

AN INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Presenters: Karen Romero & Meg Hughey

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PRESENTERS



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LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Participants will learn the foundations of what human trafficking is;
- Participants will explore how a human rights-based approach can be utilized to meet the needs of trafficking survivors;
- Participants will learn tools to help identify populations who may be more vulnerable to trafficking.

POLL

How familiar are you with the issue of human trafficking?



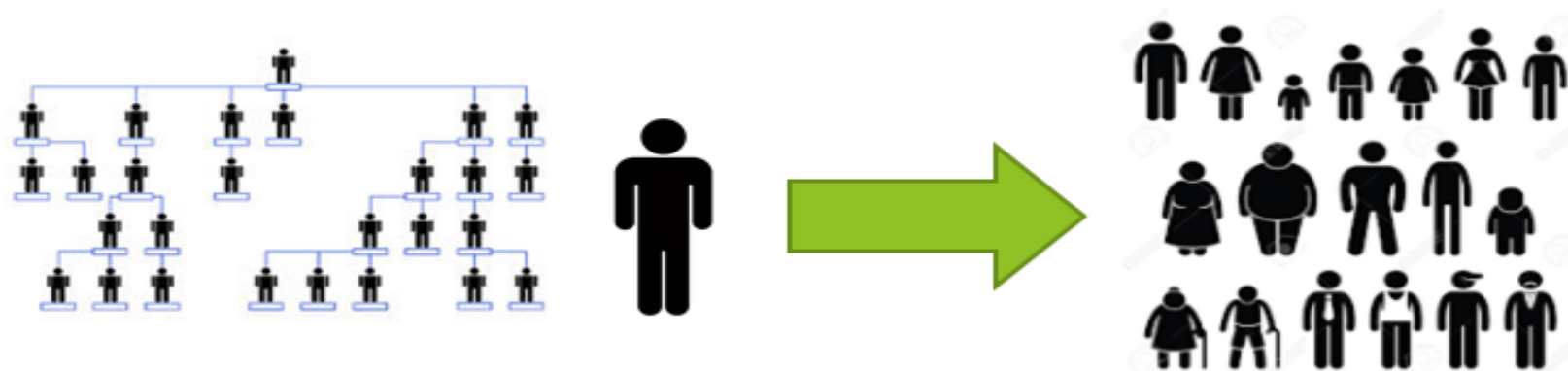
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WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?



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HUMAN TRAFFICKING



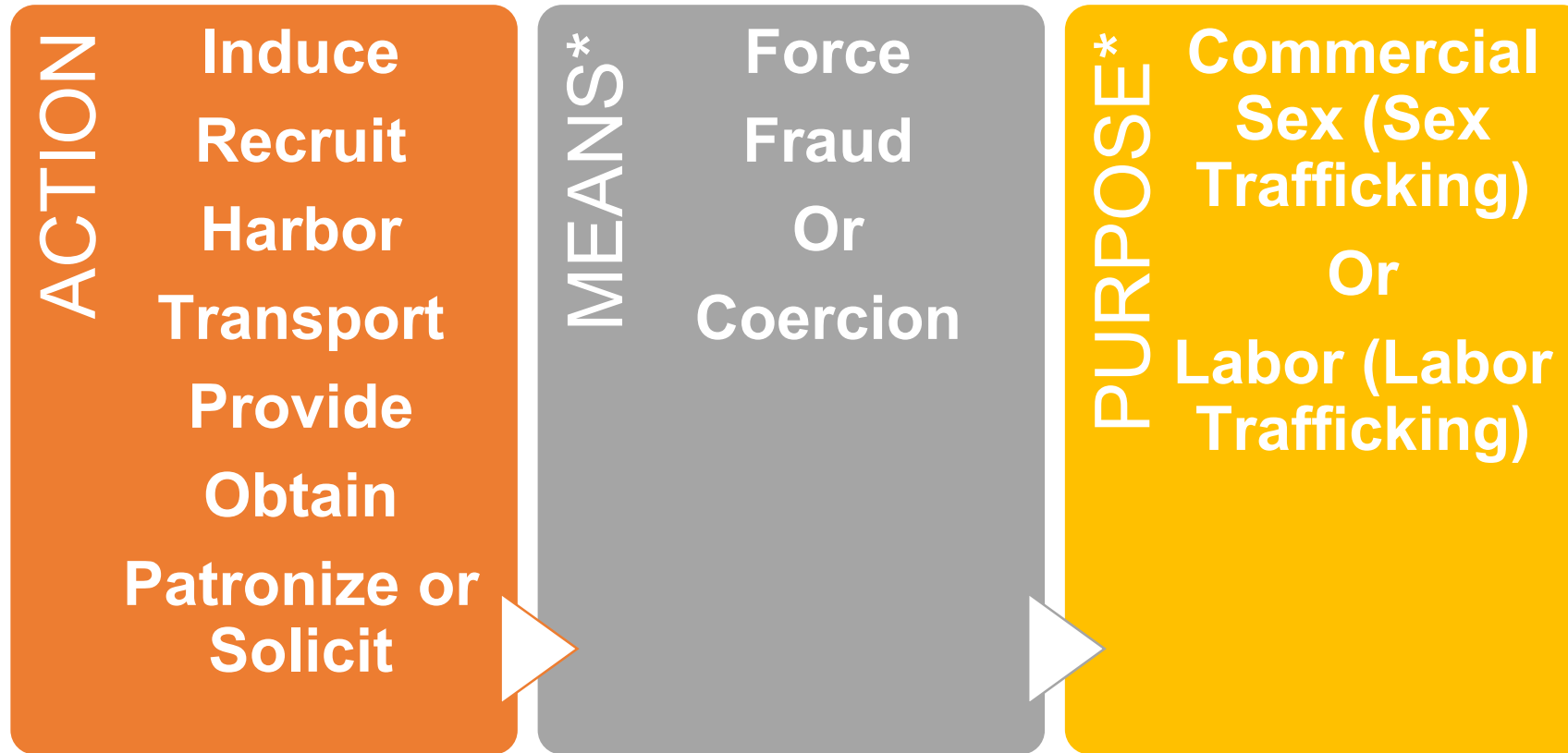
The Trafficker(s)

