



INTRODUCTION

Thank you so much for joining *California's Forgotten Children* documentary movement and embarking on this journey screening our film. By hosting a screening, it will spark a meaningful conversation about child sex trafficking. We hope that the screening of this film will empower the next generation of advocates to address this epidemic by supporting survivors on their path to freedom.

This guidebook is a comprehensive blueprint to help plan and execute the screening. It includes:

- Information on keeping safe and where students can get help.
- Classroom activities and discussion questions.
- Resources for young advocates to help their community.

California's Forgotten Children documentary screenings will allow students who have experienced Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children or Sex Trafficking, or a closely related issue such as Childhood Sexual Abuse, to know that they are in a safe place, with concerned adults who understand and empathize with their lived experience and are prepared to offer meaningful, concrete support.

Some topics might resonate more than others with students. Themes we have not considered might come up. We encourage you to familiarize yourself with key parts of working through this guide before the screening, highlight the questions that you feel resonate with your audience, and make notes. We're here to support you in making the screening work for your classroom!



*"I was 10 years old, standing out on the corner of 21st and International in nothing but a white wife-beater, some jean shorts, and some pink converse tennis shoes. I didn't comprehend fully that first night what was about to happen. I was too young. I was a baby."
-- Withelma Ortiz Walker Pettigrew*

ABOUT THE FILM

California's Forgotten Children is a feature documentary that follows a diverse group of resilient survivors who have overcome commercial sexual exploitation as children and are changing the world by ensuring no child is forgotten.

This documentary has current statistics and perspectives of sexual exploitation from professionals in social services, law enforcement, advocates, and child welfare. It focuses on youth wrongfully criminalized youth in the judicial system, manipulated and coerced by family, friends, and caretakers; and exploited by multiple slavery industries.

This documentary aims to point out not only the injustices done to these children but also offer solutions to help spread change in society. It highlights heroic stories from abolitionists and advocates who work night and day to protect children and to put an end to this epidemic.

California's Forgotten Children documentary shares an empowering message of how each survivor took control of her/his life, developing into influential leaders and champions of change. From victim to survivor to thriver-- these young women and men dedicate their lives to preventing injustices from happening to others. They seek to change public perception and create a safer environment for children worldwide.

This film is a call to action by giving viewers the tools and the knowledge to combat this scourge. By creating awareness, this documentary empowers a movement to address this epidemic and support survivors on their path to freedom.

This is not just a documentary; this is a movement.



OUR REACH AND IMPACT

Fueled by powerful stories and a desire to foster change alongside our partners across the globe, *California's Forgotten Children* has become a movement. We have reached thousands of people internationally raising awareness about the prevalence of child sex trafficking through festival and community screenings. We are mobilizing change within communities by partnering with local advocates and survivor leaders, and we are inspiring education reform that advocates for bringing an end to the exploitation of children. Our expanding network includes partners on the ground that range from non-profits, government organizations, and survivors and now YOU!

Since 2019, we collaborated screened with over 100+ organizations from the government, foster care systems, juvenile detention facilities, crisis centers, tech companies, and health services organizations. Our film helped fundraise for safe-homes, crisis centers, and direct services for victims of commercial sexual exploitation, sexual assault, homelessness, and HIV/AIDS.

The film screened at the United States Senate and the United States of Women Summit. The same event where Michelle Obama was a guest speaker, encouraging policymakers to create and implement laws and policies to combat trafficking.

The film screened at 19 film festivals and won Best Documentary at the Soho International Film Festival, Best Director at the Chico Independent Film Festival, 'Rising Filmmaker' at the Riverside International Film Festival, and the Orson Welles Award at the California Film Awards.

Screened at FACEBOOK HEADQUARTERS in California, Texas, and Dublin, Ireland, to train international staff in protecting at-risk people from real-world harm.

California's Forgotten Children Documentary is continuing to make rounds in law enforcement organizations, tech companies, non-profits, and educational institutions across the globe. All to prevent these injustices from continuing and make sure children are no longer forgotten.





What It Means To Be a Host

Hosting a *California's Forgotten Children* documentary screening means a powerful awareness tool and the important conversations it may spark. It means taking responsibility to guide your students through the process and also taking responsibility to prepare yourself with resources and support. It can be a challenging, heartbreaking, life-saving, and rewarding journey all at once! We are here to help every step of the way to ensure this becomes a reality.

