

Curriculum Vitae

Chris Ash

[LinkedIn](#) | [Portfolio](#) | [ORCID](#)

EDUCATION

- 2017 **MA**, The University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Major: Liberal Arts and Science / Liberal Studies
Focus: Interdisciplinary focus on Gender, Human Rights, and Sociology
- 2001 **BA**, The University of South Florida
Major: Religious Studies

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Co-Founder and Weaver 2024 – Present
Collective Threads Initiative | Hybrid / Nairobi, Kenya

Leads the Meaningful Engagement and Equitable Knowledge Production workstream, with primary responsibility for advancing inclusive engagement practices and equitable approaches to developing and using knowledge.

Survivor Leadership Program Manager 2021 – 2024
National Survivor Network, Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking | Los Angeles, CA

Restructured, managed, and strengthened the National Survivor Network as a values-based network for survivors of human trafficking, integrating public health, human rights, harm reduction, and anti-oppression approaches. Supervised the Resilient Voices survivor leadership program, partnered on survivor-driven research initiatives, and advanced organizational practices for meaningful survivor engagement.

Prevention Education Program Manager & Anti-Human Trafficking Specialist 2018 – 2021
NC Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NCCASA) | Raleigh, NC

Led statewide prevention education initiatives through training, technical assistance, resource development, and coordination with rape crisis centers, community organizations, allied professionals, and other partners. Managed prevention efforts spanning CDC/RPE-funded programming, K–12 and community-based prevention, human trafficking, PREA and prison rape prevention, and campus-based initiatives, while providing coalition-building and strategic support to strengthen statewide responses to human trafficking.

Founder, Educator, & Advocate 2018 – 2021
Complete Consent Culture | Carrboro, NC

Provided trauma-informed, embodiment-focused sexuality and consent education through workshops, individual coaching, and organizational consulting. Facilitated programming on consent and boundaries, sexual health, community accountability, and bystander intervention, while supporting parents of gender-nonconforming youth and advising organizations on consent and accountability policies and practices.

Sexual Violence Crisis Response 2009 – 2018
Orange County Rape Crisis Center | Chapel Hill, NC

Supported survivors of sexual violence through crisis-line response, support group facilitation, and hospital and court accompaniment, progressing from volunteer service into a staff Crisis Response Assistant role. Provided supervision, procedural guidance, and secondary emotional support to crisis-line volunteers while helping ensure consistent, trauma-informed crisis response.

Pregnancy, Birth, Breastfeeding, and Parenting Advocate

2009 – 2018

Open Heart Birth and Baby | Greenwood, SC and Chapel Hill, NC

Provided childbirth education and doula support throughout the perinatal period, offering informational and emotional guidance related to preparation, birth planning, childbirth, bonding, and breastfeeding. Expanded access to services by offering a limited number of free and reduced-cost support packages each year for single and lower-income young parents.

CONSULTING & CONTRACT EXPERIENCE

Regional Research Consultant

2022 – 2023, 2026

University of Liverpool | Liverpool, UK

Supported data collection and analysis across the Americas for the Survivor Engagement and Inclusion in International Development Policy and Programming in Modern Slavery project. Contributed to research examining how survivor engagement and inclusion are incorporated into international development policy and programming related to modern slavery.

Survivor Leadership Consultant

2022 – 2023

Global Fund to End Modern Slavery | Hybrid

Partnered in developing the Meaningful Engagement of People with Lived Experience framework and assessment tools to support more inclusive and effective organizational practices. Facilitated and supported the fund's Survivor Leadership and Allyship Committee, strengthening collaboration and engagement among members with lived experience and organizational partners.

Survivor Engagement Consultant

2022

HEAL Trafficking | Remote

Provided guidance on the development of practical, non-tokenizing practices for lived experience engagement.

GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC SERVICE EXPERIENCE

President Biden Appointee and Chair

2024 – 2025

U.S. Advisory Council on Human Trafficking | Washington, DC

Advised federal leadership on anti-trafficking policy by developing data-informed recommendations for the Senior Policy Operating Group and the President's Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons. Evaluated federal programs and policies, authored annual reports, and recommended strategies to strengthen services and improve outcomes for survivors of human trafficking.

