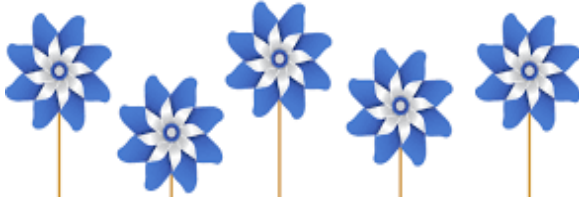


**APRIL** NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE  
PREVENTION MONTH



# 2025 NYC Child Trafficking Prevention Spring Training Series 7 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 pages 3 and 4 of this program.
  - To enter 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.
  - 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. If you lose the email, please re-register.
  - 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)**



## 2025 NYC Child Trafficking Spring Training Series



### 2025 Spring Training Series Workshops – At a Glance

Day	Date	Time (EST)	Workshop Title
Th	April 24	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>
W	April 30	2:00 pm to 4:00 pm	<b>Working with LGBTQ+ Youth Who Have Experienced or Are At-Risk for Sex Trafficking</b>
Th	May 1	2:00 pm to 4:00 pm	<b>The Intersection of Human Trafficking and Substance Use Disorder</b>
W	May 7	2:00 pm to 3:30 pm	<b>The Secret Language of Emojis: NCMEC’s Child Sex Trafficking Team’s Analytical Resources and Current Trends</b> <small>WARNING: This workshop is limited to professionals who work in trafficking awareness/prevention/intervention and related fields. See full criterion and outcomes in workshop description.</small>
Th	May 8	2:00 pm to 4:00 pm	<b>Internet Safety &amp; Warning Signs of Online Grooming</b>
W	May 14	2:00 pm to 3:30 pm	<b>Providing Trauma-Informed Care to Trafficked Youth Through a Multi-Disciplinary Lens</b>
Th	May 15	1:00 pm to 4:00pm	<b>Endorsing Exploitation: The Influence of Media on the Developing Vulnerable Adolescent</b>

**Please note that CEUs, CLEs or CMEs are NOT available for the workshops.**

**Reminder: All workshops are scheduled for Eastern Standard Time (EST). Please adjust for your time zone.**



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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.

- April 24 (Thurs) 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/430ce123-e252-4bad-8684-9f1368e8e465@32f56fc7-5f81-4e22-a95b-15da66513bef>
- April 30 (Wed) 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/805835a0-8176-4607-993a-9d1c48fbea35@32f56fc7-5f81-4e22-a95b-15da66513bef>
- May 1 (Thurs) from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm EST:  
**The Intersection of Human Trafficking and Substance Use Disorder**  
**Teams Registration Link:** <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/4141b913-9810-4e0b-99cd-ca791208feb3@32f56fc7-5f81-4e22-a95b-15da66513bef>
- May 7 (Wed) from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm EST:  
**The Secret Language of Emojis: NCMEC's Child Sex Trafficking Team's Analytical Resources and Current Trends**  
**Teams Registration Link:** <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/1a4fb6ea-89a9-4753-b5ae-a9981f25c667@32f56fc7-5f81-4e22-a95b-15da66513bef>
- May 8 (Thurs) from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm EST:  
**Internet Safety & Warning Signs of Online Grooming**  
**Teams Registration Link:** <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/0f4e0684-c093-4778-b185-5e362b524ffa@32f56fc7-5f81-4e22-a95b-15da66513bef>



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- May 14 (Wed) from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm:  
**Providing Trauma-Informed Care to Trafficked Youth Through a Multi-Disciplinary Lens**  
**Teams Registration Link:** <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/73379dac-e02f-47c6-97c3-44655d1e25e9@32f56fc7-5f81-4e22-a95b-15da66513bef>
- May 15 (Thurs) from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm:  
**Endorsing Exploitation: The Influence of Media on the Developing Vulnerable Adolescent**  
**Teams Registration Link:** <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/e6b17a8c-2374-412d-82f4-acf9a2784d92@32f56fc7-5f81-4e22-a95b-15da66513bef>

### Workshop Descriptions:

**April 24 (Thursday) 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 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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**April 30 (Wednesday) 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
- **Shereene McDermott-Green, LMSW**, Child Trafficking Supervisor II, 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

Co-developed by the 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.\*\***

**May 1 (Thursday) from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm EST:**

### **The Intersection of Human Trafficking and Substance Abuse Disorder**

- **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.

