

DR. STEPHANY POWELL



Dr. Stephany Powell has worked in the area of domestic human sex trafficking for approximately nine years. Her expertise in this area began when she was a Sergeant within the Los Angeles Police Department, in charge of a vice unit. (The vice unit had the responsibility to investigate crimes of prostitution and sex related slavery). Her demeanor and approach to those she arrested and or save touched those around her to begin a shift for others take a more victim centered approach toward the issue of human trafficking. Once she retired she became the non-founding executive director of the thirty-five-year-old organization, Journey Out (formerly known as the Mary Magdalene Project). Journey Out assist victims of human trafficking in finding their way out violence and abuse, due to sexual exploitation or forced prostitution. Since 2013, Journey Out has assisted over 1,000 victims with places to live, food, clothing, diversion from prosecution and counseling. Dr. Powell's passion and expertise in this field has translated within the last four years into new policies for the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) and the national massage school industry. She has led education and awareness workshops to various audiences of law enforcement, prosecutors, and communities, across the country. Dr. Powell has spoken before legislative committees in the California state capitol and addressed the Texas legislative Black Caucus.

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Since 2013 she has educated approximately six thousand people. She has received numerous awards and recognition from Los Angeles County and City officials, as well as the Women of the NAACP, Masonic organizations, community organizations and her beloved chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha. Dr. Powell is clearly the recognized expert on the subject of human trafficking.

Her most recent accomplishment was her ability to convince the Los Angeles Fire Department to allow her to train their entire department (3,500) on how to identify both minor and adult victims of human trafficking free of charge. Dr. Powell recognized that these first responders would be the first point of contact for many victims still in captivity and their ability to recognize these victims in a timely matter could save lives. As a result of the training of the LAFD, for the first time, it has a policy and protocol for identifying and assisting victims of both labor and sex human trafficking. Dr. Powell has been featured in the PBS documentary “And Still I Rise”, local news outlets and HLN.