The Victims/Survivors

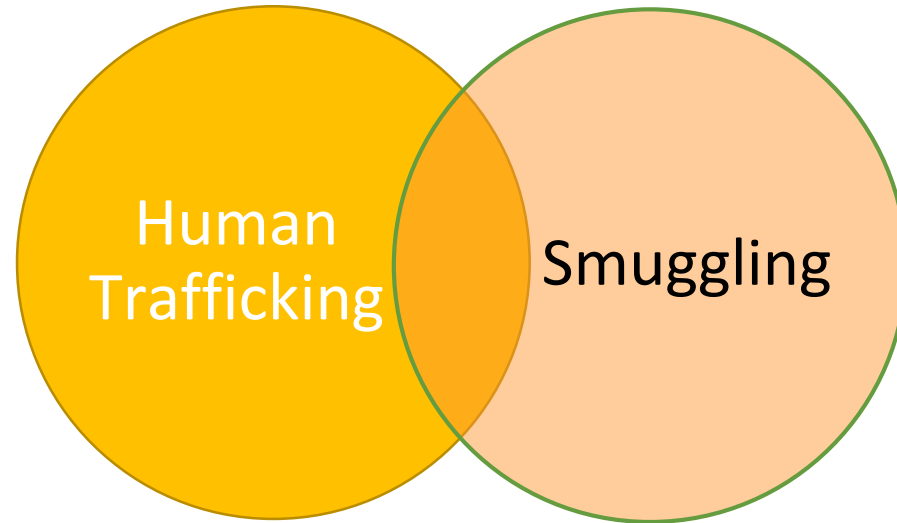
Human traffickers use **force, fraud, or coercion** to compel their victims to perform labor, services, and/or commercial sex acts against his, her, or their will.

*When a person younger than 18 is induced to perform a commercial sex act, it is human trafficking regardless if there is any force, fraud, or coercion.

WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?



TRAFFICKING VS SMUGGLING



- Contains force, fraud, or coercion (cannot consent to enslavement)
- Crime or violation against a person
- Trafficked persons seen as victims by the law

- Voluntary
- Unauthorized border crossing
- Facilitated illegal entry of person from one country to another
- Smuggled persons seen as criminals by the law

WHERE DOES HUMAN TRAFFICKING HAPPEN?



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SEX TRAFFICKING

Potential venues:

Street prostitution

Online exploitation/pornography

Massage parlors

Apartment brothels

Hotel/motel brothels

Forced marriage

Child marriage

Child sex tourism

**SEX WORK
DOES NOT
EQUAL SEX
TRAFFICKING**

LABOR TRAFFICKING

Potential venues:

Agricultural industry

Restaurants

Farms

Hotels and hospitality industry

Nail salons and hair braiding salons

Factories

Domestic work

Anywhere that
work happens,
human
trafficking can
happen

WHY DOES HUMAN TRAFFICKING HAPPEN?



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FOUNDATION & ROOT CAUSES

1. People are made vulnerable by systemic injustice like racism.
2. Criminals are seeking profits.
3. Systems provide opportunities like guest worker visas, restrictive immigration policies, runaway and homeless youth.



WHO IS INVOLVED IN HUMAN TRAFFICKING?



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WHO ARE THE TRAFFICKERS?

Stereotypes:

- Kidnapping by strangers
- Gang members
- Always controlling
- Immediately presents as untrustworthy

Reality:

- Family and relatives
- Spouse/intimate partner
- Community members
- Friends or peers
- Employer

WHO ARE THE SURVIVORS?

Stereotypes:

- Only happens to women
- Children
- Sex workers
- Immigrants

Reality:

- Friends
- Siblings
- Mothers and fathers
- Youth and adults
- Men, women, and gender non-conforming individuals
- Immigrants and US citizens

Underserved Populations

- Child survivors
- Male survivors
- LGBGTQ+ survivors
- Disabled survivors
- Survivors with mental health concerns
- Runaway and homeless youth
- Undocumented immigrants
- Survivors with substance use concerns
- Survivors experiencing homelessness
- Survivors experiencing poverty

HOW DOES TRAFFICKING HAPPEN?



