



2023 NYC Child Trafficking Prevention Conference: Survivor Voices, Technological Revelations and Trauma-Informed Guidance 13 Virtual, Participatory Workshops

Conference Registration Instructions:

- Registration is directly through each workshop's individual Webex link
 - The Webex registration links are listed in the [Conference Schedule Quick View](#) on pages 3 and 4 of this program.
 - You can register in advance, or you can register right before a workshop.
 - After you register, Webex will send an email with the workshop entry link.
 - **Save the email with the Webex link** to enter the workshop on its scheduled day. The email comes directly from Webex. We cannot replicate it.
 - The **password** should be auto-filled for you when entering the workshop, but if requested, use **OCTPP2023**.
 - Before entering a workshop, you will be required to register by entering your name, title, agency, city and email. Attendees should always **register and enter at least 10 minutes before the workshop start time in case troubleshooting is needed**. We cannot assist with troubleshooting after a workshop has started. Early registration is always appreciated to be able to view prospective participation.
- All workshop hours are scheduled for Eastern Standard Time (EST).
- For all questions: Email Traffickingtraining@acs.nyc.gov



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Visit ACS'
Human Trafficking Prevention Virtual Resource Fair (link)
for information, resources and downloads from local and national
trafficking related expert agencies and programs.

Download our free NYC Trafficking Prevention App and visit our Webpages

- Electronic version of *Child Trafficking and What YOU Can Do About It: A Toolkit for NYC Child Welfare Professionals*
- Policies, Training Handouts, Videos
- Posters, Brochures and Tattoo Removal Cards in 12 Languages
- Events Calendar (upcoming trainings and events)



ACS Trafficked Youth Main Page: <https://www.nyc.gov/site/acs/youth/traffickedyouth.page>

Resources for Professionals: <https://www.nyc.gov/site/acs/about/child-trafficking/resources.page>

What to Do and Who to Contact: <https://www.nyc.gov/site/acs/youth/identify.page>

2023 Conference Workshops Identified by Subject Areas

Survivor Voices	Technological Revelations	Trauma-Informed Guidance
Trauma Informed and Victim Centered Language: A Survivor's Perspective	The Impact of Advanced Technologies On Child Sex Crimes: Social Media Exploitation, Child Sexual Abuse Materials and Sextortion	Understanding Child Trafficking: A Bio-Psycho-Social Perspective
Survivor Voices: Credible Messengers & Phoenix Mentors: Video and Panel	Using Biometrics & Forensics to Resolve Missing and Unidentified Child Investigations	Safety Planning <u>WITH</u> Trafficked Youth
Celebrate You: Simple Strategies for Self-Care, Self-Kindness, & Emotional Resilience	NYC's Child Welfare Trafficking Policy and Screening Children for Sex Trafficking in ACS' Child Trafficking Database (CTDB)	Trauma-Informed Art Therapy for Kids
The Intersection of Human Trafficking and Addiction	The Child Trafficking Database Animated E-Learning: Overview and Development	Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting Awareness: What You Need to Know
	Protecting Children Online and Revealing Predators - The Dark Web, Child Sex Tourism and Social Media Applications	



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Conference Schedule Quick View with Webex Registration Links

1. Registration for each workshop is through the workshop's link below.
2. You must register separately for each workshop.
3. **After you register, Webex will send an email with the link** to enter the workshop.
4. If you register in advance, **save the email with the link** to be able to enter on the day of the workshop.
5. If you register in advance, you should receive an email reminder from Webex 45 minutes before the workshop begins (but save the original email just in case).

- Jan 11 (Wed) from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm:
Understanding Child Trafficking: A Bio-Psycho-Social Perspective
Webex Registration Link:
<https://acsnyc.webex.com/weblink/register/rc817c05e5ffd807bfb9680ea6461a300>
- Jan 12 (Thurs) from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
The Impact of Advanced Technologies On Child Sex Crimes: Social Media Exploitation, Child Sexual Abuse Materials and Sextortion
Webex Registration Link:
<https://acsnyc.webex.com/weblink/register/rdc3c103e802c896f7a92393823febf2b>
- Jan 17 (Tues) from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm:
Trauma Informed and Victim Centered Language: A Survivor's Perspective
Webex Registration Link:
<https://acsnyc.webex.com/weblink/register/rb4d544b0e1c950d67f54d86834133322>
- Jan 18 (Wed) from 2 pm to 3:30 pm:
Using Biometrics & Forensics to Resolve Missing and Unidentified Child Investigations
Webex Registration Link:
<https://acsnyc.webex.com/weblink/register/r8a853f9d7927ceaaa4e02f75356f6378>
- Jan 19 (Thurs) from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm:
Survivor Voices: Credible Messengers & Phoenix Mentors: Video and Panel
Webex Registration Link:
<https://acsnyc.webex.com/weblink/register/r1b76ebab60b47df84af20a904a3c417e>
- Jan 19 (Thurs) from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm:
Trauma-Informed Art Therapy for Kids
Webex Registration Link:
<https://acsnyc.webex.com/weblink/register/rc9357cf172b70ada856cae5e9fbaf75b>



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- Jan 23 (Mon) from 1:00 pm to 4 pm:
Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting Awareness: What You Need to Know
Webex Registration Link:
<https://acsnyc.webex.com/weblink/register/r93955a2f8b13499176b18376e20f14b5>
- Jan 24 (Tues) from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm:
NYC's Child Welfare Trafficking Policy and Screening Children for Sex Trafficking in ACS' Child Trafficking Database (CTDB)
Webex Registration Link:
<https://acsnyc.webex.com/weblink/register/ra08786aac902916684c1120fc6949534>
- Jan 25 (Wed) from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Celebrate You: Simple Strategies for Self-Care, Self-Kindness, & Emotional Resilience
Webex Registration Link:
<https://acsnyc.webex.com/weblink/register/r6600c1699c8f60c8da1781729d75caf0>
- Jan 26 (Thurs) from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm:
The Child Trafficking Database Animated E-Learning: Overview and Development
Webex Registration Link:
<https://acsnyc.webex.com/weblink/register/r7186e6f26c8abaf4fe370eaf9f22f8f9>
- Jan 27 (Fri) from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm:
Safety Planning WITH Trafficked Youth
Webex Registration Link:
<https://acsnyc.webex.com/weblink/register/rf7f170d615bc5bf1537ceb9d8f8ceceb>
- Jan 30 (Mon) from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm:
The Intersection of Human Trafficking and Addiction
Webex Registration Link:
<https://acsnyc.webex.com/weblink/register/r131c77bd6d1e789dc209901616e6ec72>
- Jan 31 (Tues) from 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm:
Protecting Children Online and Revealing Predators - The Dark Web, Child Sex Tourism and Social Media Applications
Webex Registration Link:
<https://acsnyc.webex.com/weblink/register/r4acb57f1c58d6d4cbb27041c08933071>



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NYC Child Trafficking
Children Prevention and Policy

**January
2023**

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Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.
9	10	11 <u>9:30 am</u> : Understanding Child Trafficking: A Bio-Psycho-Social Perspective	12 <u>1:00 pm</u> : The Impact of Advanced Technologies On Child Sex Crimes: Social Media Exploitation, Child Sexual Abuse Materials and Sextortion	13
16	17 <u>1:00 pm</u> : Trauma Informed and Victim Centered Language: A Survivor’s Perspective	18 <u>2:00 pm</u> : How We Crack Cold Cases; Using New-Age DNA Technology and Genealogy to Identify Missing Children	19 <u>10:00 am</u> : Survivor Voices: Credible Messengers & Phoenix Mentors: Video and Panel <u>1:00 pm</u> : Trauma-Informed Art Therapy for Kids	20
23 <u>1:00 pm</u> : Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting Awareness – What You Need to Know	24 <u>10:00 am</u> : NYC’s Child Welfare Trafficking Policy and Screening Children for Sex Trafficking in ACS’ Child Trafficking Database (CTDB)	25 <u>2:00 pm</u> : Celebrate You: Simple Strategies for Self-Care, Self-Kindness, & Emotional Resilience	26 <u>10:00 am</u> : The Child Trafficking Database Animated E-Learn: Overview and Development	27 <u>9:30 am</u> : Safety Planning <u>WITH</u> Trafficked Youth
30 <u>2:00 pm</u> : The Intersection of Human Trafficking and Addiction	31 <u>2:00 pm</u> : Protecting Children Online and Revealing Predators - The Dark Web, Child Sex Tourism and Social Media Applications			

Reminder: All workshops are scheduled for Eastern Standard Time (EST)



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Workshop Descriptions:

**January 11th is
National Human Trafficking Awareness Day
#Wearblueday**

Jan 11 (Wed) from 9:30 to 1:00:

Understanding Child Trafficking: A Bio-Psycho-Social Perspective

- **Selina Higgins, LCSW-R**, Executive Director, Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy, NYC Administration for Children's Services

To understand trafficked children, you must first understand cognitive and social-emotional child development and the impact of trauma upon the developing psyche. This workshop will provide an extremely comprehensive view into the potential developmental etiology of child trafficking, beginning with infant attachment and behavioral learning influences. The attachment pattern developed between an infant and the primary caregiver can have extensive influence across the entire life cycle. The deficits and resultant needs that develop through early attachment can unconsciously impact upon subsequent relational and safety choices.

This workshop will demonstrate how the development of certain infant attachment experiences can lead to subsequent juvenile trafficking vulnerability, and how traffickers fulfill the inherent social-emotional deficits to trauma bond with, and exploit youth. The presentation will proceed to the impact of trauma, teen cognitive and social-emotional development and learning, relational influences, media impact (advertisements, social media influencers, music videos), recruitment techniques, trauma bonding, red flags and language affiliated with the commercial sex industry. The workshop concludes with engagement tips for work with trafficked and traumatized youth. PowerPoint, video clips, and recent media cases will be utilized to facilitate learning.

Jan 12 (Thurs) from 1:00 to 4:00:

The Impact of Advanced Technologies On Child Sex Crimes: Social Media Exploitation, Child Sexual Abuse Materials and Sextortion

- **Opal Singleton Hendershot**, President & CEO of Million Kids, Author, Instructor, Radio Host

In 2021, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children processed over 29.3 reports on potential online child exploitation. That is more than 80,000 reports a day. The year 2022 is an historic year in that it is the first year that the entire world is connected by Internet. This generation of young people will be the first generation can reach the entire world and the entire world can reach our kids. That changes everything. One erotic video created by a minor has the potential to reach over 1 million pedophiles in a few minutes. The seduction and/or blackmail begins and will change that victim's life forever.

This presentation will address how pimps, predators, pedophiles and foreign national sextortion rings organize and use technology to access, groom, recruit and exploit young people. We will examine large scale Dark Net Pedophile rings and Bulletproof hosting sites and how they operate. We will examine case studies of how predators use dating sites, hook up sites, chat rooms, and mass audience live streaming apps and games to build seemingly innocent relationships with kids. We will focus on specific behaviors and indicators a young person may be in trouble. We will discuss issues that contribute to a child running away or disappearing after



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an online encounter. We will explore critical issues such as changes in eating and sleeping behaviors, cutting and self-harm, and cases that ended in missing persons, suicide and murder.

Most important we will explore prevention and intervention strategies to keep our kids safe from predators.

Jan 17 (Tuesday) from 1:00 to 3:00:

Trauma Informed and Victim Centered Language: A Survivor's Perspective

- **Jay Benke**, Abduction and Child Sex Trafficking Survivor, Author, Speaker, Mentor and Creator

What do the terms trauma-bonded, codependent, and Stockholm Syndrome all have in common? These are all phrases that are applied to victims and survivors to frequently explain why we stay with the exploiter. In this workshop, we will dive into the root theories behind these and many other trafficking and violence related language and phrases to understand why when applied to a survivor's exploitation experience, they result in victim-blaming.

Jan 18 (Wednesday) from 2:00 to 3:30:

Using Biometrics and Forensics to Resolve Missing and Unidentified Child Investigations

- **Amanda Bixler**, Program Specialist, Forensic Services Unit, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

This presentation will provide information on the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children's (NCMEC) reporting guidelines and resources, with a focus on child sex trafficking (CST). Attendees will become familiar with the NCMEC Intake process, the importance of providing photos, and the information provided to NCMEC during the course of a case. CST program and resources will be highlight by NCMEC Case Management, Child Sex Trafficking Team of analysts, and the Recovery Services Team.

Jan 19 (Thursday) from 10:00 to 12:00:

Survivor Voices: Credible Messengers & Phoenix Mentors: Video and Panel

- **Melanie Thompson**, ACS Credible Messenger, Survivor, Speaker, Advocate
- **Princess Bey**, Producer/Director
- **Linda Rendon**, Bilingual Mentor, New York Foundling Phoenix Project Mentor
- **Anna DiTommaso**, Peer Mentor, New York Foundling's Phoenix Project Mentor
- **Allison Markiewicz**, LMSW, Supervisor, New York Foundling's Phoenix Project
- **Selina Higgins**, NYC Safe Harbour Coordinator/Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy

NYC's Safe Harbour Program / ACS Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy (OCTPP) received NYS Office of Children and Family Services' Safe Harbour funding to sponsor a short film featuring (adult) former foster youth/trafficking survivors discussing child sex trafficking recruitment and disclosure. Topics include: (1) How no one ever expects to be recruited by an exploiter and what it feels like when one realizes that what you experienced was recruitment and not what you thought was a relationship, and (2) how incredibly difficult (but



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important) to disclose to someone else that you have been trafficked. The film has been developed to let youth know that they are not alone, that others have had the same difficult realizations and choices, and to model that it is okay to reach out for help (and explain where to obtain help).

This workshop will feature a viewing of the film, followed by a panel discussion lead by Selina Higgins, NYC Safe Harbour Coordinator, featuring Melanie Thompson, one of the Credible Messengers featured in the film and a nationally renowned trafficking advocate and survivor, and Princess Bey, a noted actor, and producer and director of the film. They will be joined by Allison Markiewicz, Supervisor, and Mentors Linda Rendon and Anna DiTommaso, for the New York Foundling's Phoenix Project, another credible trafficked and at-risk youth outreach program.

The Foundling's Phoenix Project uses mentoring and evidence-based models to support survivors of human trafficking and young people at risk of trafficking as they work to attain stability and independence. Using a survivor-centered approach that focuses on lived experience, the program works with children and young adults to address both the impact of trafficking and the risk factors that can lead to exploitation. Each Phoenix Project participant is assigned a mentor who acts as an advocate and positive role model with lived experience for the youth we serve. Mentors offer group services and offer guidance in decision-making in a participant-centered, trauma-informed manner. Participants can also engage in trauma-focused therapy at the New York Foundling and receive other services as needed.

Jan 19 (Thurs) from 1:00 to 3:00:

Trauma-Informed Art Therapy for Kids

- **Crystal Chen, ATR-BC, LCAT, LMHC-A**, Board Certified Licensed Creative Art Therapist, Eating Recovery Center of Washington, and Garden of Hope and Center for all Abilities, New York (virtual)

Art therapy provides clients with an alternative method of communication and understanding of oneself. The art work that one creates is a reflection of the self, which can be more intimate in nature but also less intrusive. This makes it effective when working with clients who have experienced trauma. In this workshop you will learn about how art therapy can be utilized to explore the depths of trauma in children and adults, explore the benefits of art therapy, and get to do your own self-care art therapy exercise led by Art Therapist Crystal Chen, ATR-BC, LCAT, LMHC-A. No art skills or knowledge is necessary to participate in the art therapy exercise.

This is a hands-on workshop, so the following art supplies will make it fun and productive:

- 4 sheets of paper
- Scissors
- Pens/pencils
- Coloring utensils





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Jan 23 (Monday) from 1:00 to 4:00

Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C): Overview, Engagement Strategies and Resources

- **Dr. Deborah Ottenheimer, MD**, Director of Women's Health Services at the Morrisania Diagnostic and Treatment Center, NYC Health + Hospitals
- **R. Nancy Albilal**, President and CEO, Arab-American Family Support Center
- **Danny Salim**, Senior Director of Solution Based Casework, Arab-American Family Support Center
- **Dr. Mariama Diallo**, LCSW, DSW, Co-Program Director at Sanctuary for Families and Founder and Chair of the New York Coalition to End FGM/C

Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) comprises all procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injuries to the female genital organs for NON-MEDICAL REASONS. FGM is a violation of Human Rights and part of a continuum of gender-based violence. This training will discuss the types of FGM, tools used, false assumptions, highest risk cities, and physical and psychological consequences. It will also focus upon cultural awareness and effective strategies (Dos and Don'ts) to use in preventive engagement with families and in sensitive engagement with survivors. It will also highlight ACS' FGM@acs.nyc.gov e-mailbox where child welfare professions can obtain information, case guidance and resources from ACS' Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy.

Jan 24 (Tuesday) from 10:00 to 1:00:

NYC's Child Welfare Trafficking Policy and Screening Children for Sex Trafficking in ACS' Child Trafficking Database (CTDB)

- **Selina Higgins, LCSW-R**, Executive Director, Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy
- **Clifton Robertson, LMSW**, Child Trafficking Specialist Residential Social Worker, Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy

In September 2020, ACS released Policy and Procedure 2020/05: Identifying, Assessing, and Safety Planning with Child Sex and Labor Trafficking Victims, which articulates guidelines and procedures for ACS and provider agency staff in identifying children and youth for sex and/or labor trafficking, and for safety planning, coordinating with law enforcement, and making referrals for appropriate services. The Child Trafficking Database (CTDB) is the electronic mechanism that all ACS and provider agency staff must use to screen children for sex trafficking. This training will provide an overview of child trafficking, a description of the legislation that led to mandated sex trafficking screenings for children in the NYS and NYC child welfare systems, a detailed overview of the policy and a step by step walk through of CTDB screening procedures, including a hands-on demonstration of CTDB screenings. This training is a must for all NYC child welfare staff and any other professional who needs to understand ACS' trafficking policy and to perform the screenings correctly.



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Jan 25 (Wednesday) from 2:00 to 4:00:

Celebrate You: Simple Strategies for Self-Care, Self-Kindness, and Emotional Resilience

- **Marti MacGibbon, CADC-II, ACRPS, CAPMS**, President of Mentari Human Trafficking Survivor Empowerment Program, Inc., Human Trafficking Expert Consultant at the US Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, and Expert Consultant at the US Office for Victims of Crime.

This inspirational humorous presentation focuses on simple strategies for reducing trauma and stress using daily, consistent self-care and self-empowerment skills. The solutions and information provided in this session reveal new research on stress management, and explore how mindfulness and self-kindness practices can refresh your spirit, mind and body. Participation in mindfulness meditation, visualization, and discussion is encouraged, but not required. Presenter Marti MacGibbon is a behavioral health professional who is living in long-term recovery from substance use disorder, trauma, and complex post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Her knowledge is both clinical and experiential . . . and she's funny!

Jan 26 (Thurs) from 10:00 to 12:00:

The Child Trafficking Database Animated E-Learning: Overview and Development

- **Darryl Venable**, Learning Program Manager, Workforce Institute
- **Selina Higgins, LCSW-R**, Executive Director, Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy

ACS and provider agency staff are continually required to take E-learning trainings conducted via electronic cloud-based media, but who really knows about the process to create an E-learning, and especially one that addresses the safety-focused topic of child sex trafficking screenings?

ACS' Workforce Institute (WI) has partnered with the Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy to develop a Child Trafficking Database (CTDB) E-learning to ensure continual access to training on the mandated sex trafficking screening process for children within the NYC child welfare system. This workshop will provide an overview of ACS' Workforce Institute, the products they create, and the value of E-learning. It will focus upon the collaboration with the Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy as Subject Matter Expert, who worked closely with the Project Lead, Project Manager and Instructional Designer to create a quality product. The workshop will provide an overview of the development and design processes, beginning with assessment of the learner's needs, creation of a learning design that is engaging, interactive and skill performance based. Screenshots and a video clip will be used to demonstrate the E-learning development progress beginning with the conception of the Storyboard and its progression through Alpha, Beta and Pilot-Ready versions. The CTDB E-learn is scheduled to be launched in late January 2023, so this workshop will provide a relevant background to its use.





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Jan 27 (Friday) from 9:30 to 1:30:

Safety Planning WITH Trafficked Youth

- **Dr. Ann Marie Pendleton, Ph.D.**, Director of Mental Health, The Children's Village
- **Jessie Boye-Doe, LCSW**, Director, The Center for Healing, JCCA
- **Selina Higgins, LCSW-R**, Executive Director, Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy

Safety plans are integral to optimizing safety at every stage for survivors of trafficking and youth at-risk of sexual exploitation. Planning should occur regularly, relate to whether the survivor plans to leave or remain with the trafficker, and address multiple criteria. Since youth are the experts of their situations and experiences, they should always have an opportunity to be engaged directly in safety-planning. This workshop will discuss the importance of safety planning WITH youth and provide strategies to encourage them to take ownership of and participate in the development of their own personalized plans. The workshop will suggest dos and don'ts, discuss short-term versus long-term planning, and provide strategies to engage youth who may be reluctant to participate in planning. It will also provide an opportunity to practice individualized plan development through case scenarios and role play opportunities.

Jan 30 (Monday) from 2:00 to 4:00:

Intersection of Human Trafficking and Addiction

- **Marti MacGibbon, CADC-II, ACRPS, CAPMS**, President of Mentari Human Trafficking Survivor Empowerment Program, Inc., Human Trafficking Expert Consultant at the US Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, and Expert Consultant at the US Office for Victims of Crime.

The power of addiction in trafficking has been recognized by the criminal justice system. Addiction can exacerbate a trafficked person's vulnerability, be part of a trafficker's means of coercing the captive person to submit, be a tool the trafficker uses to control the captive, and can be used by the captive person as a means of coping with the physical and mental traumas of being trafficked. Opioids in particular are an effective coercion tool for traffickers. Some traffickers recruit directly from substance use treatment facilities. After exiting the trafficking situation, survivors with substance use issues need safety and support to recover. This session dispels myths about addiction and provides evidence-based information and trauma-informed recommendations for service providers that are applicable to children as well as adults. The presenter is a speaker, author, and survivor leader who holds five professional certifications in addiction treatment and is in long-term recovery from severe drug addiction. Her expertise is both clinical and experiential. Attendees will learn:

- How some traffickers target detoxes and SUD treatment facilities
- Tactics of coercion used by perpetrators of drug-facilitated human trafficking
- How the bi-directional relationship between substance use issues and trauma increases vulnerability to being trafficked
- How addiction affects the brain and increases vulnerability for being trafficked, how early substance use is a risk factor for addiction, and how recovery reverses the disease process
- Trauma-Informed best practice recommendations for engagement, prevention and protection



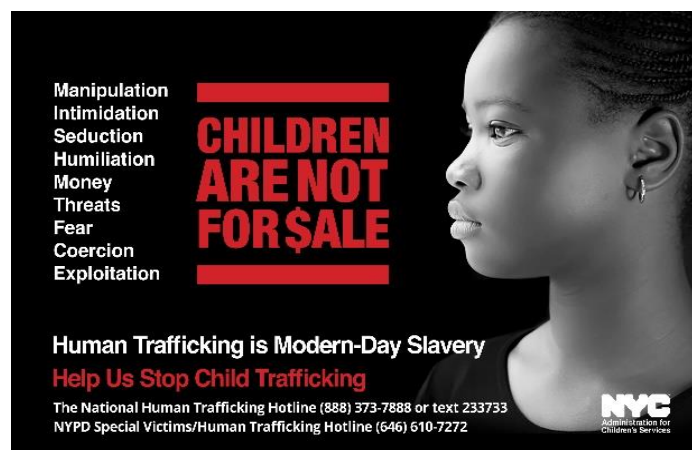
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Jan 31 (Tues) from 2:00 to 4:30:

Protecting Children Online and Revealing Predators - HSI NY's Child Exploitation and Investigations Team: Combining a Victim-Centric Approach with Cutting Edge Investigative Techniques Involving the Dark Web, Child Sex Tourism and Social Media Applications

- **Homeland Security Investigations, New York Field Office:**
 - **Josh Croft**, Special Agent, Child Exploitation Investigations Team
 - **Joseph Brodsky**, LMSW, Forensic Interview Specialist, Child Exploitation Investigations Team
 - **Mr. Bolfo, Special Agent**, Homeland Security Investigations Human Trafficking Task Force
 - **Michele Senft**, Acting Assistant Special Agent in Charge, Public Safety Division

The mission of the HSI NY Child Exploitation and Investigations Team (CEIT) is to protect children from crimes of physical and online sexual abuse. The unique skill sets of the team allows HSI NY CEIT to employ cutting edge investigative techniques to cases involving the dark web, cryptocurrency transactions, child sex tourism, social media applications facilitating online enticement of minors, and identifying administrators of sites that advertise and distribute child sexual abuse material (CSAM). HSI NY CEIT is continuously pursuing new ways to reveal the true identities of predators who attempt to maintain anonymity by utilizing social media applications and the Dark Web to victimize children through the production, live-streaming, distribution, and purchase of child sex abuse material (CSAM). In order to achieve a more victim-centric approach, HSI has deployed Forensic Interview Specialist (FIS) to all field offices. The HSI NY FIS is housed within the CEIT and serves both CEIT and the entire field office with victims of child exploitation and human trafficking. Learn about how CEIT's work has made a huge difference in protecting children and identifying predators.





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Presenter Bios:

Bios provided by presenters have been listed alphabetically by first name.

Allison Markiewicz, LMSW is a Licensed Master of Social Work in New York State. She has worked at the New York Foundling since 2017, working in several programs including MST-CAN Therapy (Multi-Systemic Therapy for Child Abuse and Neglect cases), an evidenced based prevention family therapy model. Currently, Allison is the Supervisor for the Phoenix Project, an intervention and prevention program for young people who have experienced sex trafficking and those at highest risk. Allison supervises a team of mentors with who provide direct support to young people seeking support. Allison is dedicated to using a strengths-based approach to support individuals reach their full potential.

Amanda Bixler joined the Missing Children's Division at the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children in 2011 and is the Program Specialist with the Forensic Services Unit. Her responsibilities include coordinating and facilitating all biometrics and advanced forensic testing for missing and unidentified child cases. She also liaisons with NCMEC's forensic partners to provide innovative resources to investigating agencies to assist finding resolutions on these complex cases. Amanda has a Master's Degree in Forensic Psychology from Marymount University.

Dr. Ann Marie Pendleton, Psy.D. is a New York State Licensed Psychologist and the Director of Mental Health Services for The Children's Village. She specializes in working with clients who have experienced stressors such as: being bullied, intense work pressures, major life changes, loss of a loved one, separation from family members, family conflict, sexual assault, relationship violence. Utilizing Client-centered and Cognitive-behavioral techniques and Structured Family Therapy, Dr. Pendleton meets each person where they are at and works with them to facilitate healing. She also provides advocacy around school support, Individualized Education Plans (IEPs), and the needs of gifted children.

In 2008, Dr. Pendleton obtained her Doctorate in Clinical Psychology from the Minnesota School of Professional Psychology. She obtained a B.A. in Music and Psychology from Gonzaga University in 2003.

Over the past 15 years, Dr. Pendleton has worked in and collaborated with multiple settings including residential centers, outpatient clinics, schools, law enforcement, hospitals, nanny agencies, and foster care. She has been a liaison with the New York State Office of Mental Health, and with the Administration for Children's Services' Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy and Mental Health Coordination Unit.

Anna DiTommaso is a Peer Mentor for the New York Foundling's Phoenix Project, a youth sex trafficking intervention and prevention program. Ms. DiTommaso works with other peer mentors to provide caring, consistent support to young people across New York City as well as run activity groups and sex-ed workshops for participants. Ms. DiTommaso is a certified facilitator of HIP Teens, a group intervention to improve healthy decision-making in regard to sexual health and relationships. She is a social-justice advocate and is passionate about providing high-quality care that is trauma-informed and youth-centered.



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Clifton Robertson, LMSW is the Residential Child Trafficking Specialist with the ACS Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy. He earned his Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the State University of New York College at Old Westbury, and a Master of Social Work degree from Adelphi University. He is accredited as a Licensed Master Social Worker. As the Residential Child Trafficking Specialist, Clifton is the point person for the residential and group home staff that support and provide services to trafficked youth and youth at-risk for trafficking. He also works directly with vulnerable youth, providing psychoeducational awareness, Dialectic Behavioral Therapy groupwork sessions, and a variety of prevention strategies individualized as per each child's needs and strengths. In addition, he provides support, guidance and training to NYC child welfare stakeholders. Clifton has over a decade of cumulative experience in the fields of mental health, developmentally disabled and other vulnerable populations.

Crystal Chen, ATR-BC, LCAT, LMHC is a board certified art therapist working at Eastside Counseling Center. Crystal Chen provides bilingual art therapy for individuals and groups that have behavior disorders, experienced trauma, or struggle with eating disorders. In addition Crystal provides supervision for creative arts therapists. She is a women's rights advocate, having spoken at two United Nations NGO CSW conferences, at the 4th World Conference of Women's Shelter in Taiwan, and is a Pratt Taconic Fellow. With her Pratt Taconic Fellowship, she developed an art therapy program, known as Garden of Gems, a project that combines art therapy with jewelry making to provide a sense of community and economic empowerment for women at Garden of Hope.

Danny Salim is the Deputy Director of Solution Based Casework at the Arab-American Family Support Center (AAFSC). Danny holds a Master's degree in Conflict Transformation from Eastern Mennonite University. He has vast experience in restorative justice, trauma healing and resilience, healing circles processes, women and youth empowerment, human rights, and culturally sensitive programming. Danny serves on several task forces and committees and leads the restorative justice work and cultural competency trainings for community-based organizations and government partners. He is passionate about examining sociopolitical experiences and systems that foster community development policy practice with a trauma-informed framework. Prior to joining AAFSC, Danny worked at several national and international organizations including Non-Violent Peace-Force and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). While at UNDP, he designed and developed the Conflict Prevention Community of Practice Team Works Platform (CP-CoP), an interactive forum for dialogue and resource sharing between the UN and civil society organizations.

Darryl Veneable, MS brings over 35 years of experience in the Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare systems, serving as Associate Executive Director and Program Director in residential programs ranging from 25 to over 250 beds. He utilizes his experience working with youth, direct care staff and administrators in the development of Learning Programs. He is a dedicated professional that ensures the programs he develops are learner centric, with equity, diversity and empathy at the center of the learning process.

Darryl is currently a Learning Program Manager with the Administration for Children's Services' (ACS), Workforce Institute as a CUNY consultant. Darryl has developed several eLearning programs for ACS staff most recently collaborating with the Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy (OCTPP) to create an engaging, interactive, eLearn for their Child Trafficking Database (CTDB).

Darryl is a certified facilitator through the National Institute of Corrections and a certified trainer in Therapeutic Crisis Intervention (TCI), Handle with Care, and First Aid/CPR, and ACS' LGBTQ Curriculum. He is the father of two children, and loves sports, music, and spending time with his family.



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Dr. Deborah Ottenheimer, MD is currently the Director of Women's Health Services at the Morrisania Diagnostic and Treatment Center, one of the largest of the NYC Health + Hospitals/Gotham health centers. The Women's Health service provides obstetric and gynecologic care to at risk women in the South Bronx, including a large immigrant population composed primarily of women from the Caribbean, Central America, Bengal and West Africa. The focus of Dr. Ottenheimer's work is the development of culturally competent and linguistically appropriate women's health services with cross sectoral collaboration with other medical specialties and community organizations.

In addition to her clinical practice, Dr. Ottenheimer spends a significant portion of her professional time assisting asylum-seeking women who have suffered sexual and gender-based violence and other human rights violations. She is an active member of Physicians for Human Rights, and serves as faculty at the Human Rights Program at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, the Weil Cornell Clinic for Human Rights, and the CUNY School of Medicine Human Rights Collaborative aiding survivors of female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C), domestic violence, sexual violence and human trafficking in their applications for asylum. To date she has performed 125 forensic medical evaluations. She has published and lectured extensively on human rights violations against women, with a focus on FGM/C. She has also worked in Haiti, Rwanda, and Democratic Republic of Congo, helping to improve the health and lives of women in low resource settings.

Jay Benke is an abduction and child sex trafficking survivor located in Oregon. As a person whose disabilities and LGBTQ2IA+ identity intersect with her survivorship, she brings a unique perspective as she serves the community. She specializes in advocacy for the disabled, trafficked children and youth, victims of intimate partner violence, people experiencing homelessness, and victims who have been incarcerated. The focus of her work ranges from criminal justice reform to demand reduction to survivor equity and inclusion to harm reduction and trauma-informed care.

Jay is a Human Trafficking Consultant, public speaker, author, mentor, curriculum specialist, content creator, and fact-check editor for both the public and private sectors. She is the creator of The Network, a comprehensive directory of survivors, advocates, allies, and stakeholders who want to conduct business together or shop at survivor-owned businesses and businesses that support survivors. Jay is the owner of Clever Human LLC, her consulting company, one of the founding members of Northwest Survivor Alliance, an Elevate Academy faculty member, and a Consultant for the Blue Campaign. She serves on the Oregon DOJ Human Trafficking Intervention Advisory Committee, is a member of the Oregon DOJ Research & Data Committee, a member of the Community Advisory Board as part of Multnomah County's Sex Trafficking Collaborative, and one of the co-creators of the Roadmap training tool which is in the final editing stage.

When she's not serving her community, Jay is working towards becoming an attorney to represent victims and survivors who want to seek justice against the people and systems in place that cause harm. In her free time, she can be found camping in the beautiful bounty the Pacific Northwest has provided or writing her upcoming book.

Mr. Bolfo is a Special Agent with Homeland Security Investigations Human Trafficking Task Force. Prior to working in the federal government, Mr. Bolfo contracted with a human trafficking NGO to conduct international investigations and undercover operations. As a federal agent, he has focused on child trafficking initiatives, working in close partnership with local police departments, state agencies, and NGOs to build sex crimes prosecutions at District Attorney offices and U.S. Attorney offices throughout the United States.



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Jessie Boye-Doe, LCSW is the Director of JCCA's Outpatient Behavioral Health and Center for Healing. The Center for Healing provides evidence-based, clinical services to residents of JCCA's Westchester Campus who have suffered child sexual abuse and/or exploitation. In addition, the Center for Healing also provides trainings to service providers who work with this unique population. A clinical expert and leader in the field of child sexual abuse treatment and prevention, Ms. Boye-Doe has supervised and trained hundreds of clinicians who, in turn, have gone on to provide care for children NYC who are victims of sexual abuse or trafficking. In addition to her therapy and advocacy on behalf of young victims, Ms. Boye-Doe is responsible for making JCCA a child sexual trauma informed agency, across all 37 programs serving more than 17,000 children and families every year. She has developed a cutting-edge clinical approach to working with victims of trafficking, translating her comprehensive clinical expertise into modalities that address the underlying issues that make young people vulnerable to commercial exploitation. At JCCA, she has created a training series for providers to prevent, identify, and treat child sexual abuse and exploitation. Ms. Boye-Doe has also created workshops and support groups for young people, to help them identify the warning signs of sexual abuse and to address the issues that make them vulnerable to trafficking. Before JCCA, Ms. Boye-Doe was the Director of the Child Sexual Abuse Response Team at the Child Guidance Center of Southern Connecticut; which is a nationally accredited child advocacy center. She was also a Victim Advocate at the Office of Victim Services in Stamford, CT and provided crisis and long-term counseling at the Kings County District Attorney's Office, where she developed, launched and ran the African Immigrant Victims of Violence Program. Ms. Boye-Doe earned her BA from Baruch College and her MSW from the Columbia School of Social Work.

Joseph Brodsky, LMSW is the Forensic Interview Specialist for Homeland Security Investigations in New York, NY (HSI NY). Joseph is assigned to the Child Exploitation and Investigations Team, however he serves all teams and offices HSI NY offices and teams which are located in Manhattan, Queens, Long Island, and Hudson Valley. Prior to his federal appointment, Joseph was a forensic interviewer with the Brooklyn Child Advocacy Center where he worked alongside the New York City Police Department's Special Victims Unit. Joseph holds a Bachelor of Psychology from Brandeis University and a master's degree in Social Work from Yeshiva University.

Josh Croft Special Agent Josh Croft joined Homeland Security Investigations in 2016 and is assigned to the Child Exploitation Investigations Team. Prior to joining HSI, Josh was a Federal Air Marshal assigned to the New York Field Office. Josh served in the United States Marine Corps, and the United States Army Reserve, deploying to combat operations in Iraq with both services.

Linda Rendon graduated from SUNY New Paltz with her Bachelors in Sociology and a concentration in Human Services in 2020. Currently, Linda works as a Bilingual Mentor for the Phoenix Project, an intervention and prevention program for young people who have experienced sex trafficking and those at highest risk. Linda has been working in advocacy since 2017 when she provided postsecondary success coaching to low-income first-generation students. In 2019, Linda served as the Coordinator of The Urban Assembly's Bridge to College Program. Linda is also a certified facilitator of HIP Teens, a group intervention specifically targeting building healthy relationships and improving the health and psychosocial potential of participants around their own sexual health and decision-making. Linda is dedicated to supporting youth and young people through a trauma-informed, survivor-centered approach. Linda was born and raised in the Bronx and is a first-generation college graduate.



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Dr. Mariama Diallo is a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW) in New York. She received her Masters of Science in Social Work (MSW) from Columbia University, and her DSW from Rutgers University. Currently, Mariama is an Adjunct Professor at Hunter College (NYC) and at The Montclair State University, in New Jersey. Dr. Diallo is also a Co-Program Director at Sanctuary for Families. Her primary role at Sanctuary for Families is to provide clinical supervision to clinicians; provide trauma-informed individual and group therapy to survivors of intimate partner violence, and other types of gender violence, including female genital mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) and forced marriage; conduct research project; develop curricula and other training materials; conduct community outreach/education on the issues of FGM/C, forced marriage, and domestic violence through professional trainings to doctors, nurses, social workers, and teachers. Dr. Diallo provides expert knowledge and testify in courts in the area of FGM/C, forced marriage, and domestic violence. Facilitate a leadership group training for African girls' survivors or at risk of experiencing gender violence. Dr. Diallo is the Founder and Chair of the New York Coalition to End FGM/C, and a member of the UN Working Group on Girls.

Dr. Diallo started her career at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Paris, where she developed human rights focused educational programs that were implemented in many African countries. The programs Dr. Diallo oversaw were aimed at the education of African youth and covered the realities and rights of women and girls.

Marti MacGibbon, CADC-II, ACRPS, CAPMS, is an internationally known author and an expert on trauma resolution and addiction. She's a humorous inspirational speaker, and a mental health professional who holds five professional certifications in addiction treatment. Marti is a Human Trafficking Expert Consultant to the US Dept. of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, and is an Expert Consultant to the US Office for Victims of Crime. She's is co-author of the widely cited article published in the American Medical Association Journal of Ethics, Human Trafficking, Mental Illness, and Addiction: Avoiding Diagnostic Overshadowing (2017), and is a contributing author of the Springer Nature 2020 textbook, Medical Perspectives on Human Trafficking in Adolescents: A Case-Based Guide.

Few speakers have a personal comeback story as riveting and inspirational as Marti's. She has recovered from and triumphed over nightmare experiences such as being trafficked to Tokyo and held prisoner by Japanese organized crime, homelessness, domestic violence, childhood sexual assault/abuse, severe PTSD and hard-core drug addiction. Marti employed simple, effective strategies to transform her life, and shares them to motivate, encourage, and energize listeners to create positive changes in every area of their lives.

In addition to speaking to businesses, medical professionals and mental health professionals on overcoming adversity, empowerment, addiction recovery, and inspiration, Marti speaks on human trafficking, domestic violence, and other violence against women, and trains service providers. She has spoken at The 2021 United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, The Museum of Tolerance, The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, at colleges and universities, and even from the center of an MMA octagon at, "Fight Traffick," an anti-human trafficking cage-fighting event. She's been interviewed in Investor's Business Daily, Entrepreneur, and Glamour, on ABC-TV, CBS-TV, FOX-TV and numerous radio stations, and articles she wrote have appeared in over 150 corporate and trade magazines.

An advocate for victims and survivors, in 2015, Marti spoke at the White House, the State Department, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Office for Victims of Crime, on mental health and policy advocacy. From 2012-2017, Ms. MacGibbon served on the Indiana Attorney General's state-wide anti-trafficking task force IPATH, Indiana Protection for Abused and Trafficked Humans. From 2013-2017, she



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developed curriculum for and taught a life skills class for women with trauma history in Marion County Jail. In 2014, she spoke to California State Legislature in support of new and successful legislation aimed at eradicating child sex trafficking.

Ms. MacGibbon is an engaged leader who served for two years on the Board of Directors at HEAL Trafficking, Inc. She currently serves as President of MENTARI Human Trafficking Survivor Empowerment Program in NY, NY, and on the Advisory Board at Justice At Last in San Francisco. Marti is a Speaker Trainer Consultant at the National Human Trafficking Training and Technical Center.

From 2011 to 2019, Marti was founder, producer, and emcee of Laff-Aholics Standup Comedy Benefit for Recovery, an annual charity fundraiser in Indianapolis that features nationally headlining comedians. One hundred percent of the profits from the show went to transitional housing facilities in Indy that provide access to addiction treatment and mental health services for the recovery community's most vulnerable.

The Indiana Addictions Issues Coalition (IAIC) honored Marti with the 2015 Indiana Lifetime Recovery Advocate Award, and the 2014 Recovery Advocate of the Year Award, for outstanding accomplishments in support of recovery, and her work in breaking away the stigma surrounding addiction, mental illness, and human trafficking.

Marti has performed at the world-famous Hollywood Improv and at the Comedy Store in Hollywood, and has traveled the U.S. as a professional standup comic. She is a member of the National Speakers Association, the Behavioral Health Association of Providers, the California Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals (CCAPP), and the Indiana Counselor's Association on Alcohol and Drug Abuse.

Marti MacGibbon is author of two award-winning and critically acclaimed memoirs, *Never Give in to Fear: Laughing All the Way Up from Rock Bottom* and *Fierce, Funny, and Female*. *Fierce, Funny, and Female*, Marti's recent memoir, is winner of the Beverly Hills International Book Award, in Women's Issues, and winner of the National Indie Excellence Awards, in Women's Health. It is winner of the 2018 Independent Press Award, in Humor and Women's Studies. In June 2018, the book was announced winner of the Foreword Book of the Year Awards, in both Humor and Women's Studies.

[Melanie Thompson](#) is the Outreach & Advocacy Coordinator at the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women and is separately a speaker, activist, and leader in the global fight to end prostitution and commercial sexual exploitation. Trafficked and sold into prostitution in New York at the age of 12, she was later arrested and placed into foster care. She became an activist at age 14. Ms. Thompson has testified before numerous legislatures about the need to pass strong anti-trafficking laws and ending the arrests of sex trafficked and prostituted children and people in the sex trade. Additionally, she is a consultant on prostitution, trafficking and foster care issues, and speaks avidly to the intersectionality of race, child welfare and other systems of oppression.

[Michele Senft, MA](#) is the Acting Assistant Special Agent in Charge for HSI's Public Safety Division which houses the two Human Trafficking Teams, the Document and Benefit Fraud Team and the Special Response Team. Michele began her federal service in 2001 with the United States Customs Service (USCS) working part-time while completing college. In 2003, she received her appointment as a USCS Special Agent, which was realigned into Homeland Security Investigations after the Department of Homeland Security was formed. Michele holds a master's degree in Criminal Justice Leadership and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice, both from St. John's University. She is also a certified NYS Emergency Medical Technician.



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[Opal Singleton Hendershot](#) is the President and CEO of Million Kids, a 501(c)3 organization dedicated to keeping kids safe from predators. She is one of the leading voices for combating human trafficking, social media exploitation and the impact of advanced technologies on child sex crimes. Million Kids serves as the Training and Outreach Coordinator for the Riverside County Anti Human Trafficking Task Force (RCAHT) and works with the Riverside County Sheriff's Department through a Department of Justice Grant. Opal has completed tens of thousands of hours of research over the past ten years on those subjects and dealt with real cases making her an expert on human trafficking crimes and online social media exploitation of minors.

With her expertise, Opal has educated and trained more than 500,000 government and individual leaders as the keynote speaker and workshop presenter on labor trafficking, adult and child sex trafficking, foreign national trafficking, gang trafficking, advanced technologies used in sex crimes, sextortion and social media exploitation, crypto currency and money laundering, the Dark Net and bulletproof hosting, and CSAM (child sexual abuse materials). She often appears on television and radio talk shows across the United States.

