

THE RED CORD

ISAIAH 61:1

April 2022

Monthly Newsletter of the Red Cord



APRIL IS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH WHAT'S THE CONNECTION BETWEEN SEXUAL ASSAULT AND SEX TRAFFICKING?

AHSHA MORIN, PRESIDENT OF THE RED CORD SAYS, "SEX TRAFFICKING OFTEN INVOLVES THE SAME DYNAMICS OF POWER AND CONTROL PRESENT IN PATTERNS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT. WE NEED TO RECOGNIZE VICTIMS OF SEX TRAFFICKING AND THE COMPLEXITY OF THEIR SITUATION. MANY HAVE THE SAME NEEDS AS VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT, SUCH AS PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL SAFETY. WHETHER AN INDIVIDUAL IS SEXUALLY ASSAULTED BY A PIMP/TRAFFICKER OR IS FORCED TO ENGAGE IN SEX WORK—IN WHICH CASE THEY MAY EXPERIENCE MULTIPLE SEXUAL ASSAULTS BY JOHNS—VICTIMS OFTEN FIND THESE EXPERIENCES DIFFICULT TO TALK ABOUT, LIKE WHEN A SEX TRAFFICKING VICTIM IS FORCED BY HER PIMP TO HAVE SEX WITH HIS FRIENDS OR GANG MEMBERS. THE FEELINGS OF SHAME AND STIGMA THAT ARE COMMON IN SEXUAL ASSAULT CASES ARE OFTEN COMPOUNDED FOR THOSE WHO ARE ENGAGED IN SEX WORK AND FEAR MORAL CONDEMNATION BY THE JUSTICE SYSTEM AND SOCIETY.

(WHAT'S THE CONNECTION? CONT.PG. 3)



SHAMERE'S STORY

Shamere McKenzie was on a student-athlete scholarship at St. Johns University in Manhattan, NY. After she got injured and couldn't compete, she met a man who offered to help her pay the mounting bills. Through physical violence and threats to her family, he forced her into working for him in the illegal sex industry.... McKenzie argued that she was prepared to dance, not engage in sex, and she tried to leave. The trafficker punched her in the face, kicked her, and threatened to kill her family if she left. McKenzie blacked out and woke up the next day lying in a puddle of urine on her trafficker's kitchen floor. She began to cry, and her trafficker came in to console her and apologize. He promised that he would never hurt her again. The next day, the trafficker beat McKenzie when she tried to intervene in the beating of one of the other girls in the house...

Find out what happened to Shamere.

<http://www.endslaverynow.org/blog/articles/shamere-mckenzie>

**SEX TRAFFICKING OFTEN INVOLVES THE
SAME DYNAMICS OF POWER AND
CONTROL PRESENT IN PATTERNS OF
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL
ASSAULT**



WHAT'S THE CONNECTION? (CONT.)

What can you do to help? How can you be a part of the solution?

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Women's Self Defense Class

April 2nd 2022
2pm-4pm
1912 NW Lawton Ave,
Lawton

Register at
www.theredcord.org

Come learn self defense skills and education about Human Trafficking that could save your life!
Bring your sister, daughter, girlfriend, aunt, grandmother etc.
Reserve your spot today for \$5.00
Please bring water bottle and wear comfortable clothing
For Women Only! 50 Spots
Ages 12 and Up (under 16 needs a parent to attend)

Sexual Assault
Awareness Month

Learn more about human trafficking and how to keep yourself and your community safe.

- Understand why women are vulnerable to sexual assault and trafficking.

<https://theredcord.org/blog/>

- Take control of your safety. Sign up for the women's self-defense course.

<https://theredcord.org/upcoming/>

- Attend a training this month. Attend the Human Trafficking Community Training with Dan Nash from the Human

Trafficking Training Center, Missouri

Monday, April 25, 7:00 – 8:30pm-

Cameron University.

<https://theredcord.org/upcoming/>

- Students – Participate in the student essay contest. Read details on the flyer here:

<https://theredcord.org/upcoming/>

ESSAY CONTEST

The Red Cord is excited to announce our second writing contest for all high school-age students! You could win \$500, \$250, or \$100 if your work places 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place! Awards to be presented at a reception hosted by Red Cord.

The essay topic is to be released on April 1st. Once released, contestants will then have 30 days to create their essay. The title will revolve around the subject matter of human trafficking.

We want young adults to feel empowered when getting involved in the anti-human trafficking movement. Through the power of words, we want the next generation of freedom fighters to feel encouraged to speak up and speak out on issues concerning our world today!

Requirements:

- Must be a minimum of 750 words.
- Times New Roman font, double spaced
- Chicago Style citations (citations are optional)
- Must include a cover page with the student's name, contact information, and school name
- Saved as a PDF
- Must meet the topic guidelines and answer the prompts in proper English grammar
- The deadline for submissions will be midnight, April 30th, 2022.

