing in the US, just using technology for good, right?

32:36.08
Stephanie Jacobs
Yes.

32:38.95
Jackie
Like we've, mm-hmm.

32:39.03
Stephanie Jacobs
Right. Exactly. The power of ai you're harnessing that.

32:42.56
Jackie
Yes, yes, because ai is powerful and there's so many applications that are not good, but there are so many great applications for how we can be fighting sex trafficking as well.

32:49.11
Stephanie Jacobs
Yes.

32:55.44
Jackie
So that's one of the things that we're doing in the U.S.,

32:56.24
Stephanie Jacobs
Yes.

32:58.29
Jackie
And then the third is on the topic of pornography. And so we've been working with, um, with a partner to remove illegal content, um, from major porn sites.

33:10.70
Jackie
So there has been significant amounts of illegal content, um, children under age content from them, um, as well as and oftentimes, um,

33:23.59
Jackie
ah rape or abuse that is then ah being placed on these major porn sites.

33:25.18
Stephanie Jacobs
then

33:28.17

Stephanie Jacobs
Wow. Yeah.

33:28.91

Jackie

So really working to remove that illegal content and to put safeties in place so that that's not being ah shared him over millions of people and continuing to exploit ah human being.

33:39.45

Stephanie Jacobs

yeah

33:44.22

Jackie

And so those are really the three ways that we're working in the U.S. and We have 70 of the network members are in the United States. So it's a very large portion of the work that we're doing um because it's it's needed. um The international work is critical as well. we You need both.

34:04.28

Jackie

We need both.

34:04.43

Stephanie Jacobs

Right.

34:04.84

Jackie

And so um so that's really the focus of of the US. um And there's a few resources that you'll see and in the podcast notes that are talking a little bit about, okay,

34:17.85

Jackie

So knowing that online um exploitation is happening, like, what do we do?

34:24.73

Stephanie Jacobs

Right. How do we prevent it?

34:25.01

Jackie

How do we how do we stay safe?

34:26.25

Stephanie Jacobs

What do we do?

34:27.49

Jackie

Yeah.

34:27.74
Stephanie Jacobs
Yeah.

34:27.81
Jackie
Like what how do we keep our kids safe? um Kids in our community, whether you're a teacher or there's someone in your circle. um How do we stay safe online?

34:38.14
Stephanie Jacobs
Right.

34:38.17
Jackie
Because online is not going away. um If anything is growing. And so how do we lean into that? How do we understand what's happening there? um And so a lot of what we're doing, too, is educating ourselves, ah the U.S. public to be able to understand um what's going on and how we can prevent it.

34:58.90
Jackie
And so I can share if you'd like, I can share a little bit of those things.

34:59.13
Stephanie Jacobs
right

35:01.94
Stephanie Jacobs
Sure, for sure.

35:02.10
Jackie
But yeah.

35:03.49
Stephanie Jacobs
And I will also link them in the show notes, as you said, so anyone can actually download these resources that Jackie's going to be talking about.

35:09.67
Jackie
Perfect.

35:11.99
Stephanie Jacobs
um And I just want to say, too, um just to thank you for getting into this topic and for doing this work in the United States, because I think sometimes in America we have the tendency to think, oh, those are issues happening elsewhere.

35:25.29

Stephanie Jacobs

But we don't fully realize like that it is happening in our backyard.

35:25.34

Jackie

can

35:30.24

Stephanie Jacobs

And just, again, creating that awareness that you are and then providing us resources to keep our children safe.

35:34.59

Jackie

he

35:38.10

Stephanie Jacobs

It's just invaluable because, again, it's that prevention piece. And um so thank you for that.

35:41.76

Jackie

Yes.

35:43.03

Stephanie Jacobs

So, yes, please go ahead.

35:44.75

Jackie

Yeah, absolutely. And I think the key with all of this is knowledge is power, right? We um we don't need to live in fear. um We just need to understand what's going on around us and be aware.

36:00.56

Jackie

And so that's that's, I think, what I have to remind myself too is, no, we don't we don't need to live with a spirit of fear.

36:00.81

Stephanie Jacobs

Yes.

36:09.08

Jackie

We just need to be knowledgeable. And so um so the article talks a little bit about specifically how to keep kids safe. um This would relate to teenagers as well, um but also yourself, right?

36:22.83

Jackie

When you're online, there's so many scams um that are happening. How can we be aware?

36:26.90
Stephanie Jacobs
Yes.

36:26.97
Jackie
So The first is really just understanding how traffickers are explaining online. So um as we talked about earlier, most sex trafficking victims are trafficked by someone that they know.

