

About Ruth Rondon & Human Trafficking eLearning



Human Trafficking eLearning was established in 2015. It is a partnership between human trafficking (HT) survivor Ruth Rondon and professional speaker/educator, Patti Hathaway, M.Ed., CSP. Our vision is to eradicate human trafficking by educating people on how to engage with human trafficking victims in their work, and by empowering them with tools and actions steps to free victims

Human Trafficking Awareness for Healthcare: [W.A.R. on Slavery](#) was the first eLearning created by Ruth and Patti in 2015. It's a three-minute-a-day, online training program for educating healthcare, first responders and safety officers on how to recognize and engage with trafficking victims. Its 20 (3-minute) videos provide gripping real-life victim stories, a lesson and an action plan. This program is designed to change minds and hearts towards victims. Those on the frontlines will be able to utilize the tools and action steps to help victims escape their slavery. Included with the program is a handy pocket-guide that can be used on the job. [Program Preview Link \(3 lessons\)](#). A second HT Awareness eLearning program for [First Responders & Safety Officers](#) was released in 2018. They plan to write a program for Educators later in 2018.

In 2017, a partnership was formed with [Michigan Public Health Institute \(MPHI\)](#) who provides all the Continuing Education (CE) credits for the program's participants. As administrator they handle all the billing, invoicing and technical support. This allows the authors to continue writing and developing new eLearning programs. Educational opportunities are available now to fulfill state licensing requirements in HT for both Nurses and Social Workers. For continued education credits through Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI) and sign up information [click here](#).

MPHI provides research support. Feedback and statistical information will contribute to a white paper being written by MPHI that will be submitted to national medical journals. This will highlight our program as a leader in the anti- Human Trafficking movement.

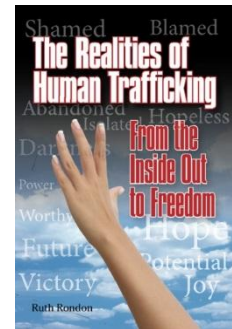
Ruth's Biography Sketch:

Ruth's passion is to inspire a generation to end human trafficking. After falling prey to sex traffickers as teenager, [Ruth Rondon](#) found herself caught up in a tangled web of trafficking and drug addiction for 18 years. Ruth vowed to be a victim no more in 1989 and with the help of a few kind souls she was able to escape trafficking. She credits a 6-month stint in jail for helping

her break her drug addiction and her kind counselors for helping her find freedom. She went on to work for 27 years as a clerk.

After Ruth retired she was appointed by Governor Snyder to serve a two-year term on the [Michigan Human Trafficking Health Advisory Board](#), in March of 2015 and was reappointed in [December of 2016 to serve a four-year term](#). In 2015, she joined Patti Hathaway on a mission to eradicate human trafficking. Patti is the daughter of the counselor who helped her take the blinders off and discover her true value and potential when she was 33 years old. Their relationship evolved into creating unique eLearning programs.

Ruth is the author of [The Realities of Human Trafficking From the Inside Out to Freedom](#) Her book describes how she fell prey to traffickers, what kept her trapped for so long, how she was able to escape, find freedom and what she is doing now in her retirement. She offers great insight on how others can protect themselves and their loved ones, how they can recognize victims and how to engage with them.



Professional Speaker

Ruth has told her story to various audiences to spread the awareness and to educate others. She provides valuable insight on how to prevent HT, how to intervene and also how to engage with victims. She has been the keynote speaker at several different conferences and training sessions to a diverse group of professionals and non-professionals alike, including law enforcement, clergy, courts/ justice system, politicians and health care professionals.

- Southwest Michigan Human Trafficking Task Force, Opening Our Eyes to Human Trafficking Around Us. St. Joseph, MI.
- Michigan County Social Services Association, Annual Conference, Bay City MI.
- Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Annual Conference in Mt. Pleasant, MI.
- A Survivor Speaks Out, Spectrum Big Rapids.
- Ottawa Allegan Human Trafficking Task Force Conference, Holland, MI.
- The Dental Society conference in St. Joseph.
- Michigan Attorney General's Judges Summit. Testimonial from judge with whom Ruth shared the stage with: *"It blew me away to hear how Ruth was able to pull herself up out of a life of such turmoil and go on to make a good life for herself. I appreciate her honesty and ability to be specific of what others can do to prevent human trafficking and also intervene."*

As a value-added service for being hired as a keynote speaker, Ruth is willing to serve on a panel at that same conference. Many clients buy a customized copy of Ruth's book for their audience as a marketing tool for their group to further educate their participants.