CREATIVE & MEDIA EXPERIENCE

Producer, Host, Storyteller

2019 - 2020

Outflouenced: An Evening of Queer Storytelling | Chapel Hill, NC

Produced and hosted a local live storytelling event featuring LGBTQ performers sharing true personal stories on stage without notes, while also contributing as an occasional performer. Performed at additional local and regional storytelling events, using live narrative to support community engagement, visibility, and connection.

Producer, Host, Storyteller
Psychology Podcast | Remote

2005 - 2008

Produced, hosted, and edited a storytelling podcast exploring the shared human experience.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

1. **Ash, Chris**, Ethan Czuy Levine, and Sophie Otiende, "Third-Party Facilitators and the Demand for Survivors' Stories." In Julie Ham, Rashmee Singh, and Menaka Raguparan (Eds.), *Perversions in Anti-Trafficking*. Routledge, accepted.
2. Spiral Kin (Samara Sevush, alix lutnick, Sophie Otiende, and **Chris Ash**), "The Illusion of Belonging: Unmasking Power and Control in the Anti-Trafficking Field." In Julie Ham, Rashmee Singh, and Menaka Raguparan (Eds.), *Perversions in Anti-Trafficking*. Routledge, accepted.
3. **Ash, Chris**, Ethan Czuy Levine, Andrea Lorenz, and Barbara Friedman, "'So Many Survivors I Know Regret Sharing Too Much Too Early': Human Trafficking Survivors' Experiences with Public Storytelling." *Violence Against Women*, 2026. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10778012261484128>
4. Friedman, Barbara G., Andrea Lorenz, **Chris Ash**, and Ethan Czuy Levine, "'Judged, Misrepresented and Misunderstood': Human Trafficking Survivors' Engagement with Journalists." *Journalism Studies*, November, 1–19, 2025. doi:10.1080/1461670X.2025.2590207
5. Alexandria Lesak, Cynthia Fraga Rizo, Hannabeth Franchino-Olsen, Melissa R. Jenkins, Hannah Winslow, Sandra L. Martin, Rebecca J. Macy, Robin Colbert, **Chris Croft Ash**, Courtney Dunkerton, "A Response to Edwards, Kulig, and Diamond-Welch," *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 2022. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23322705.2022.2078595>
6. Hannabeth Franchino-Olsen, Melissa Jenkins, Cynthia Fraga Rizo, **Chris Croft**, Robin Colbert, Sandra L. Martin, "Online Violence Education in the Era of COVID-19," *School Social Work Journal*, 2021.
7. Alexandria Lesak, Cynthia Fraga Rizo, Hannabeth Franchino-Olsen, Melissa R. Jenkins, Hannah Winslow, L B Klein, Sandra Martin, Rebecca J Macy, Robin Colbert, **Chris Croft**, Courtney Dunkerton, "Recommendations for Educating Youth about Sex Trafficking," *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 2021, <https://doi.org/10.1080/23322705.2021.1951552>
8. L B Klein, Brittney R Chesworth, Cynthia Fraga Rizo, Hannabeth Franchino-Olsen, **Chris Croft**, Rebecca J Macy, Sandra L Martin, "Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Indicators and Recommended Inquiries and Responses for Social Workers," *Social Work*, 2021, swab017, <https://doi.org/10.1093/sw/swab017>

INVITED PUBLICATIONS

1. Sophie Otiende, Elizabeth Maina, and **Chris Ash**, "A Cross-Movement Nature of Care Retreat," in Eleanor Taylor-Nicholson and Maya Linstrum-Neman (Eds.), *Reframing Narratives: Anti-trafficking from the Ground Up*. Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women, Issue 2, 2026.
2. Emma Ecker and **Chris Ash**, "From Symbolic Stories to Active Teachers: A Case Study on Survivor-Led Policy Work," in Eleanor Taylor-Nicholson and Maya Linstrum-Neman (Eds.), *Reframing Narratives: Anti-trafficking from the Ground Up*. Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women, Issue 2, 2026.
3. **Primary author**, "Voices of Resilience Global Forum for Human Trafficking Survivors," United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Division, 2025.
4. **Chris Ash**, "Whose story, whose benefit? Returning (to) the power of authentic narrative," *Modern Slavery and Human Rights Policy and Evidence Centre*, 2023.

