

## **Kate Stoppiello**

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**Issue** The civic issue that my project works to expose is modern-day slavery, including all forms such as forced labor, sex trafficking, and domestic servitude.

**Project Description** Project Stay Gold works to raise awareness in order to combat modern-day slavery. Our main approach to working with this issue is using education in schools as a vehicle to expose the crime to the age group that is most affected: middle and high school students. Our communication methods include social media, traveling to schools to teach, arranging summits and large events, and contacting local representatives. In the past we have partnered with the New Jersey Attorney General and Senator, Jeffrey Chiesa, who specifically helped us reach out to schools, large businesses, and even the NFL in order to aid our projects and efforts as a nonprofit organization. We are currently in contact with the FBI, as they collaborate with us in an attempt to bring chapters of Project Stay Gold throughout the state of New Jersey. Also myself, two other members, and Mr. Papa are writing a book documenting our experiences as a nonprofit organization and using our writing as a call to action to motivate the reader to start their own form of Project Stay Gold wherever they are located by providing resources and instructions directly in the book.

**Project Outcome** Our project is currently existent at a local level but we hope that our project has the outcome of being a statewide nonprofit organization and eventually reaching a national level. Our current goal includes creating a website, manual, and constitution that will guide Project Stay Gold chapters in schools throughout New Jersey that adopt the program into their own education system.

**Request** Project Stay Gold would appreciate any assistance our senator or representative would be willing to provide in regard to contacting schools throughout New Jersey encouraging the installment of Project Stay Gold. Also, advocating for the work of Project Stay Gold and the crime of human trafficking in the face of the government to strengthen legislation and laws would also be appreciated.

Project Link projectstaygold.org