



EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Center for Health Disparities  
Innovations and Studies

# Human Trafficking: Cultural Competence and Meeting the Needs of Victims

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Meriam Caboral-Stevens

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PNAM Training

# Objectives:

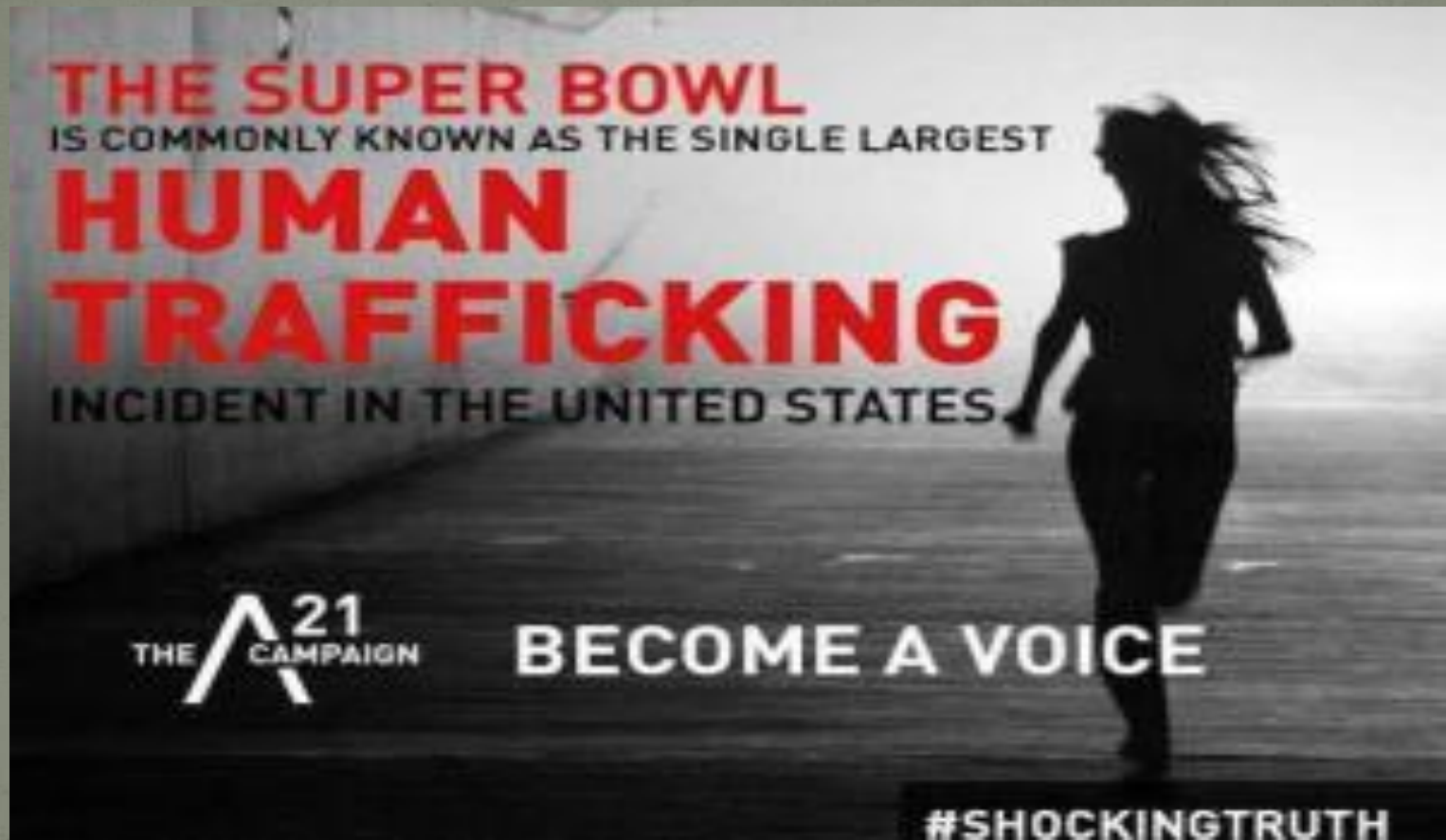
At the end of this presentation, attendees should be able to:

1. Define human trafficking (HT)
2. Describe the elements of HT
3. Identify the different forms of HT
4. Recognize red flags of HT
5. Discuss impact of HT on the victims
6. Describe one key component that organizations may use to create a culturally competent organization.
7. Identify how individuals and organizations deliver culturally competent service to the trafficked victims.