5. **Chris Ash**, "Survivor engagement in international policy and programming in human trafficking and modern slavery: Reflections from North America," *Modern Slavery and Human Rights Policy and Evidence Centre*, 2022.
6. Hanni Stoklosa and **Chris Ash**, "It has to be their choice. We need to give them options," *Journal of Health Services Research & Policy*, 2021, <https://doi.org/10.1177/13558196211034898>.
7. Margaret Henderson, Sara DePasquale, Nancy Hagan, and **Chris Croft**, "Human Trafficking of Minors and Young Adults: What Local Governments Need to Know," *UNC School of Government Public Management Bulletin*, 2019.

BOOKS & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PRODUCTS

1. **Christian Ash** and Ethan Czuy Levine, "Introductory Guide to Peer Review for Community Research Partners and Early-Career Researchers," CTI, 2026.
2. **Chris Ash**, Elizabeth Maina, and Sophie Otiende, "Facilitating Cross-Movement Dialogues about Lived Experience Expertise," CTI, 2026.
3. **Chris Ash** and Sophie Otiende, "The Meaningful Engagement Handbook," CTI, 2025.
4. **Chris Ash**, et al. "Survivors' Experiences of Sharing their Trafficking Stories Publicly: Preliminary findings from a survey of 85 survivors," NSN, 2024.
5. **Chris Ash**, et al. "We Name It So We Can Repair It: Rethinking Harm, Accountability, and Repair in the Anti-trafficking Sector," Lived and Professional Experience Working Group, 2023.
6. Sabra Boyd and **Chris Ash**. "Survivor Storytelling Workbook," National Survivor Network (NSN), 2023.
7. Abby Larson, Kate VanderTuig, **Chris Ash**, et al. "Care, Self-Determination, and Safety: A Community-Centered, Public Health Approach to Preventing Human Trafficking," NSN, 2023.
8. **Chris Croft** et al. "Without Judgment: Centering the Margins in Bar Outreach & Prevention," North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NCCASA), 2022.
9. Montia Daniels, Shareen El Naga, and **Chris Croft**, "An Educator's Guide to Supporting 2SLGBTQIA+ Students," NCCASA, 2022.
10. Ellie Alexander, Ellen Fiedler, and **Chris Croft**, "Campus Culture Change through Horticulture," NCCASA, 2022.
11. Hadas Baron, **Chris Croft**, and Brittany Thomas, "Campus Human Trafficking Prevention Toolkit," NCCASA, 2022.
12. Shareen El Naga, Montia Daniels, and **Chris Croft**, "Emergent Space: Finding an Alternative," NCCASA, 2020.
13. Madison Van Epps and **Chris Croft**, "Human Trafficking Prevention Curriculum Matrix," NCCASA, 2020.
14. **Chris Croft**, "Human Trafficking Prevention Toolkit," NCCASA, 2020.
15. **Chris Croft** et al. "Opening the Dialogue: Helping Youth Stay Safe Online," NCCASA, 2020.
16. **Chris Croft** and Courtney Dunkerton, "Expanding Our Reach: Equipping North Carolina's Rape Crisis Centers to Serve Survivors of Human Trafficking," NCCASA, 2019.