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CONTROL AND COERCION

- Fear of placing family or themselves in danger
- Fear of losing family/children/pets
- Economic dependence
- Emotional dependence
- Cultural/religious constraints
- Fear of law enforcement
- Guilt
- Stigma
- Belief that abuse/situation will change
- Ambivalence over making change
- Lack of resources
- Lack of documents/legal status

IDENTIFYING A POTENTIAL VICTIM OF TRAFFICKING



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POSSIBLE INDICATORS

CONTROL

- Signs of abuse: physical or psychological
- Always or often accompanied by another person who seems controlling
- Identity documents being withheld

DEMEANOR

- Afraid to talk, intimidated, or anxious
- Unable to tell where they live
- Unexplained gaps in story

WORK CONDITIONS

- Under 18 and performing commercial sex acts
- Employer withholds money or identification documents
- Forced to work against their will

MIGRATION

- Entered with smuggler or lawfully and violated visa
- Someone threatened their immigration status in exchange for work or services or in a work setting

DEBT

- Not being paid directly or is working to pay off debt

HOUSING

- Unstable housing/homelessness
- Run-away and homeless youth

KEY QUESTIONS TO KEEP IN MIND

EXPECTATIONS VS. REALITY

- What did you expect you would be doing in this job? Versus what are you actually doing?
- What did you expect your pay to be? What is your actual pay?
- Were you forced to lie to your friends and family about what work you were doing?

LABOR VIOLATIONS

- Were your earnings withheld to pay back a debt or kept for you?

WORKING CONDITIONS

- Could you take breaks?
- What happened if you didn't complete the job?

TRAVEL TO THE U.S.

- How did you decide to come to the US? Independently?
- Were your documents taken from you?

KEY QUESTIONS TO KEEP IN MIND

CLIMATE OF FEAR

- Did you ever feel like you couldn't leave?
- What do you think would happen if you left?
- Were you ever scared for your safety?
- Were you forced to do things you didn't want to do?

LACK OF ACCESS

- Were you able to have friends?
- Could you leave your house or workplace alone?
- Could you contact your family and friends when you wanted?
- Could you seek medical care when you were sick?

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Which of the following questions would be most appropriate to ask a potential survivor of trafficking?

- A) Why didn't you leave sooner?
- B) Were you able to contact your friends and family when you wanted?
- C) Were you ever scared for your safety?
- D) Both B and C

HOW YOU CAN HELP



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STEPS TO TAKE

- Ask a potential survivor if they would like any assistance or support or if they need any accommodations on the work site
- Determine what programs exist in your community/area who may be able to help with any outside needs
- Continue to remain nonjudgmental and supportive of the survivor at the worksite by ensuring their basic needs are met, that they are being fairly compensated, and that they are receiving their mandated breaks

WHAT SERVICES DO SURVIVORS NEED?

Food	Shelter/ Housing	Clothing	Medical Care	Mental Health Care
Legal Services	Substance Abuse Treatment	Dental Care	Translation/ Interpreting	ESL/Literacy
GED Assistance	Job Training	Transportation	Life Skill Training	Family Unification

CASE STUDIES

REAL CASES IN CONSTRUCTION

“In Minnesota, a subcontractor hired undocumented immigrants to work on projects throughout the Twin Cities, exploiting their fear of deportation in order to force them to work excessive hours, to accept low pay, to avoid seeking medical attention, and to work in unsafe conditions. A man who ran several construction companies in Hayward, California, used similar techniques while serving as a labor broker.”

REAL CASES IN CONSTRUCTION

“In March of 2019, a federal jury in Brooklyn returned guilty verdicts against construction company owner, Dan Zhong, related to his use of slave labor on construction projects in the United States, including a high-rise project in midtown Manhattan and a mansion on Long Island. Zhong brought many of his crew from China, forced them to work seven days a week, locked them in cramped conditions, threatened them with financial ruin and deportation, and even had them violently punished if they tried to leave.”

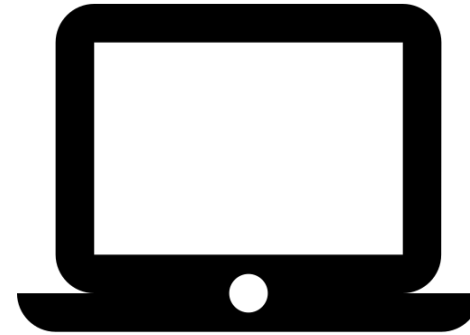
Source:
https://www.americanbar.org/groups/construction_industry/publications/under_construction/2020/spring2020/slavery-construction-materials-supply/

QUESTIONS

CONTACT US



Visit our Resource Library for more Resources
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Questions?
Email training@freedomnetworkusa.org

THANK YOU

