



# 2024 NYC

## Child Trafficking Prevention

### “Back to School”

# Fall Training Series

## 6 Virtual, Participatory Workshops

### Conference Registration Instructions:

- **Registration is directly through each workshop’s individual Teams link**
  - The virtual platform will be Microsoft Teams.
  - The Teams registration links are listed in the Conference Quick View Schedule and Registration Links section on page 3 of this program.
  - To enter a workshop, you will be required to register by entering your name, title, agency, city, state 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.
  - You can register in advance, or you can register right before a workshop.
  - After you register, Teams will send an email with the workshop entry link.
  - **Save the email with the Teams link** to enter the workshop on its scheduled day. The email comes directly from Teams. We cannot replicate the email. Teams should send a reminder email on the day of the training, but just in case, save or calendar your original email.
  - There is no password required. Anyone with the link can join.
- **All workshop hours are scheduled for Eastern Standard Time (EST).**
- **For all questions and troubleshooting, email [Traffickingtraining@acs.nyc.gov](mailto:Traffickingtraining@acs.nyc.gov)**



## 2024 NYC Child Trafficking *"Back to School"* Fall Training Series



### 2024 Fall Training Series Workshops at a Glance

Day	Date	Time (EST)	Workshop Title
T	Oct 15	9:30 am to 1:30 pm	<b>Understanding Child Trafficking: A Bio-Psycho-Social Perspective</b>
W	Oct 16	2:00 pm to 3:30 pm	<b>The Use of Cannabis Edibles to Recruit and Control Youth for Sexual Abuse and Exploitation</b>
M	Oct 21	2:00 pm to 4:00 pm	<b>Working with LGBTQ+ Youth Who Have Experienced or Are At-Risk for Sex Trafficking</b>
T	Oct 22	2:00 pm to 3:00 pm	<b>Trauma-Informed Mental Health Care for Youth With Histories of Trafficking</b>
M	Oct 28	2:00 pm to 4:00 pm	<b>Navigating Safe Spaces: A Journey of Belonging</b>
T	Oct 29	10:00 am to 1:00 pm	<b>NYC's Child Welfare Trafficking Policy and Screening Children for Sex Trafficking in ACS' Child Trafficking Database (CTDB)</b>

**There are no CEUs or CLEs available for any of the workshops.**

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



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### Conference Quick View Schedule with 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, Teams 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 workshop day.
5. Consider pasting the Teams email or the workshop entry link into your e-calendar.

- October 15 (Tues) from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm EST:  
**Understanding Child Trafficking: A Bio-Psycho-Social Perspective**  
**Teams Registration Link:** <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/3b8f4a80-cd2f-48b8-a895-5a03bb314997@32f56fc7-5f81-4e22-a95b-15da66513bef>
- October 16 (Wed) from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm EST:  
**The Use of Cannabis Edibles to Recruit and Control Youth for Sexual Abuse and Exploitation**  
**Teams Registration Link:** <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/7487d30b-19d9-4619-b371-aadc7a36fa47@32f56fc7-5f81-4e22-a95b-15da66513bef>
- October 21 (Mon) from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm EST:  
**Working with LGBTQ+ Youth Who Have Experienced or Are At-Risk for Sex Trafficking**  
**Teams Registration Link:** <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/795ec253-da4b-4bb8-a513-f267918efb72@32f56fc7-5f81-4e22-a95b-15da66513bef>
- October 22 (Tues) from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm EST:  
**Trauma-Informed Mental Health Care for Youth With Histories of Trafficking**  
**Teams Registration Link:** <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/2d458cc8-7239-4fa1-987c-40c3ca5b9f95@32f56fc7-5f81-4e22-a95b-15da66513bef>
- October 28 (Mon) from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm:  
**Navigating Safe Spaces: A Journey of Belonging**  
**Teams Registration Link:** <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/9c0087ac-793a-4bf4-b8f1-7cec1fb97110@32f56fc7-5f81-4e22-a95b-15da66513bef>
- October 29 (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)**  
**Teams Registration Link:** <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/759d7e5c-2688-4e6c-9b60-a62320daf3bf@32f56fc7-5f81-4e22-a95b-15da66513bef>



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### Workshop Descriptions:

**October 15 (Tuesday) from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm EST:**

#### **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 cognitive development, 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, gaslighting, trauma bonding, and 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. This proprietary workshop has been provided at multiple national and regional conferences.