**NATIONAL  
HUMAN  
TRAFFICKING  
AWARENESS  
MONTH**



February 2, 2020:  
**SUPER BOWL SUNDAY**

A black and white poster with red text. The background shows a silhouette of a woman running on a beach. The text is as follows:

**THE SUPER BOWL**  
IS COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE SINGLE LARGEST  
**HUMAN**  
**TRAFFICKING**  
INCIDENT IN THE UNITED STATES.

THE **A**<sup>21</sup> CAMPAIGN

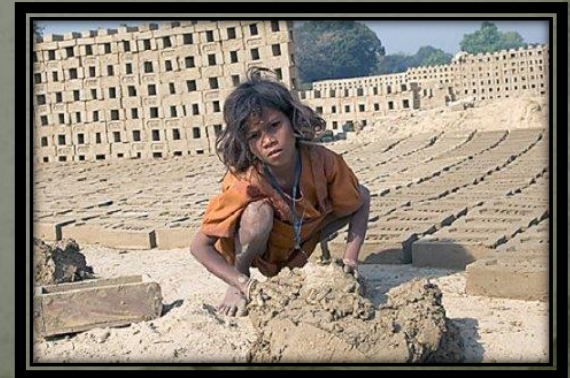
**BECOME A VOICE**

**#SHOCKINGTRUTH**

As Super Bowls heads to Miami, feds on high alert for human traffickers – FOX News

# What is Human Trafficking?

- A grave crime that constitutes a violation of human rights.
- “The act of recruiting, harboring, transporting, providing, or obtaining a person for compelled labor or commercial sex acts through the use of force, fraud, or coercion” (U.S. Department of State, 2015, p. 7).  
Human.
- Terms “trafficking in person”, human trafficking” and “modern-day slavery” are used interchangeably.



# Scope of the Problem

- Fastest growing criminal enterprise
- An estimated 25M victims worldwide (ILO, 2017), with 5.4 of every 1,000 people are being forced into labor at any given time (ILO, 2016)
- Human labor exploitation (64% - 16M) and commercial sexual trafficking (19%-5M) are the most common form
  - 71% are women and girls; 25% (5.5M) are children under 17 y/o
- It generates an estimated illegal profit of \$150B globally
- Asia Pacific has the largest number of forced labor (56%) globally, followed by Africa (18%)

Reference: ILO, 2017

# TIER PLACEMENTS

## TIER 1

|             |                |              |             |                          |
|-------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| ARGENTINA   | CHILE          | GEORGIA      | NETHERLANDS | SWEDEN                   |
| AUSTRALIA   | COLOMBIA       | GUYANA       | NEW ZEALAND | SWITZERLAND              |
| AUSTRIA     | CYPRUS         | ISRAEL       | NORWAY      | TAIWAN                   |
| THE BAHAMAS | CZECH REPUBLIC | JAPAN        | PHILIPPINES | UNITED KINGDOM           |
| BAHRAIN     | ESTONIA        | KOREA, SOUTH | PORTUGAL    | UNITED STATES OF AMERICA |
| BELGIUM     | FINLAND        | LITHUANIA    | SLOVENIA    |                          |
| CANADA      | FRANCE         | LUXEMBOURG   | SPAIN       |                          |

## TIER 2

|                    |             |            |                              |                      |
|--------------------|-------------|------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| ALBANIA            | EGYPT       | KENYA      | NIGER                        | SLOVAKIA             |
| ANTIGUA & BARBUDA  | EL SALVADOR | KOSOVO     | NIGERIA                      | SOLOMON ISLANDS      |
| ARMENIA            | ESWATINI    | KUWAIT     | OMAN                         | SURINAME             |
| ARUBA              | ETHIOPIA    | LATVIA     | PAKISTAN                     | TAJIKISTAN           |
| BENIN              | GERMANY     | LEBANON    | PALAU                        | THAILAND             |
| BOTSWANA           | GHANA       | MACAU      | PANAMA                       | TIMOR-LESTE          |
| BRAZIL             | GREECE      | MACEDONIA  | PARAGUAY                     | TOGO                 |
| BULGARIA           | GUATEMALA   | MADAGASCAR | PERU                         | TONGA                |
| BURKINA FASO       | GUINEA      | MALI       | POLAND                       | TRINIDAD & TOBAGO    |
| CABO VERDE         | HAITI       | MALTA      | QATAR                        | TUNISIA              |
| CAMEROON           | HONDURAS    | MAURITIUS  | RWANDA                       | TURKEY               |
| CHAD               | HONG KONG   | MEXICO     | ST. LUCIA                    | UGANDA               |
| COSTA RICA         | ICELAND     | MICRONESIA | ST. MAARTEN                  | UKRAINE              |
| COTE D'IVOIRE      | INDIA       | MOLDOVA    | ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES | UNITED ARAB EMIRATES |
| CROATIA            | INDONESIA   | MONGOLIA   | SENEGAL                      | URUGUAY              |
| DENMARK            | IRELAND     | MOROCCO    | SERBIA                       | ZAMBIA               |
| DJIBOUTI           | ITALY       | MOZAMBIQUE | SEYCHELLES                   | ZIMBABWE             |
| DOMINICAN REPUBLIC | JAMAICA     | NAMIBIA    | SINGAPORE                    |                      |
| ECUADOR            | JORDAN      | NEPAL      |                              |                      |

