

FEB. 2023

THE RED CORD

ISAIAH 61:1



FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS A NEW DAY FOR FREEDOM, HOPE AND FRESH STARTS

IT'S FEBRUARY AND IT'S THE TIME OUR THOUGHTS TURN TO LOVE, RIGHT? IT'S THE MONTH OF VALENTINE'S, HEARTS AND ROMANCE. BUT IT'S ALSO BLACK HISTORY MONTH WHEN OUR THOUGHTS TURN TO FREEDOM, HOPE AND NEW BEGINNINGS. WE THINK OF THE END OF SLAVERY AND THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS WHO MADE THEIR MARK IN HISTORY.

AS MUCH AS WE WOULD LIKE TO THINK SLAVERY WAS ABOLISHED IN 1865, THE SAD TRUTH IS -- IT LIVES ON. NOT BASED ON RACE OR COLOR BUT ON VULNERABILITY AND THOSE LIVING ON THE MARGIN OF SOCIETY. THE TRUTH IS, THERE ARE MORE SLAVES TODAY THAN THERE HAVE EVER BEEN IN HISTORY. BECAUSE TODAY'S SLAVES MAY LOOK LIKE THE GIRL NEXT DOOR. MODERN DAY SLAVES ARE MADE UP OF PEOPLE WHO ARE THE MOST VULNERABLE INCLUDING: CHILDREN, TEENS, RUNAWAYS, THE HOMELESS, FOSTER CHILDREN, LGBT, PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT, AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLE. TRAFFICKERS MASTERFULLY KNOW WHERE TO LOCATE THEM AND LURE THEM INTO WHAT SEEMS LIKE A BETTER LIFE. THE VULNERABLE ARE UNAWARE OF BEING TARGETED ON SOCIAL MEDIA; OF FALLING PREY TO FRAUDULENT JOB POSTING OPPORTUNITIES; OF TANTALIZING "BOYFRIENDING OR GIRLFRIENDING." POTENTIAL VICTIMS ARE UNAWARE, AS ARE MOST PEOPLE, THAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING (SEX AND LABOR) IS HAPPENING IN EVERY COMMUNITY. TODAY. RIGHT NOW. (CONT.)



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AHSHA MORIN



We've seen the movies. Read the history books. We know what slavery looked like 150 years ago. **So how is slavery the same today as it was in the 1800s? Ahsha Morin, The Red Cord President, explained, "Both include the selling of humans for either sex, labor, or harvesting human organs in inhuman ways."**

How is slavery different today? Ahsha continued, "Now, slavery does not discriminate against age, sex, gender, skin color, religion, social status, or education level. Anyone can be a slave today. Today's "slaveholders" have to be particularly careful to hide or disguise their slave enterprises. They cannot openly exploit or flaunt the benefits of slave labor, as those in the past."

It seems we should have learned something from our past to no longer enslave people today. It is this: "The stain of this institution does not only affect those who are enslaved; it seeps deeply into all aspects of our society. It is a stain that is profound and enduring, leading to generations of discrimination and disparity... Slavery exists today, as it has across time and place, because we have been socialized to expect some people to live on the margins of our society. Unfortunately, those margins consistently become manacles that tie us to past horrors and link future generations to discrimination and inequality. <https://newsroom.ucla.edu/stories/what-the-history-of-slavery-can-247972>

Will slavery ever end? Ahsha said, "Slavery was "abolished" once, so I think it could be possible. But it would take a society that is intolerant to cheap labor and sex. The question is, are enough people "intolerant"? (CONT.)

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Having stricter laws, and enforcing the ones we do have regarding the purchases of humans for sex and cheap labor would be a good place to start. Human trafficking, or the “slavery” of people, has been happening since the beginning of time. It is a big task to end it once and for all. It will take one “village” at a time. One of the most effective methods to bring it to an end is focusing on one community at a time with education, awareness, and training can start to make a difference.” That’s what The Red Cord does and why it exists for such a time as this. In a day marked with deception, pain and separation, there is hope. There can be a new day. There can be freedom. And each of us can be a part of that.

Read more of Ahsha’s thoughts, how we can make lasting change, and who are some modern day abolitionists in this month's blog

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February 2023 Blog
An Interview with
Ahsha Morin, The Red Cord President



Q: How long have you been involved in the fight against modern day slavery?

A. I have been with The Red Cord since 2018. But involved with anti-human trafficking since 2011 with O.A.T.H (which is not longer around) and then Operation Underground Railroad in Montana for a year.

Q: Do you ever grow weary or frustrated at this ongoing battle?

A: Yes! It is a big fight and it can be hard to see any immediate progress.

