

Trafficking of Youth with Disabilities

What Human Trafficking Service Providers Need to Know

Presented by

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international organization for adolescents

Meet the Presenters



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**International Organization for
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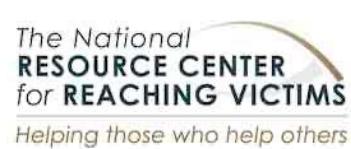
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The Trafficking of Youth with Disabilities Outreach & Education Project

- ▶ **International Organization for Adolescents (IOFA)**
- ▶ **National Human Trafficking & Disabilities Working Group (NHTDWG)**



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Learning Objectives

Participants will gain:

- ▶ Increased understanding of the role of a human trafficking provider serving youth with disabilities
- ▶ Increased awareness of disabilities
- ▶ Improved ability to identify and support potential or confirmed youth survivors of human trafficking with disabilities
- ▶ Increased understanding of the intersection between human trafficking and disability

Why do human trafficking providers need to learn about youth with disabilities?



Youth, Children, & Minors



The Reality



Children with disabilities are **at least three times** more likely to be abused or neglected than their peers without disabilities¹

¹Lund, E. M., & Vaughn-Jensen, J. (2012). Victimization of children with disabilities. *The Lancet*, (380)9845, 867-869.

What Do You Know About Disability? True or False?

Please reply to the following statement as True or False:

STATEMENT 1

In the United States, the term “disability” has a clear definition that is used across all disability service organizations, government agencies and policies and within cultures.

ANSWER:

FALSE – There are several definitions and understanding on what qualifies as a disability and approaches to providing services. 8

What Do You Know About Disability?

Part 2

True or False?

Please reply to the following statement as True or False:

STATEMENT 2

All youth with a disability are required to take social classes, such as sex ed in school

ANSWER:

FALSE – Youth who participate in special education classes are often overlooked for classes on relationships and sex education

What Do You Know About Youth Trafficking?

Part 3

True or False?

Please reply to the following statement as True or False:

STATEMENT 3

Some youth with a disability do not know they have a disability – whether they've been diagnosed or not.

ANSWER:

TRUE – Some youth do not know they have a disability.

How do we **define** disability?

The ADA is the **legal** way to define disability.

- ▶ Physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activity
- ▶ Record of impairment
- ▶ Is regarded as having an impairment

How do we **define** disability?

This is **NOT** the only way to define disability.

The **social model of disability** considers the role our **attitudes and inaccessibility** have on functional differences.¹

¹Thomas, P., Gradwell, L., & Markham, N. (n.d.). *Defining impairment within the social model of disability.*

Medical Model of Disability

Physical & Mobility

- **Movement** is functionally limited
- May use a mobility device (cane, wheelchair, walker)
- Examples: amputation, paralysis

Medical Model of Disability

Sensory Impairment

- **One or more senses** are functionally limited
- May use an adaptive device (glasses, hearing aid)
- Examples: blindness, Deaf

