



The Amara Legal Center envisions a society where our clients are free from stigma, violence, oppression, exploitation, and criminalization.

Amara Statement on R. Kelly Verdict Survivors' Voices Were Heard & Justice Was Served



Three days ago, a New York jury found R. Kelly guilty of sex trafficking, along with separate charges to racketeering, including acts of bribery and sexual exploitation of a child. Survivors' voices were heard and justice was served. Amara applauds the brave women who stepped out on faith that the legal system would work for them, when oftentimes they see the legal system work against individuals that look like them - Black women and girls.

Thank you, thank you to these courageous souls who hopefully will gain closure and another important step forward towards their healing.

The Stats

According to *Snapshot on the State of Black Women and Girls: Sex Trafficking in the U.S.*, a report published by the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, "To better understand the high rates of sex trafficking among Black women and girls, research has indicated the continued sexualization of Black women and girls' bodies which has played out since slavery. The myths around Black women and girls' hypersexuality cannot be ignored when researching sex trafficking."

The report goes on to discuss the intersecting risk factors that make Black women and girls vulnerable to sex trafficking:

- Involvement in the juvenile and criminal legal systems
- Unequal school discipline policies
- Involvement in the child welfare system
- History of physical and sexual abuse