Q: What keeps you going forward?

A: My personal fight against human trafficking is a calling, so to keep following this calling is what keeps me moving. Some days are harder than others. Hearing back from parents, students, and community members that The Red Cord training they attended brought clarity, or open communication or possibly intervening in a potential trafficking situation, are big motivating factors for me! Knowing that The Red Cord is providing education and awareness to communities to help keep them safer continues to motivate me to go forward every day.

(cont.)

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(CONT) Q: **Do you see any change happening?**

A: Yes, there is now much more discussion about human trafficking in main stream media. The boarder crisis has brought attention as well as other news of large human trafficking situations being brought to justice. However, there needs to be more change in seeing prevention being discussed and accepted instead of the arrests, and trauma that are found at the end of human trafficking pipeline.

Q: **What encouragement would you offer to modern abolitionists?**

A: We need more fighters to stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves! It is a hard yet rewarding feeling to know you are in the fight to help free a person. But be aware that you are also engaging into a spiritual battle that can be very dark and heart breaking. This battle is not for everyone!

Q: **What does the Red Cord do to help with the ongoing war against slavery?**

A: The Red Cord offers free educational trainings to everyone! Help can also come in the form of reducing vulnerabilities in our communities. Working on homelessness, poverty, low job opportunities, etc., in communities can help reduce the likelihood of traffickers targeting people. Education and awareness are key to the prevention of people being trafficked. Dollar for dollar, it is less costly and more cost effective to have prevention programs in place for schools, churches, and communities to be educated, than it is to recover, rescue, and rehabilitate someone who has been trafficked.

MODERN ABOLITIONISTS THAT ARE FIGHTING THE BATTLE WELL

·TIM BALLARD: [HTTPS://WWW.OURRESCUE.ORG/](https://www.ourrescue.org/)

**·JACO BOOYENS:
[HTTPS://JACOBOOYENSMINISTRIES.ORG/](https://jacobooyensministries.org/)**

·CHRISTINE CAIN: [HTTPS://WWW.A21.ORG/](https://www.a21.org/).

·DELIVER FUND: [HTTPS://DELIVERFUND.ORG/](https://deliverfund.org/)

**·EXODUS CRY:
[HTTPS://EXODUSCRY.COM/OURSOLUTION/](https://exoduscry.com/oursolution/)**

HERE IS HOW YOU CAN PREVENT MODERN DAY SLAVERY TODAY:

1. ATTEND A FREE TRAINING EVENT.

[HTTPS://THEREDCORD.ORG/UPCOMING/](https://theredcord.org/upcoming/)

2. BE INFORMED. READ INFORMATION ON OUR WEBSITE.

[HTTPS://THEREDCORD.ORG/GET-THE-FACTS/](https://theredcord.org/get-the-facts/)

3. SHARE WHAT YOU'VE LEARNED WITH SOMEONE IN YOUR CHURCH, SCHOOL, COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS TO JOIN YOU IN THE FIGHT. REQUEST A TRAINING IN YOUR LOCATION.

[HTTPS://THEREDCORD.ORG/TRAINING/](https://theredcord.org/training/)

4. PRAY. USE THE MONTHLY PRAYER CALENDAR.

[HTTPS://THEREDCORD.ORG/PRAYER/](https://theredcord.org/prayer/) SIGN UP TO RECEIVE URGENT PRAYER TEXTS. [HTTPS://VERIFIED-BROADCAST-9201-5JCRMM.TWIL.IO/SUBSCRIBE.HTML](https://verified-broadcast-9201-5jcrmm.twil.io/subscribe.html)

5. SUPPORT THE RED CORD TO CONTINUE TO FUND TRAINING EVENTS AND OFFER RESOURCES TO OUR COMMUNITY.

[HTTPS://SECURE.PROCESSDONATION.ORG/THEREDCORD/DONATION.ASPX?DONATIONREFID=F98CJ6689698E](https://secure.processdonation.org/theredcord/donation.aspx?donationrefid=f98cj6689698e)

6. CONTACT THE RED CORD:

[HTTPS://THEREDCORD.ORG/SAMPLE-PAGE/](https://theredcord.org/sample-page/)

CELEBRATE JANUARY EVENTS:

- PARKER POINT- GIRLS HOME
- FOSTER/ADOPTION SUPPORT GROUP
- TEMPLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
- SCORE STUDENT PROGRAM,GREAT PLAINS VOTECH
- ANNUAL CANDLELIGHT VIGIL LAWTON CITY HALL
- COMANCHE SHERIFFS- CLEET TRAINING



FEBRUARY EVENTS

COMMUNITY TRAINING EVENT, LAWTON, TBA