Opal is the author of two books. *Seduced: The Grooming of America's Teenagers* (2015) examines real cases to illustrate how predators use social media and online gaming to access, groom, recruit and exploit teenagers into sex trafficking, sextortion and exploitation. The second book, *Societal Shift: A World Without Borders... A Home Without Walls* (2019), takes a look at the impact of over six billion people coming together in ways never before experienced creating a momentous societal shift. Researchers say that 87% of teens sleep with their phone. A world without borders for our children is also a world without borders for pedophiles, predators, pimps, cartels and other organized criminals. That means while you are sleeping bad guys can access your children.

Opal is an Instructor at USC Price Safe Communities Institute and former co-instructor at the USC School of Social Work for the Los Angeles Police Department LEAD program and is an instructor at Los Angeles Fire Leadership Training Academy. Opal has completed the Robert Presley Institute of Criminal Investigation Instructor Course and served on the Peace Officers Standardized Training panel to develop the training curriculum on human trafficking for law enforcement in California.

Opal hosts a radio show on KTIE 590 AM called "Exploited: Crimes and Technology" every Saturday at 3:00 PM throughout Southern California. She also presents a regular Million Kids Insider Alert video and post for her subscribers featuring breaking news and expert case analysis.

For more information:

<https://millionkids.org>

<https://insideralerts.org>

<https://Instagram.com/millionkids>

<https://Facebook.com/iemillionkids>

<https://www.youtube.com/c/MillionKids/videos>



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Princess Bey is an award-winning screenwriter, director, producer and playwright. Adopted by her grandfather at the age of 7, She grew up to be a “troubled” youth, as a response to the many tribulations she faced growing up. However, she credits the arts for saving her life and providing an outlet for her to explore and release her inner hurt. Upon graduating from Stony Brook University in 2006, Princess began honing her craft and promised herself that she would always “pay it forward” and help other youth find their light via artistic expression.

Princess had the amazing opportunity of working with Foster Care Unplugged to write, direct and serve as the acting coach for Foster Care Unplugged: The Stage Play (Parts I and II), a series of productions sponsored by NYC foster care agencies and ACS, designed to help youth within the child welfare system share their stories with the world. She's also started a new program, "Free is Me!", which teaches young adults to write original monologues and perform from the heart. Since producing and directing OCTPP/Safe Harbour sponsored Trafficking Credible Messenger film, she's directed a short documentary on sex trafficking titled "Can Oppression Be Liberation?", which raises awareness of the movement to fully decriminalize the sex trade in the United States.

Rawaa Nancy Albilal is the President and CEO of the Arab-American Family Support Center (AAFSC), a non-profit, non-sectarian organization providing culturally and linguistically competent, trauma-informed social services to immigrants and refugees across New York City and beyond. Ms. Albilal joined AAFSC in 2017. Under her leadership, AAFSC has expanded to 14 different locations across the five boroughs and introduced several new initiatives including mental health counseling, a restorative justice unit, housing navigation, and an emergency relief fund. Over the past three years, AAFSC has enhanced its Anti-Violence Program, supporting over 2000 survivors of domestic and gender-based violence annually in partnership with the NYC Family Justice Centers across the city. In 2020, Ms. Albilal oversaw AAFSC's contract expansion with NYC Administration for Children's Services, doubling the staff size and implementing two new evidence-based models for supporting families impacted by child abuse. AAFSC now serves over 10,000 individuals from 148 different countries of origin in 36 different languages. Prior to joining AAFSC, Nancy served as the Vice President for Development at the Foundation Center, the Director of Social Services, Research, Planning and Evaluation at the Department of Child and Family Well-Being for the City of Newark, and the Executive Vice President for Community Impact for the United Way in New Jersey. Ms. Albilal has been a guest lecturer for Rutgers University teaching cultural diversity and inclusion. She currently sits on the OVS Advisory Council and is the Co-Chair of the Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence Advisory Council. She is a member of the Board of Directors for COFCCA—the Council of Family and Child Caring Agencies. Ms. Albilal is a graduate of Rutgers MSW School of Social Work and attended Rutgers and Princeton University for undergraduate studies—majoring in Political Science and Urban Studies; minoring in Near Eastern Studies and Women's Studies.



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[Selina Higgins, MA, MSW, LCSW-R](#) has been the inaugural Executive Director of the NYC Administration for Children's Services' Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy (OCTPP) since its creation in 2015 as the first office within a NYC public agency dedicated to trafficked and at-risk youth. OCTPP coordinates all aspects of policy and practice concerning children involved in human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation, including identification, prevention, and service provision for the entire NYC child welfare system. OCTPP also consults with and supports other City and community-based agencies, provides training for professionals and communities, facilitates a variety of trafficking awareness and prevention groupwork models for youth and administrates the NYC Safe Harbour Program.

Selina has worked in the field of child welfare for 30 years in a variety of administrative and clinical roles. She is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW-R) with a Master of Arts in Forensic Psychology, a Master of Social Work, and post-graduate certifications in Infant-Parent Dyadic Therapy and Trauma Assessment, Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT), and Social Work Administration.

In addition to policy and procedure development, Selina is a huge believer in hands-on filling of identified gaps. She works directly with youth in providing therapeutic services through a variety of group work models (some self/co-designed). Her work is directly responsible for the development of the *NYC Child Tattoo Eradication Project*, the *Trafficked Youth Credible Messenger Program*, the 40-page flip book *Child Trafficking and What YOU Can Do About It: Tools for NYC Child Welfare Professionals*, the *NYC Trafficking Prevention app* (available free through Google and Apple), ACS' first Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT) Consultation Team and the creation of a wide variety of original anti-trafficking/therapeutic groupwork models. Selina was also integral to the development of the *Child Trafficking Database (CTDB)*, and the upcoming *CTDB E-learning*. Selina has been an MSW Field Instructor for over 20 years. She is an honorably discharged and decorated veteran of the United States Army.

Publications include a variety of articles, the *Child Trafficking and What YOU Can Do About It: Tools for NYC Child Welfare Professionals* toolkit and co-authoring *Human Trafficking in the Foster Care System* for the Springer Nature 2020 textbook, *Medical Perspectives on Human Trafficking in Adolescents: A Case-Based Guide*. Presentations include international, national and local conferences, including original workshops at the International Association of Social Work with Groups' annual symposiums and Shared Hope International's Juvenile Sex Trafficking (JuST) conferences, the largest and most renowned annual conference of its type in the United States. In 2020, the NYC's Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender Based Violence honored Selina as an Advocate of New York City.



Help us stop child and adult trafficking



Please send conference questions to Traffickingtraining@acs.nyc.gov

Please send child/case notifications to Child.trafficking@acs.nyc.gov