CURRICULUM

1. Module Developer and Lecturer, "Human Trafficking Prevention." *The University of California, Irvine*, Virtual – 2026-present
2. Curriculum Developer and Trainer, "Meaningful Engagement Organizational Coach Training." *Collective Threads Initiative / National Survivor Network*, 2023-present
3. Co-author and Development Team Member, "Teach2Reach Curriculum Program Manual: Partnering with Schools to Educate Students about Sex Trafficking." *UNC School of Social Work Teach2Reach*, 2021

4. Primary Curriculum Developer and Trainer, "Schools Creating Optimal Protective Environments." *Guilford County Schools (partnership with NCCASA)*, Virtual – 2020
5. Curriculum Developer and Trainer, "Reframing Human Trafficking Prevention National Training Cohort." *NCCASA Training Institute*, Virtual – 2020

SELECT PRESENTATIONS

Summary: Presented, co-presented, trained, facilitated, and served on panels at national and international conferences, government agencies, universities, coalitions, and nonprofit organizations from 2019–2026. Presentation topics included human trafficking prevention and survivor leadership; meaningful engagement of people with lived experience; ethical storytelling and media engagement; trauma-informed and anti-oppression practices; sexual and domestic violence prevention; LGBTQ youth safety; sex trades; incarceration; academic equity; and systems-level approaches to violence prevention.

International

- "A Field Built on Narratives of Crisis, Now in Crisis: Opportunities at the Intersections of Development Praxis and Interventions to Combat Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking." (2025). Panelist, Development Studies Association Annual Conference, Bath, UK.
- "Beyond Tokenistic Involvement of People with Lived Experience in Anti-Trafficking Research." (2023). Plenary panelist, Equity in Evidence Conference, London, UK.

National

- "The Mandate for Meaningful Engagement of People with Lived Experience." (2025). Speaker, Global Commission on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Report Launch Stakeholder Luncheon, United Nations, New York, NY.
- "Survivor Leadership Opening Plenary." (2023). Panelist, Freedom Network USA Annual Conference, Washington, DC.
- "Naming Harm, Rethinking Leadership." (2023). Co-presenter, Freedom Network USA Annual Conference, Washington, DC.
- "Meaningful Engagement of People with Lived Experience." (2023). Co-host and panelist, Global Fund to End Modern Slavery and NSN Publication Launch Event, Washington, DC.
- "Contextualizing Demand: Deconstructing an Ideology." (2022). Presenter, Freedom Network USA Annual Conference, Miami, FL.
- "Developing Survivor Leadership and Professional Talent." (2022). Co-presenter, Freedom Network USA Annual Conference, Miami, FL.
- "Human Trafficking in the Historical Context of US Slavery." (2019). Co-presenter, SAFE Coalition for Human Rights Global Human Trafficking Conference, Chicago, IL.
- "Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking: Holistic Prevention and Response." (2019). Presenter, SHIFT-NC Annual Conference, Greensboro, NC.
- "Working with Survivors of Trauma in a Non-Clinical Setting." (2019). Presenter, Intersections Youth Homelessness Symposium, Chapel Hill, NC.
- "Working with Survivors of Trauma in a Non-Clinical Setting." (2019). Presenter, NC LiteracyCorps AmeriCorps, Carrboro, NC.

Virtual

- "Ethical Media Engagement with Trafficking Survivors." (2026). Co-presenter, Minnesota Department of Public Health.
- "Survivor-Driven Storytelling for Social Change." (2025). Co-presenter, Freedom Network USA Annual Conference.

