



Kalamazoo Area Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition

---

Stop This Traffic  
Kent County Trafficking Task Force  
YWCA  
Manasseh Project

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qpr0GtTGJLg>



# Kalamazoo Area Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition

FIGHTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING ONE DAY AT A TIME

# Who Am I and Why m I Here?

---



Rita G. O'Brien LLMSW, Educator

Board Trustee, Kalamazoo Area Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition



**MICHIGAN  
HUMAN  
TRAFFICKING  
TASK FORCE**



*Pearls of Great Price Coalition*

# Learning Objectives

---

Dynamics of Human Trafficking

---

Who is at Risk

---

Identification of Victims

---

Role of Healthcare Practitioners

---

Community Resources

# U.S. Law and Human Trafficking

---

Federal Legislation passed in 2000, TVPA, defining human trafficking as sexual and labor exploitation. Federal law enforcement agents in Michigan are primarily responsible for federal interpretation with the two U.S. Attorneys in Michigan.

- **Sex trafficking** is the recruitment, harboring, transporting, or obtaining a person for a commercial sex act, using force, fraud, or coercion. (Those 3 elements not applicable for minors.)
- **Labor trafficking**...(same words starting with recruitment) subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery. Must have force, fraud, or coercion, physical or psychological.

## Key Points

Under federal law, any minor engaged in commercial sex is a victim of sex trafficking, regardless of force, fraud, or coercion.

General awareness of sex trafficking remains a barrier to identifying victims and referring them for services.

Service providers may already be working with trafficking victims but on a different presenting issue – i.e., domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse.

Law enforcement and criminal justice systems must make a paradigm shift to avoid prosecuting victims, including parents, guardians, and legal custodians.

# Smuggling vs Trafficking

---

**Differences can be confusing when applied to migration and labor**

## Trafficking

- Movement not required
- Border crossing not necessary
- Once in the target country...under the control of the trafficker

## Smuggling

- Movement required
- Illegal border crossing
- Once in the target country...person is free



# Demographics of Victims of Human Trafficking

---

Foreign Nationals and U.S. Citizens

Big Cities and Rural Communities

All Socio-economic situations – key is **vulnerability**

Labor and/or Sexually Exploited

Men, Women, Adults, Teens, Children and Babies



# Potential Risk Factors–Vulnerabilities

---

Poverty	Adult sex industry
Racism	Transient male
Homophobia	Sexism
Domestic violence	Can not access “better”
Homelessness	Glorification of pimp culture
Physical neglect/Abuse	Unaddressed trauma
Runaway	Foster care placement
LGBTQ+	Sexual abuse
Mental Health Issues	School problems
Substance abuse issues	Isolation
Access/addiction to technology	

