

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: GLOBAL MARCH TO RAISE AWARENESS FOR CHILD
TRAFFICKING & EXPLOITATION COMES TO
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA
AUG 22ND 2020**

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK: On Saturday the 22nd, millions will peacefully walk to raise awareness for the estimated 1.2 million children that are trafficked every year. What began as an event in Hollywood quickly inspired acts in solidarity organized across all 50 states and the world with the Freedom for the Children movement (freedomforthechildren.org). Event details and facebook links for all events are accessible on the website's calendar. OKC supporters will meet at Centennial Fountain, Bricktown, OKC at 12:00pm, with more details available at Freedom for the Children OKC Assembly on Facebook.

Since the nationwide lockdowns, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children has seen a surge in online crimes against children, from over 2 million in March, to a doubled 4 million by April – 4x as much than in April 2019. There have been arrests for the manipulation and exploitation for children as young as 6 years old. And as these children's voices are not making the headlines, the public has begun to gather and be heard for them.

On July 30th, the World Against Trafficking Day, hundreds gathered across Texas, Kentucky, Idaho, Kansas, South Dakota, Mississippi, and more. The next day, hundreds in Hollywood occupied the CNN building chanting, "Save the kids!", though the network has not yet reported on the Childs Lives Matter protests. Still, the story continues.

The global day of action on August 22nd is intended to be peaceful, educational, and to build community while building awareness. This movement has arisen from grassroots organizing with a localized incentive for communities to organize and identify their issues that connect to the growing trafficking and exploitation crisis. To connect about strategy and action beyond the event, join your local change-makers at Free the Children Oklahoma on Facebook and get involved today.