Medical Model of Disability

Developmental & Intellectual

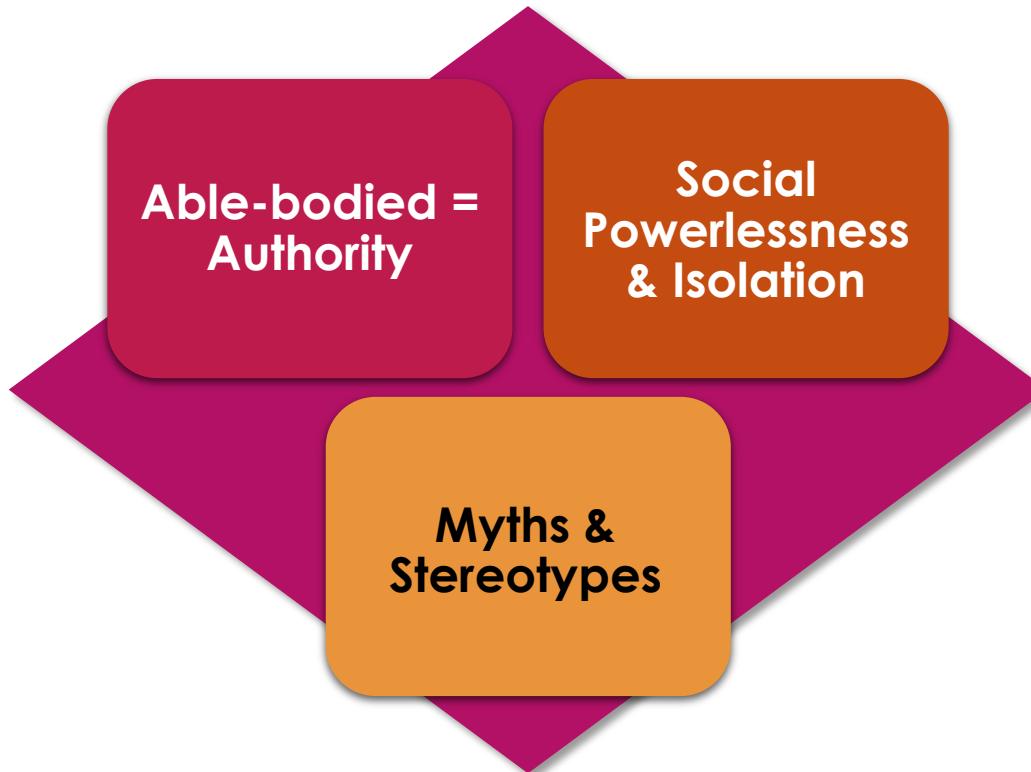
- **Physicality, learning, behavior, or communication** may be functionally limited
- Needs will vary
- Examples: cerebral palsy, Autism

Medical Model of Disability

Mental & Emotional

- **Functional limitations vary**
- Needs will vary according to impairments
- Examples: mood, eating, personality, or behavioral disorders

Why are youth with disabilities at higher risk for trafficking?



Risk Factor: Gaps in Education

Personal Safety

Online Safety

Healthy Relationships

Human Trafficking

Legal Rights

Value of Labor

Risk Factor: **Supports**

Communication

**Assistive/Mobility
Devices**

Personal Care

Educational

Housing

Benefits

Traffickers Can Be **Anyone**

**Case
Example:
Interfamilial
Trafficking**



Recruitment of Youth with Disabilities

Traffickers recruit victims:

- ▶ Online
- ▶ Malls
- ▶ Schools
- ▶ After school/youth programs
- ▶ Social Security offices
- ▶ Group homes/foster care

Grooming of Youth with Disabilities



Case Example:
Youth Programs

Maintaining Control in Youth with Disabilities



Role of the Provider



Prevention



Identification



Follow Protocol/**Report**



Support & Referral

Red Flags of Human Trafficking in Youth

Red flags can be:

- ▶ Behavioral
- ▶ Physical
- ▶ Situational

IMPORTANT: What do you know about them already? And has something changed?

Red Flags of Human Trafficking in Youth

Behavioral

- ▶ Frequently missing school
- ▶ Reduced or changed communication
- ▶ Fear, exhaustion, or depression
- ▶ Sudden inability to perform tasks

Provider Role: **Follow Protocol**

- ▶ **Safety** is first priority
- ▶ Explain **mandated reporting**
- ▶ Interpreters and supports ready **before** you need them
- ▶ Provide **choice** and autonomy
- ▶ Trauma-informed language and **take your time**

Contact the
National Human
Trafficking Hotline
for further
guidance.

Supporting Youth with Disabilities

- ▶ Staff trainings
- ▶ Connect with community supports
- ▶ Acquire assistive technology
- ▶ Put myths and perceptions aside
- ▶ Make eye contact
- ▶ Ask to help. Wait for acceptance. Follow instructions
- ▶ Respect a person's equipment
- ▶ Accepting and welcoming tone

Referral of Youth with Disabilities

- ▶ Housing/Shelter/Transportation
- ▶ Medical/Dental
- ▶ Legal Advocacy
- ▶ Case Management
- ▶ Mental Health Support
- ▶ Substance Abuse Services
- ▶ Educational Services
- ▶ Employment Services

Keep referrals trauma-informed, survivor-focused, youth-friendly, and accessible.