- “Meaningful Engagement and Partnership with Lived Experience Experts of Human Trafficking, Domestic, and Sexual Abuse: Roundtable Webinar.” (2023). Roundtable webinar presenter, Futures Without Violence.
- “Working with Survivors in the Sex Trades.” (2022). Presenter, New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault Training Institute.
- “NCCASA’s Campus Human Trafficking Prevention Toolkit.” (2022). Co-presenter, ValorUS.
- “NCCASA’s Campus Human Trafficking Prevention Toolkit.” (2022). Co-presenter, National Association of Student Personnel Administrators.
- “Rethinking Survivor Leadership.” (2022). Co-trainer, Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking.
- “Rethinking Survivor Leadership.” (2022). Co-trainer, Human Trafficking Legal Center.
- “Rethinking Survivor Leadership.” (2022). Co-trainer, Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking.
- “Incorporating Anti-Oppression Principles into Violence Prevention.” (2022). Presenter, Oklahoma Department of Public Health Web Training Series.
- “Academic Equity through Trauma-Informed Practices: Making Repositories Sustainable for Researchers with Lived Experience.” (2022). Co-presenter, Samvera Connect.
- “Creating Emergent Spaces for Sexual Violence Prevention.” (2021). Presenter, Nevada Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence Title IX Training.
- “Understanding Safety and Tradeoffs for LGBTQ Youth.” (2021). Presenter, Children’s Advocacy Centers of NC Conference.
- “Questioning Binaries and Certainty to Support LGBTQ Youth Survivors.” (2021). Presenter, Children’s Advocacy Centers of NC Conference.
- “Externalizing the Violence: Shifting from Bogeymen and Bad Guys to Our Collective Responsibility.” (2021). Presenter, Freedom Network USA Annual Conference.
- “Creating Emergent Spaces for Sexual Violence Prevention During COVID-19.” (2020). Co-presenter, PreventConnect and National Sexual Violence Resource Center Web Conference.
- “Emergent Space: Finding an Alternative.” (2020). Co-presenter, Solving the Campus Sexual Assault & Dating Violence Puzzle Conference.
- “Whole Body Listening: Navigating Embodied Pleasure as a Trauma Survivor.” (2020). Co-presenter, Woodhull Sexual Freedom Summit.
- “Upstream, Same River: Rethinking the Bones of Our Systems.” (2020). Presenter, NCCASA Training Institute.
- “Safety and Services for Incarcerated At-Risk Populations.” (2020). Co-presenter, Just Detention International and NCCASA.

GUEST LECTURER

Summary: Guest lecturer and invited presenter at Stockton University, the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the University of Wisconsin–Madison, Widener University, Berea College, and the National Health Resource Center on Domestic Violence. Delivered presentations on human trafficking prevention, complex trauma, survivor-centered advocacy, sexuality and alternative relationship models, intimate partner violence, feminist perspectives, community engagement, and values-based partnerships, 2018–2025. Served as a guest judge for health policy presentations at the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health in 2022.

- **Stockton University:** “A Public Health Approach to Understanding Human Trafficking” — 2025
- **University of North Carolina at Greensboro:** “God, the Body, and Sexuality in Alternative Relationship Models” — 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2024
- **National Health Resource Center on Domestic Violence — Survivor Leadership Cohort:** “Bringing Your Story into Your Advocacy” — 2022
- **University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, School of Social Work:** “Navigating Partnerships, Values Alignment, and Integrity” — 2022 | “Human Trafficking and Working with Survivors of Complex Trauma” — 2019, 2020 | “Human Trafficking and Listening to Impacted Communities” — 2019

- **University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Gillings School of Global Public Health:** Guest Judge, Health Policy Presentations — 2022 | “Human Trafficking Prevention” — 2021
- **University of Wisconsin–Madison, School of Social Work:** “Human Trafficking Prevention” — 2021
- **Widener University, College of Health and Human Services:** “Intimate Partner Violence in Polyamorous Relationships” — 2021
- **University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Hussman School of Journalism and Media:** “Human Trafficking” — 2019
- **Berea College:** “A Feminist Perspective on Human Trafficking” — 2019

BLOG POSTS

Ash, Chris and Sophie Otiende (2025, November 19). Why can't anti-trafficking be more radical? OpenDemocracy. <https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/why-cant-anti-trafficking-be-more-radical/>

Kiconco, Allen, **Chris Ash**, and Sophie Otiende (2025, June 24). How US funding built a brittle economy in anti-trafficking. <https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/how-us-funding-built-a-brittle-economy-in-anti-trafficking/>

Ash, Chris, David Baguma Kagoro, Hmayak Avetisyan, Mamta Mehar, Rogers Mutaawe, Victoria Capriles Moreno, and Willz. (2023, September 12). Meaningful lived experience engagement in modern slavery research. The Freedom Fund. <https://www.freedomfund.org/news/meaningful-lived-experience-engagement-in-modern-slavery-research/>

Ash, Chris (2023, June 06). Rescuing the rescuers: how survivors are re-making anti-trafficking. OpenDemocracy. <https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/rescuing-the-rescuers-how-survivors-are-re-making-anti-trafficking/>

