

Welcome to
**Considerations for
Engaging with
Traditionally
Marginalized Youth
Impacted by Human
Trafficking**

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resources!**





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ABOUT US



We work with
the youth services
community



to innovate,
evaluate, + drive
effective strategies



that assure the
safety + well-being of
youth + young adults,



unlocking
their limitless
potential.

Girls Action Board (GAB)



- National leadership team ages (18-24)
- Focuses on preventing and addressing sex trafficking
- Provides training and technical assistance to grantees
- Involved in all initiatives and deliverables
- Increases pathways to youth leadership
- Paid consultants

Community Agreements

- Take space/make space, be respectful of others
- Work the issue—not the person...believe positive intent until proven otherwise
- Listen to understand
- Take care of yourself
- Learning leaves the room...stories stay
- Understand the difference between intention and impact, repair when needed
- Person first language

Objectives

- Increase awareness of underlying causes that contribute to Human Trafficking
- Discuss disproportionality in Human Trafficking among youth and young adults
- Increase awareness of tools for use when engaging with youth who are impacted by Human Trafficking
- Participate in interactive activities to practice these youth engagement strategies

How Did We Get Here?

- Stolen land
- Exploitation of bodies for labor
- Sexual exploitation of Indigenous and enslaved Africans
- Fetization and criminalization of Asian women



THE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

DECEMBER 2021



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

HT and Minoritized Groups

- Black girls are suspended at higher rates (12%) than girls of any other race or ethnicity and most boys. (U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights)
- Nationally, Black girls represent 31% of girls referred to law enforcement by school officials and 43% of those arrested on school grounds, but only constitute 17% of the overall student population. (National Women's Law Center & NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, 2014)
- While only 14% of children under 18 in the United States are Black, 35% of the girls in juvenile facilities are Black. (Youth Confinement: The Whole Pie 2019)
- In South Dakota, Native women represent 40% of sex trafficking victims, though Native people are only 8% of the population.
- In Hawaii, 83% of sex trafficking survivors are female and 64% are all or part Native Hawaiian.

Trauma

The lasting emotional response that often results from living through a distressing event(s)

- **Acute trauma** results from a single incident
- **Chronic trauma** is repeated and prolonged such as domestic violence or abuse.
- **Complex trauma** is exposure to varied and multiple traumatic events, often of an invasive, interpersonal nature.
- **Intergenerational trauma** is a concept developed to help explain years of generational challenges within families. It is the transmission (or sending down to younger generations) of the oppressive or traumatic effects of a historical event.

Tools for Engagement



Getting to Know You...

1

What is your childhood nickname? And why?
30 sec each

2

If you could have a theme song, what would it be? Why?
1 min each

3

Share your favorite place to go after a tough week and why.
2 min each

4

Discuss a time when you instantly knew you could not trust someone.
3 mins each

5

What makes you feel safe?
4 min each



Cultural humility is the understanding that one is not an expert or competent in another's culture. Humility creates space for providers to indefinitely learn about the experiences, individuality, and beliefs of those they serve. Cultural humility provides space for providers to examine their own beliefs, values, and biases. This allows for introspection, to examine one's own cultural impact on the youth.



What is the story of you?

This practice allows you to..

- Center yourself as the author of your own story
- Acknowledge your intersecting identities
- Provide space to examine the impacts of oppression
- Roots your experience within a historical context

Questions to consider...

- Who are your people?
- In what spaces do you feel most at home?
- How do you define yourself?
- How are you seen by others?
- Which of your stories are hypervisual?
- How does your story intersect with racism? And other forms of oppression?

Saviorism vs Allyship

Saviorism:

Saviorism is providing help to someone in a self-serving manner

1. Quick Fix
2. Does NOT resolve the issue
3. Centers the supporter and lacks empowerment



Allyship:

One that is associated with another as a helper

1. Understanding its positioning regarding an issue
2. Is a tool not the center piece



Allies, Accomplices, and Saviors: Knowing the Difference



Restorative Practices

Rooted in wisdom traditions handed down **to navigate harm, healing, and belonging through relationships and community.**

These can be used to facilitate:

- Changes in human behavior
- Strengthen civil society
- Provide effective leadership
- Restore relationships after harm
- Address and reduce violence

Integrating bio-psycho-social dimensions of human **well-being and belonging through meaningful re/connection.**

Core qualities:

- Inner work (checking yourself)
- Self-knowledge
- Self-care

Restorative Questions



Non-verbal

- 3-5 ft. distance, shoulders at 45° angle
- Neutral face
- Visible palms
- Arms relaxed, open
- If possible, sit next to the person (instead of across)
- Respect autonomy of movement

Verbal

- Easy listening, slow pace
- 7-12 words per sentence
- Neutral tone
- Positive words, avoid negative words
- Requests, not commands

Practice!

In groups of two, take some time to practice running through the sequence.

Be mindful: this is not a therapy session!

Responding to Interpersonal Harm

1. What happened?
2. What did you think when you realized what happened?
3. What impact did it have on you and others?
4. What has been the hardest thing for you?
5. What needs to happen to make things right?

Responding to Challenges

1. What happened?
2. What were you thinking at the time?
3. What have you thought about since?
4. Who was impacted? How?
5. What needs to happen to make things right?

Engagement Strategies



Engaging Youth Beyond Formal Mentoring

- Ensure there is a feedback loop between mentees and the program that is included and feeds into your QA process.
- How can they play a bigger role in mentor selection?
- What activities would they like to participate in or help facilitate?
- How can they be a part of informing mentee outreach strategies, and development of age-appropriate materials?
- Thought partnership/focus groups and youth are informed of changes made because of their feedback.
- Facilitating the creation of a youth action board led by program alumni.
- Compensating youth and young adults for their time. Hire young people.



Takeaways

- Prevalence of HT is a symptom of a greater problem.
- Prevention and intervention are heavily impacted by relationships and personal work.
- Youth and young adults are valuable co-creators in this work!



Q&A



Let's Connect!

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