Community Supports: Centers for Independent Living



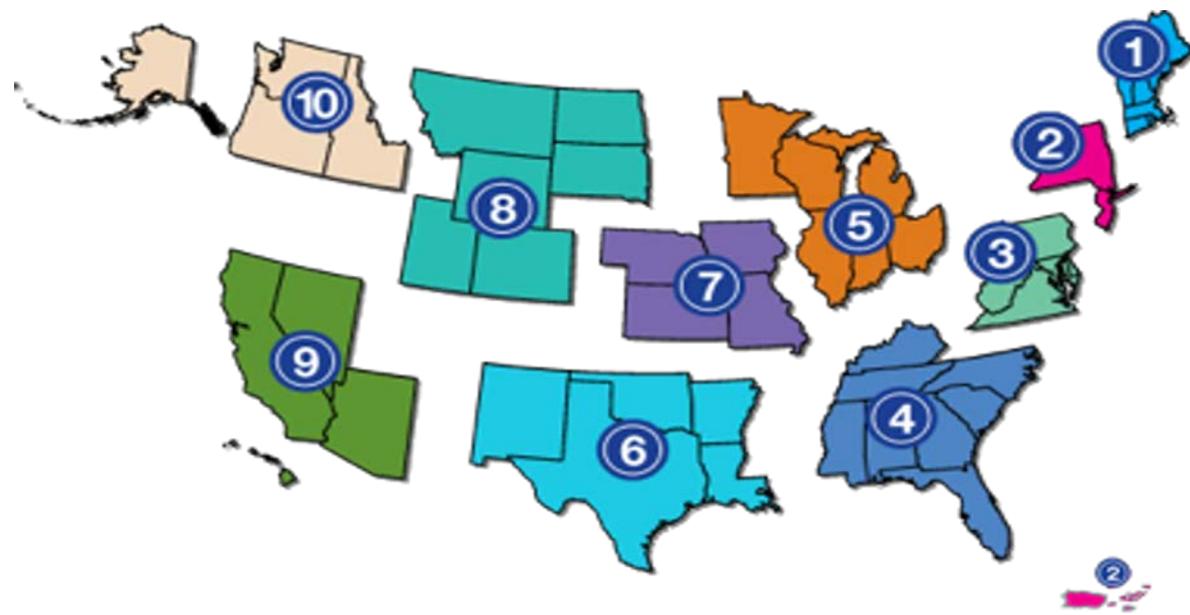
Fund your local
CIL

Community Supports: Protection & Advocacy Centers



For more information, about **Protection & Advocacy Centers**

Community Supports: Regional ADA Centers



For more
information
about
Regional
ADA Centers

Community Supports: Vocational Rehabilitation

To find your state's VR program, simply use any search engine and type: **“your state” + “vocational rehabilitation program”**



Community Supports: Advocacy Programs

Sibling Leadership Network

- ▶ Provide siblings of individuals with disabilities information, support, & tools
- ▶ Family resources

Community Supports: Advocacy Programs

ARC of U.S. and State Chapters

- ▶ Services, classes, & support for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities
- ▶ Research/resources

Community Supports: Advocacy Programs

Self Advocates Being Empowered (SABE)

- ▶ Advocacy services for people with all different types of disabilities
- ▶ Promotes self-advocacy

Resources

National Human Trafficking Resource Center (Report online)

- ▶ **Call:** 1-888-373-7888
- ▶ **Text:** “Help” to BeFree (233733)

Resources

HEAL Network

Email: healtraffickingnow@gmail.com

Resources

Freedom Network USA

Call: 202-504-9602

Email: info@freedomnetworkusa.org

Resources

**National Human Trafficking and Disabilities
Working Group**

Email: nhtdwg@iofa.org

We are
here to
help!



international organization for adolescents

info@iofa.org

If you need assistance with:

Identifying Human Trafficking

Resources

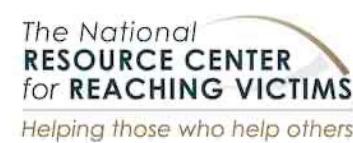
Training

Technical Assistance

Contact info@iofa.org

Thank you to our partners

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