36:38.94
Jackie
And it often starts online, someone that they're they either know or are building a relationship with. And so um predators are using multiple different ways. It could be gaming sites.

36:51.78
Jackie
could be social media, things like Snapchat, Instagram, things that vanish or disappear. Um, they're having conversations, um, with, with people online posing as somebody else.

37:03.93
Jackie
And so, um, knowing like who your children are connecting with online is critical.

37:04.17
Stephanie Jacobs
Yeah.

37:12.21
Jackie
Um, and if there's someone that they're communicating with that, um, that doesn't seem right, like digging into that. Um,

37:19.72
Stephanie Jacobs
yeah

37:20.90
Jackie
I think one of the components too is just creating a safe environment for conversation. um It can be like as a parent myself, it can be um very intimidating or easy, I guess, to um jump to wanting to rescue or or create a bubble you know around my child.

37:41.28
Stephanie Jacobs
Yeah.

37:41.43
Jackie
but But ultimately um I need to create an environment where if they do see something, um that they didn't want to see, or if they are having a conversation that's making them uncomfortable,

um that they can come to us as um as a parent figure in their life, however that may look, um to be able to talk about it and to to not feel shame in that conversation, but to create a space where, okay, that happened,

38:02.46

Stephanie Jacobs
yeah

38:13.65

Jackie
let's talk about it. Let's talk about it and let's address it from here.

38:14.65

Stephanie Jacobs
Yeah.

38:16.77

Jackie
And then it feels more like a partnership with your child, um, to, to, um, move forward together.

38:18.94

Stephanie Jacobs
Right.

38:24.12

Jackie
Um, and nothing lives in the shadows, right? Um, one, if it lives in the shadows in shame, um it's really hard to come out of that.

38:26.45

Stephanie Jacobs
Yeah.

38:34.14

Stephanie Jacobs
Mm-hmm.

38:34.53

Jackie
Um, and Another way is just monitoring the online activity and location of kids. In the article, there's there's a suggested software that you can use, but I think it's ultimately just regularly checking in with your child, um making sure to see where are they searching, what's kind of their internet history, where are they going,

38:54.83

Jackie
kind of conversations are they having with people? anne And then also for them and for us, just keeping devices updated. So the latest security um that you have on your phone, like just making sure that that's up to date um so that any privacy settings, like

39:08.96

Stephanie Jacobs

Yeah.

39:12.75

Jackie

know it's a pain, but like going back into your privacy settings and making sure that certain things are enabled um to protect you from and your child from certain content.

39:23.23

Jackie

There's a lot of different privacy settings that can be set there and um and can be really powerful.

39:26.42

Stephanie Jacobs

Okay. Yeah.

39:29.45

Jackie

Yeah.

39:29.54

Stephanie Jacobs

Yeah.

39:29.93

Jackie

Not only on your phone, but in other in other apps. as well I know for me, I have like a ah guided access on my phone. So if my child is and like on a Zoom call grandparents or um or in a certain app, I can turn on guided access so they can't get out of that. They can't go somewhere else on my phone.

39:50.63

Stephanie Jacobs

Okay.

39:50.71

Jackie

um They can't accidentally click into Safari or you know anything like that to then be able to get somewhere else on the phone. So even something as simple as that um is is really helpful to

40:02.82

Stephanie Jacobs

Yes.

40:03.32

Jackie

create some control, especially little kids that just, you know, they're, they're bouncing around on the phone.

40:06.30

Stephanie Jacobs

Yes.

40:08.91

Stephanie Jacobs

Yeah.

40:09.01

Jackie

They don't, they don't know.

40:10.17

Stephanie Jacobs

They think it's fun to swipe around.

40:11.24

Jackie

You're going to click something they don't mean to.

40:12.05

Stephanie Jacobs

Yeah.

40:13.28

Jackie

Yes. They're like swiping. This is control. This is amazing. Yeah, exactly.

40:16.47

Stephanie Jacobs

Yes. Yes.

40:17.60

Jackie

Exactly. Um, but ultimately also just talking with your child about, um, and Keeping information private, right?

40:24.93

Stephanie Jacobs

Mm-hmm.

40:25.06

Jackie

Social media makes it really enticing to share everything about yourself, um, where you live and where you're going and where you are checking into different places.

40:35.96

Jackie

But those are all just vulnerabilities and information that someone can, can use. Um, but it's also the relationships that our kids are, are, um,

40:48.25

Jackie

are having and how do we start to talk about um healthy relationships and what it looks like to not be in a healthy relationship. So those are all kind of outlined in the article, but those are really tangible ways that we as, as parental figures, whether you're a grandparent or a teacher or someone who just has a child in your life and aunt and uncle, whatever it might be.