Ash, Chris (2023, February 14). Flipping the script on Survivor Leadership™ in anti-trafficking. OpenDemocracy. <https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/flipping-the-script-on-survivor-leadership-in-anti-trafficking/>

MEDIA MENTIONS

Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (2026, May 29). ‘Each movement focuses on their specific fight while we keep losing ground in the big fight (of Human Rights)’. <https://gaatw.org/members/meet-our-members/1492-each-movement-focuses-on-their-specific-fight-while-we-keep-losing-ground-in-the-big-fight-of-human-rights>

Prism (2024, Feb 7). ‘Sex workers and advocates organize to stop trafficking raids around Super Bowl’. <https://prismreports.org/2024/02/07/sex-workers-las-vegas-super-bowl/>

Modern Slavery and Human Rights Policy and Evidence Centre Podcast (2023, Dec 15). ‘Transformative potential of meaningful engagement of lived experience’. <https://www.modernslaverypec.org/latest/transformative-potential-meaningful-engagement-lived-experience-3>

IndieWire (2023, Oct 13). “Sound of Freedom” Started a Human Trafficking Conversation, but Survivors Say It’s the Wrong One’. <https://www.indiewire.com/features/general/sound-of-freedom-starts-streaming-survivors-speak-out-against-film-1234912709/>

Inside Edition (2023, Aug 8). ‘Some Trafficking Survivors Say “Sound of Freedom” is Far From True’. <https://www.insideedition.com/some-trafficking-survivors-say-sound-of-freedom-is-far-from-true-83011>

Vice (2023, Aug 7). ‘Trafficking Survivors and Advocates Are Being Harassed by “Sound of Freedom” Fans’. <https://www.vice.com/en/article/trafficking-survivors-and-advocates-are-being-harassed-by-sound-of-freedom-fans/>

Business Insider (2020, Oct 5). 'Sex-trafficking survivors say QAnon's anti-trafficking crusade is hurting more than it's helping.' <https://www.businessinsider.com/qanon-conspiracy-theories-sex-trafficking-survivors-criticize-misinformation-2020-10>

The New Republic (2020, Feb 18). 'The Trump Administration Finally Broke the Anti-Trafficking Movement'. <https://newrepublic.com/article/156579/trump-administration-finally-broke-anti-trafficking-movement>

WUNC The State of Things (2019, Oct 3). 'Behind Closed Doors Yet In Plain Sight: Human Trafficking in North Carolina'. <https://www.wunc.org/show/the-state-of-things/2019-10-03/behind-closed-doors-yet-in-plain-sight-human-trafficking-in-north-carolina>

SERVICE TO THE FIELD

2025 – present	Board of Directors, Freedom Network USA
2022	Moving Beyond Words: Victim-Centered and Trauma-Informed, Office for Victims of Crime
2020	Preventing Child Sexual Exploitation Subject Matter Expert, National Strategy for Child Exploitation Prevention and Interdiction Meeting, U.S. Department of Justice
2019 – 2021	Coordinator and Co-Facilitator, North Carolina Sexual Violence Prevention Advisory Council, Department of Health and Human Services Injury and Violence Prevention Branch

SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

2019 – 2021	Member, Leadership Team	Orange County Partnership to End Homelessness
2016 - 2020	Founding Organizer and Board Member	LGBTQ Center of Carrboro
2016 – 2019	Monthly Contributor	Feminism and Religion Blog
2007 – 2022	Admin, Facilitator, Moderator	Naturally Parenting Twins
1994 – 1996	Suicide Hotline Counselor	Helpline of the Midlands

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- The Management Center's Managing to Change the World Crash Course (Washington, DC)
- HEAL Trafficking Training of Trainers (Boston, MA)
- Futures Without Violence Project Catalyst Training of Trainers (Durham, NC)
- Racial Equity Institute Phase I two-day training (Cary, NC)
- Becoming a Sexuality Educator and Trainer for People with I/DD (Virtual, Elevatus)