

Faces of Human Trafficking: Effective Victim Services

This video includes information on the importance of providing victim-centered, trauma-informed services to meet the wide array of needs experienced by trafficking victims. Coordination and collaboration are critical in responding to the diverse population of trafficking survivors, as no one provider can meet all of the needs of all types of trafficking victims. This video features survivors and service professionals who provide examples of how comprehensive services can support the healing process for survivors. This video is intended for legal and social service providers, law enforcement, allied professionals, and the general community.

Key Points

- Service providers from a range of disciplines can serve victims of human trafficking, even if this is not their specialty. However, it is important that everyone is trained on the indicators and elements of human trafficking so that victims can be identified and referred if specialized services are needed.
- It is important to build partnerships in advance so that you are ready to provide services when victims need them.
- It is not enough for services to be available. They should be effective and geared toward the victims' needs. Services should be victim centered, trauma informed, culturally appropriate, and gender appropriate.
- It is important to acknowledge that there are challenges in providing some services (such as housing and gender-appropriate services), and service providers need to learn from communities that are successfully addressing these needs.
- The impact of trauma on a victim can be substantial. It may affect victims' ability to

tell their story, make decisions, remember appointments, and more. Service providers and law enforcement need to understand how to work most effectively with victims who show signs of significant trauma, and know how to work with mental health professionals.

Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to be "victim centered"?
2. What are some of the signs of trauma?

“The needs of trafficking victims are so great, it really takes a village to provide a full array of services to one victim.”

— Maja Hasic, Director
Anti-Human Trafficking Program
“Tapestri,” Atlanta, Georgia

3. What does it mean to provide “trauma-informed” services?
 4. Which service providers in your community may be working with human trafficking victims in response to separate presenting issues and needs? (Consider domestic violence service providers, rape crisis centers, immigrant-serving organizations, Child Advocacy Centers, and homeless shelters.)
 5. What partnerships should you consider building in advance of working with victims of human trafficking to ensure that they receive comprehensive services?
 6. How might services need to be tailored for specific victim populations, such as minors; males; females; individuals who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer; American Indians and Alaska Natives; foreign nationals; and U.S. citizens?
 7. What are some of the challenges you anticipate in providing services to victims of human trafficking, and what are some possible ways to overcome these challenges?
 8. What can you do with the knowledge that you have gained today?
- Provide a brief history of modern human trafficking legislation in the United States, including the TVPA of 2000 and its reauthorizations, the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014, the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015, and relevant legislation in your state.
 - Describe trafficking cases that have been successfully prosecuted in your area and the role that service providers played in supporting the victims before, during, and after the investigation and prosecution.
 - Describe a local program that has instituted principles of trauma-informed care. (See the Human Trafficking Task Force e-Guide at www.ovcttac.org/taskforceguide for more information.) Discuss some of the concrete changes that were made to policies, procedures, and practices to better support staff and clients.
- For more information, including additional training resources, please visit www.ovc.gov/trafficking or www.ovcttac.gov/taskforceguide.

Supplemental Training Materials

- Provide the federal definition, from the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA)