

## Human Trafficking Training

### Part 1 Transcript

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**[Elaine Banter]:** So the definition of human trafficking is the use of force, threat of force, fraud, or coercion to compel a person into any form of work or service against their will. So that's a pretty broad definition but that's on purpose, it's pretty all-inclusive and can include a lot more things than we often first think of. So we have what we call the A-M-P Model. This is what our federal definition says makes something human trafficking. We need one item from each column, an action, a means, and a purpose.

**[Elaine Banter]:** So under the action column, our brains often first go to that word we see, "Transports". Even the word, trafficking, right? It makes us think of things moving. We often hear stories of people moving across borders. And while transportation can be a part of a trafficking situation, that's only one action. It could also be through the action of harboring, right above that. Meaning, someone is kept in one place and not moved around at all. Other actions can include "recruits", "provides", "obtains", "patronizes" and "solicits". Those last two are particularly important, "patronizes" and "solicits", referencing the buyers or consumers.

**[Elaine Banter]:** So often we have a trafficker, a victim or survivor, and a buyer or consumer. Someone buying someone else for sex or labor. That person can also be charged with trafficking, which is really important. Then we have our means, force, fraud, or coercion. And we'll go into a little more detail about those on the next slide. For the purpose of labor or services, or commercial sexual conduct. So that's our breakdown between labor trafficking and sex trafficking. And unfortunately in Indiana, we see a lot of both.

**[Elaine Banter]:** So to give you some more examples of what force, fraud and coercion mean? So breaking down that means column. Under the force section, this is, again, often what our brains think of first. Something happening to that person's physical body. Including initiation, sexual assault, torture practices, and anything of that nature. There may also be means of fraud. Someone may be lied to about what that job may be. Maybe they're withholding wages, involving blackmail, or lying about the work conditions.

**[Elaine Banter]:** So in an example of a labor trafficking situation, someone may be told you're gonna have this job. We're gonna sell this really cool product. You're gonna travel the world, make a bunch of money, see cool places and it's gonna be great. But in reality, they may be living in really horrible conditions. Maybe on a hotel floor with a bunch of other people, not being paid what they told they would be paid. Maybe they are from another country and they are lied to about the documentation process, or their documentation is withheld from them. And maybe they allow it to expire in some way, shape, or form so that they can hold that power over someone else. So those would be examples of fraud in a labor trafficking scenario.

**[Elaine Banter]:** And then lastly, we have coercion. The unfortunate reality is coercion is often the hardest to prove in a situation. And often the strongest piece, keeping someone stuck in that situation. So this involves emotional abuse, the intimidation, creating that climate of fear. So again, the trafficker finds some way to hold power over that other person. So again, for something to be considered trafficking, we just need one of these to be present. But unfortunately, we often see a combination of two or all of them.

**[Elaine Banter]:** So if we look at the definitions of sex trafficking and labor trafficking, there is one glaring difference that I wanna point out that's very specific to the age of the victim that we're working with. So in instances of sex trafficking, if that person is under the age of 18 and they're involved in commercial sex, they're automatically a victim of sex trafficking. So that means any minor exchanging any sex act for anything of value, that could be money, a place to stay, drugs, or a hot meal. Once that transaction happens and something is exchanged for something, a sex act is exchanged for something of value. That youth is automatically a victim of sex trafficking.

**[Elaine Banter]:** So this can be confusing when 16, 17-year-olds can consent to sexual acts. They can't legally consent to commercial sexual acts, they're automatically a victim. So that also means that there's no such thing as juvenile prostitution. It quite literally doesn't exist. We can't charge minors with prostitution. That also means that thinking back to our A-M-P Model, that means the column in the middle disappears. We don't have to prove force, fraud, or coercion in those cases. But for labor trafficking, regardless of the age of the victim, we always have to prove that force, fraud, and coercion were present.

**[Yvonne Moore]:** It is not a defense to the promotion of child sex trafficking that a minor consented to participate in that prostitution or sexual conduct if they are under the age of 18. Buyers can be charged with human trafficking whether or not they knew the individual they purchased was a human trafficking victim. Restitution is available to victims in civil remedies to recover damages from the trafficker, that may also be available.