**October 16 (Wednesday) from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm EST:**

#### **The Use of Cannabis Edibles to Recruit and Control Youth for Sexual Abuse and Exploitation**

**Kevin Walsh**, Investigative Consultant Manager, Office of the Commissioner - Investigations Division, NYC Administration for Children's Services

An ongoing phenomenon has been the use of cannabis edibles by child sex abusers to recruit and control children for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Using redacted case studies to protect confidentiality, this workshop will:

- Identify the duplicitous packaging of cannabis edible products
- Discuss the upswing in cannabis edible ingestion in children younger than age 6 years with regard to toxicity
- Discuss how sex abusers and traffickers can use substances for victim exploitation and recruitment of youth, including:
  - providing cannabis without the victim's knowledge



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- inducing a euphoric mood prior to exploitation
- rewarding victim trafficking productivity
- withholding to commence withdrawal towards asserting control

**October 21 (Monday) from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm EST:**

### **Working with LGBTQ+ Youth Who Have Experienced or are At-Risk for Sex Trafficking**

- **Steven Gordon**, Director of LGBTQAI+ Equity Strategies, NYC Administration for Children's Services
- **Selina Higgins, LCSW-R**, Executive Director, Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy, NYC Administration for Children's Services
- **Carmen Sanchez, LCSW**, Child Trafficking Social Worker, Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy, NYC Administration for Children's Services
- **Veronica Moreno, LMSW**, Child Trafficking Social Worker, Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy, NYC Administration for Children's Services

Co-developed by the nationally renowned Hetrick Martin Institute and the NYC Administration for Children's Services' Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy and Office of LGBTQAI+ Equity Strategies, this curriculum will offer both awareness and practical guidance on how to identify and provide the necessary support and resources LGBTQ+ youth who have experienced trafficking or are at risk for trafficking.

Participants will:

- Develop an understanding of what is child sex trafficking.
- Gain insight into the unique vulnerabilities faced by LGBTQ+ youth and the intersection with trafficking.
- Learn about trauma-informed approaches and their application in supporting sex trafficking survivors.
- Develop cultural competency and sensitivity to better understand and connect with LGBTQ+ trafficking survivors.
- Learn how to create safe and inclusive spaces where LGBTQ+ survivors can access the help they need.
- Learn about the NYC child welfare system's policies that support LGBTQ+ and trafficked youth.
- Learn about the primary resources within NYC's child welfare system (Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy and Office of LGBTQ+ Equities) that can assist with information, service referrals and other needed help.

**\*\*The Working with LGBTQ+ Youth Who Have Experienced or are At-Risk for Sex Trafficking curriculum was funded by the NYS Office of Children and Family Services through the 2023 NYC Safe Harbour Grant.\*\***



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**October 22 (Tuesday) from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm EST:**

### **Trauma-Informed Mental Health Care for Youth With Histories of Trafficking**

- **Valentina Nikulina, Ph.D.**, Administrative Psychologist, Psychiatry and Behavioral Health Unit, NYC Administration for Children's Services
- **Jacqueline Penn, DO**, Interim Medical Director, Psychiatry and Behavioral Health Unit, NYC Administration for Children's Services
- **Suchet Rao, MD**, Psychiatrist, Psychiatry and Behavioral Health Unit, NYC Administration for Children's Services
- **Michelle Gunnia, Psy.D.**, Administrative Psychologist, Psychiatry and Behavioral Health Unit, NYC Administration for Children's Services

This workshop will discuss the types of trauma frequently experienced by childhood trafficking survivors and the associated mental health impact, including the DSM-5 diagnosis of Posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Evidence-based approaches to the engagement and mental health treatment of these youth will be reviewed. The workshop will focus on both psychiatric and psychological interventions.

Workshop Objectives:

- To provide an overview of common traumas, and associated mental health sequelae, experienced by youth who have survived trafficking.
- To introduce evidence-based approaches to the mental health treatment of survivors.

**October 28 (Monday) from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm EST:**

### **Navigating Safe Spaces: A Journey of Belonging**

- **Melody J. Centeno, LMSW**, Founder and CEO, Foster Care Unplugged (FCUP)

Join us for an immersive workshop inspired by our latest film, "The Safe Space." In this thought-provoking session, we'll delve into the rich narrative of several young individuals living on one residential campus. Together, we'll explore the universal quest for the meaning of a safe space and the profound discovery of a sense of belonging.

Key Themes:

- **Exploring Identity:** Unpack the diverse stories and backgrounds of the characters in the film, and reflect on the impact of identity on our own sense of belonging.
- **Building Inclusive Environments:** Discuss the importance of fostering environments that allow individuals of all ages to feel safe, respected, and accepted.



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- Addressing Vulnerabilities: Acknowledge the vulnerabilities faced by foster youth and their exposure to potential risks, including human trafficking.
- Self-Reflection: Engage in introspective exercises inspired by the characters' journeys to better understand our own needs for a safe space and connection.

**October 29 (Tuesday) from 10:00 to 1:00 EST:**

### **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 live 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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### Presenter Bios:

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

**Carmen Sanchez, LCSW** is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker who holds a Master's Degree in Clinical Social Worker from Fordham University's Graduate School of Social Work with an emphasis on working with Children and Families. She completed her Bachelor's degree in Psychology with a Minor in Art Therapy at The College of New Rochelle.

Carmen has 20 years of experience working with Children and Families in various capacities including Child Welfare, Mental Health, and Staff Development. In addition, to working directly with families in the Child Welfare and Mental Health systems, Carmen has worked directly with child welfare staff delivering trainings to assist in providing trauma-focused and client centered material that will help service providers under the needs of children who have been abused and maltreated. Trainings include, but are not limited to: Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Creative Arts therapy, Mandated Reported Training, MAPP: Model Approach to Partnerships in Parenting, Shaken Baby Syndrome, and Caring for our Own: Training for Kinship Caregivers.

**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, group home, and foster care 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, groupwork sessions which includes Dialectic Behavioral Therapy, Creative Arts in Psychotherapy, and Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral therapy, 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.

**Jacqueline Penn, DO**, is a child and adolescent psychiatrist. She is an attending psychiatrist and Clinical Assistant Professor at New York University Grossman School of Medicine and the Interim Medical Director of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health at Association for Children's Services. She also has a private practice where she sees children, adolescents, and adults.

**Kevin Walsh, Investigative Consultant Manager**, Office of the Commissioner – Investigations Division, Administration for Children's Services (ACS), has been with the New York City Administration for Children's Services for 12 years as part of the Investigative Consultant Program. This program enlists retired law enforcement personnel who assist Child Protective Specialists with their investigations, including locating missing families and children. He also provides training on child abuse topics for ACS personnel, as well as NYPD supervisors, detectives, and patrol officers at the Police Academy. Prior to that he served 25 years in the NYPD, with assignments in patrol, narcotics, internal affairs, and management analysis and planning, retiring as a Captain in 2009. He helped develop the NYPD's Domestic Violence Prevention Officer Program,





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and its participation in the city's Child Advocacy Centers. He has BA and MS degrees in Criminal Justice from Long Island University, and an MPA from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard.