When students view *California's Forgotten Children* documentary in class, we want them to feel as if they are entering into a safe space and community that is compassionate and understanding. According to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys are sexually abused, which means there is a high chance one or more of your students may have been abused. Some parts of the stories in the film may be triggering to them as it relates to their own story. We want them to feel comfortable, safe and empowered when they come to see the documentary. Our biggest dream is that the conversations at these screenings become part of a broader discussion that fuels the movement and sparks meaningful change for audiences around the world.

Your Tools

The Educators Guidebook is a tool to facilitate hosting a screening of *California's Forgotten Children* in a high school classroom environment. It is an opportunity to discuss why human trafficking is an important issue plaguing our communities and support survivors by sharing resources. This toolkit will provide all the information to make planning a breeze.

The Schedule

California's Forgotten Children is a 90-minute documentary. For classrooms, you have the choice to split it over three days 25-30 minutes a day with 10-15 minute activities to do with the students, optional assignments, and optional fourth-day activity. All activities are designed to be engaging creative, and customizable for your the classroom.



FEEDBACK FROM TEACHERS AND HOSTS

"It provided more passion for me to make sure students are aware of it. Our district does yearly training about this but the documentary is more relevant. The film helped students become more aware of it to protect themselves and their peers around them"

- Livingston High School, 9th Grade, 200 Students

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"The impact of California's Forgotten Children documentary was tremendous! Students went home and told their families about the film and what they had learned. Parents reached out and wanted to view the film as well and learn more. The impact has been remarkable. The students and teachers now know more about trafficking, but also know who to reach out if they identify a survivor."

-Valley Crisis Center, 9th, 10th, and 11th Grades, 2,000 Students

I will endorse the movie - I will tell my colleagues that the information in the film is tangible, real and relevant and that as a supplement to a Dating Violence and Harassment Unit it will drive home important truths.

- Buhach Colony High School, 9th Grade, 450 Students

"They were stunned, sad, angry. One interesting conversation that came out of it, was that they felt they had been harsh in judging women in our community who were identified as "prostitutes." The film help them understand more about the women they see in our community, that they are real people. I would recommend it. It is important for our society to know what is happening. I think all educators should have to watch this."

-El Capitan High School, 9th Grade, 400 Students

"California's Forgotten Children is a great tool to both open a conversation and dialogue on human trafficking as well as to create a more in-depth dialogue on how to strategically combat this horrific crime."

- Penny Ronning, Co-Found/Co-Chair of the Yellowstone County Area Human Trafficking Task Force 250+, General Public

"The film creatively articulated the reality of sex trafficking in California, and inspired a range of responses from the audience. "

- Amelia Watkins, Rights Lab, Nottingham University UK, 70 Students and General Public



THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS FROM STUDENTS WHO WATCHED THE FILM

"I feel so disgusted by sex trafficking and I feel awful for the people who have to suffer from that. This does make me feel to change my aspects on life because I have to be careful who I am going with and to stay careful on what I do. I'm going to change on who I am going to be with and who I talk to."

- 14 years old, Female

"I think it needs to be put to a stop because these underaged women don't deserve to go through this and not be able to experience life the way everyone else has the chance to do and they deserve to be able to do that."

- 14 years old, Male

"I think it is a very bad part of today's society and I would spread the information so other people would do it to help stop trafficking."

- 15 years old, Male

"I don't like the fact that it's even a thing. Everyone should have the right to live how they want to. Grown ups and kids should not be sold. It does call my attention to try and stop this. One thing that could change is how we look at people at the side of the road, to stop judging and think of possible situations that that person could be going through."

- 15 years old, Female

"My thoughts on sex trafficking is that it is by far one of the most cruel, yet overlooked crime there is. The mention of it makes me feel as if I want to help in anyway possible. I would change aspects of my life to end sex trafficking such as becoming a detective in the SVU system. I feel like I can change the overlooked cases into cases that matter. By this I mean, I would take the cases that were left "unsolved" and look further into them. I would not give up on anything that might have an insight on a possible sex trafficking system. I would want to be a supporting figure towards the victims and show them there is some justice in our world. I would want to learn all I can around the laws of sex trafficking to fight the battles that others thought would be lost."

- 14 years old, Female

"I feel bad for people going through sex trafficking and feel ashamed of men who buy and sell women. This changes my aspect because I didn't think trafficking happens at such a young age."

- 14 years old, Male,

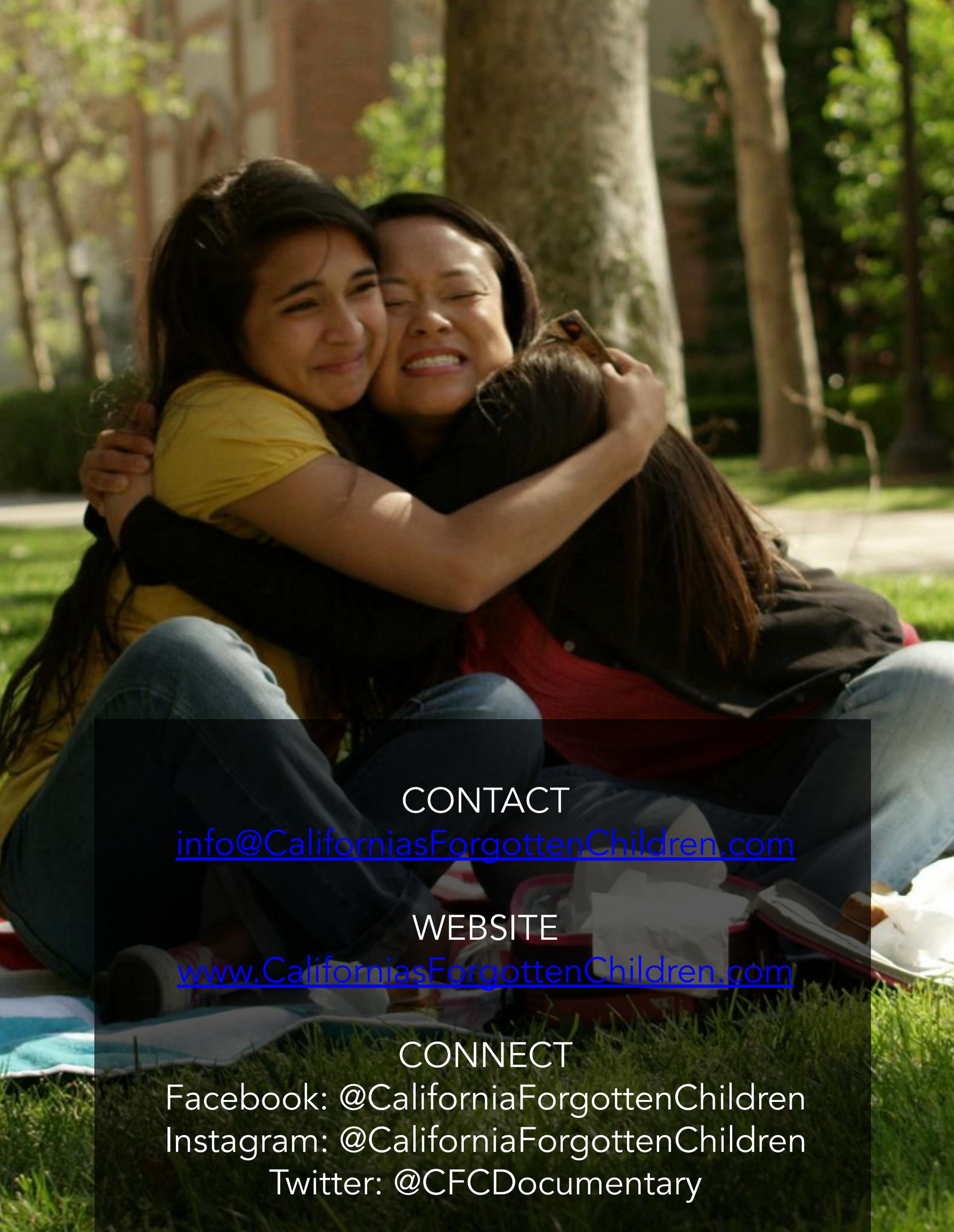
"I want to change aspects of my life to end sex trafficking. I think I could make a change by teaching others about it. I could tell them that many of the people who sell themselves for sex were kidnapped, or are being held against their will to do what they do. I could also tell people that sex trafficking happens in the U.S, since many people probably think it isn't very prevalent in the U.S."

- 14 years old, Male,



Thank you for the opportunity to share our film with you and inspiring the next generation of leaders to combat child sex trafficking, we know you will have an impactful screening!





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