



**Valerie Hard, MSW**  
**Emergency Response Program Coordinator**

Valerie earned her Bachelor of Science in Social Science from California Polytechnic State University and her Master of Social Work from San Diego State University. Valerie has over ten years of experience working with at-risk and underserved youth and families. She served homeless youth and adolescents in a residential facility in downtown San Diego, CA, and acted as a case manager with young adults to reconnect them with educational and employment opportunities and assist them with developing and maintaining financial independence.

It was during her time at San Diego State University that she first became aware of the existence and severity of domestic minor sex trafficking in the country and sought out an opportunity to connect with this vulnerable population. In her role as the Emergency Response Program Coordinator with Georgia Cares, she was responsible for overseeing the Hotline and Assessment Programs, supervising a team of hotline volunteers and contractors to ensure 24-hour coverage and immediate response as well as a team of assessment coordinators to conduct CANS-CSE assessments with youth throughout the state of Georgia. Valerie represented Georgia Cares at the annual Savannah Trafficking Jam in January 2019 as an opening presenter and acted as co-chair of the statewide CSEC Multidisciplinary Team, collaborating with statewide providers to ensure continuity of services for youth trafficking survivors.

**About Street Grace:**

Street Grace is a faith-based organization that utilizes evidence-based demand reduction strategies to eradicate the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) through **prevention, protection, policy, and pursuit.**

CSEC is sexual activity with a child in exchange for something of value given to the child or a third person.