

Trafficking: Analyzing the Problem & Building Survivor-Centered Approaches



January 26, 2016

The Culture of Family-Controlled Trafficking

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**Co-Sponsor Family & Youth Services Bureau FYSB
Family Violence Prevention & Services Program**

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

[2]

How to Use the Technology

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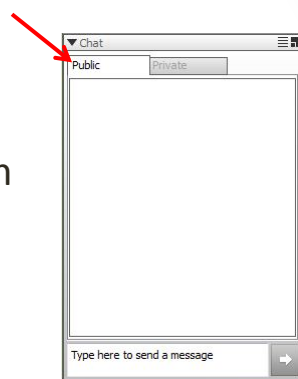
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How to Use the Technology

1. Audio Options

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How to Use the Technology

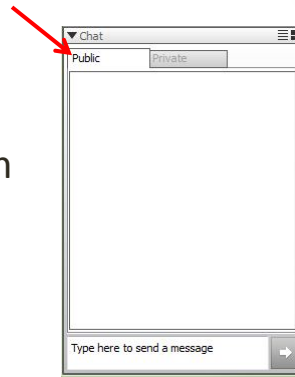
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PRACTICE

Please introduce yourself in the Chat Box by typing in your:

- Name
- Organization name
- City and State

Rey Naik: Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence (Oakland, CA)



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How to Use the Technology

1. Audio Options
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3. PowerPoint Presentation

The PowerPoint slides for today's presentation will be shared via email to everyone who registered in advance.

Participants will also receive a link to materials and to a link to the recording of the webinar following the session. It will take a couple of hours for us to make it available, so please check later tonight or tomorrow. I will also send a follow-up email to let everyone once it is available.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST

Once you exit, you will see a brief survey about this webinar. **Please, please take a moment to respond.** We do take your feedback and suggestions into account as we think about our future webinars and how we present them.

With that, I will pass the floor to our presenter, Chic Dabby.

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Welcome!
Context: Chic Dabby
Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence

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Core Value in Federal Plan: Survivor-Centered

Victim services should promote safety, healing, justice, and rights for victims, and should empower them to participate in efforts to bring traffickers to justice.

Survivors play a key role in elevating understanding and awareness of human trafficking, improving service delivery, and informing policy.

Anti-trafficking efforts should be victim-centered and culturally-relevant, holistic, comprehensive, evidence-based, gender-responsive, and trauma-informed.

Federal Strategic Action Plan on Services for Victims of Human Trafficking in the United States 2013-2017



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Definition

Trafficking is defined as:

- **Actions:** Recruitment, harboring, provision, receipt, transportation and/or obtaining of individuals
- **Means:** Using force or threats, coercion, abduction, fraud and/or systems of indebtedness or debt bondage
- **Purposes** can include:
 - Fraudulent adoption
 - Forced labor as domestic, industrial, agricultural workers
 - Prostitution, pornography, and sex tourism
 - Organ removal/harvesting
 - Involuntary servitude, including servile marriages
 - Serving as drug mules

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Definitions, cont.

Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (DMST) is defined as:

- Commercial sexual abuse and exploitation of minors through buying, trading or selling their sexual services
- A commercial sex act refers to anything of value – money, drugs, food, shelter, rent, higher status in a gang – exchanged for sex.
Purposes include:
 - Prostitution: street prostitution, escort services, internet-aided prostitution, strip clubs, massage parlors, peep shows
 - Pornography where minor is sold/rented/provided something of value to perform sex acts on camera.

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Definitions, cont.

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)

refers to a range of crimes including:

- Recruiting enticing, harboring, transporting, providing, obtaining, and/or maintaining (acts that constitute trafficking) a minor for the purpose of sexual exploitation;
- Exploiting a minor through prostitution;
- Exploiting a minor through survival sex;
- Using a minor in pornography;
- Exploiting a minor through sex tourism, mail order bride trade, and early marriage; and
- Exploiting a minor by having her/him perform in sexual venues (e.g., strip clubs, peep shows).

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Sex Trafficking: Root Causes

Gender oppression: Culture of gender violence, sexism and devaluation normalizes objectifying female bodies; abusing women and girls, LGBTQ individuals

Exploitation of vulnerability, poverty: Abuse, neglect, poverty can increase vulnerability to predation

Male demands for commodified sex: Trafficking relies on

- Extent of male demand e.g., an estimated 100 k DMST victims, turning 10 tricks/day = 1 million male buyers/yr;
- Trends amongst buyers e.g., paying higher prices for sex with younger girls.

Predation, impunity: Nexus of (mostly) male predatory behavior and impunity is seen as normal masculinity

Money: organized crime, pimps find it lucrative w/ fewer penalties and losses than drugs and arms trafficking.

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Who is trafficked?