41:11.62

Jackie

um We all have children surrounding us and can have eyes and ears for the

41:14.60

Stephanie Jacobs

Yeah.

41:18.02

Jackie

um creating safe spaces for them to be able to talk.

41:20.63

Stephanie Jacobs

Right. Right. Thank you so much. I love that um you're sharing these details with us so we can be more aware and prepared, but also just the topic of engaging with your child and creating this safe space and helping them become aware of themselves. Because as you said, you want to put a bubble around them, but you really can't because it's the real world. And like,

41:42.54

Jackie

Yeah.

41:42.73

Stephanie Jacobs

helping them ah become equipped themselves to face that real world.

41:43.89

Jackie

Mm-hmm.

41:48.43

Jackie

Mm-hmm.

41:49.08

Stephanie Jacobs

I mean, that's part of what we want to do as parents anyway, and and doing it um at an early age where appropriate in in this sense is just another example of preparing them.

41:50.58

Jackie

Yes.

42:00.49

Stephanie Jacobs

So thank you. I will link that resource in the show notes as well as a few other resources

42:02.00

Jackie

Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

42:06.45

Stephanie Jacobs

um that you're sharing as well. um So, you know, we also talked, I think you had a very interesting perspective when we chatted a few weeks ago about having empathy for the perpetrators.

42:15.03

Jackie

Mm-hmm.

42:18.85

Stephanie Jacobs

Can you share your perspective on that? Because again, this this podcast um show is about being able to understand humanity and having empathy for everybody because we are all human beings and we all

42:31.72

Jackie

here

42:33.34

Stephanie Jacobs

have ah vulnerabilities. We live in a broken world and um there are consequences, but we also, there's always more to the story.

42:39.50

Jackie

who

42:42.16

Stephanie Jacobs

So share that perspective with us.

42:42.75

Jackie

Yes.

42:45.35

Jackie

Yes, absolutely. um So when I went through my first red light district area and walked through um and was just kind of becoming more familiar with human trafficking and sex trafficking specifically, um i'm very I'm a very justice oriented person.

43:04.88

Jackie

So my initial gut was not good, right?

43:05.35

Stephanie Jacobs

Yeah.

43:11.01

Jackie

I mean, I wanted every single trafficker and buyer um to just... rot in jail and never see the light of day.

43:22.67

Jackie

Um, and, um, and I felt that they, um, yeah, they were, they were the enemy, um, that could not be, um, dignified and what atmosphere and my time here, um, and learning so much more about these, um,

43:43.04

Jackie

situations that traffickers and perpetrators are coming from has really changed my perspective. At the end of the day, um it would be hypocritical of me to say that some people have dignity and worth and are deserving of freedom, but then say that others do not.

44:01.94

Stephanie Jacobs

Yeah.

44:02.35

Jackie

and Now, as you said, there are consequences to buying and selling sex. And there is um there needs to be retribution for that.

44:14.22

Jackie

But in a lot in most cases, what we see with traffickers and pimps and madams is that they didn't just wake up one morning deciding, oh, I'm going to sell a human.

44:27.38

Stephanie Jacobs

yeah

44:27.52

Jackie

It was you know it may have been abuse that they experienced themselves that that started this journey. It may be a cycle that they cannot break generationally of a father or an uncle who went down that path.

44:44.43

Jackie

um It could be an area where there's literally no job opportunities. And this is the only way that they see being able to make it in this world.

44:54.07
Stephanie Jacobs
Mm-hmm.

44:54.49
Jackie
And Those are not good reasons, but they are absolutely real for that human being. And um there have been situations where when we've been able to educate um someone like a madam who's in charge of like a bar or or something like that about how there's another way for them, there's another option for their life and to help them see that every human being that they're facilitating a sale for has

45:26.12
Jackie
dignity and worth and that they have dignity and worth, it can change their story. And we've seen that. And we've seen traffickers who then had life transformation and served victims that they they once were were, not the actual victims, but victims like them that they were abusing.

45:49.17
Stephanie Jacobs
Yes.

45:49.98
Jackie
And so so it's really um softened my heart to

45:50.31
Stephanie Jacobs
Wow.

45:56.54
Jackie
be open to and and committing to seeing every person for the dignity and worth that they were created have and to understand that that, if you will, second chances or opportunities to learn, grow, change and can be there, should be there.

46:08.31
Stephanie Jacobs
yeah.