Subject Matter Expert/Consultant - on Sex and Labor Trafficking

Ruth serves on the Awareness, Education, and Training Subcommittee of the [Human Trafficking Health Advisory Board](#). The Board is comprised of 9 members appointed by the governor including health and mental health professionals, representatives of the department, human trafficking prevention experts, and survivors of human trafficking. The mission of the Human Trafficking Health Advisory Board, as set forth by statutes, is to:

1. Collect and analyze information concerning medical and mental health services available to survivors of human trafficking in this state,
2. Identify federal, state, and local agencies that are involved with issues relating to human trafficking, and coordinate the dissemination of information concerning medical and mental health services available to survivors of human trafficking in this state,
3. Meet annually with local health agencies to review the existing medical and mental health services available to assist survivors of human trafficking and establish a program to make those survivors better aware of the services available to them,
4. Establish a program to improve public awareness of medical and mental health services available to survivors of human trafficking in this state,
5. Review existing state laws and administrative rules relating to medical and mental health policies affecting survivors of human trafficking and make recommendations to the legislature and state agencies to improve those laws and rules, and
6. File an annual report with the chairs of the committees concerned with health policy of the senate and the house of representatives regarding its activities under this act
7. Ruth serves on the Awareness, Education, and Training sub-committee

Some of the board's past and present tasks:

- Explore the link between ACE's and human trafficking, promote screening for ACE's and spread the awareness of ACE's.
- MDHHS' child welfare database to begin tracking cases of human trafficking.
- Looking into assistance to pay for immigration medical exams for survivors who are foreign nationals
- The issue of allowing child abuse victims (including trafficking victims) to testify in a separate room from the perpetrator to avoid re-traumatization.
- The issue of victims applying for WIC services with no documentation to prove eligibility because trafficker confiscated their ID, passport etc.

Ruth provides consulting services to organizations/agencies to help prepare them to receive HT victims and know how to engage with them. She offers guidance and direction with a trauma-informed, victim-centered approach as a former HT victim and now survivor leader. Consulting may include attending committee meetings, visiting your facilities to assess them, using Skype or conference calls. Ruth can help you create a plan from making small changes in your facility to providing staff training.

Blogger: Survivor Speaks Out

Ruth continues to communicate with her audience to spread the awareness of human trafficking. She feels that blogging is a great way for survivors and non-survivors to learn from each other. She answers frequently asked questions about sex trafficking, offer tips to frontline employees who encounter victims and responds to recent news articles on human trafficking.

Recent Media:

[All I Knew was Abuse](#)

[Becoming Trafficked](#)

[Escaping the Life - How Freedom Came](#)

[Parents: Prevention is Easier than Intervention](#)

[Releasing Shame & Fear](#)

[The Voice that was Never Heard](#)

[You Can't Hear If You Don't Listen](#)

WOODTV 8 – Susan Samples

[Trafficked in Grand Rapids – “I knew I was a victim.”](#)

[Trafficked in Grand Rapids – Training to Spot Victims](#)

Articles

WOODTV 8 – Susan Samples (available on Ruth's website)

Media Story Ideas:

Please note because of Ruth's 18 years of being sex trafficked where she had NO control over her life, she requires ALL questions in advance of the interview. Ruth is available to comment on current human trafficking (HT) events from her experience as a victim. Here is a list of common questions that Ruth is asked as a HT survivor.

About Ruth's Trafficked Life:

1. What kind of children do traffickers target and why?
2. Why were you susceptible to traffickers? What in your childhood made you particularly vulnerable?
3. How did you meet your first trafficker and what did you think of him?
4. How did he coerce you into being trafficked for sex?

5. Tell me about the missed opportunities - situations where community members could have reached out to try to help you, but did not.
6. Your traffickers stole 18 years of your life. How would you describe the life you lived in those 18 years?
7. How were you able to escape the life?
8. Is escaping the life and finding freedom the same thing? If not, what is the difference?
9. What was it like working all those years, fearful that someone would discover your past?
10. How many years passed before you finally shared that you were trafficked for sex? As much as possible, please explain why that revelation was so incredibly difficult to make.
11. When did you first hear the term human trafficker and what did you think about it?
12. Talk about your efforts to retrace your life's journey. Why did you need to do that? How did it help you? What was your most surprising discovery along the way?
13. Were there any people who were key to your recovery journey? What roles did each play and why were they so critical?
14. What role did your mom play in your recovery journey?
15. Talk about your siblings and how your relationships with them have changed and strengthened over the years.
16. Why is it so important that trafficking victims "release the shame?" What does that really mean?
17. Tell me about your eLearning human trafficking lessons. What's unique about them? What kind of feedback are you getting? What's your ultimate goal with them?
18. Tell me about the other anti-trafficking work you're doing.
19. What's the most damaging myth that's perpetuated about human trafficking?
20. How can people help in the fight against human trafficking?

On Ruth's Record Expungement:

21. How do you feel about telling your story?

22. What do you hope comes from this interview and story?
23. What do survivors want non-survivors to know?
24. Tell me about the process you went through to get your record expunged. Also - why did it take three years?
25. Please try to explain why the granting of the expungement was so important to you?
26. What was it like sitting in that courtroom, waiting for the judge to rule?
27. What was it like to hear what the judge said when he called you an inspiration. Please try to describe that moment in time and how it felt to you.

General Human Trafficking Questions:

28. How are teens typically recruited into human trafficking situations?
29. Are most trafficking victims only foreign nationals or immigrants?
30. Do victims always come from low-income or poor backgrounds?
31. Do victims of human trafficking self-identify as a victim of a crime and ask for help immediately?
32. Where exactly does trafficking take place?
33. How is pimping sex trafficking?
34. Can victims be saved or rescued from human trafficking? If not, why not?
35. What should parents know about human trafficking to protect their children?
36. Does violence have to be involved in human trafficking?
37. What types of trafficking exists?
38. Who are the victims?
39. What advice would you give to frontline professionals who may encounter a HT victim?
40. What should they look for?

Social Media Links:

