


**Human Trafficking**

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Public Law for the Public's Lawyers  
Raleigh, North Carolina  
October 12, 2017



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**Overview**

- I. Human Trafficking
- II. Combatting Human Trafficking in NC: Key Statewide Efforts and Resources
- III. Legal Tools for Preventing Human Trafficking & Improving Survivor Outcomes
- IV. Opportunities for Attorney Engagement



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**I. Human Trafficking**



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**VICTIM AND SURVIVOR**

The Plan uses the terms "victim" and "survivor" to refer to individuals who were trafficked. The term "victim" has legal implications within the criminal justice process and generally means an individual who suffered harm as a result of criminal conduct. "Victims" also have particular rights within the criminal justice process.<sup>22</sup> Federal law enforcement agencies often use the term "victim" as part of their official duties. "Survivor" is a term used by many in the services field to recognize the strength it takes to continue on a journey toward healing in the aftermath of a traumatic experience. In the context of this Plan, which promotes improvements in outreach, identification strategies, and services, both terms are intended to honor those who have suffered, or are suffering, the effects of being trafficked.

Federal Strategic Action Plan on Services for Victims of Human Trafficking in the United States  
available at: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otpr/initiative/victim-matters>




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## Multi-Faceted Issue

Human Rights  
Public Safety  
Public Health




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## Defining Human Trafficking

Under Federal and North Carolina law:

- Minors involved in commercial sexual activity;
- Adults induced into commercial sexual activity through force, fraud, or coercion; and
- Children and adults induced to perform labor or services through force, fraud, or coercion;

... are victims of human trafficking.

22 U.S.C. §§ 7101–7113 (2014)  
 N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-43.10-20 (2013)




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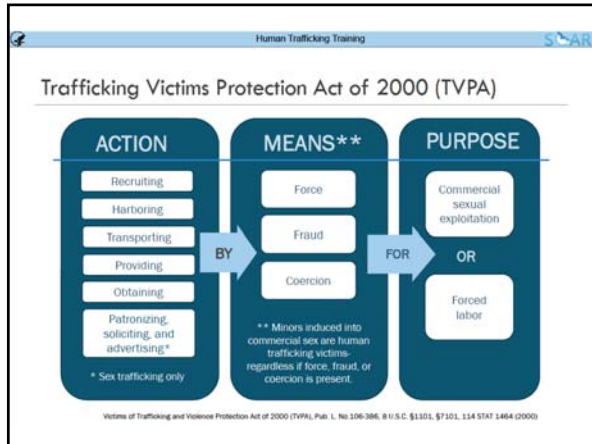
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## Force, Fraud, Coercion

**Force**

- Physical abuse, assault
- Sexual assault
- Physical restraint, confinement, isolation
- Starvation, dehydration
- Forced drug addiction

**Fraud**

- False promises of romance, marriage, employment, a better life
- False promises about work and living conditions
- Use of false travel documents
- Debt schemes, recruitment traps, withholding wages

**Coercion**  
(physical or psychological)

- Threat of serious harm to victim, loved ones
- Threat of deportation or arrest
- Withholding legal documents
- Emotional, psychological, or spiritual manipulation
- Verbal abuse

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## Myths & Misconceptions

1. "Child prostitution"
2. Human trafficking = human smuggling.
3. Victims won't cooperate with law enforcement.
4. Must not be a victim, because:
  - Says he/she's not a victim
  - Is attending school, shopping, or otherwise "free"
  - Is not low-income
  - Appears to be consenting
5. Must not be a trafficker, because:
  - Minimal to no criminal history
  - A parent or significant other to the victim
  - A woman

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## Why?

### Profit for perpetrators

- ◇ High demand
- ◇ \$150 billion global industry

### Vulnerability of victims

- ◇ Personal and societal risk factors



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Human Trafficking Training

### Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE)

The higher the ACE score, the greater the risk of victimization, including trafficking.

- Abuse
  - Physical or sexual
- Neglect
  - Physical or emotional
- Household dysfunction
  - Mental illness
  - Incarcerated relative
  - Witnessed domestic violence or abuse
  - Substance use
  - Prior time spent in foster care
  - Divorce, death, or abandonment

Alleviators by which Adverse Childhood Experiences Influence Health and Well-being Throughout the Lifespan

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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## Risk Factor: Childhood Sexual Abuse

"There is an intersection of child sexual abuse and human trafficking. Research indicates that the majority of sexually exploited children and adult sex workers have a prior history of child sexual abuse (Lalor & McElvaney, 2010). The National Institute of Justice found that people who were sexually abused as children were 28 times more likely than their non-abused peers to be arrested for prostitution (Widom, 1995). Some studies indicate that individuals engaged in survival sex work, a significant risk factor for trafficking, have an almost universal likelihood of having been sexually abused as children (Lalor & McElvaney, 2010). It is important to note that survival sex work is trafficking when minors are involved, and specific demographics are at higher risk than others. High rates of homeless and runaway youth are survivors of child sexual abuse and are at substantially increased risk for trafficking (Research Triangle Institute; Child Trends; Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation, 2002). While 3-5% of the population is estimated to identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or transgender, approximately 30% of homeless youth identified as lesbian, gay, or bisexual; almost 7% identified as transgender (University of Nebraska - Lincoln, 2014), placing them at substantially increased risk. The risk for homeless and runaway youth to be trafficked is exacerbated by the limited resources available to serve them.

Despite the dearth of research available, there are indications that traffickers are also likely to have a history of adverse childhood experiences. Interviews with a sample of ex-traffickers indicate extremely high rates of childhood physical abuse (88%) and sexual abuse (76%). A full 24% had been placed in foster care, while 48% report having run away due to physical and sexual abuse (Raphael, 2010)."

Recommendations for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse in North Carolina  
NC Coalition for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse, February 2015  
Submitted by the NC Human Trafficking Commission to the NC General Assembly pursuant to § 150A-1191



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## Risk Factor: Child Welfare System Involvement

### Human Trafficking and Child Welfare: A Guide for Child Welfare Agencies

The growing awareness of human trafficking in the United States and abroad requires government and human services agencies to reevaluate old policies and develop new ones for identifying and serving victims. Due to their potentially unstable living situations, physical distance from friends and family, traumatic experiences, and emotional vulnerability, children involved with child welfare are at risk for being targeted by traffickers who are actively seeking children to exploit. Therefore, it is imperative that child welfare agencies be at the forefront of the response to and prevention of human trafficking. Additionally, recent Federal legislation established new requirements for child welfare agencies related to identifying and serving minor victims of human trafficking.

Human Trafficking and Child Welfare: A Guide for Child Welfare Agencies, Child Welfare Information Gateway (July 2017), available at [www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/trafficking\\_agencies.pdf](http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/trafficking_agencies.pdf)

### Child Welfare and Human Trafficking

The growing awareness of human trafficking in the United States and abroad requires government and human services agencies to rethink old policies and develop new ones for identifying and serving victims. Child welfare agencies are on the front lines of these changes: Children and youth involved with the child welfare system due to abuse or neglect and then placed in foster care or group homes—as well as youth who are involved with the justice system, are homeless, or have run away—are all at high risk of being trafficked. Often, the lack of stability in their living situation, physical distance from friends and family, and emotional vulnerability put them at risk for traffickers who are actively seeking children and teens to exploit.

Child Welfare and Human Trafficking, Child Welfare Information Gateway (July 2015), available at [www.childwelfare.gov/pubIssue-briefs/trafficking](http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubIssue-briefs/trafficking)



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## Risk Factor: Legal Status



The New York Times | <http://nyti.ms/29YIEJS>  
Nicholas Kristof | JULY 16, 2016

TAPACHULA, Mexico — Elena was 11 years old when a gang member in her home country, Honduras, told her to be his girlfriend.

"I had to say yes," Elena, now 14, explained. "If I had said no, they would have killed my entire family."

Elena knew the risks because one of her friends, Jenesis, was also asked to be a gang member's girlfriend, and declined. Elena happened to see the aftermath, as Jenesis staggered naked and bleeding away from gang members.

"She had been raped and shot in the stomach," Elena recalled in the blank tone of a child who has seen far too much. She paused and then added: "We don't know if she survived. Someone said she died at the hospital."

As for Elena, she said her duties as a gang member's girlfriend entailed working as a drug courier and a lookout, as well as intimacies that she didn't want to discuss. At this point in our conversation, her mother and younger sister began crying.

After years of such brutality, Elena and her family finally fled this year when the gang threatened to kill them so as to seize their home. "I just want to keep my children safe," the mother, Brenda, 39, explained, speaking here where they are

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## Scope of Human Trafficking

- **Crosses all geographic lines**
  - *Global*: ILO estimates 20.9 million victims
  - *National*: hundreds of thousands believed to be trafficked within the U.S.
  - *North Carolina*: believed to have one of the top ten highest rates of human trafficking in the U.S.
- **Crosses all demographic lines**
  - Race, ethnicity, gender, age, socioeconomic status, nationality...



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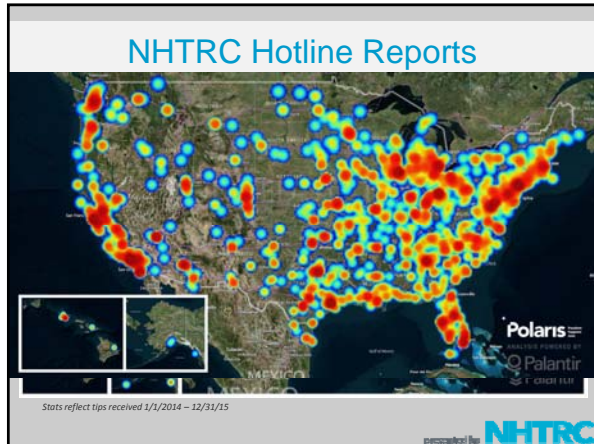
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TYPE OF TRAFFICKING	TOP VENUES/INDUSTRIES FOR LABOR TRAFFICKING	TOP VENUES/INDUSTRIES FOR SEX TRAFFICKING
Sex Trafficking (139)	Agriculture (16)	Home-Based Based (22)
Labor Trafficking (41)	Domestic Work (9)	Online Ad, Venue Unknown (13)
Trafficking Type Not Specified (9)	Construction (5)	Commercial Front Streets (13)
Sex and Labor (6)	Landscaping Service (3)	Other Venues (11)
# of Cases: 181	Restaurant/Food Service (x 3)	Residential Streets (11)
	# of Cases: 41	# of Cases: 130

GENDER	AGE	CITIZENSHIP
Female (153)	Adult (134)	Foreign National (13)
Male (28)	Minor (57)	US Citizen (146) (81)
Gender Unknown (1)	# of Cases: 181	# of Cases: 181
# of Cases: 181		

These statistics are non-cumulative. Cases may involve multiple victims and include male and female, foreign nationals and U.S. citizens, adults and minors. In some cases, callers do not provide demographic information.

National Human Trafficking Resource Center North Carolina State Report, 1/16-12/31/16,  
<https://humantraffickinghotline.org/state/north-carolina>

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## Venues of Victimization\*

<p><b>Sex Trafficking</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hotel/motel based</li> <li>Commercial front brothel</li> <li>Hostess/strip club based</li> <li>Residential brothel</li> <li>Escort/delivery service</li> <li>Illicit Massage Business</li> <li>Truck stop based</li> <li>Pornography</li> </ul>	<p><b>Labor Trafficking</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agriculture/farms</li> <li>Traveling sales crews</li> <li>Restaurant/food service</li> <li>Domestic work (nannies/maids)</li> <li>Sweatshop factories</li> <li>Janitorial jobs</li> <li>Construction</li> <li>Peddling and begging rings</li> <li>Nail salons</li> <li>Braiding shops</li> <li>Beach tourism</li> </ul>
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\* This list is not exhaustive. Chart created from data retrieved from National Human Trafficking Resource Center North Carolina State Report, data from 1/1/14-12/31/14, and service provider reports.




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**The  
25 types  
of modern  
slavery**



- Escort Services
- Illicit Massage, Health, & Beauty
- Outdoor Solicitation
- Residential
- Domestic Work
- Bars, Strip Clubs, & Casinos
- Pornography
- Traveling Sales Crews
- Restaurants & Food Service
- Peddling & Begging
- Agriculture & Animal Husbandry
- Personal Sexual Servitude
- Health & Beauty Services
- Construction
- Hotels & Hospitality
- Landscaping
- Illicit Activities
- Arts & Entertainment
- Commercial Cleaning Services
- Factories & Manufacturing
- Remote Interactive Sexual Acts
- Carnivals
- Forestry & Logging
- Health Care
- Recreational Facilities

The Typology of Modern Slavery: Defining Sex and Labor Trafficking in the United States. Polaris (March 2017), available at: <https://polarisproject.org/typology>

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## II. Combatting Human Trafficking in North Carolina: Key Statewide Efforts & Resources




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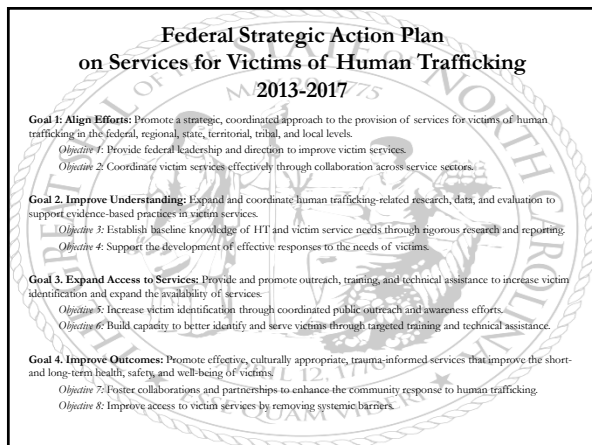
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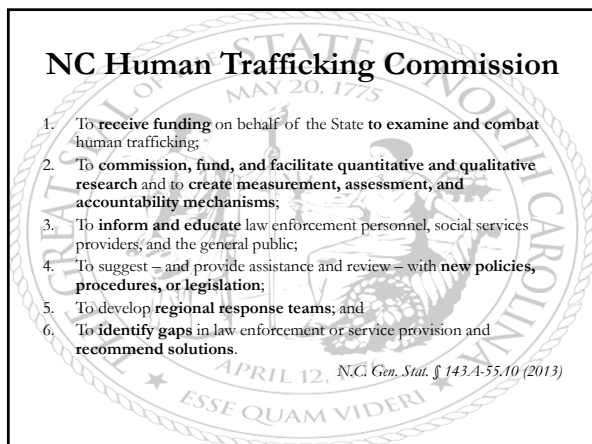
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## Key Statewide Resources & Initiatives\*

Governor's Crime Commission Funding Priority 2016, 2017

- Victim-Survivor Services
  - Comprehensive case management (The Salvation Army, World Relief)
  - Specialized services (Legal Aid of NC, JusticeMatters, El Futuro)
- Investigation & Prosecution
  - Human Trafficking Resource Prosecutor (NC Conference of DAs)
- Training & Technical Assistance (NCCASA)
- Education & Outreach
  - Project NO REST/Capitol Broadcasting Corporation campaign
  - UNC-SSW School-Based Education and Response for SB279

Human Trafficking & The State Courts Initiative (NC AOC)

\*This list is not exhaustive.

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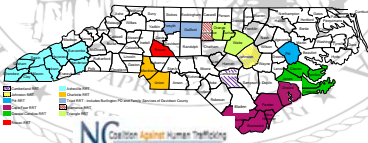
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## Regional Response

Task forces are strongest predictor of prosecution of human trafficking suspects and offenses.

Bouche, Farrell, and Wittmer, Identifying Effective Counter-Trafficking Programs and Practices in the US at 17.

### North Carolina Rapid Response Teams



NC Coalition Against Human Trafficking

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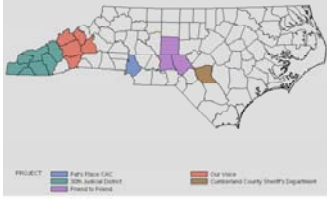
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## Project NO REST



NC Organizing and Responding to the Exploitation and Sexual Trafficking of Children

- Funded by: US DHHS Children's Bureau, NC Governor's Crime Commission
- Five-year project to address trafficking of youth through age 25 in North Carolina
- Primary focus: child welfare- involved youth



Funded through the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Children's Bureau, Grant #HDCA1922-01

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## Awareness & Education

**Successes**

- 2016 NC Certified Law Enforcement Training
- 2016 Federal SOAR Training Pilot
- 2017 Darkness to Light *Stewards of Children* Training
- 2017 Truckers Against Trafficking coalition build
- 2017 Regional Multidisciplinary Trainings
- 2017-2018 UNC-CH School-Based Education & Response
  - evidence-based curriculum and protocols (SB 279)
- 2017-2018 CBC/Fox 50 PSA Campaign

**Struggles**

- Evaluation and accountability to ensure training in evidence-based practices.

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## Policies, Procedures, & Legislation

“Requiring the NHTRC number to be posted in public places is **the most important provision** for increasing the number of human trafficking arrests.”

\*Vanessa Bouche, Amy Farrell and Dana Wittmer, Identifying Effective Counter-Trafficking Programs and Practices in the U.S.: Legislative, Legal, and Public Opinion Strategies that Work; (Jan. 2016) (unpublished manuscript, available at <https://www.ncjrs.gov/App/Publications/abstract.aspx?ID=271816>).



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## Opportunities to Strengthen NC's Response to Human Trafficking

**Strategic Funding Opportunities**

- Fund the North Carolina Human Trafficking Commission.
- Fund three regional resource prosecutors at the NC Conference of District Attorneys to increase state capacity and effectiveness in prosecuting human trafficking cases.
- Fund a staff member at the Administrative Office of the Courts to build state court capacity to (1) identify and address human trafficking involved cases in the courts, and (2) be a leader and effective partner in broader community, state, regional, and national anti-human trafficking efforts.

**Strategic Initiative Opportunities**

- Prevention
- Buyer-focused demand reduction
- Labor trafficking
- Industry-based efforts: trucking, illicit massage industry, banks, etc.
- Evaluation and accountability to move from promising to evidence-based practices: vetting and certifying services, etc.

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### III. Legal Tools for Preventing Human Trafficking & Improving Survivor Outcomes




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#### Direct Legal Services

Key aspect of multidisciplinary response: strengthens protective factors and augments risk factors.

Immediate Needs

- Crisis Safety Services
- Crisis Shelter Services
- Basic Necessities
- Language Services
- Emergency Medical Care
- Crisis Legal Advocacy


Ongoing Needs

- Physical Health Care
- Mental Health Care
- Substance Abuse Services
- Safety Services
- Transitional Housing
- Immigration Advocacy
- Legal Advocacy
- Language Services

Long Term Needs

- Life Skills
- Language Skills
- Job Skills
- Long-term Housing

Macy, R. and Johns, N. (2011). Policies for international sex trafficking survivors: Informing U.S. service and program development in the justice area. *Trauma, Violence, and Abuse*, 12(2), 87-98. doi: 10.1177/1524838010390765




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#### Risk and Protective Factors

Risk Factors <small>(Not exhaustive)</small>	Protective Factors <small>(Not exhaustive)</small>
<p><u>Individual</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Childhood history of abuse</li> <li>• Parent history of child abuse</li> <li>• Family history of substance abuse or mental health symptoms</li> <li>• Non-biological/transient caretakers</li> <li>• Parental thoughts/emotions that support or justify maltreatment</li> </ul> <p><u>Relationship, Community, Societal</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children living without either parent</li> <li>• Poor parent-child relationship</li> <li>• Social isolation</li> <li>• Poverty, lack of employment opportunities</li> <li>• Family/Community violence</li> <li>• Lack of institutional support</li> </ul> <p style="font-size: x-small; text-align: right;">CDC, Darkness to Light</p>	<p><u>Individual</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emotional health</li> <li>• Academic achievement</li> </ul> <p><u>Relationship, Community, Societal</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stable family relationships</li> <li>• Household rules and child monitoring</li> <li>• Parental employment</li> <li>• Adequate housing</li> <li>• Social connectedness</li> <li>• Access to health care and social services</li> </ul> <p style="font-size: x-small; text-align: right;">CDC, Darkness to Light</p>




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## Civil

- Protective orders
- Custody disputes
- Name change petitions
- Legal custody, guardianship, adoption

"Children and youth involved with the child welfare system due to abuse or neglect and then placed in foster care or group homes—as well as youth who are involved with the justice system, are homeless, or have run away—are all at high risk of being trafficked."

*Child Welfare and Human Trafficking, Child Welfare Information Gateway (July 2015), available at <https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/issue-briefs/trafficking>.*



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## Criminal

- Safe harbor
- Victim-witness assistance
- Mandatory restitution
- Vacatur and expunction

"Youth in the juvenile justice system may be misidentified and treated as criminals charged with prostitution, truancy, or petty theft when, in actuality, they are being controlled by a trafficker."

Signs that a child or teen is a victim of human trafficking: "History of emotional, sexual, or other physical abuse; Signs of current physical abuse and/or sexually transmitted diseases; History of running away or current status as a runaway; Inexplicable appearance of expensive gifts, clothing, cell phones, tattoos, or other costly items; Presence of an older boyfriend or girlfriend; Drug addiction; Withdrawal or lack of interest in previous activities; Gang involvement."

*Child Welfare and Human Trafficking, Child Welfare Information Gateway (July 2015), available at <https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/issue-briefs/trafficking>.*



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## Immigration Relief

Strengthens protective factors through:

- Family security and reunification
- Eligibility for public benefits
- Employment authorization
- Government identification
- Opportunity to naturalize

T and U Visas, SIJS, Asylum, Deferred Action, etc.



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## T Visa

Purpose	Requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides relief for persons who have been subject to sex and/or labor trafficking</li> <li>Aids law enforcement in their investigation and prosecution of crime</li> <li>Encourages victims to come forward</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Victim of sex or labor trafficking;</li> <li>Physically present in the U.S.;</li> <li>Comply with reasonable requests from law enforcement in investigating and prosecuting the crimes; and</li> <li>Extreme hardship if removed from the United States.</li> </ul> <p style="font-size: small; text-align: right;">INA Section 101 (a)(15)(T)(i)</p>

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## Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS)

Purpose	Requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides relief for undocumented minors who have survived <b>abuse, neglect, or abandonment</b> by one or both parents.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under 18;</li> <li>Unmarried;</li> <li>Declared dependent by juvenile court because of abuse, neglect, or abandonment; and</li> <li>Not in child's best interest to return to his or her home country.</li> </ul>

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### IV. Opportunities for Attorney Engagement

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## Collective Response

Human Rights  
Public Safety  
Public Health

→ multi-disciplinary, multi-sector  
collaboration



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## Individual Response

**Determine** how your agency/work intersects with human trafficking.  
• *What is our/my role in combatting human trafficking?*

**Connect** to statewide efforts:

- Join NC Human Trafficking Commission listserv: [HTC@ncdoj.gov](mailto:HTC@ncdoj.gov)
- Attend NC Human Trafficking Commission meetings  
(next: Thursday, Oct. 26, 10am-1pm, Governor's Crime Commission)
- Join Project NO REST: [www.projectnorest.org](http://www.projectnorest.org)

**Connect** to regional efforts:

- Join a Rapid Response Team

**Utilize** the NHTRC hotline **1-888-373-7888**



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## Individual Response, cont.

**Obtain** further education and training.



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"There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children."

- Nelson Mandela, Former President of South Africa



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## Resources

**NC Human Trafficking Commission:** [www.ncdoj.gov/Help-for-Victims/North-Carolina-Human-Trafficking-Commission.aspx](http://www.ncdoj.gov/Help-for-Victims/North-Carolina-Human-Trafficking-Commission.aspx)

**NC Project NO REST:** [www.projectnorest.web.unc.edu](http://www.projectnorest.web.unc.edu)

**Human Trafficking and the State Courts Collaborative:** [www.htcourts.org/](http://www.htcourts.org/)

**National Human Trafficking Resource Center ("Polaris"):** <https://polarisproject.org/>

**Office on Trafficking in Persons (OTIP):** <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip>

**DHHS Blue Campaign:** <https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign>



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## Resources, cont.

**Federal Strategic Action Plan on Services for Victims of Human Trafficking in the United States**, available at: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip/initiatives/federal-plan>.

**The Typology of Modern Slavery: Defining Sex and Labor Trafficking in the United States**, Polaris (March 2017), available at: <https://polarisproject.org/hypology>

**Human Trafficking and Child Welfare: A Guide for Child Welfare Agencies**, Child Welfare Information Gateway (July 2017), available at [https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/trafficking\\_agencies.pdf](https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/trafficking_agencies.pdf)

**Identifying Effective Counter-Trafficking Programs and Practices in the U.S.: Legislative, Legal, and Public Opinion Strategies that Work**, Vanessa Bouche, Amy Ferrell and Dana Wittmer (Jan. 2016) (unpublished manuscript, available at [www.ncjrs.gov/App/Publications/abstract.aspx?ID=271816](http://www.ncjrs.gov/App/Publications/abstract.aspx?ID=271816)).

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**Non-Criminalization of Juvenile Sex Trafficking Victims, Just Response Policy Paper**, Shared Hope International (2016), available at <http://sharedhope.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/JUST-RESPONSE-POLICY-PAPER-NON-CRIMINALIZATION-OF-JUVENILE-SEX-TRAFFICKING-VICTIMS.pdf> (last accessed Nov. 14, 2016).

**The American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law**

**Polyvictimization and Trauma-Informed Advocacy**  
The project addresses the unmet need for trauma-informed legal advocacy and judicial decision-making for polyvictimized children. We create tools to incorporate trauma knowledge into daily legal practice.  
[www.americanbar.org/groups/child\\_law/what\\_we\\_do/projects/child-and-adolescent-health/polyvictimization.html](http://www.americanbar.org/groups/child_law/what_we_do/projects/child-and-adolescent-health/polyvictimization.html)



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## Resources, cont.

**The American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law  
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**The National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN)  
Working with Unaccompanied and Immigrant Minors**  
Border and immigrant youth experience various types of traumatic events, not only during their journeys but also once they have arrived at their destination, that are related to war or persecution, abuse, trafficking, and violence. These may affect their mental and physical health. If you are working with youth who have found their way to the States without the presence of a caregiver these resources could be beneficial for you. [www.nctsn.org/content/working-unaccompanied-and-immigrant-minors](http://www.nctsn.org/content/working-unaccompanied-and-immigrant-minors)




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## Addendum: Best Practices

1. Trauma-informed approach
2. Victim-centered services




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## Trauma-Informed Approach

**“A trauma informed approach includes an understanding of the physical, social, and emotional impact of trauma on the individual, as well as on the professionals who help them.**

A trauma informed approach includes victim centered practices, as it is implemented with trauma impacted populations. A program, organization, or system that is trauma informed realizes the widespread impact of trauma and understands potential paths for healing; recognizes the signs and symptoms of trauma in staff, clients, and others involved with the system; and responds by fully integrating knowledge about trauma into policies, procedures, practices, and settings.

**Like a victim centered approach, the priority is on the victim’s safety and security and on safeguarding against policies and practices that may inadvertently retraumatize victims.”**

Federal Strategic Action Plan, 2014-2017  


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## ABA Policy on Trauma-Informed Advocacy for Children and Youth

"RESOLVED, That the American Bar Association urges the development of trauma-informed, evidence-based approaches and practices on behalf of justice system-involved children and youth who have been exposed to violence, including victims of child abuse and neglect or other crimes and those subject to delinquency or status offense proceedings, by:

- (a) Recognizing the impact that current or prior exposure to violence and trauma has on physical, emotional, psychological, and behavioral development and well-being;
- (b) Responding to child traumatic stress through legal representation that reflects awareness of trauma's adverse impacts on children and youth who have contact with the legal system; and
- (c) Acting in collaboration with other professionals involved with the child or youth to facilitate and support recovery and resiliency of the child and family...."

ABA Policy on Trauma-Informed Advocacy for Children and Youth  
Approved by the American Bar Association House of Delegates  
February 10, 2014



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## Principles of Trauma-Informed Care

1. Acknowledge trauma's impact on the individual
2. Prioritize recovery
3. Promote empowerment
4. Maximize choice and control
5. Encourage collaboration
6. Take steps to promote an environment of safety, respect, and acceptance
7. Accentuate individual's strengths
8. Reduce re-traumatization
9. Practice cultural humility
10. Seek consumer feedback

Elliott D.E., Bjelajac P., Falot R.D., Markoff L.S., and Reed B.G. Trauma-informed or trauma-denied: Principles and implementation of trauma-informed services for women. *Journal of Community Psychology*. 2005;33:461-477.



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## Victim-Centered Services

"The victim centered approach seeks to minimize retraumatization associated with the criminal justice process by providing the support of victim advocates and service providers, empowering survivors as engaged participants in the process, and providing survivors an opportunity to play a role in seeing their traffickers brought to justices.

In this manner, the victim centered approach plays a critical role in supporting a victim's rights, dignity, autonomy, and self determination, while simultaneously advancing the government's and society's interest in prosecuting traffickers to condemn and deter this reprehensible crime."

Federal Strategic Action Plan, 2014-2017



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## Contact

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*This presentation is not intended to provide legal advice. If you need legal advice, or if you believe that someone you know is in need of legal advice, you should contact a competent, licensed attorney.*

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