46:21.18
Stephanie Jacobs
yeah

46:21.27
Jackie
And, um and it's a beautiful, beautiful picture. When we see someone break free from their own chains, and decide to go in a different direction of their life and to stop selling humans or to stop buying humans.

46:37.96

Jackie

It's so complicated. And it's just not black and white. And I think that that's something that I've learned

46:42.94

Stephanie Jacobs

Mm-hmm.

46:45.37

Jackie

And ultimately we're fighting for every human. We're fighting for the freedom of those who are being victimized and we are fighting for the freedom of traffickers and for those who are buying.

46:48.64

Stephanie Jacobs

Yes.

46:58.11

Jackie

And that's why with the chat bot, for example, we're providing resources because we want their life to change. We don't want them to live in a life where they feel like this is the only way to operate.

47:07.22

Stephanie Jacobs

Mm-hmm.

47:10.81

Stephanie Jacobs

Right.

47:11.05

Jackie

And so it's a journey, um but it's absolutely a journey that that I have felt is necessary and Atlas Free absolutely um advocates for.

47:23.17

Jackie

um So there's justice, but there's absolutely hope and freedom for everyone.

47:29.31

Stephanie Jacobs

Yeah, wow, that's really, really beautiful. And I can't help but think about, you know, if a trafficker's life does change, and they begin to serve those they once hurt, perhaps how many, again, the prevention side of how many lives you're preventing from falling into being trafficked as well.

47:36.85

Jackie

Hmm.

47:49.56

Jackie
Yes.

47:50.70

Stephanie Jacobs

Is it often sometimes too that traffickers who are now working as a trafficker were actually trafficked themselves too?

47:50.95

Jackie

Yes.

47:59.12

Jackie

And yeah, in some cases, yeah, it's definitely can be part of their story.

47:59.36

Stephanie Jacobs

Part of their story. Yeah.

48:04.42

Stephanie Jacobs

Right.

48:04.54

Jackie

A lot of it is some kind of abuse, whether they were trafficked or

48:04.85

Stephanie Jacobs

Yeah.

48:09.44

Jackie

you know, abused at home or in their community, something that has made them vulnerable in some way.

48:16.94

Stephanie Jacobs

Yeah.

48:17.11

Jackie

And then everybody um um takes that and it affects them differently.

48:23.53

Stephanie Jacobs

Right, right, right.

48:24.22

Jackie

Mm-hmm.

48:24.85

Stephanie Jacobs

Okay.

48:25.06

Jackie

Mm-hmm.

48:25.61

Stephanie Jacobs

Well, thank you for shedding light on that. Because I think it's easy to have the tendency to just completely think those are evil human beings. And it's more so that they're human beings that evil has grasped onto, right, and and taken a hold of, for whatever reasons that may be as you described.

48:39.95

Jackie

Yes. yes

48:44.35

Stephanie Jacobs

So thank you for that. um Do you have any other stories you'd like to share of survivors or anything of that sort before we begin to wrap up?

48:54.70

Jackie

Yes, I'd love to. I just have one that I thought we could close with. um This survivor actually spoke at our Freedom Gala last year in in Seattle, our fundraising evening.

49:06.94

Jackie

She received our 2024 Atlas Free Equiano Award. um And I'll actually share a quote from her of what she shared um at the gala.

49:15.04

Stephanie Jacobs

Okay.

49:16.84

Jackie

But her story is that when she was 17, was living in Spain and um she was living alone. So her parents had moved away. And so she, as many, many victims were looking for work.

49:33.62

Jackie

They were looking for, she was looking for independence and um somewhat a man um encountered or came to her and basically gave her an opportunity and said, I have a job for you.

49:33.69

Stephanie Jacobs
Mm-hmm. Hmm.

49:45.67

Jackie

have money. And so she trusted him um and she took the job and she was trafficked instead. And that is the story for many, many victims around the world.

49:58.51

Jackie

um And so she was abused both by the trafficker himself, as well as sold to many clients for sex. And Um, she talks about her, her story.

50:11.34

Jackie

Um, and, uh, there's a beautiful video that I can actually share of her telling her story, but ultimately, um, you know, he told her that there would be money and it was a lie.

50:20.25

Stephanie Jacobs

Yeah.

50:21.17

Jackie

And it's, it's, it's a perfect example of that coercion.

50:22.51

Stephanie Jacobs

yeah

50:25.70

Jackie

Um, and so after about a year, she didn't feel like herself anymore. You know, she, she felt like she was his, she belonged to him.

50:35.94

Jackie

She wasn't, um, She didn't recognize herself anymore. And um and she bravely escaped. So she escaped after a year, which is just incredible, um truly.