## TIER 2 WATCH LIST

|             |                          |                 |                  |              |
|-------------|--------------------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------|
| AFGHANISTAN | BOLIVIA                  | GUINEA-BISSAU   | MALAWI           | SOUTH AFRICA |
| ALGERIA     | BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA     | HUNGARY         | MALAYSIA         | SRI LANKA    |
| ANGOLA      | CAMBODIA                 | IRAQ            | MALDIVES         | SUDAN        |
| AZERBAIJAN  | CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC | KAZAKHSTAN      | MARSHALL ISLANDS | TANZANIA     |
| BANGLADESH  | CONGO, REPUBLIC OF THE   | KYRGYZ REPUBLIC | MONTENEGRO       | UZBEKISTAN   |
| BARBADOS    | CURAÇAO                  | LAOS            | NICARAGUA        | VIETNAM      |
| BELIZE      | FIJI                     | LESOTHO         | ROMANIA          |              |
| BRUNEI      | GABON                    | LIBERIA         | SIERRA LEONE     |              |

## TIER 3

|             |                   |              |                  |              |
|-------------|-------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|
| BELARUS     | COMOROS           | ERITREA      | PAPUA NEW GUINEA | TURKMENISTAN |
| BHUTAN      | CONGO, DEMOCRATIC | THE GAMBIA   | RUSSIA           | VENEZUELA    |
| BURMA       | REP. OF THE       | IRAN         | SAUDI ARABIA     |              |
| BURUNDI     | CUBA              | KOREA, NORTH | SOUTH SUDAN      |              |
| CHINA (PRC) | EQUATORIAL GUINEA | MAURITANIA   | SYRIA            |              |

## SPECIAL CASE

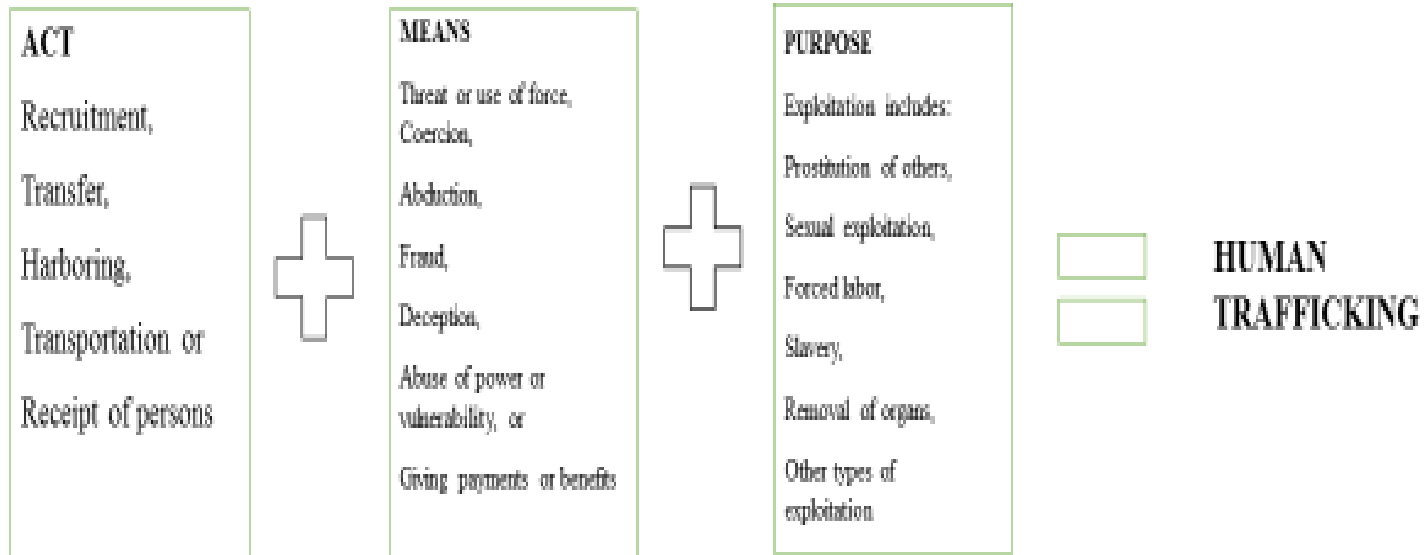
|       |         |       |
|-------|---------|-------|
| LIBYA | SOMALIA | YEMEN |
|-------|---------|-------|