**Melody Joanne Centeno, LMSW** is a remarkable individual who wears many hats. Not only is she a motivational speaker, public advocate, and psychodrama practitioner, but she's also an ABA therapist, talk show host, actress, film director, film editor, and producer. Melody's passion for helping others led her to graduate from Adelphi University's School of Social Work, where she is recognized as a NYS Licensed Master Social Worker approved by the State Association of Social Work Boards. She now shares her expertise as an Adjunct Professor at Adelphi University's Field Education department, where she supervises undergraduate and graduate social work students. She also uses her SIFI certification and platform to supervise students at New York University. As a former foster youth herself, Melody founded Foster Care Unplugged in 2016 with the goal of enriching the lives of children in care through the development of positive resiliency skills. Her personal experience has driven her to share her story around the world, empowering youth and enlightening professionals in the field about the importance of being culturally responsive within the culture of child welfare.

Melody's unique style of leadership is a result of her ability to model and teach through the lens of personal experience, merged with professional practice. Her passion for helping others, combined with her expertise and experience, make her an invaluable asset to the Foster Care Unplugged team and to the children and families they serve. Melody Joanne Centeno, also known as "the Plug," is a role model to many and has made a lasting impression on those who have had the privilege of working with her. She is highly esteemed for her leadership qualities, ability to motivate, and her dedication to improving the lives of those around her. Melody's goal is to inspire and educate individuals to become their best selves. She uses her platform as a motivational speaker, public advocate, and psychodrama practitioner to stimulate minds, stir hearts, and activate the will within people to achieve greatness. When she is not working on community projects, Melody devotes her free time to developing her skills as an aspiring actress. Her daughter, Savannah Arielle Acree, is her greatest motivation in life, and she hopes to serve as a blueprint for her daughter and for other young people who look up to her as a role model.

Melody has an impressive portfolio of producing youth-focused projects that aim to empower and inspire young people. One of her notable projects is "Foster Care Unplugged: The Stage Play," which highlights the experiences of current and former foster care youth through theatrical performances. She has also produced short films featuring foster care youth, which shed light on their unique struggles and triumphs. Foster Care Unplugged is not only dedicated to producing creative projects, but also to hosting annual events that foster a sense of community among young people. These events include a toy drive, a fashion show, and a basketball game with the NYPD. Melody's dedication to supporting foster youth has expanded to include those who are at risk of being human trafficked. She co-created and facilitated the grant-funded "Mitigating Trauma Through Drama" group therapy model, which combines psychodrama techniques with human trafficking awareness to help mitigate the impact of trauma on young people's lives. Through her work, Melody has become a beacon of hope for many foster youth and vulnerable populations, providing them with the tools and support they need to thrive.



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**Michelle Gunnia, Psy.D.** is a New York State licensed clinical psychologist and Administrative Psychologist on the Psychiatry and Behavioral Health Unit at the Administration for Children's Services in New York City. She plays a pivotal role in guiding mental health practices, policy development, and program implementation to ensure optimal care for children and families. She has expertise in child and forensic psychology and over 10 years of clinical and supervisory experience in child welfare and juvenile justice.

**Selina Higgins, MA, MSW, LCSW-R, United States Army Veteran** 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, assessment, prevention, intervention, mitigation and service coordination 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, and a large-scale Child Trafficking Awareness Campaign.

Selina has worked in the field of child welfare for 30 years. 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, Trauma Focused-Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and Social Work Administration, with additional training in Play Therapy and Creative Arts Therapy. Since 2015, she and her training partners have provided trafficking related trainings for over 40,000 attendees, either through producing virtual conferences or developing original trainings that have been presented at national and international conferences, including multiple workshops at Shared Hope International's Juvenile Sex Trafficking (JuST) Conferences. She has also published in the field, and developed/co-developed several therapeutic/anti-trafficking groupwork models for youth, including the grant-funded "Mitigating Trauma Through Drama" group therapy model, which combines psychodrama techniques with human trafficking awareness to help mitigate the impact of trauma on young people's lives. You can learn more about her work at <https://www.nyc.gov/site/acs/youth/traffickedyouth.page>