# Work Performed

Farm Labor

Domestic Situations

Fisheries

Panhandling

Janitorial Services

Childcare/nanny

Hair braiding

Nail Salons

Construction

Door to Door Sales

Hotels & Resorts

Restaurants

Organ Donation

Sex

# Commercial Sex Exploitation includes:

Street exploitation

Forms of internet-based  
exploitation

Sexual exploitation  
through use of internet

Child pornography, as  
live performance as  
well as in photography

Erotic-nude massage

Escort service

Phone sex lines

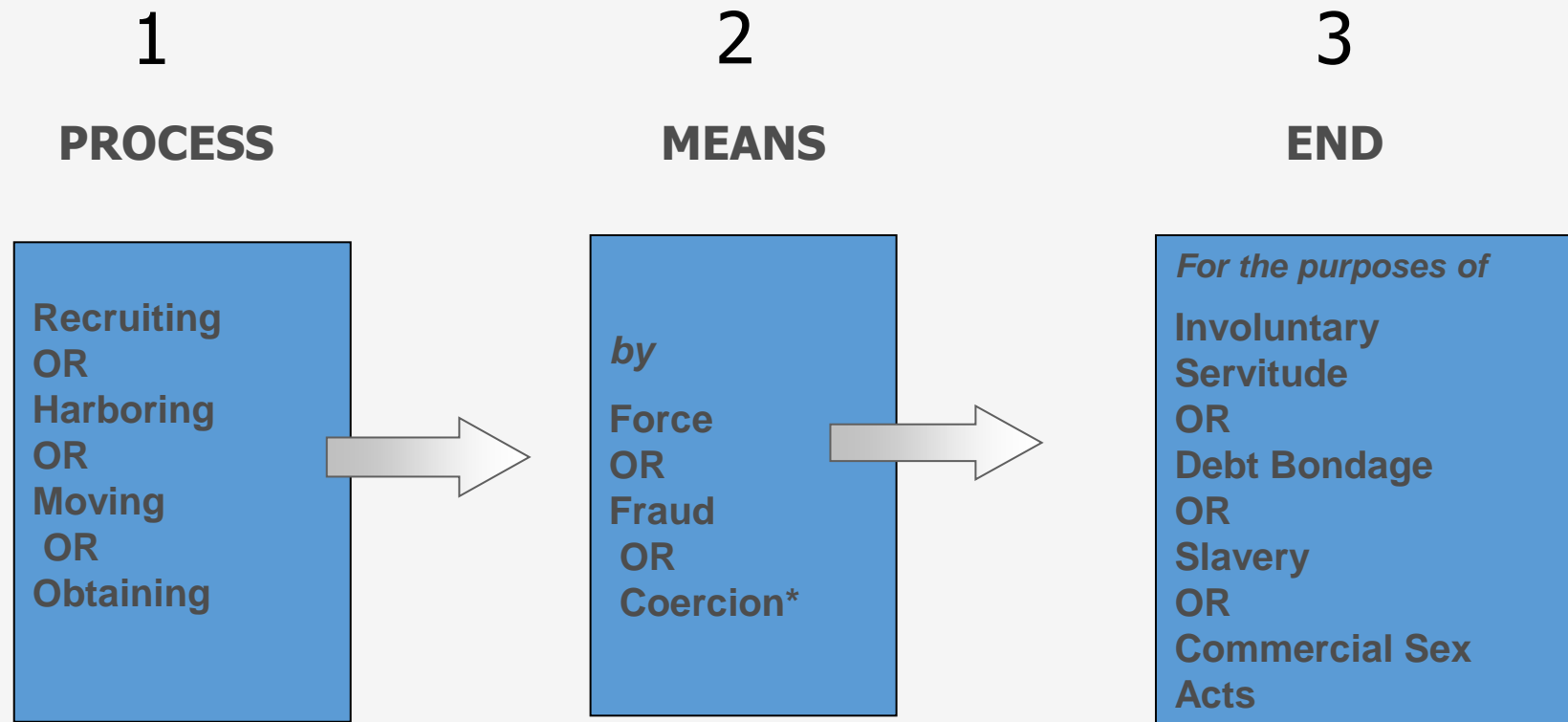
Private parties

Gang-based  
exploitation

Interfamilial pimping

# Elements of Human Trafficking

---

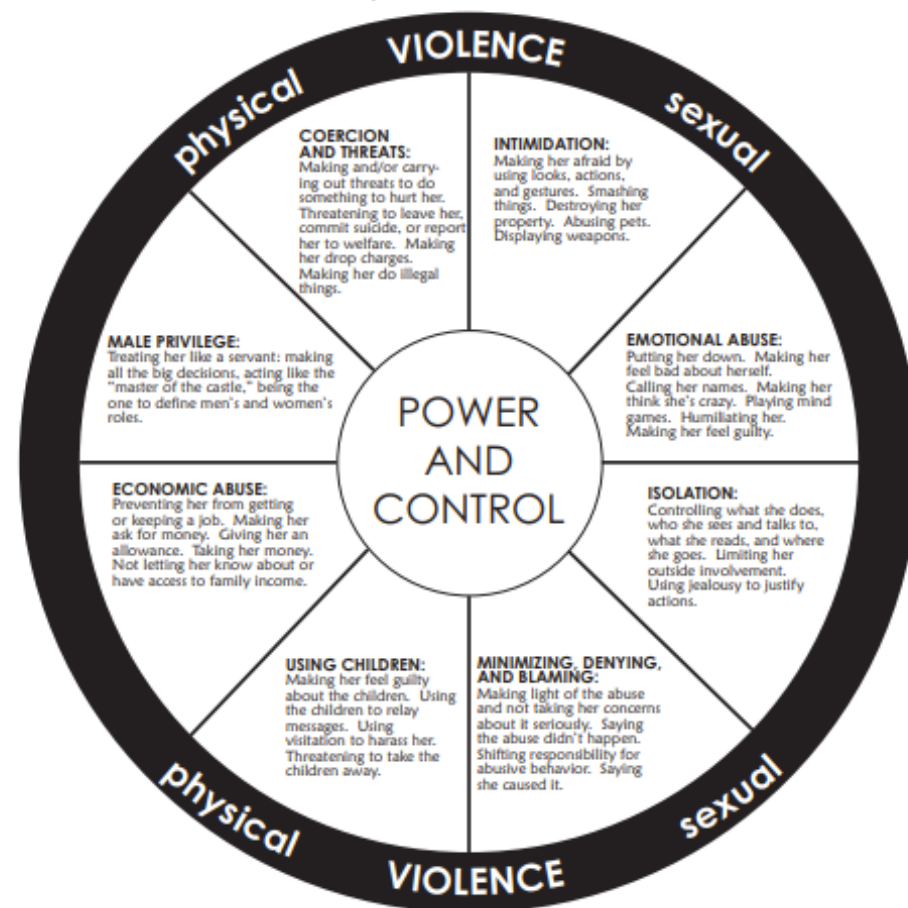


**\*Minors involved in commercial sex do not need to prove force, fraud, or coercion.**

# POWER AND CONTROL WHEEL

Physical and sexual assaults, or threats to commit them, are the most apparent forms of domestic violence and are usually the actions that allow others to become aware of the problem. However, regular use of other abusive behaviors by the batterer, when reinforced by one or more acts of physical violence, make up a larger system of abuse. Although physical assaults may occur only once or occasionally, they instill threat of future violent attacks and allow the abuser to take control of the woman's life and circumstances.

The Power & Control diagram is a particularly helpful tool in understanding the overall pattern of abusive and violent behaviors, which are used by a batterer to establish and maintain control over his partner. Very often, one or more violent incidents are accompanied by an array of these other types of abuse. They are less easily identified, yet firmly establish a pattern of intimidation and control in the relationship.



Developed by:  
Domestic Abuse Intervention Project  
202 East Superior Street  
Duluth, MN 55802  
218.722.4134

Produced and distributed by:



**NATIONAL CENTER**  
on Domestic and Sexual Violence  
*training • consulting • advocacy*  
4812 Shoal Creek Blvd. • Austin, Texas 78738  
512.407.3020 (phone and fax) • [www.ncdv.org](http://www.ncdv.org)

## Role of Healthcare Practitioners

---

