

**NEWS  
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CITY OF PADUCAH, KY



**Contact:** Pam Spencer

Public Information Officer

**Phone:** 270-444-8669

**Fax:** 270-443-5058

**Victory Through Grace Ministries  
Featured on Latest Episode of *PHRC, Raising the Standard***

PADUCAH, KY— “Let’s stop pretending that it’s not happening,” says Paducah Human Rights Commission (PHRC) Chair Dr. Bernice Belt. On the latest episode of *PHRC, Raising the Standard*, Dr. Belt and Commissioner Shulorn Jeter talk about the prevalence of human and sex trafficking. Their guests are Carol Smith and Kellie Russell with Victory Through Grace Ministries. The new episode of *PHRC, Raising the Standard* can be seen on Government 11 starting Monday, April 21.

Victory Through Grace Ministries is a new non-profit organization in Paducah. Smith says, “Victory Through Grace is a Christ-centered, 501(c)(3) organization that wants to bring awareness about ending modern day slavery by empowering young women who are survivors of human and sex trafficking and all forms of abuse.” In addition to networking with organizations with similar missions, the organization is working to obtain a home in Paducah for the survivors with the ultimate goal of receiving referrals of young women who need a safe place to start a new life. Russell says, “We want to let the women know that their past doesn’t define them, and that they are a new creation.”

In this episode, viewers will hear about cases in this region. Smith says, “People don’t realize that human and sex trafficking is the second largest industry in the world. It’s only second to the drug industry and well on its way to surpassing the drug industry.” Also discussed is the Kentucky Human Trafficking Victims Rights Act signed by Governor Steve Beshear in 2013.

PHRC members are Dr. Bernice Belt, Rafiel Banks, Robert Cross, Lincoln Hardy, Shulorn Jeter, Craig Newbern, Jr., Gary Reese, Matthew Schultz, and Steven Smith. If you are interested in serving on the board or if you need assistance, visit [www.paducahky.gov](http://www.paducahky.gov) or call the office at 444-8643.

View daily program information by watching the informational slides airing on the Channel 11 bulletin board. The episode also is on the City’s website and the various social media outlets for the City of Paducah including Youtube and Facebook. Check the website for program information, videos, news releases, and broadcast schedules. *PHRC, Raising the Standard* is produced through the television production facilities at West Kentucky Community and Technical College.

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City of Paducah • P.O. Box 2267 • Paducah, Kentucky 42002  
270/444-8669 • Desk 270/443-5058 • Fax

Website: <http://www.paducahky.gov> Email: [pspencer@paducahky.gov](mailto:pspencer@paducahky.gov)  
[www.awardwinningpaducah.com](http://www.awardwinningpaducah.com)