

# News Release



For Immediate Release  
Date

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## **Junior League of New Orleans Hosts “Survivor Stories,” an Online Talk on January 25 in Conjunction with National Human Trafficking Prevention Month**

*In Partnership with Eden House, Covenant House and the Greater New Orleans Human Trafficking Task Force*

NEW ORLEANS, LA - In conjunction with National Human Trafficking Prevention Month and in partnership with Eden House, Covenant House and the Greater New Orleans Human Trafficking Task Force, the Junior League of New Orleans Abolish Committee is hosting “Survivor Stories,” an educational online event about human trafficking on Tuesday, January 25, from 6 to 7 p.m.

This online event will feature Jennifer Best, Director of Clinical Programs for Eden House; Jennifer Ray, Coordinator for the Greater New Orleans Human Trafficking Task Force; and a former resident of Covenant House and Covenant House Human Trafficking Team Leader, Sheri Lochridge. Registrants will learn about the realities of trafficking, resources available to victims, and ways the community can support anti-trafficking and prevention efforts.

Registration is free and open to the public at [www.jlno.org/abolish](http://www.jlno.org/abolish).

In addition, the community can join JLNO in bringing awareness to this serious issue by wearing blue on January 11, which is National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. Another way to show support is by donating items like toilet paper and cleaning supplies to local nonprofits, Eden House and Covenant House. Both organizations work to support victims of trafficking. Amazon wish lists are available at [www.jlno.org/abolish](http://www.jlno.org/abolish).

For media interview opportunities, please contact [news@jlno.org](mailto:news@jlno.org).

### **ABOUT THE “SURVIVOR STORIES” PANELISTS**

#### **Jennifer Best, Eden House Director of Clinical Programs**

Jennifer Best received an M.A. in psychology and counseling at the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. She has extensive training and experience in trauma counseling and crisis intervention and has spent her time working in private and nonprofit counseling centers. She is an adjunct professor at Leavell College in New Orleans, where she teaches Introduction to Psychology and Marriage and Family Issues. Her responsibilities at Eden House include developing individualized care plans with our residents, facilitating in-house meetings and support groups, and leading our prevention program. She completed training as a prevention education facilitator through My Life My Choice in Boston, MA.

### **Sheri Lochridge, Human Trafficking Team Leader**

Sheri Lochridge is the Human Trafficking Team Leader at Covenant House New Orleans. As a former Covenant House resident 28 years ago, Sheri Lochridge first returned as a volunteer eight years ago, but was quickly hired as a Resident Advisor in the Crisis department. Today, Sheri leads Covenant Houses' anti-trafficking efforts as the Human Trafficking Team Leader-Survivor Advocate, providing support to more than 300 human trafficking victims over the past three years. Sheri works with support from local, state and federal law enforcement to identify cases of human trafficking. She is trained in child forensic interviews through The American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children. In 2017, Sheri participated in a yearlong undercover investigation called "The Track," Recently, she attended the Supporting LGBTQ Youth Certificate Program at Georgetown University, and was admitted to the CJJR Fellows Network in March 2019. She continues to share her knowledge of human trafficking throughout the New Orleans area, presenting to health and human service professionals, law enforcement and community organizations.

### **Jennifer Ray, Greater New Orleans Human Trafficking Task Force Coordinator**

Jennifer Ray is the Greater New Orleans Human Trafficking Task Force Coordinator. Jennifer formerly held the anti-human trafficking coordinator position at the Florida Department of Health. Jennifer values collaboration and believes that expanding the engagement of multi-disciplinary actors will strengthen the response to human trafficking. Jennifer is a Florida native who can claim roots in the Latin community of Tampa, Florida, where she received her Master's degree in Applied Anthropology from the University of South Florida. Jennifer and her husband David call Madisonville, Louisiana, home.

## **ABOUT THE ABOLISH MOVEMENT**

Junior League of New Orleans (JLNO) joined the Association of Junior Leagues International's initiative, the ABOLISH Movement, in 2019 and is committed to uplifting the anti-trafficking efforts of experts in the field through free educational programming for the public and JLNO members.

The ABOLISH Movement was founded in 2014 by the Junior League of Tampa to unite Tampa organizations and agencies in drawing attention to the problem of child sex slavery in the Tampa Bay area. In 2017, the Association of Junior Leagues International adopted ABOLISH as an association-wide initiative. The ABOLISH Movement has since expanded to educate the public about all forms of human trafficking.

## **ABOUT THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF NEW ORLEANS**

The Junior League of New Orleans is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. More information on the organization can be found at [www.jlno.org](http://www.jlno.org).