**Steven Gordon** has over 18 years of government, nonprofit direct service, administrative, development, and technical assistance/capacity building experience. His areas of expertise include, but not limited to HIV/AIDS, youth development, homelessness, sexual and behavioral health, program development and implementation, grants management, race equity, social justice, community organizing, LGBTQAI+ equity, gender equity, and policy/advocacy. Currently, as the Director of LGBTQAI+ Equity Strategies at ACS, Steven leads the agency's LGBTQAI+ equity efforts. Steven's past professional experiences includes:

- Principle of Steven Gordon Consulting where his primary functions were development, fundraising, grant writing, technical assistance, and capacity building to private companies, nonprofits, hospitals/healthcare centers, and colleges/universities. Some of his clients include: Gershwin Lehman Group, Sage Publishing, Howard University, Vera Institute of Justice, Substance Abuse Mental and Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), etc.
- Executive Director of The Pride Network, a small Brooklyn based non-profit whose mission is to empower and support the next generation of LGBTQ Leadership through social justice, education,



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workforce development and leadership training.

- Director of Drop-In for Ali Forney Center. There he managed a large program budget, 6 grant contracts, a team of staff, interns and consultants of over 20, and a very busy triage center for youth in crisis.

**Suchet Rao, MD,** is a psychiatrist with the New York City Administration for Children's Services (ACS), and a clinical assistant professor of child and adolescent psychiatry at the New York University Grossman School of Medicine. He is certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology in psychiatry, child and adolescent psychiatry, and forensic psychiatry. He has lectured and published articles on legal, ethical and clinical issues relating to the psychiatric care of children in the welfare system. Since joining ACS in 2016, Dr. Rao has developed guidelines for the monitoring of prescribed psychiatric medication, and policies for improving the process for obtaining informed consent for psychiatric medication prescribed to children in ACS custody.

**Valentina Nikulina, Ph.D.,** is a New-York State licensed clinical psychologist. She currently works as an Administrative Psychologist in the Psychiatry and Behavioral Health Unit of the Administration for Children's Services in New York City. Dr. Nikulina specializes in evidence-based assessment and treatment of the psychological consequences of trauma in children and adolescents. She has a decade of research and teaching experience.

**Veronica Moreno, LMSW** is a Child Trafficking Social Worker with ACS' Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in International Criminal Justice with a Minor in Psychology from John Jay College of Criminal Justice, and a Master of Social Work degree from Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College. She is accredited as a Licensed Master Social Worker. As the Child Trafficking Social Worker who works with Division of Child Protection involved youth, Veronica is the point person for Child Protective Specialist staff that support and provide services to trafficked youth and youth at-risk for trafficking. She also works directly with vulnerable youth, providing psychoeducational awareness, and crisis counseling to families, and a variety of prevention strategies individualized as per each child's needs and strengths. In addition, she provides support, guidance, and training to NYC child welfare stakeholders. Veronica has over a decade of cumulative experience in various areas within ACS working with vulnerable populations.

Manipulation  
Intimidation  
Seduction  
Humiliation  
Money  
Threats  
Fear  
Coercion  
Exploitation

**CHILDREN  
ARE NOT  
FOR \$ALE**

Human Trafficking is Modern-Day Slavery  
Help Us Stop Child Trafficking

The National Human Trafficking Hotline (888) 373-7888 or text 233733  
NYPD Special Victims/Human Trafficking Hotline (646) 610-7272

**NYC**  
Administration for  
Children's Services

The poster features a black and white profile of a young girl's face on the right side. The text is arranged in a clean, sans-serif font. The phrase 'CHILDREN ARE NOT FOR \$ALE' is written in large, bold, red capital letters, with the dollar sign and 'ALE' in a slightly larger font size. The background is black, making the white and red text stand out.