Identify	Identify a person experiencing being trafficked
----------	---

---

Treat	Treat the chief complaint/illness
-------	-----------------------------------

---

Offer	Offer appropriate treatment for unsafe environment
-------	--

---

# Identifying Victims

---

Frontline health providers play important role identifying and helping trafficking victims

While trafficking is largely hidden social problem, many victims are in plain sight if you know what to look for

Very few places where someone from outside has opportunity to interact with victim



# When Do Victims Seek Medical Services?

In an emergency

After an assault

After a workplace injury

For gynecological  
services

For prenatal care

For routine checkups

For mental health  
services

For addiction treatment

For pre-existing  
conditions

For health conditions  
unrelated to trafficking

## Trafficking Signs

---

Inconsistent stories

---

Not in control of personal ID

---

Few or no possessions

---

Does not speak/no eye contact

---

Is accompanied by another person who seems in control – 3<sup>rd</sup> party insists on being present

---

Branding

---

Visible injuries – multiple, old & new

---

Signs of malnourishment

# Who Might Recognize Victims?

---

Ambulatory care

Psychiatric units

Emergency department

substance use disorder treatment programs

Customer service staff

Plastic surgery practices

Physicians and surgeons

Ophthalmologists

Nursing staff

Community health workers

Social work and case management

Health educators

Sexual assault response team (SART)

Interpreters/ translators

Therapists

Lab technicians

Dentist office

Support staff

Victims Suffer from a host of physical and psychological problems stemming from:

---

Inhumane living conditions

Poor sanitation

Inadequate nutrition

Poor personal hygiene

Brutal physical & emotional abuse

Dangerous workplace conditions

General Lack of quality medical care

# Assessment Questions

Who is the person who came with you today? Can you tell me about him/her?

Did you ever feel pressured to do something that you didn't want to do or felt uncomfortable doing? How did you feel pressured?