**[Yvonne Moore]:** So when we look at what the Polaris Project data states with 514 calls made to their National Human Trafficking Hotline. We also have to look at if there is a minor involved in human trafficking, a call must be made to the Indiana Department of

Child Services hotline. And when we look at what the statistics are, just for Indiana when you're referring to minors of trafficking, whether it's labor trafficking or sex trafficking. There were, in 2020, 148 unsubstantiated reports of trafficking and 15 substantiated reports of trafficking throughout Indiana.

**[Yvonne Moore]:** However in 2021, that number rose to 293 unsubstantiated human trafficking assessments to 41 substantiated assessments. There was an increase in the number of calls made to the DCS hotline, as well as the number of substantiations of trafficking. And when we look at the data on the NCMEC, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. And they receive calls for cyber tip crimes. And you look at the Internet Crimes Against Children data. And you can see in Indiana alone, there was an increase from 2020 to 2021 in those cyber tip crimes.

**[Yvonne Moore]:** NCMEC reports that 21.7 million child sexual exploitation reports were made to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children in 2021. 21.7 million, there was a 28% increase from 2019 to 2020. 21.7 million, there was a 28% increase from 2019 to 2020. And I'm sure that number is gonna increase, looking at the data for 2021. And people often ask, well how do children get pulled into being victims of trafficking? And oftentimes, what we're seeing over the last couple of years is the social media or some type of electronic device that starts that conversation, that grooming process for the children, to where then they start talking with someone that is then gonna take advantage of their vulnerabilities and exploit them. And an increase in children having access to the internet with their cell phones, with their laptops, with their computers, it really has driven those numbers up.

**[Yvonne Moore]:** And often people think, well how does that happen? How are children still going to school every day and being trafficked? People often associate that with the movie 'Taken,' in which someone is kidnapped and they're taken and held captive. And that does happen, but often what we see here in Indiana is children being exploited right in their own home. And they will make a connection with someone online that they think may be another peer. It ends up turning out to be an adult, that's gonna then exploit them. And often we look at and hear stories of children being pulled into trafficking. Someone pulling up with a car, beside them in a car and offering them candy. But what we see is that the internet and social media and texting are really what's driving those numbers. And that social media is really playing a factor in the increase. Traffickers are using those vulnerabilities of the youth to pull them in and groom them to then exploit them.

**[Elaine Banter]:** So when we think about where trafficking is happening, here are some industries that are particularly vulnerable to trafficking. We know it can happen anywhere, but these are some of the spaces that we see most commonly. One being domestic work. There are often situations within Indiana where someone may appear to be serving in sort of a nanny or maid role within a home. But in reality, it can be a labor trafficking situation where they're forced into domestic work. Taking care of a home, taking care of kids, and doing work like that against their will in situations that they can't leave. It can be present

in restaurants, maybe in a labor trafficking situation where they may not be able to come and go as they please.

**[Elaine Banter]:** The sex industry can include spaces that are legal, but people are trafficked through them. So for example, pornography or strip clubs. Where the space itself exists legally, folks can be trafficked within them. Health and beauty, massage parlors, we hear more about. But again, there can be situations where trafficking may be present.

**[Elaine Banter]:** The unfortunate reality is that social services are also an industry that's vulnerable. Traffickers are really smart people. They know where vulnerable people go to hang out, and where they go to get services. And so there are a lot of situations where they exploit that, they take advantage of that. They may volunteer or work in those spaces, or even exploit the foster care system to recruit other youth. We also see trafficking in hospitality, which can be twofold. If we're thinking of hotels, folks who work in a hotel could be labor trafficked. And the rooms within a hotel could be used for sex trafficking.

**[Elaine Banter]:** Construction, forestry, and agriculture, I kind of group together. In that, there is just a lot less oversight for those jobs. We have a lot of them in Indiana in general. A lot of folks relying on seasonal migrant work, where folks may not be aware of their rights. And again, there are a lot of vulnerabilities there that traffickers can take advantage of. Lastly, we have door-to-door sales. Not necessarily a super common situation, but there are instances where youth may be dropped off and told to reach a certain quota. So maybe they're selling candy bars or magazines or whatever it may be. This is still a thing, youth still sell candy bars and things like that door-to-door for the band. It would only raise red flags if that youth maybe had very scripted communication about where that came from or where it's going. But other than that, those can still be very real situations that happen.

**[Elaine Banter]:** Thinking too about, where trafficking happens? Does it really happen here? What does it look like in Indiana? If we look at the Polaris map, the Polaris map includes calls that are placed to the National Human Trafficking Hotline. There's a new one released every year. We can look at a heat map of where the most calls are placed. So the more red the area is, the more calls were placed in that area. Indiana is unfortunately pretty red, pretty covered with calls.

**[Elaine Banter]:** So there are a few reasons that we can attribute Indiana being pretty red and us having so many calls. One is that we have a lot of agricultural jobs in Indiana, which can unfortunately lead to a lot of labor trafficking as well. We have a lot of folks living with addiction. And unfortunately, traffickers see that as an immediate way that they can have power and control over someone else. They can say, until you do this for me, you don't get access to this. So they can take power and control over someone else, exploiting that addiction. And the third reason is, we are the crossroads of America. So while we talked about how people do not have to be transported for something to be

considered trafficking, it can play a part. Folks have access to a lot of really big cities. They can often just up and move and be somewhere else really easily. And so that can be an attributing factor as well.

**[Elaine Banter]:** But there's a positive spin on this. One, that means people in Indiana knew what they were identifying. They knew that this was a situation of trafficking. And two, they knew what to do about it. They knew to call the hotline and make that report, which is why these conversations are so important. And why you, as educators, are in such a crucial spot to be able to make those reports. So that we can get those folks access to resources.

**[Whitney Cloin]:** So when we talk about youth and trafficking, there are some vulnerabilities that we talk about. Just being a youth can be a huge vulnerability, being young, being in that age where they want to take risks. Being at that age where they're really looking for love and belonging. Sometimes even if they have a healthy family, outside of their family. So especially if they don't have a healthy family, they're just looking for that love and belonging outside of family at that age. And then there are also a lot of other vulnerabilities that can compound with that.

**[Whitney Cloin]:** The biggest thing that we see is those who are runaway and homeless youth. So we see a lot of times that youth are not running to their trafficker, they're running to their trafficker because they are running from something. So things are not great at home. So whether that is some of these other vulnerabilities, like living in poverty, lots of involvement in the system due to their parents abusing them. Witnessing abuse between their parents, substance abuse, and untreated mental health issues. Seeing a lot of those things compounding can lead to looking for those other relationships, and also to be the reason that someone would run away. So we see that as a huge risk factor.

**[Whitney Cloin]:** So if they are living with friends or if they have been in a shelter, whether with their family or on their own. That is a huge time because when they're looking to have those needs met, so they need shelter, they need food, they are gonna be looking for somewhere for those needs to be met. And they might find that in someone that is willing to exploit or traffic them.

**[Whitney Cloin]:** There are youth that identify as LGBTQ, and the reason we see that is because even more with looking for that love and belonging, they may feel unwelcome with their families. Or they may experience feeling unwelcome with their fellow peers. And so they're looking for people that will be welcoming to them. Or they have run away, and so they have run away because of that identity. And so they are all also looking for shelter, for food, for those things that we need if we're a youth and we're living outside of our family's home. We also see increased vulnerability in immigrant and migrant youth and refugee and asylum-seeking youth.

**[Whitney Cloin]:** Another big vulnerability that we see is race. So it's very disproportionate between individuals, the amount of individuals we would see in the general population to those who are experiencing trafficking. So in one study of homeless youth who were asked if they had experienced exploitation during their time of being unhoused, there was a much larger percentage of Latinx individuals. Specifically Latina females, African Americans, and indigenous individuals who had experienced trafficking and exploitation while also experiencing homelessness.