

BAKHITA LAW

Representing individuals affected by human trafficking and other forms of exploitation.

High Risk Youth

Growing up in state custody is difficult but trying to survive without any support can be treacherous. Imagine being separated from your family and living in a group home. You've spent the better part of your teenage years in an institution. Another birthday passes and suddenly you've "aged out" of the system. You are now completely on your own. If someone takes an interest in you, promises love and a home, it would be hard to refuse. Unfortunately traffickers know this and exploit it everyday. For this reason, Bakhita Law is working to intervene on behalf of high risk kids so that their futures may be more secure. If you would like to support at risk youth, please consider becoming a youth mentor, foster parent, or donating to our capital campaign.



Remembering Hope!

This is an exciting time of year at Bakhita Law. The difficulties faced by victims of human trafficking can seem overwhelming, but in this advent season we are reminded that there is hope in Him who brings good news to the afflicted and proclaims liberty to captives.

This past year, while assessing my case files, I noticed that almost all my clients had spent time in foster care. This is not unusual. A person's likelihood of being exploited rises dramatically if their home life has been shattered. Sex traffickers prey on the need for love and take advantage of the lack of family support. This is especially true for



Legal Issues



The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) was passed by congress in 2000. A lot of our work at Bakhita Law falls under this legislation. For example, the T Visa was created through the TVPA and allows foreign born nationals who were brought into the United States for the purposes of forced labor or sex trafficking to remain in the United States while their traffickers are prosecuted. The Act also defines any commercial sex act by a minor as human trafficking. Thus, even if there is no force, fraud, or coercion (an element required to prove trafficking for most cases) a child is protected from commercial sexual exploitation under TVPA. Consequently, there is no such thing as "child prostitution" under federal law. State law, however varies across the nation and some children are charged with solicitation crimes. At Bakhita Law, we agree with the Federal view that minors involved in commercial sexual exploitation are in fact victims in need of assistance and we work to make sure their legal needs are met.

children in group living situations who lack the support of loving foster parents. For this reason, we are beginning a preventative services initiative for children in foster care. The goal is that those at greatest risk for trafficking will receive the legal assistance they need in order to have hope for the future.

We are eternally thankful to be able to participate in God's care for His people. Please pray for our clients and for us to remain close to Him who gives us strength.

Peace in Christ,

Katherine Lloyd

Founder and Managing Attorney



"The spirit of the Lord is on me, for he has anointed me to bring the good news to the afflicted. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives, sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free." -Luke 4:18