Do you feel you were ever tricked or lied to? Were you ever promised something, but it did not happen?

Has anyone approached you asking you to get involved in prostitution?

Have you ever had to trade sex for money or something else you needed?

What is your job like? Do you like your job?

If you want to leave your job and find another one, can you do that?

How often do you get to visit/speak to your family and friends?

Does anyone supervise or monitor your conversations with friends or family?

Did anyone ever take and/or keep your legal papers for you, such as your ID, passport, or visa?

# Health Indicators: Labor Trafficking

---

## Physical

Musculoskeletal and ergonomics injuries`

Malnutrition/dehydration

Lack of routine screening and preventative care

Poor dental hygiene

Untreated skin infections/inflammations

Injuries or illness from exposure to harmful chemicals/unsafe water

Ophthalmology issues or vision complaints

Somatization

## Behavioral

Anxiety/Panic attacks (shortness of breath, chest pains)

Unexplained/Conflicting stories

Overly vigilant or paranoid behavior

Inability/Aversion to make decisions independent of employer

Inability/Aversion to speak without an interpreter

Affect dysregulation/Irritability

# Health Indicators: Adult Sex Trafficking

---

## Physical

Multiple or recurring STIs

Abnormally high number of sexual partners

Trauma to vagina and/or rectum

Impacted tampon in vagina

Signs of physical trauma

Somatization symptoms (recurring headaches, abdominal pains, etc.)

Suspicious tattoos or branding

## Behavioral

Depressed mood/Flat affect

Anxiety/Hyper-vigilance/Panic attacks

Affect dysregulation/Irritability

Frequent emergency care visits

Unexplained/Conflicting stories

Using language from “the life”

Sign of alcohol or drug use

# Health Indicators: Child Sex Trafficking

---

## Physical

Pregnancy at young age

Evidence of abortions at young age

Early sexual initiation

Trauma to vagina and/or rectum

Symptoms of STIs and/or UTIs

Abnormal number of sexual partners for young age

Suspicious tattoos or branding

## Behavioral

History of running away from home or foster care placement

Truancy/Stops attending school

Highly sexualized behavior or dress

Angry/Aggressive with staff

Depressed mood/ Flat affect

Signs of drug or alcohol use



# Why Do Victims Not Report?

---

Lack of trust in the system

---

Do not recognize they are HT victims

---

Fear of retaliation to self and/or family

---

Lack of knowledge about available services

---

Lack of knowledge about victim rights

---

Feelings of shame or embarrassment

---

Not able to identify self as victim

---

Lack of social support

---

Lack of family support

# What To Do

Building trust is the  
number one  
priority

Avoid  
communicating  
disgust or disdain

One on One  
interactions are  
best

Reassure the  
potential victims

Specifically ask  
about the patient's  
safety

Access your own  
safety

Report as  
necessary,  
internally &  
externally

Document your  
suspicion in your  
notes

Call the hotline for  
strategies

# Treatment

---

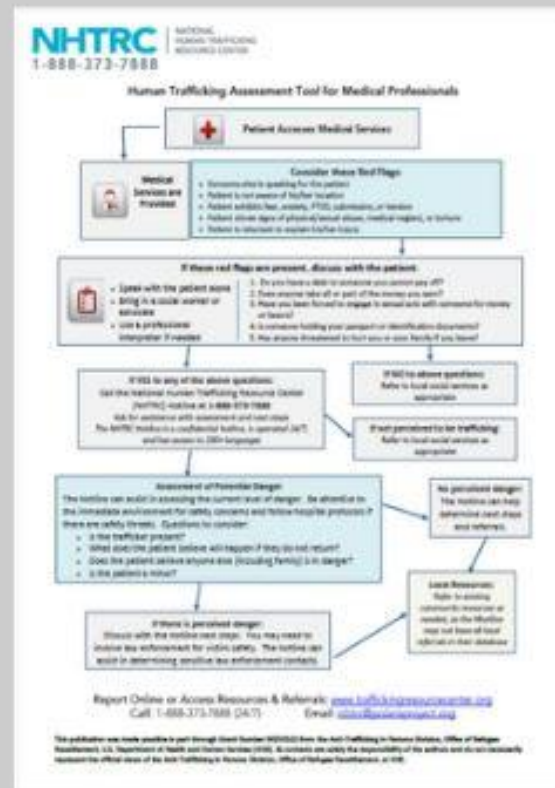
Conduct a complete physical exam

Treat conditions

For sexually exploited victims – presumptive treatment

# National Human Trafficking Resource Center

## Initial Assessments



- » Conduct assessments individually, in a safe location
- » Assess the patient's immediate safety
- » Use language understandable to the patient
- » Do not ask for unnecessary information