# Human Trafficking in the U.S.

- HT was not made illegal until 2000 – not until the passing of Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA)
- The U.S., along with Mexico and the Philippines, ranked one of the world's worst places of HT in 2018.
- No actual numbers in the U.S., but recent data showed that the National Human Trafficking Hotline received 150 calls per day.
- California, Texas and Florida have the most trafficking cases. Las Vegas is the hot spot. New York is a documented destination



# Elements of Human Trafficking



The A-M-P Model: Elements of human trafficking. Obtained from: UNODC (2015a).  
URL: <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/what-is-human-trafficking.html>

# Categories of Human Trafficking

## Labor Trafficking:

- Domestic Service
- Sweat Shops/Factories
- Begging
- Agricultural Work
- Mining
- Stripping & lap dancing

## Sexual Trafficking:

- Prostitution
- Pornography
- Live-Sex Shows
- Mail-order Brides
- Child Brides

## Other forms:

- Child conscription (soldiers)
- Organ trafficking

# Factors that contribute to HT

- Globalization
- Poverty – extreme
- Social and familial disorganization
- Corruptions
- Digital technology
- Racialized sexual stereotypes
- Culture



# Risk Factors

- Women and children are most vulnerable
- History of abuse or violence
- Family instability
- Being disabled or marginalized
- Possessing a stigmatized gender, culture or ethnic backgrounds
- Lack of education
- Extreme poverty – highest “push” factor

(Alpert et al., 2014; Choi, 2015)



# How culture contributes to human trafficking

- Race and ethnicity are inextricably linked to sexual violence and exploitation.
  - Myths regarding sexuality in certain cultures or racial fetishization may affect trafficking patterns.
- In many cultures, boys are highly valued than girls as result girls are considered more dispensable
  - Sons are considered the family's social security. Girls may be more likely to be sold into slavery than boys
- Child labor is also tied to cultural factor
  - Children from lower social class should be socialized early to understand their positions in society.

# Who Are The Traffickers?

- Organized crime
- Neighbors, friends, family members, village chiefs
- Agricultural operations
- Business owners
- Families



# Roles of Clinicians (and Organizations)

1. Screening and identification of trafficked victims
  - Red Flags
  - Screening Tools
2. Management of acute healthcare needs of victim
3. Referral for health, safety, and legal resources

# IDENTIFYING and MEETING NEEDS of TRAFFICKED PERSONS

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Cultural Competency



# RED FLAGS

## Physical

### Environment

- Not free to leave or come and go as he/she wishes
- In the commercial sex industry and has a pimp / manager
- Unpaid, paid very little, or paid only through tips
- Works excessively long and/or unusual hours
- Not allowed breaks or suffers under unusual restrictions at work
- Owes a large debt and is unable to pay it off
- Was recruited through false promises concerning the nature and conditions of his/her work
- High security measures exist in the work and/or living locations (e.g. opaque windows, boarded up windows, bars on windows, barbed wire, security cameras, etc.)
- Claims of just visiting and inability to clarify where he/she is staying/address
- Lack of knowledge of whereabouts and/or of what city he/she is in

### Poor Physical Health:

- Lacks medical care and/or is denied medical services by employer
- Appears malnourished or shows signs of repeated exposure to harmful chemicals
- Shows signs of physical and/or sexual abuse, physical restraint, confinement, or torture
- Under-dressed for the weather particularly during winter season

