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Courtney Baldwin  
Youth organizer and human trafficking survivor  
Democratic National Convention  
Thursday, August 22, 2024  
Remarks as Prepared for Delivery

Good evening, Chicago. I'm Courtney Baldwin. In 2013, I was sold for sex in cities across California by a trafficker who controlled every aspect of my life.

During those dark moments, I held onto hope that one day, I'd be seen as more than a victim. That I could pursue my dreams. That my trafficker would be brought to justice.

I didn't know it yet, but waiting for me on the other side were people fighting for survivors. One of them was Kamala Harris.

As California's Attorney General, she fought Backpage.com, the website that let me—and thousands of others—be bought and sold. She filed criminal charges against its owners that shut it down for good. Nobody had ever done that.

Vice President Harris is fearless. Compassionate. And she still gives me hope. She's protected people like me her whole life—and I know she'll fight for us all as President.

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