I. **Project Summary**

Through the Davis Projects for Peace and in collaboration with local NGOs, I organized seven human trafficking workshops in Poipet (2), Battambang (2), Phnom Penh (1), and Siem Reap (2) Cambodia. The workshop equipped participants with knowledge about human trafficking and online sexual exploitation.

II. **Project Description**

I am a firm believer that education is protection and prevention from human trafficking. As I learned about the atrocity of this crime, I felt empowered to take action to abolish slavery forever through education. This project equipped the community with the knowledge and resources to recognize and protect themselves from human trafficking. The workshops allowed the community to understand the different layers of human trafficking in Cambodia and continue to raise awareness about this important issue. After thorough research and many conversations with local NGOs, I learned that human trafficking continues to exacerbate in Cambodia. Many impoverished communities become victims of this horrendous crime, and the pandemic further hinders anti-trafficking efforts in Cambodia. Therefore, the objective of this project was to strengthen prevention efforts by educating local communities about the danger and risk of human trafficking and sexual exploitation. With the Davis Projects for Peace grant, the project was successfully implemented with no other fundraising efforts.

The success of this project relied on strong collaboration and support from local NGOs. Throughout the project, I collaborated with eight organizations in Cambodia, ranging from anti-trafficking nonprofit organizations to schools to religious organizations. The partnership with these organizations allowed me to reach more than 450 community members. To ensure that all workshops are culturally appropriate and accurately depict the complexity of human trafficking in Cambodia, A21 Cambodia, Damnoent Toek, Hagar Cambodia, and AusCam Freedom Projects facilitated the human trafficking workshops in Khmer. These local organizations provided guidance and support as I designed the workshop agenda and materials.

On June 12 and June 23, 2023, 91 students at Sala Bai Restaurant & Hotel School received training on Internet safety and online sexual exploitation (CSAM, Sexting, Sextortion, etc.) provided by A21 Cambodia. On June 24 and June 25, 2023, the Deputy Director of Damnoent Toek facilitated the workshops for 28 students and 23 foster care parents at Love Without Boundaries Believe in Me School. On June 30, 2023, A21 Cambodia led a training for 75 students at Battambang Teacher Education College. In collaboration with the Apostolic Prefecture of Battambang, A21 Cambodia facilitated a workshop for more than 175 local youth and community members on June 30, 2023. On July 9, 2023, Hagar Cambodia collaborated with AusCam Freedom Project to train 75 college students at Harpswell Foundation.

Throughout the project, I had to make several adjustments due to scheduling conflicts from partnered organizations. I had to work closely with partnered organizations to reschedule the workshop dates to ensure the workshops were well-attended. Originally, A21 Cambodia was the main facilitator for all the workshops; however, I realized the importance of connecting participants with organizations in their community, so they can easily seek help and engage in anti-trafficking efforts after the workshop. Therefore, I connected with other local anti-trafficking organizations such as Hagar Cambodia, AusCam Freedom Project, and Damnoent Toek to facilitate the other workshops. For instance, A21 Cambodia is based in Siem Reap while Harpswell Foundation is in Phnom Penh. Although it is possible for A21 Cambodia to facilitate the workshop for Harpswell Foundation, it is more sustainable for organizations like Hagar Cambodia and AusCam Freedom Project, both based in Phnom Penh, to lead the workshop because Harpswell students can easily connect with them to actively participate in anti-trafficking activities. As I designed the workshop, I learned about the Phea’s Dream, a comic book that depicts human trafficking in Cambodia. The comic book was designed by Cause Vision and distributed by Cambodian Community Dream Organization, Inc. I connected with Cause Vision and CCDI to request permission and support to print the Phea’s Dream comic books for workshop participants. Although the book was not part of the original proposal, it was a very meaningful addition to the prevention care package because the illustrations and storyline allowed local youth to gain a better understanding of human trafficking in Cambodia.
III. Project Reflection

Peace is freedom from oppression, violence, and exploitation. This project contributed to peace by preventing human trafficking before it begins through education. Prevention education empowers individuals to raise their voices and speak against the injustices happening in their communities. It equips them with knowledge to make well informed decisions, so that they can preserve peace for themselves, their loved ones, and their communities. I believe that little changes create ripple effects. Even if only one person in the community learns and understands about the danger of human trafficking, they can become a positive force against this horrendous crime. Their voice can multiply, and their knowledge can save lives.

One of the significant challenges that I faced while planning and implementing this project was reconciling with the white-savior complex. To navigate this conflict, I had to carefully and mindfully assess my true intentions and objectives of this project. Through many conversations with local experts, I learned that there is a need for human trafficking prevention workshops in Cambodia. I strived to engage with the local community and NGOs to ensure the project is culturally relevant and appropriate. At the core of this project, I focused on community building and partnerships as powerful tools to fight against human trafficking. Although the project has ended, partnerships have been created between different organizations and communities that will continue to strengthen, with the ultimate goal of eradicating slavery and empowering individuals to become change agents.

This project has taught me the importance of collaboration and trust when working with other organizations. Human trafficking is a global issue that requires everyone to join hands in abolishing it forever. This project shows me that it is not hard to make connections and partnerships. It only requires one person to initiate the conversation for an idea to become reality. Although different organizations have different agendas, if they share a common vision in eradicating slavery, collaboration is possible in attaining this vision. This project has inspired me to continue empowering others to become advocates of change. One person can make a positive difference simply by starting a conversation on this important topic. The sustainability component of this project relies on the participants’ ability to engage in future conversations regarding this issue. Whether it is the Phea’s Dream comic book or the water bottle with printed hotline, these tools are conversation starters to empower the local community to raise awareness about human trafficking. Together, we are stronger than slavery.

IV. Personal Statement

(Ngan) “Prevention education is not a new idea, but it is an idea worth spreading until every individual understands the complexity of human trafficking. With trust and strong collaboration among government agencies, NGOs, and communities, we can eradicate slavery forever.”