

The HUMAN TRAFFICKING INSTITUTE

Empowering justice systems to decimate modern slavery at its source

CHIEF OF STAFF

Kelli Ross serves as Chief of Staff for the Human Trafficking Institute, a nonprofit organization that exists to decimate modern slavery at its source by empowering police and prosecutors to stop traffickers. In this role, she leads the Institute's administrative operations as well as its marketing, strategic communications, and media relations efforts.



KELLI L. ROSS

Kelli was a key member of the Institute's start-up team in which she created and implemented a variety of systems and platforms, directly supported both Founding Directors, and provided logistical assistance with the launch of partnerships in Uganda and Belize.

Prior to joining the Institute, Kelli served at the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations, directly supporting the Bureau's Assistant Secretary. In this role, she conducted Bureau-wide training on writing guidelines and processes as well as drafted and edited speeches, memos, notes, and correspondence to Department of State principals and the broader U.S. government interagency network. She also served as the Front Office specialist for designing quantitative and qualitative research tools to analyze organizational effectiveness and the work environment. During her tenure, she was recognized with a U.S. Department of State Certificate of Appreciation for exemplary contributions to and sustained support for the Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations' efforts to break cycles of violence.

Kelli also brings to the Institute more than 15 years of professional communications experience as well as experience working for internationally-focused nonprofits. At Lwala Community Alliance, a health, education, and development organization in western Kenya, she developed and implemented communications strategies as well as managed people issues, organizational workflow, and human resource processes. At Five Talents, a microfinance organization with programs in South America, East Africa, and Asia, Kelli led the organization's marketing and strategic communications efforts and served as organizational spokesperson.

Kelli began her career as a reporter at *The Jackson (TN) Sun* newspaper. While at *The Sun*, she was lead writer on two enterprise story series, which were honored by the Gannett media company. *The Big Gamble* earned a Best of Gannett Honorable Mention award, and *Power Struggle* earned a Best of Gannett Well Done award.

Kelli has worked and studied in India, Israel, Kenya, Liberia, Peru, and South Sudan. She earned a BA in communication arts from Union University and an MS in conflict analysis and resolution from George Mason University. She lives in Nashville, Tennessee.