

Human Trafficking: Notes from the Field

Presentation for Public Law for Public
Lawyers Program

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The North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault is a non-profit organization whose mission is to end sexual violence through advocacy, education, and policy.

My expertise in the field includes:

- Executive Director and program development for HT advocacy and victim services
- Project HOPE and YouthConnect
- Child Forensic Interviewer
- Technical Training for local agencies and systems
- Cross agency advocacy and protocol development

This presentation will cover:

1. An overview of human trafficking from those “in the field”
2. Why it’s “hidden in plain sight”
3. What helps, what harms: case studies

De-Mystifying Human Trafficking



Human Trafficking Basics

- Compelled labor or services
- Age of consent for trading sex = 18
- Traffickers create loyalty and dependence.
- Every survivor's experience is their own.

**Minors: sexualized
labor/services**

**MINORS:
non-sexualized
labor/services**

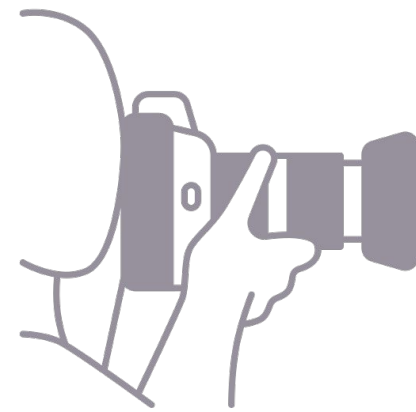
**Force, Fraud
Coercion**

**ADULTS: OVER 18
Any type of coerced
labor**

Human Trafficking:

Coerced or forced labor or services without a person's consent or who is unable to consent, with the exception of minors in sex trades is sex trafficking regardless of force or coercion

Industries



What is Familial Trafficking?

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Trafficking of Persons in Various Industries

In which Force, Fraud, or Coercion must be present to fit the definition

Sex/Labor Trafficking of Adults

Labor Trafficking of Minors

Sex Trafficking of Minors

Where consent cannot be given, regardless of the presence of Force, Fraud, or Coercion.

No Third Party Facilitator

Nonfamily Member outside of the Household is the Facilitator

Facilitated Sex Trafficking of Minors

Household Family Member is the Facilitator

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EDUCATION ♦ ADVOCACY ♦ LEGISLATION

Family trafficking

- often same “industry”
- for CSAM
- neglect, misses school
- no health records
- young as infancy

Youth

- by law cannot consent to trade sex
- Some youth negotiate their own transactions
- TFSA/CSAM

Who are the **traffickers?**



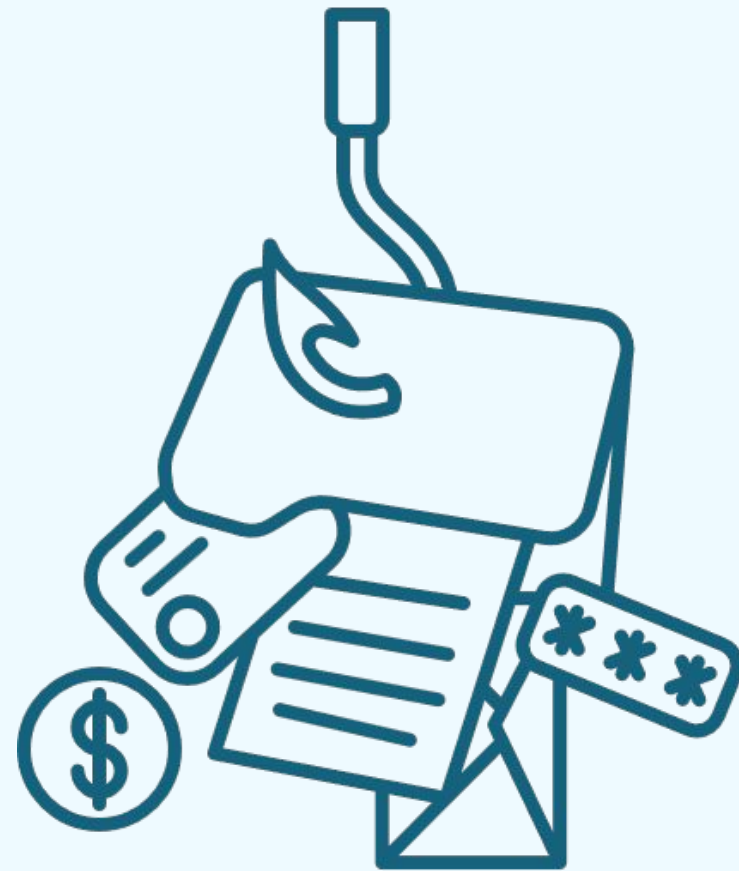
- **Any gender**
- Work individually or with a group
- **Highly organized or situational**
- Low risk / high profit
- **Characteristics will differ according to region/industry**
- Different relationships to victim

Traffickers **take advantage** of others.



- **Exploits needs or crises**
- Creates a dependence, fear, loyalty, belonging, means of survival
- **Uses “safe” or unexpected entry points**
- Manipulates emotional needs
- **Non verbal, no language to disclose violence**
- Seen as a provider of real needs

Who do they **target?**



- **Those in crisis**
- Target rich environment with little or no social networks
- **Won't be missed**
- *Traffickers depend on societal norms to keep victim:*
 - *silent*
 - *controlled*
 - *to appear complicit*

Relationship
between
trafficking and
victim can be
complex.

- **Every survivor story is different and unique to them**
- A friend helping a friend
- **Intergenerational/family member**
- Can share children and childcare duties
- **Victim is sometimes sympathetic toward trafficker**
- Victim/Offender duality

Hiding in Plain Sight

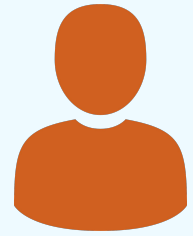
- Media influence
- Assumptions about the sex trades and consent
- Behaviors stemming from trauma
- In systems

3 Composite Scenarios

from NCCASA Scenario Based Learning Activity

- **In each case, identify:**
 - Where human trafficking occurs
 - What vulnerabilities did the “trafficker” exploit?
 - How would this person present in your current role?

What Drives Vulnerability?



INDIVIDUAL: Sexual violence, intellectual and developmental disabilities



RELATIONAL: Family violence, multiple housing placements, isolation and disconnection



ENVIRONMENTAL: Housing insecurity, poverty, displacement



SOCIETAL VALUES: Wherever a group of people are deemed unworthy

Clues (not Red Flags*)

Living conditions

Surveillance
Confinement
Employees living onsite
Sparse Living conditions
Social/physical/cultural isolation

Presents with

Malnourishment
Dehydration
Untreated injuries or disease
Abuse/Neglect

Behavioral

Fear
Anxiety
Trauma/PTSD
Rehearsed story
Chronic running away from placements

Other

Unsure of one's location
Not in possession of identification, documentation
Owes a debt

What Helps, what Harms:
Case Studies
(and advocacy trade secrets)

Trauma-Informed Engagement with HT Survivors:

- Prepare and follow up
- Remove badges: LE, DSS, FJC
- Environment: what helps, what hurts
- Time and space for processing
- Ask and Don't assume what feels comfortable and safe
- Be calm, be present, be relaxed
- Body language
- Speak evenly and carefully
- Educate other team members on trauma

Survivor Centered: Advocacy Skills

- Make provision for the person's safety and humanity
- Meets people where they are
- Listening to understand not to interrogate
- Absolutely non judgmental
- Empathic, active listening
- Responds to what the survivor is actually saying

Scenario One

S'miah took a deep breath before she entered the room. She turned off the ringer and put her badge and cell phone out of sight. She carried a clipboard and pen.

Ashlee, a survivor of sex trafficking, has recently been released from jail on charges of drugs and prostitution. She had lost her job and was behind on rent.

S'miah sat and calmly listened to Ashlee's story. Ashlee needed to talk about the abuse she experienced as a child, which, to her, was related to her current situation with her partner.

When Ashlee paused, S'miah commented "I bet you want to see that piece of trash pay for what he did to you!" Ashlee rushed out of the building and a coworker commented that she was just looking for a handout.

Scenario Two

When Rayne comes into the sitting area, Jean gives them a big hug. “Hey sweetie, we’re going to get you all fixed up and send you back home real soon.”

Rayne squeezes into a child’s chair, as there was no other place to meet. They decide to not say anything more about what happened

“Don’t you want to help us help you?” Jean asks.

When Rayne doesn’t say anything else, Jean shrugs and says “you can help yourself to any of the snacks here, or I can get you whatever you need.”

Rayne asks for pizza and a blanket. They then tell the advocate they aren’t safe at home. So Jean makes other arrangements for them.

Scenario Three

Zuribet was at the scene of a police operation that uncovered two Asian women who appeared to be sex trafficked in a massage business. No one on scene spoke their language, which seemed to be Mandarin Chinese.

The officer in charge told Zuribet, who was confused about what was going on, that she needed to

get them to confess that they were made to perform sex acts as part of their job. One officer was using a language app to get them to talk. They kept saying “We are ok. Can we talk to our boss?”

Zuribet immediately called a language line to set up an interpreter, and pulled up a resource about the women’s legal rights that they could read in their own language.

Scenario Three, con'd

They were able to get to a quiet room at the facility . Through the interpreter she learned that the women were promised a job at a resort on the coast, but instead were diverted to work at the massage business. They lived with their employer and had to pay rent and board, and they owed him a debt for their travel from New York. Even though the

sex acts were not forced, they disclosed that the boss threatened to sexually abuse them. They wanted to return to New York.

The officer insisted that Zuribet share any information, but Zuribet refused.

The officers arrested the women who were put in lock up. Their boss bailed them out that evening and the women disappeared.

Scenario Four

Jordan sat in a big green armchair, stared at the floor and calmly, quietly told the advocate that he had been sexually assaulted in his dorm room. Gabrielle listened and when she felt like he had finished, asked him “what would you like to do next?”

“I don’t know. I don’t have too many options.”

“Do you want to talk about that?” asked Gabrielle.

Jordan sat quietly for a long time, then began to explain that a relationship that started out as a “sugar daddy situation” turned into something that felt really wrong.

Scenario Four, con'd

He described being very afraid of the man who threatened to use some photos of their time together against him unless he kept seeing him and his friends.

Jordan asked “is that something like sex trafficking?”

Gabrielle responded: “First of all:

I believe you and I am sorry that is happening to you.” Jordan began to cry as Gabrielle continued,” second of all, what do you think it is?”

Jordan whispered “I think it is wrong.”

Gabrielle and Jordan then discussed some steps he could take.

Scenario Four, con'd

At the end of their time together, Jordan said, "I really don't want to do anything at all right now except go to sleep."

Gabrielle said: "Then you do that. You have the crisis line number, and you can more time to talk if you'd like that."

"Yes, I'd like that."

"Perfect. Is there anything else I can do to support you right now?"

"No," said Jordan, "this is exactly what I needed."



Questions?

If you are interested in a deeper dive
training for your community,
or other resources,
please email: Courtney@nccasa.org