NHTRC Resources:  
[Medical Assessment Tool](#)  
[What to Look for During a Medical Exam](#)  
[NHTRC Comprehensive Assessment](#)

# Now the Real Work Begins

---

## Coordinate Care with Other Providers

### BASIC

- Clothing & food
- Transportation
- Housing
- Employment
- Medical care
- Testing for STI's
- Interpretation services

### LEGAL

- Immigration services
- Child custody issues
- Prosecution of trafficker
- Prostitution charges, other offenses

### EMOTIONAL & SOCIAL

- Crisis intervention
- Case management
- Social service advocacy
- Mental health care
- Life skills & job training
- Education
- Contacting family

### SAFETY & SECURITY

- Safe space
- Safety planning
- Emergency & transitional shelter
- Protective orders from traffickers

# Plan: Build a Protocol

---

**Patient presents at clinic with one or more trafficking indicators**

**Primary health and safety needs are met**

Mandated reporting warranted or  
the patient wishes to report

Report to designated contacts  
and/or contact the NHTRC Hotline

1-888-3737-888

Reporting not warranted and the  
patient does not wish to report

Provide referrals and contact the  
NHTRC Hotline

1-888-3737-888

# Get People the Help They Need

---

The National Human Trafficking Hotline will help:

- Identify local community resources to help victims
- Determine if you have encountered victims of human trafficking
- Coordinate with local social service organizations to help protect and serve victims so they can begin the process of restoring their lives

**Call local police if the victim is at risk of imminent harm!**

**[www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking)**

# National Human Trafficking Hotline

---

**1-888-373-7888**

**Text INFO or HELP to**

**BEFREE-233733**

**YWCA Human Trafficking crisis line 269-385-2869**



---

KALAMAZOO AREA  
ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING COALITION

# HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS HAPPENING HERE



Sponsored by NuVita

eliminating racism  
empowering women  
**ywca**  
Kalamazoo

Legal Counseling | Shelter | Sexual Assault Support | Case Management

**FOR DIRECT SERVICES CALL 269-385-3587**



# Kalamazoo Area Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition

FIGHTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING ONE DAY AT A TIME



# KAAHTC Advocates





# KAAHTC Raises Awareness







## KAAHTC Connects the Community





# KAAHTC Trains



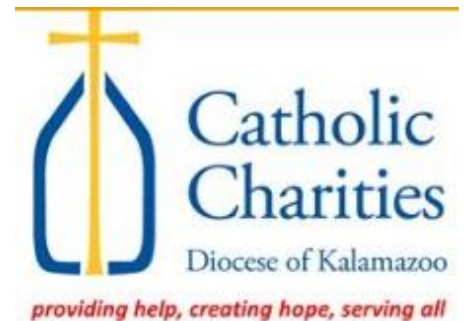
# KAAHTC Collaborates

- Catholic Charities
- Junior League of Kalamazoo
- Law Enforcement
- Legislators
- Michigan Human Trafficking Task Force
- Sisters of Saint Joseph
- YWCA of Kalamazoo



**MICHIGAN  
HUMAN  
TRAFFICKING  
TASK FORCE**

eliminating racism  
empowering women  
**ywca**



Phone: (616) 942-2110

**Women and Children's  
Horizons, Inc.**

Hotline: (800) 853-3503 24/7

Phone: (262) 656-3500

**Worker Justice Center of  
New York - Rochester**

Hotline: (800) 724-7020

Phone: (585) 325-3050

**Young Women's  
Christian Association**

Hotline: (800) 698-1247

Phone: (304) 232-2748

**YWCA Kalamazoo**

Hotline: (269) 385-2869 24/7

Phone: (269) 345-5595



## Michigan Resources



# Thank You

Rita G. O'Brien

Trustee Kalamazoo Area Anti-Human  
Trafficking Coalition

269.303.0725

[www.kaahtc.org](http://www.kaahtc.org)



---

## Break the Chains trailer

<https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/break-the-chain--6#/>