Marti MacGibbon, CADC-II, ACRPS, CAPMS, in an unparalleled perspective, provides candid in-depth clinical and experiential insight and expertise on interconnected, often-hidden aspects of human trafficking and substance use disorders. Attendees will examine and discuss the bi-directional relationship between trauma



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and addiction, how societal stigma and self-stigma play a powerful role in the vulnerability and the silence of victims, and why people with substance use issues so often do not disclose their chemical dependency or report being a victim of a crime. Marti provides summaries of federal and state cases of drug-facilitated human trafficking (HT) around the United States – both labor trafficking and sex trafficking – as well as examples of sex trafficking occurring in a treatment facility and labor trafficking in a court-mandated treatment facility. Attendees will learn best practice recommendations for trauma-informed care and tips on engagement with survivors. This presentation includes information about human trafficking, vulnerable populations, and facts vs. mistaken beliefs about both HT and SUD. Upon completion of this session, participants will be able to:

- List key facts (vs. misinformation) about human trafficking, key facts (vs. misinformation) about substance use disorders, and how societal stigma affects vulnerable populations.
- Explain how and why some traffickers target detox centers and SUD treatment facilities.
- Discuss detailed tactics of coercion used by perpetrators of drug-facilitated human trafficking.
- Describe and illuminate how the bi-directional relationship between substance use issues and trauma increases vulnerability to being trafficked.
- Review trauma-Informed best practice recommendations for engagement, prevention, and protection of vulnerable individuals and populations.

**May 7 (Wednesday) from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm EST:**

### **The Secret Language of Emojis: NCMEC's Child Sex Trafficking Team's Analytical Resources and Current Trends**

- **Tiffany M. Henderson**, Program Manager, Child Sex Trafficking Team, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

The presentation will provide an overview of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's (NCMEC) Child Sex Trafficking Team (CSTT) to include the work being done to help recover missing children who are suspected or confirmed victims of CST. The workshop will include:

- CST data collected by NCMEC.
- Online trends the CSTT is tracking pertaining to CST language.
- CST emojis, and how traffickers leverage social media to target victims.
- Opportunity to ask topic relevant questions of the presenter.

**WARNING:** This workshop is limited to professionals who work in trafficking awareness/prevention/intervention and related fields (law enforcement, prosecutors, medical providers, child welfare, government agencies, NGO service providers). Please do not register if you do not have a professional affiliation title and email that meets this criterion. Anyone who registers that does not have the required professional affiliation will have their registration deleted. If you have a question about whether you qualify to attend this workshop, email [TraffickingTraining@acs.nyc.gov](mailto:TraffickingTraining@acs.nyc.gov)

Additionally, based upon the sensitive nature of workshop content, **recording, photographs and any AI note takers (Otter, Elevate, Meeting Note Taker and others) will NOT be permitted.** Anyone who





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violates this requirement will be immediately removed from the workshop and banned from all future OCTPP sponsored events. Please respect these requirements so that we can have many more excellent presentations from NCMEC in the future.

**May 8 (Thursday) from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm EST:**

### **Internet Safety & Warning Signs of Online Grooming**

- **Nathan LaChine**, Founder, Evergreen Caregiver Support

It can be challenging for caregivers to know how to guide children to appropriate technology use to keep them safe from online sexual grooming. Ready access to smartphones, tablets, and computers has created a whole new world of challenges for caregivers. Easy access to devices means that youth do not need to leave their bedrooms to be introduced to risky situations.

This training provides a basic overview of commercial sexual exploitation of children, framing the extent of the problem and discussing technology interventions, terminology, pathways, warning signs, and prevention. In this training you will:

- Gain an understanding of how access to smartphones, tablets and computers has created a whole new world of challenges for parents of pre-teens and teens.
- Learn how you can guide children to use technology in ways that will keep them safe from online grooming.
- Overview of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) within the larger framework of the
- Trafficking Victims Protection Act.
- Followed by review of current statistics about Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC).
- Receive tools and techniques to manage resistance to boundaries and restraints of technology use.

**May 14 (Wednesday) from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm EST:**

### **Providing Trauma-Informed Care to Trafficked Youth Through a Multi-Disciplinary Lens**

- **Audrey J. Hertzberg, Esq.**, Staff Attorney, Anti-Trafficking Initiative / EMPOWER Center, Sanctuary for Families
- **Georgia Vasilopoulos**, Senior Case Manager, EMPOWER Center, Sanctuary for Families
- **Gabrielle Prieto**, Senior Peer Navigator, EMPOWER Center, Sanctuary for Families
- **Natalie Gomez, MSW**, Justice and Empowerment for Teens (JET) Program

By integrating critical medical, social, and legal services, the EMPOWER Center provides a service access hub for survivors of commercial sexual exploitation and those in the sex trade. In conjunction with the Justice and Empowerment for Teens (“JET”) program, EMPOWER provides advocacy and services to trafficked youth through a multi-disciplinary team including a senior peer care navigator, a senior case manager, an economic empowerment specialist, a primary care physician, a psychologist, a psychiatrist, an OB/GYN, an attorney, and social work interns. This holistic care team supports trafficked youth with wraparound resources needed to lead healthy and independent lives. For this workshop, four members of this team will each describe their aspect of services and how they best serve youth trafficking survivors through their collaborative team. They will then respond to questions about their model and how they work together to serve clients.



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**May 15 (Thursday) from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm EST:**

### **Endorsing Exploitation: The Influence of Media on the Developing Vulnerable Adolescent**

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

Society's adultification, normalization and glorification of child exploitation through the attitudes and norms expressed within media both overtly and covertly promulgate over sexualization and unhealthy relationships for adolescent and pre-adolescent youth. The far from subliminal concepts within product advertisements, media ads, museum art, films, shows, social media influencers and music videos serve to numb reactions and promulgate a sense of false glamour concerning sexual exploitation. This detrimental impact upon juvenile social-emotional development coupled with immature cognitive processes and previously experienced trauma can influence the concept that exploitation is not only acceptable, but also appealing. The vulnerability to trafficking is also deeply enhanced by attachment deficits which unconsciously impact upon subsequent relational choices. The workshop will focus upon the identification of a variety of media platforms that not only influence, but actually normalize and/or glamorize exploitation. Media ads, film clips, music videos extracts, museum art, social media influencers and video games will be utilized as influential examples. **Warning: Some media material is explicit in nature, so persons who are sensitive, easily offended or have the potential for traumatization/re-traumatization should not attend. All materials used are available publicly on the Internet.**

### **Presenter Bios:**

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

**Audrey J. Hertzberg, Esq.** is an attorney at the EMPOWER Center and Anti-Trafficking Initiative at Sanctuary for Families. Audrey is a courtroom litigator providing direct representation to survivors of commercial sexual exploitation and domestic violence in matters including custody, divorce (contested and uncontested), child support, orders of protection, and the Administration of Children's Services ("ACS"). Audrey also provides criminal legal advocacy for open charges, vacaturs, and victim-witness support, as well as immigration relief. Audrey has been with EMPOWER since September 2022. Audrey graduated from The University of Michigan Law School where she was a Director of the Gender Violence Project for three years and provided legal services to survivors of domestic violence and trafficking experiencing homelessness in the Detroit Metro area. Before law school, Audrey worked as a client advocate in The SAFE Alliance Family Shelter, a 105-bed shelter for survivors of domestic violence and trafficking in Austin, TX.

**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.





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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.