## Psychosocial

### Poor Mental Health or Abnormal Behavior:

- Fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, tense, or nervous/paranoid
- Exhibits unusually fearful or anxious behavior after bringing up law enforcement
- Avoids eye contact
- Loss of sense of time
- Has numerous inconsistencies in his/her story
- Presents to the clinic with older man

### Lack of Control:

- Has few or no personal possessions
- Not in control of his/her own money, no financial records, or bank account
- Not in control of his/her own identification documents (ID or passport)
- Not allowed or able to speak for themselves (a third party may insist on being present and/or translating)
- Boyfriend answering for the patient during clinic visit

# Barriers to Identification

- Many victims in the U.S. do not speak English and are unable to communicate with service providers, police, or others who might be able to help them.
- Often victims don't know where they are because traffickers frequently move them to escape detection
- Fear for safety of family in home country/state/city
- Fear and shame
- Self-blame and hopelessness
- Dependency



# Barriers to Engagement



- Inherent distrust of others
  - Years of being lied to by family, friends, abusers
- May appear to be distant and unapproachable
  - Mind is clouded by stress and trauma
- Acting aggressive
  - Hardened by street life, constantly in survival mode
- Silence
  - No one listens to their stories and they feel as if they don't have a voice, silenced by shame

# THE IMPACT OF TRAFFICKING ON VICTIMS

“They didn’t see us as human beings, but just as whores, just as flesh that they could use. That’s all.”

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# Conditions Causing Health Issues for Victims of Human Trafficking

- Victims suffer from host of physical and psychological problems stemming from:
  - Inhumane living conditions
  - Poor sanitation
  - Inadequate nutrition
  - Poor personal and dental hygiene
  - Brutal physical and emotional abuse
  - Dangerous workplace conditions
  - General lack of quality medical care
  - Addictions to prescription drugs, street drugs or both



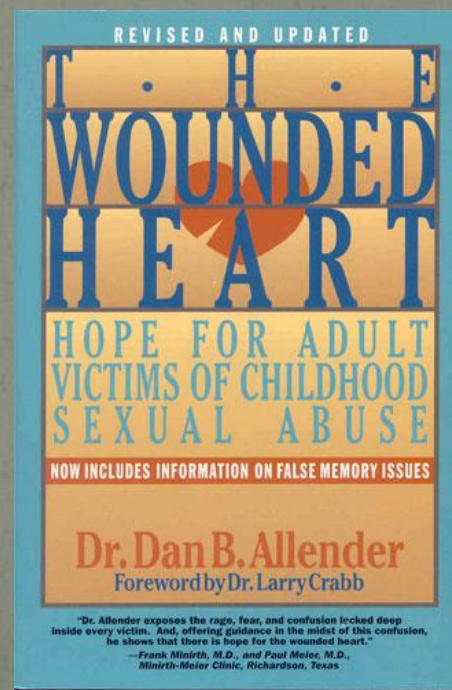
# Physical Harms of Human Trafficking

- Older broken bones that did not heal properly
- Traumatic Brain Injury, HA
- Bodily injuries: broken bones, concussions, burns, bruising, bite marks, vaginal/anal tearing from violence including assault, stabbings, rape, and torture
- HIV, STIs
- Malnutrition

[http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking/about/fact\\_sex.html](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking/about/fact_sex.html)  
Polaris Project

# The Mindset of the Victim

- The Core Symptoms that make up the internal landscape of the victim
  - Shame
  - Powerlessness
  - Betrayal
  - Ambivalence



# Psychological Harms of Sex Trafficking

- Mind/body separation/disassociated ego states, dissociative disorders
- Shame and grief
- Depression, hopelessness
- Anxiety disorders
- Self destructive behaviors, including suicide
- Traumatic bonding with perpetrator
- **Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD):** Acute anxiety, depression, insomnia, persistent flashbacks, physical hyper-alertness, self-loathing that is long-lasting and resistant to change





# What are the Immediate Needs of Trafficked Persons?

- Trust
- Safety
- Medical care
- Social support
- Mental health support
- Basic life needs

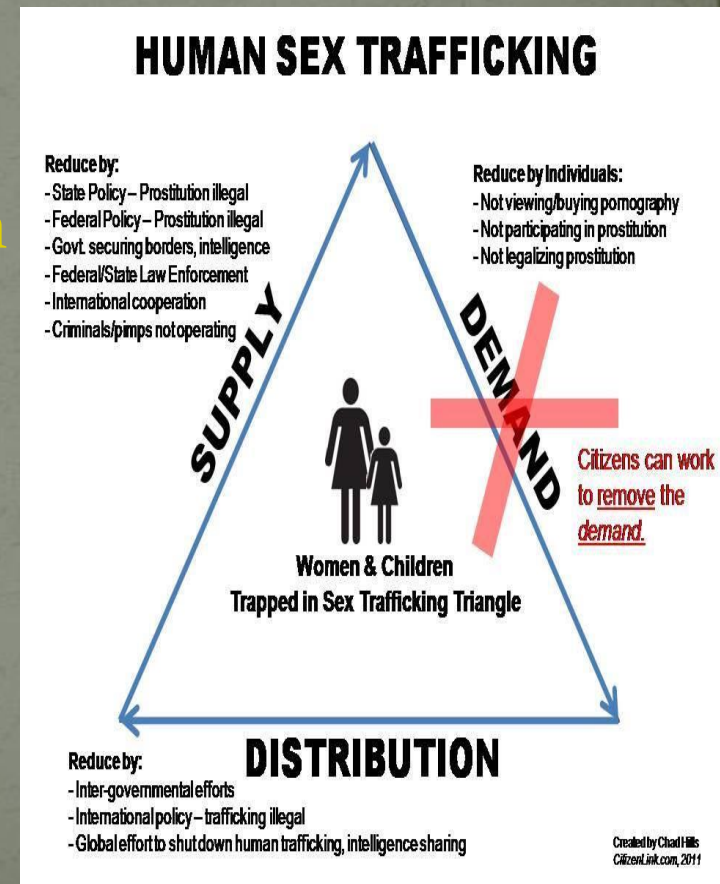


# Cultural barriers to identifying and assisting victims

- Societal and structural context for human trafficking
- Programmatic and systematic barriers
- Victims belief systems
- Provider/advocate belief systems

# Tools to deliver culturally competent service

- Engage in continuous self-awareness
- Discern cultural patterns
- Suspend nanosecond assumption
- Break the Power Triangle
- Practice effective cross-cultural communication
- Build relationships



# Key components for organization to deliver culturally competent service

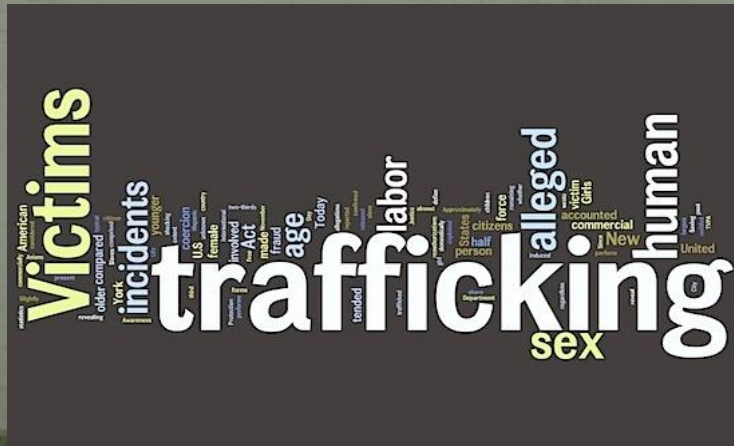
- Valuing diversity
- Being capable of self-assessment
- Being conscious of the dynamics when cultures intersect
- Having institutionalized cultural knowledge
- Having developed approaches and treatment modalities that are adapted to diversity

# Factors impacting cultural competence

- **Attitudes.** Organizations become more culturally competent as their attitudes become less ethnocentric and prejudiced,
- **Policies** become more flexible and culturally objective
- **Practices** become more harmonious with the culture of youth and families.

# How You Can Help

- Trauma – sensitive programming (Trauma-informed care approach)
- Collaborating with Human Trafficking Agency in your County
- Work with local children's groups by being a mentor
- Human Trafficking Hotline: **(888) 373-7888**





**BLUE CAMPAIGN**

One Voice. One Mission. End Human Trafficking.®

- A worldwide strategic approach to combat human trafficking is composed of three interdependent and complementary components: (a) research and awareness, (b) promotion of protocols and capacity building, and (c) strengthening of partnership and coordination (UNODC, 2015a).
- These components are referred to as the 4Ps—prevention, protection, partnership and prosecution (DOJ, Health and Human Services, and Homeland Security, 2014;
- UNODC, 2015a).

