



2024 NYC

Child Trafficking Prevention

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

Spring 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 pages 3, 4 and 5 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.
 - 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**



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2024 Spring Training Series Workshops at a Glance

Day	Date	Time (EST)	Workshop Title
T	April 16	10:00 am to 12:00 pm	Human Rights Violator and War Crimes Center: Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: Strategies for Identification, Prevention, Reporting and Response
W	April 17	9:30 am to 11:00 am	From Collaboration to Disclosure: Setting Up for Success in Human Trafficking Cases
M	April 22	1:00 pm to 3:00 pm	Working with LGBTQ+ Youth Who Have Experienced or Are At-Risk for Sex Trafficking
W	April 24	2:00 pm to 3:30 pm	Gangs and Sex Trafficking in New York City
T	April 30	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)
Th	May 2	11:00 am to 1:00 pm	Trauma Informed Care for Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth

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.

- April 16 (Tues) from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm EST:
Human Rights Violator and War Crimes Center: Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: Strategies for Identification, Prevention, Reporting and Response
Teams Registration Link: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/4be73e42-8292-411a-8380-9e24e0447a56@32f56fc7-5f81-4e22-a95b-15da66513bef>
- April 17 (Wed) from 9:30 am to 11:00 am EST:
From Collaboration to Disclosure: Setting Up for Success in Human Trafficking Cases
Teams Registration Link: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/0d8e9961-664b-475c-ba32-59bb8904136a@32f56fc7-5f81-4e22-a95b-15da66513bef>
- April 22 (Mon) from 1:00 pm to 3:00 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/5e65d4ce-46f2-479c-8ff1-f03c141e72a7@32f56fc7-5f81-4e22-a95b-15da66513bef>
- April 24 (Wed) from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm EST:
Gangs and Sex Trafficking in New York City
Teams Registration Link: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/f3296728-89e8-439d-a382-b2b1248761c3@32f56fc7-5f81-4e22-a95b-15da66513bef>
- April 30 (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/d3668977-f9ca-4758-a9fd-a7caf4e0de85@32f56fc7-5f81-4e22-a95b-15da66513bef>
- May 2 (Thurs) from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm:
Trauma Informed Care for Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth
Teams Registration Link: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/3957b10c-e3b9-4e52-8945-8a3777c6c0c2@32f56fc7-5f81-4e22-a95b-15da66513bef>



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Workshop Descriptions:

April 16 (Tuesday) from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm EST:

Human Rights Violator and War Crimes Center: Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: Strategies for Identification, Prevention, Reporting and Response

- **Kathryn Finley**, Senior Attorney, ICE OPLA Human Rights Violator Law Division
- **Suzanne Priest**, National Program Manager, Human Rights Violator War Crimes Unit
- **Michelle Panella**, Special Agent, Homeland Security Investigations
- **Daniel Lewis**, Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation
- **Laura Riso, MA**, Victim Specialist, Federal Bureau of Investigation
- **Frances A. Cole**, Survivor, Advocate and Mentor

Female Genital Mutilation is culturally-based, gender-specific violence and when done to children under the age of 18, a serious form of child abuse. This harmful practice negatively affects millions around the globe. The United States is not immune to this form of child abuse. In 2016, the Center for Disease Control estimated there are over 513,000 girls and women living in the U.S. who are at risk or have already had this done to them. This presentation will cover the following topics:

- What is FGM - cultural history and detail of the procedure
- Criminal Statutes
- Prevention Efforts
- How to respond / expectations / POCs
- Operation Limelight USA
- Reporting
- Partnerships

April 17 (Wednesday) from 9:30 am to 11:00 am EST:

From Collaboration to Disclosure: Setting up for Success in Human Trafficking Cases

- **David Weiss, JD**, Chief of the Human Trafficking Unit at the Kings County District Attorney's Office and Law Enforcement Lead for the Brooklyn Human Trafficking Task Force
- **Melissa Kaiser, LBSW**, MelKai Consulting, LLC.

This session will provide a deeper understanding of collaboration, corroboration, and communication through a multi-disciplinary team (MDT) approach. Through the perspective of a prosecutor and a social worker, this session will enhance attendee's understanding of what an interview entails and how to utilize person-centered and trauma-informed approaches when working with victims.

This session will bridge the gap between victims and MDTs by providing insight into working relationships between team members, and what to expect when navigating through the interview process and ongoing



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interactions with victims. MDT members encountering victims during this stage of the process will benefit from the presentation's discussion of the legal system.