**Gabrielle (Gigi) Prieto** is a compassionate advocate, speaker, educator, and mentor who supports survivors of sex trafficking and exploitation through community-based initiatives. As the Senior Peer Care Navigator at Sanctuary for Families' EMPOWER Center, Gigi works closely with women, children, and LGBTQ+ clients to provide trauma-informed care, emotional support, and wellness-focused services. She guides her clients through healing with customized case management, empowerment-focused workshops, outdoor wellness events, and sisterhood support groups. Drawing from her own lived experience, she creates safe spaces that center dignity, resilience, and restoration.

In addition to her daily client work, Gigi also serves as a Human Relations Survivor Leader within the NYFEM Coalition, where she participates in policy advocacy and survivor leadership across New York City. She uses the term "society trafficked" to raise awareness about how survivors are often exploited not just by individuals, but by broken systems—such as child welfare, education, transportation, and nightlife—that neglect or contribute to harm. Her goal is to uplift survivor voices, challenge harmful narratives, and promote a human rights-based approach to justice and healing.

Gigi speaks from the heart as a survivor, advocate, and leader who challenges the normalized neglect and exploitation woven into our everyday systems. She coined the phrase "society trafficked" to describe how communities, institutions, and industries often play a silent role in exploitation—through indifference, profit, or broken promises. Gigi's work shines light on these patterns while building pathways for healing, truth, and transformation.



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**Georgia Vasilopoulos** is the Senior Case Manager of the EMPOWER Center with Sanctuary for Families, offering holistic services to survivors of commercial sexual exploitation. Georgia co-chairs the Public Benefits Advocacy Committee at Sanctuary for Families, works with members of New Yorkers for the Equality Model (NYFEM) and the New York State Anti-Trafficking Coalition to advance legislative goals, serves on the World Without Exploitation Youth Advisory Board, and consults for Ending the Game, a coercion resiliency curriculum for trafficking survivors offered nationally. She graduated from Middlebury College where she was the chair of a 24/7 hotline and advocacy group, “MiddSafe,” committed to providing resources to peers in need of support and information around sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, and other personal violations. She has worked in various capacities to recognize the nuance in people’s life stories and respond with care and continued support.

**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 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 2023 United Nations World Day Against Trafficking in Persons Event (organized by UN Women), The 2021 UN 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 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.



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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 the 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.

**Natalie Gomez** is a Counselor, Children and Family Services and Justice and Empowerment for Teens (JET). Natalie holds a split caseload where she engages with children and teens who have witnessed DV and have experienced commercial sexual exploitation. In 2019, Natalie graduated Touro College where she received her master's in social work. Prior, Natalie's employment experiences mainly focused on children and teens. She worked in Covenant House New York, where she started as a Case Manager and got promoted to the Human-Trafficking Social Worker. Since then, Natalie has been inspired to work with individuals who have been trafficked and be a voice for them.

**Nathan LaChine** has been a Therapeutic Foster Parent for the last 18 years, specializing in early childhood traumas. Nathan's current role as Board of Director and Webmaster for MaleSurvivor involves the oversight of the volunteer staff along with the daily operations of the site which sees over 100,000 visitors and 2.5 million pages views annually. Nathan cohosted a local radio show "Real Family Matters," a live resource show for community members to call in and ask questions.

Nathan is currently a Therapeutic Foster Parent and Community Educator providing trainings and resources for Caregivers in Washington state. He is also a community activist for foster parents and youth in care in Washington State, Board of Director for MaleSurvivor.org and Region 5 Representative for the Washington Foster Parent 1624 Consultation Teams. Published author and speaker and trainer on wide range of topics. "Be the change you want to see in this world", these are the words that have influenced his life the most. In



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additional to being a foster parent, he administers the largest Facebook group (We Foster Washington) of Potential Caregivers in the state. Nathan and his husband co-founded Evergreen Caregiver Support which provides trainings and resources for Caregivers statewide. Through his various professional roles have launched support groups, facilitated countless trainings, spoken to legislators at the capital, podcasts, and interviews on local and state bills.