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### Resources:

#### Visit our Webpages:

- Preventing Youth Trafficking: <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>
- Trafficking Awareness Contest for Youth 2024 – Lots of Prizes for Youth! **Extended to October 30, 2024:** <https://www.nyc.gov/site/acs/youth/trafficking-awareness-contest.page>

#### Human Trafficking Prevention [Virtual Resource Fair](#) (*link*)

- For information, resources and downloads from local and national trafficking related expert agencies and programs
- To download our Awareness Campaign materials (posters, brochure, tattoo removal program palm card) in 12 languages

#### January 2025: NYC Child Trafficking Prevention Conference

- 15 or more virtual workshops
- Program available in November 2024
- Join the mailing list for the program with Teams registration links by emailing: [TraffickingTraining@acs.nyc.gov](mailto:TraffickingTraining@acs.nyc.gov)



Help us end child and adult trafficking.



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**NYC** Child Trafficking  
Children Prevention and Policy

### TRAFFICKING AWARENESS CONTEST FOR YOUTH 2024

Create a Poem, Song, Story, or Artwork on

## WHAT IS CHILD TRAFFICKING?

**RULES  
FOR  
PARTICIPATION**



#### Goal

To provide youth with an opportunity to think about child trafficking and a voice to discuss how they feel about a topic that has frequently been in the news. This will also provide an opportunity for adults to understand what youth think about trafficking.

#### Open to

All youth in Foster Care ages 12 and up.

#### How to Participate

Provide an original media item (poem/song lyrics, story, drawing,) on the topic of "What is Child Trafficking?". The youth can focus on sex or labor or both type of trafficking – it is up to them to choose what type of trafficking they want to discuss. The media can consist of a drawing, a poem/song lyrics, or a story.

#### Contest Rules

All youth in care ages 12 and up may participate

All submissions must be original.

Submissions can be in the form of a poem/song lyrics, story or drawing.

Each youth may provide multiple submissions.

If a youth experiences writing challenges, they can tell their poem or story to staff and staff can write out the poem or story for them.

The submissions may NOT include any sexist, racist, homophobic, or transphobic comments or images.

The submission must not have any of the youth's personal identifying information directly on/in it (e.g., no names, signatures, photos).

#### Due Date

All entries must be received by September 30, 2024.

All submissions may be reproduced, distributed and/or displayed by ACS.

#### Incentives

Every youth who participates will receive a \$25 gift card. Multiple submissions by a youth will be accepted, but only one \$25 gift card per youth for participation (\$25 per youth, not per submission).

All participating youth will also receive a certificate of participation (in addition to the \$25 gift card) and category winners will receive special certificates noting their achievements (in addition to their prize/gift cards).

#### Judging

Judging will occur using the same age range categories required by City Hall's

annual Local Law 41 (Safe Harbour) Report: (12 to 15), (16 to 18), (18+). There will be multiple winners selected from each media category (poem/song lyrics, story or drawing):

- 1st prize \$200
- 2nd prize \$100
- 3rd prize \$50
- Honorable Mentions (2) at \$25 for each category and age group

Judges will include interested Youth Leadership Council (YLC) members, ACS' Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy (OCTPP) team members and other to be determined. Judging will occur virtually through a Teams meeting for multiple Teams meetings if many entries are received). YLC participants will be compensated for their time with gift cards.

## Contest deadline extended to October 30, 2024

This contest is solely for youth involved with the NYC foster care system.

For additional information:

See:

<https://www.nyc.gov/site/acs/youth/trafficking-awareness-contest.page>

Email:

[Trafficking.awareness.contest@acs.nyc.gov](mailto:Trafficking.awareness.contest@acs.nyc.gov)

#### ★ Submission Procedure

Submissions will be scanned and emailed to: [Trafficking.awareness.contest@acs.nyc.gov](mailto:Trafficking.awareness.contest@acs.nyc.gov). The email will contain the youth's name, age, agency and case planner and the case planner's supervisor' contact information (email and phone number). The email will also include the youth's email and cell phone number, if applicable.

All email must include a signed consent/release form that is applicable to the youth's age and legal status:

**Under age 18**

**Under age 18 and freed for adoption**

**Age 18 and above**



Consent/Release Form  
Under age 18



Consent/Release Form  
Under age 18 and  
freed for adoption



Consent/Release Form  
Age 18 and above