50:44.05

Stephanie Jacobs

wow

50:50.07

Jackie

And um she met up with a friend and asked if her friend could help her at all. And her friend knew about the network member that is in in the Atlas Free Network that is in Spain. And so she was actually able to direct her to that home.

51:07.20

Jackie
and so

51:07.28
Stephanie Jacobs
Wow. Oh my goodness.

51:08.75
Jackie
Which is incredible. Yes. So she was in that safe home for about five years and she finished her education.

51:14.84
Stephanie Jacobs
Yeah.

51:18.24
Jackie
She was able to go through vocational training, was able to secure a job. um and And now today she's married. She has a successful career. um And then she spoke at our gala, like I said, and I'll read i'll read her quote um because it's beautiful. She said, i can say it loud and clear.

51:38.79
Jackie
I am a survivor of human trafficking who accepted the challenge of rebuilding my life. I've overcome the pain and shame that once defined me, and through a strong commitment to my healing, I've transformed my suffering into my greatest strength.

51:54.96
Jackie
If I could speak to that 19-year-old girl who arrived at the shelter full of fear, terrified of what she had lived through, the girl who thought her life would never change, I would say, little girl, did it.

52:08.40
Jackie
we are free.

52:09.64
Stephanie Jacobs
Wow. wow

52:10.83
Jackie
And so that's Carolina's story. She's incredibly brave, just like all of the survivors that we're working with. And um it's just an honor to um share her story. and And she is part of a ah council that we have with several survivors who are helping to make change and helping to identify what are the big areas that we need to be focusing on in the human trafficking space and as a survivor, like what are they seeing? What are they experiencing?

52:41.14
Jackie

What do they believe is going to be um effective efforts to, ah to make that change? So it's just, she's incredible.

52:47.89

Stephanie Jacobs

Yes.

52:49.73

Jackie

She's, and, and we just love sharing her, her story on her behalf. And she's just an incredible human being.

52:56.44

Stephanie Jacobs

Yeah. Wow. What an amazing story and offers so much hope for just the idea of escaping this and rebuilding your life and just amazing.

53:06.10

Jackie

Mm-hmm.

53:07.71

Stephanie Jacobs

So thank you for sharing that, Jackie.

53:08.84

Jackie

Mm-hmm.

53:09.96

Stephanie Jacobs

um And thank you really for sharing all of this, helping us understand what is happening around the world as well as in our country and how to keep our own families and our children around us safe.

53:21.33

Jackie

Mm-hmm.

53:21.64

Stephanie Jacobs

And just the hope that you're bringing and you and your network members really are bringing around the world. So um before we wrap up, I just want to ask, how can our listeners learn more about Atlas Free, get involved, or maybe even support what you do?

53:37.10

Jackie

Yes, great question. Well, first and foremost, check out the resources that will be in the podcast notes. There's a lot of great information about and how to ah ah learn more about human trafficking, how to spot human trafficking, how to keep our children safe.

53:55.49

Jackie

Um, and we right now have a campaign all about, um, fighting for girls, you know, when we're fighting sex trafficking, we're fighting for girls. And so there's some great videos and resources there.

54:06.41

Jackie

So just educating yourself and educating the community around you and, um, and those that are in your inner circle critical and

54:14.31

Stephanie Jacobs

Mm-hmm.

54:15.22

Jackie

critical um in raising awareness about trafficking. And then if you'd like to support financially, the best way to do that is to join our monthly giving program. It's called Team Freedom.

54:27.60

Jackie

And like I said earlier, and when you join ah this monthly program, you're helping um set eight people free on average every single day. So um when you join something like that, you know that every day is mattering.

54:41.85

Jackie

um Every day is making an impact for these men, women, and children around the world. um And that because we are working worldwide and in the U.S., you have a wide range of locations that you're able to make an impact on.

54:58.56

Jackie

within And so you can learn more about that on our website at atlasfree.org. It's an incredible community of supporters who have said, yes, we want to support in this way every single month.

55:09.50

Jackie

So those would be the two big ways that you can support this fight.

55:10.22

Stephanie Jacobs

Yes. Okay. yeah Wonderful. I will link your website as well. So listeners can just go directly there and learn more. um Jackie, this has been a very enlightening conversation. Thank you so much for taking the time to share about human trafficking and what you're doing at Atlas Free to fight against it worldwide.

55:33.62

Stephanie Jacobs

So thank you so much.

55:35.94

Jackie

Well, thank you so much for having me. And um there's so much hope and it's an honor to just talk about this topic, to educate on this. And we all have a part that we can play in bringing freedom around the world. So hope that you leave encouraged today with hope for the future, because I certainly do.