**Selina Higgins, MA, MSW, LCSW-R, United States Army Veteran** been the inaugural Executive Director of the NYC Administration for Children's Services' Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy (OCTPP) since its launch in 2015 as the first office within a NYC public agency dedicated to helping 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, safety planning and service coordination for the entire NYC child welfare system. OCTPP also consults with and supports Federal, State, City and community-based agencies, assists in law enforcement recovery operations and coordinates the Safe Harbour Program for New York County. Through Selina's creative initiatives, OCTPP provides training for professionals and communities, facilitates a variety of groupwork models for youth, coordinates free tattoo removals, provides lived experience "Credible Messenger" mentorship, hosts a Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) Awareness project, envisioned and helped develop a cloud-based database through which children are screened for sex trafficking, and maintains a large-scale Child Trafficking Awareness Campaign. Selina has worked in the field of child welfare for over 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 (partial) and Social Work Administration. Since 2015, she and her training partners have provided trafficking related trainings for over 47,000 attendees, either through conference production or by providing her own original trainings which have been presented at national and international conferences, including multiple workshops at Shared Hope International's Juvenile Sex Trafficking (JuST) Conferences. She has also developed/co-developed several therapeutic/anti-trafficking groupwork models for youth. Publications include articles, a medical textbook chapter on Human Trafficking in the Foster Care System and the Child Trafficking and What YOU Can Do About it: Tools for NYC Child Welfare Professionals toolkit, now available at <https://www.nyc.gov/assets/acs/pdf/youth/childtrafficking/2024/what-you-can-do-about-it.pdf> Selina has been honored as a 2020 Advocate of New York City, a 2023 Liberators Award finalist, selected as "Outstanding ACS Staff" for the 2024 Ally Awards for innovative contributions to the LGBTQAI+ community, and is the recipient of the Workforce Institute's 2025 Social Work Month Award. You can learn more about the work at <https://www.nyc.gov/site/acs/youth/traffickedyouth.page>

**Shereene McDermott-Green, LMSW** is the Supervisor, Level II with the ACS Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy. She has worked for the NYC Administration for Children's Services for 18 years, beginning as a Child Protective Specialist investigating abuse and maltreatment reports. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Social Sciences Interdisciplinary—Early Childhood, with minors in Sociology and African American Studies from The State University of New York at Buffalo, and a Master of Social Work degree from Adelphi University. She is accredited as a Licensed Master Social Worker. Shereene is responsible for extracting all of the data from the emails sent to the Child Trafficking Mailbox and from the Child Trafficking Database Federal Level Notifications and organizing the extracted data into a quarterly Excel mandated by the State. Shereene supervises 3 team members that work on a variety of data aggregation and administrative



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support projects. She 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, she provides support, guidance, and training to NYC child welfare stakeholders.

**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, 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.

**Tiffany Henderson** has been with the NCMEC since 2015 and is currently the Program Manager of the Child Sex Trafficking Team. She is responsible for the daily operational oversight and management of 16 analysts and three supervisors. This team of analysts is dedicated to supporting local/state/federal law enforcement agencies who are working to identify and recover child victims of trafficking, as well as to identify and prosecute individuals involved in trafficking children. Ms. Henderson has previous law enforcement experience working five years in various positions at the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office in Portland, Oregon, as well as a Criminal Research Specialist for the Joint Tactical and Strategic Analytical Command Center for the Metropolitan Police Department in Washington DC. She has provided extensive technical assistance to law enforcement across the United States and participated in various law enforcement special operations.





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### 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>

### 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, available in 12 languages

**Child Trafficking  
and What YOU  
Can Do About It:**  
Tools for NYC Child Welfare Professionals


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Intimidation  
Seduction  
Humiliation  
Money  
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**NYC** Office of Child Trafficking  
Children Prevention and Policy  
[child.trafficking@acs.nyc.gov](mailto:child.trafficking@acs.nyc.gov)



Web accessible version of **[Child Trafficking and What YOU Can Do About It](#)**: Tools for NYC Child Welfare Professionals. Now you can access the toolkit through your smartphone, tablet, desktop, or laptop! Immediate accessibility to guidance for working with sex and/or labor trafficked youth. Updated December 2024 with most recent information and service provider links.

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