- Minors
- Adults
- Native women and girls
- U.S. and foreign born individuals
- Refugees and immigrants
- LGBTQ youth

(13)

Who are the traffickers?

- Crime syndicates
- Employers
- Family members, friends of family
- Gang members
- Intimate partners (boyfriends, husbands)
- Pimps

(14)



Family-Controlled Trafficking:
Elisabeth Corey MSW, BeatingTrauma.com

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The image features a series of black silhouettes of human arms and hands raised against a white background. The hands are positioned at various heights, with some reaching higher than others, creating a sense of collective action or protest. Below the silhouettes, the text 'Family-Controlled Trafficking: Elisabeth Corey MSW, BeatingTrauma.com' is displayed in a bold, black font. To the right of the text, there is a small, light-colored box containing the number '15' in a dark font.

The Culture of Family-Controlled Trafficking

ELISABETH COREY, MSW

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The image shows three wooden mannequins on a light-colored surface. One mannequin is sitting on a large, dark, textured rock. Another mannequin is standing to the left, and a third is standing to the right. There are several other rocks of various sizes and colors (brown, grey, black) scattered around the mannequins. The background is a plain, light-colored wall. The text 'The Culture of Family-Controlled Trafficking' is written in a large, serif font at the top. Below it, 'ELISABETH COREY, MSW' is written in a smaller, bold, sans-serif font. The number '16' is centered below the text. At the bottom, there is a small logo of a lantern and the text 'BeatingTrauma.com'.

The Culture of Family-Controlled Trafficking

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- How does a family culture of trafficking, abuse and domestic violence render young victims hopeless and voiceless?
- What factors cover up the truth behind the family cult?
- What are the symptoms of chronic trauma perpetrated by those we are supposed to trust most?
- What are trauma-informed approaches to easing the burden of these young people through relationships of trust and understanding?



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The Stereotypes of Families that Traffic

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- It doesn't happen in the United States.
- They are criminals and are constantly in trouble with the law.
- They are poor & need to make money in unethical ways.
- They are of certain ethnic backgrounds.
- They lack power in society.
- The family dysfunction is obvious.
- The trafficked children are failing in school and obviously need psychological intervention.



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My Story

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- Generational
- Suburban, Middle-Class
- Physical abuse starting in infancy
- Sex abuse starting in the toddler years
- Trafficked between ages 7 to 9
- Brief interaction with child welfare
- Broken by age 9



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The Trafficker

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- **The familial trafficker will become well-known in the community: power and control are fundamental.**
 - May join associations and organizations for power.
 - May join boards of trustees to make powerful contacts.
 - Values powerful friendships in authoritative roles: judges, police, officials in government.
 - May have a powerful job.
 - Always trying to climb the ladder.
 - Obsessed with power.



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The Trafficker

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- **The familial trafficker will live a double life with connections to unlawful authoritative figures.**
 - The familial trafficker may have connections to gangs and/or pimps.
 - The familial trafficker will use money and other tactics to control them.
 - The familial trafficker may be their customer but will also ask them to do dirty work for money . This dirty work will include the intimidation of witnesses or victims.



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The Trafficker

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- **The familial trafficking keeps the family in upheaval at all times: constant trauma means constant control over all members of the family.**
 - The trafficker invokes competition between siblings as a pimp would with his/her victims.
 - All forms of violence are used to control: neglect, physical, sexual, verbal and emotional.
 - The sexual abuse and physical abuse start as soon as children are born. Normalizing rape and violence is critically important for the brainwashing.
 - Threats of death, injury and financial destitution are common for older children and other adults.



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The Enabler

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- The enabler is responsible for removing the hope of rescue by reinforcing the powerlessness.
- The enabler uses emotional and mental abuse, manipulation and gas-lighting to make the child question their memories and beliefs.
 - “Nobody will ever trust you when you talk that nonsense.”
 - “Women and children are here to please men.”
 - “You cannot survive without this family.”
 - “We will not love you if you don’t comply.”
 - “Don’t make things up.”
 - “You are crazy.”



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The Enabler

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- Most enablers are aware of the abuse and trafficking on a conscious or unconscious level.
- Some enablers may be coordinating or arranging the trafficking as well.
- The enabler will manipulate the child to gain trust until they reveal plans or secret friendships.
- They will encourage sibling competition also.
 - They will compare siblings and their talents or lack of talent.
 - The favorite sibling can change on a daily basis.



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The Enabler

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- **The enabler will treat the abused and trafficked child as “the other woman” or “the other man”.**
 - The child is shamed as the cause of the abuse and trafficking.
 - Competition between the enabler and the child starts when the child is very young.
 - As the child gets older, there may be competition around financial earnings, material possessions, traveling and “pretend happiness”. This continues in to adulthood.



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The Family on the Outside

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- **The key to living in this family is to look as normal as possible. There is an art to wearing the mask of normalcy.**
 - Children attend regular schools and are threatened to do well.
 - Children do activities and sports: good performance is critical.
 - Family is financially viable: middle & upper class is common.
 - Families are particularly interested in material things and status symbols.
 - The house can look immaculate.



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The Family on the Outside

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- The entire family will have power and control in the community. They will have connections with important families.
- There is a language for discovering others with the same criminal minds. They find each other. They will not only traffic and sexually abuse within their family, but will trade children.
- The entire family will work to discredit anyone who questions the illegal activities.



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The Family on the Outside

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- Adult family members will always accompany children to meetings with other adults: teachers, doctors, dentists, coaches. There is no one-on-one time with other adults unless they are part of the trafficking network.
 - They will do much more of the talking than usual.
 - They will make many excuses for behaviors or medical issues with children.
 - They won't listen well to other adults with suggestions.
 - "Therapists are for crazy people. We don't need therapy."
 - If any adults get too close to the children, the family will pull them from the activity, switch doctors, etc. Children learn not to get close to others.



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The Family on the Inside

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- The family is trafficking through generations. Uncles, aunts, cousins and grandparents are all a part of the problem.
- The brainwashing is strategic and calculated.
- The family environment works on a barter system.
 - You do for me and I will do for you.
 - You screw up, you pay.
 - Sex is traded for love, favors, money and toys.
 - The punishment for bad behavior, bad grades or talking too much is always rape.



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Why is nobody talking about family-controlled trafficking?

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- Make no mistake: this is a cult!
- The brainwashing runs deep.
- Leaving a family like this requires you to question your entire understanding of how the world works.
- Families make it clear that children will be cut off financially if they speak up or leave.



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Why is nobody talking about family-controlled trafficking?

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- **Beliefs/Brainwashing**

- You are a worthless human being. You deserve to be abused. It is your fault.
- You cannot survive on your own. You are tied to the family forever. Without the family, you will die.
- You are powerless to make change in your life. You are a victim.
- If you step out against the family, retaliation will be fierce.
- Nobody on the outside can be trusted.



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How can we help? Be aware.

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- Break through the stereotypes in your mind.
- Just because a “buddy” is a bona fide family member doesn’t mean they are safe.
- Anti-trafficking work CANNOT be a silo.
- Social services and domestic violence organizations should be front and center in the fight against family-controlled trafficking. If they aren’t involved, you are not identifying all victims of trafficking.



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How can we help? Be trauma-informed.

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Transformational Relationships Remove Vulnerabilities

Be the relationship that breaks the pattern

Safety *Sandy Skelaney with Ignition Fund*

Understanding

PATIENCE

RESPONSIVE

Endurance

Supportive

Empowerment

Flexible

Non-Judgmental

Empathetic



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How I help survivors in my work?

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- Building Awareness: Reaching the Unconscious
- Inner Family Systems: Understanding the Unconscious
- Belief Systems: Re-wiring the Brain
- Body Work: Moving the Trauma Up and Out
- Community: Reducing Isolation
- Taking Small Steps: Changing Behavior



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Understanding Help-Seeking

Past negative experiences influence future attempts

Exposure to multiple forms of abuses by range of abusers	➔	Shrinks the pool of potential helpers; increases danger
Contexts of societal oppressions e.g., poverty, racism	➔	Diminishes access, increases barriers to services; increases abusers' impunity
Negative actions and attitudes of helpers	➔	Colors ability to trust others and/or one's own judgment;
Victim-blaming, not believing victims, believing perpetrators	➔	Diminishes credibility, deepens internalized devaluation, causes confusion, shutting down

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Help-seeking , cont.

Interconnected Histories of Abuse and Help-Seeking: By the time we encounter survivors, they already have...

- Negative & positive histories of help-seeking
- Histories of physical and/or sexual abuses and neglect that can start early in the life-course
- Experienced multiple types of victimization and victim-blaming from various abusers
- Endured repeated victimization on a daily basis
- Dangers and threats of violence from traffickers, buyers, employers, others in the life, etc.

In some situations, doing nothing can be self-protective

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- **Questions?**

Resources

Trauma Institutes and Organizations

- The National Center for Trauma-Informed Care
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
- National Child Traumatic Stress Network
- International Society for the Study of Trauma and Dissociation
- The Institute for Safe Families
- Adverse Childhood Experiences Study
- Multiplying Connections
- National Center on Domestic Violence, Trauma & Mental Health





Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence

Formerly, Asian & Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence

A national Resource Center providing training and technical assistance on trafficking and other forms of gender-based violence.

Contact: Chic Dabby cdabby@api-gbv.org

www.api-gbv.org/violence/trafficking.php 415 | 568 | 3315