SUBMISSION RULES:
All documents must be emailed to The Red Cord at redcordvp@theredcord.org.
Any plagiarized content results in immediate disqualification.
MUST BE SUBMITTED AS A PDF.



Ahsha Morin

APRIL Blog – Scared or Safe?

Ahsha Morin, The Red Cord
President

Being aware of the danger of sexual assault is, unfortunately, an issue that every woman has to be concerned with. To not live in fear, arm yourself with knowledge and be empowered. Knowledge. What do traffickers look for in a victim?

Traffickers look for people who are vulnerable and therefore easier to exploit. Some of the vulnerabilities are war, civil unrest, political conflict, violence, lawlessness, and natural disasters. Traffickers specifically target poor and marginalized communities to offer vulnerable individuals false opportunities to improve their circumstances. Such people are more likely to take greater risks to provide for themselves and their families. Indigenous populations in many countries are often marginalized, which may result in their vulnerability to recruitment by traffickers.

Traffickers use substance dependency and addiction to keep control of the trafficked person. Some traffickers purposely supply drugs to vulnerable people to break down their resistance and coerce them into forced labor or sex. As a trafficked person becomes dependent on a particular substance, the trafficker uses that vulnerability to keep them in the cycle of abuse. People with mental health issues face a variety of challenges including isolation, diminished capacity to consent or offer informed consent, and limited ability to assess risk and detect ill-intentions. Traffickers are skilled in detecting these vulnerabilities and manipulating them to their advantage. (Learn more: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/justice/criminal-justice/victims-of-crime/human-trafficking/human-trafficking-training/module-1/vulnerabilities>)

APRIL Blog – CONTINUED

Scared or Safe?



Be empowered.

Taking a women's general self-defense class at least once a year is a great way to learn the basics of how to respond if you were attacked. But also, being situationally aware of your surroundings at all times is high on the list. Be aware of locations and situations which would make you appear vulnerable to crime, such as alleys and dark parking lots.

Here are some others:

- **Be alert to your surroundings and the people around you—especially if you are alone or it is dark.**
- **Whenever possible, travel with a friend.**
- **Stay in well-lighted areas as much as possible.**
- **Walk close to the curb. Avoid doorways, bushes, and alleys where someone could hide.**
- **Walk confidently at a steady pace.**
- **Make eye contact with people when walking.**
- **Do not respond to conversation from strangers on the street—continue walking.**

- If you carry a purse, carry it securely between your arm and your body. Although a purse snatcher's intent is to steal the purse, your safety may depend on not clinging to it.

- Do not use or wear anything that will impede your vision or hearing (i.e. iPods).

- Have your car keys in your hand so you don't have to linger before entering your car.

- Check the interior of your vehicle for intruders before entering your car.

- If you think you are being followed, drive to a public place or a police or sheriff's station.

We partner with Lawton Police Department on education and awareness, as well as support victims/survivors that have been identified by LPD. We also partner with Dreadnought where the self-defense class is offered each year. It is a place where women can learn self-defense in a safe place.



COMING THIS MONTH

Community Trainings Events:

- First Baptist Church Lawton; Sunday, April 3, 12:30 – 1:30 pm
- What were you wearing? Sexual Assault Awareness Event with Marie Detty
Monday, April 4, 6:00 – 8:00 pm, Elmer Thomas Park
- Community Education 101- Hosted by SHARP
Tuesday, April 5, 12:00 – 1:00 pm
Old Cavalry Post Community Center 1433 Fort Sill BLVD

·Cameron Spring Resource Fair

Wednesday, April 13th and 14th ·9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Cameron University, 2800 W Gore Blvd, Lawton, OK 73505

Monthly Community Training

Friday, April 15, 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Fort Sill Federal Credit Union, 1614 NW 67th St, Lawton, OK 73505

·Community Education 101 Hosted by SHARP

Tuesday, April 19, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm Old Cavalry Post Community Center 1433
Fort Sill BLVD



COMING THIS MONTH

·(CONT) Take Two Academy and Community Youth Services

Thursday, April 21, 8:30 – 9:30 am

611 Maxwell St Ardmore, OK 73401

· Parenting Seminar April 23 & 24th Location TBD

·HT Community Training with Dan Nash from the Human Trafficking Training Center, Missouri

Monday, April 25, 7:00 – 8:30 pm- Cameron University

·CLEET Law Enforcement, First Responder, Health Care Worker Training with Dan Nash

April 26 – 27, 2022

Cameron Fine Arts Theater

To provide this invaluable training to our community and officers free of cost, we need your help. TOGETHER, we need to raise \$4,000 to provide for training costs, materials, etc. As a thank you for your \$200 donation, your name or name of your organization will be prominently displayed on visuals throughout the seminar. Contact us with your questions and more information: redcord@theredcord.org.

· Students Writing Contest - see info <https://theredcord.org/upcoming/>