Presenters will prepare attendees for the benefits of utilizing an MDT approach during the interview phase for greater chances of success for the victims they serve.

Presentation Objectives:

- Recognize the need for MDTs to work collaboratively to provide support for victims during interviews and investigations through case examples, discussion, and person-centered approaches.
- Review tools and methods for person-centered and trauma-informed interviews and ongoing team collaboration which includes attendees' understanding of the MDTs' roles.
- Ensure attendees' understanding of their role during the interview phase and why their involvement is critical in the success of victim outcomes.

April 22 (Monday) from 1:00 pm to 3:00 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
- **Clifton Robertson, LMSW**, Child Trafficking Residential 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
- **Shyla Eubanks**, MSW Candidate, Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy

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.



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- 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.****

April 24 (Wednesday) from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm EST: Gangs and Sex Trafficking in New York City

- **Detective Liam O'Hara**, Human Trafficking Squad, Special Victims Division - Detective Bureau, New York City Police Department

Gang involvement with human trafficking has been on the rise as one of the fastest growing criminal operations in New York City. Gangs have moved past violence and other criminal enterprises to often concentrate on trafficking, which is more profitable, since unlike drugs or guns that account for only one sale per item, sex trafficking victims can be sold multiple times a day. Victims of sex trafficking are often forced or coerced into silence to ensure minimum detection and maximum profit. This workshop will discuss the ongoing connection between gangs and sex trafficking in New York City, and why it is so important for social services, law enforcement, criminal justice, and so many other providers to maintain a heightened awareness, to better recognize gang involvement with trafficking and in assessing and supporting victims.

April 30 (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,



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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.

May 2 (Monday) from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm EST:

Trauma-Informed Care for Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth

- **Dr. Dana Kaplan, MD**, Director for Child Abuse and Neglect for the Department of Pediatrics at Staten Island University Hospital, Medical Director of the Staten Island Child Advocacy Center.
- **Dr. Natasha Jouk, MD**, Second year Fellow in Child Abuse Pediatrics at Maimonides Hospital and Rotating Fellow at NYU/Bellevue, and Staten Island University Hospital.

Many trafficking survivors experience Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), depression, or anxiety, sometimes reliving their traumatic experiences through uncontrollable flashbacks. It is therefore most important for survivors to receive the most appropriate care to expedite healing. This workshop will discuss the importance of offering trauma-informed care to youth exposed to trafficking with the following objectives:

- Develop a patient-centered, trauma-informed & collaborative approach to Human Trafficking in minors
- Utilize and learn trauma informed principles when providing medical care
- Describe the psychobiology and psychopharmacology of PTSD

Presenter Bios:

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

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.



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Dr. Dana Kaplan, MD is the Director of Child Abuse and Neglect for the Department of Pediatrics at Staten Island University Hospital as well as the Associate Program Director for the Pediatrics Residency Training Program. She is also the Medical Director for the Staten Island Child Advocacy Center. She is an Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra-Northwell.

Dr. Kaplan serves as the Site Director for Staten Island University Hospital, Child Abuse Pediatrics Fellowship Training Program, Maimonides Medical Center/Infants and Children's Hospital of Brooklyn. She is also the Western Regional Director for the Northwell HEART Program.

Dr. Kaplan is board certified in General Pediatrics and Child Abuse Pediatrics, a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and a Member of the Ray E. Helfer Society. She is the current co-chair for the Helfer Human Trafficking Subcommittee as well as the co-chair and co-founder of the Helfer Solo Child Abuse Pediatrician (CAP) Special Interest Group. She is also co-founder and consultant for the CSTAT (child sex trafficking action team) through New York State AAP Chapter III.

Dr. Kaplan received her MD from the Mount Sinai School of Medicine and completed her residency in Pediatrics at New York University. Dr. Kaplan went on to complete her fellowship in Child Abuse Pediatrics at Hasbro Children's Hospital, The Warren Albert Medical School of Brown University. Dr. Kaplan's specific area of interest is in commercially sexually exploited youth. Dr. Kaplan has lectured both regionally and nationally and has published multiple chapters and articles on the subject of child abuse and human trafficking. Most recently, Dr. Kaplan was co-author of the 2023 AAP Clinical Report on "Exploitation, Labor and Trafficking of Children and Adolescents" in Pediatrics.

Daniel Lewis is a Special Agent with the FBI assigned to the New York Field Office.

David Weiss, JD is the Chief of the Human Trafficking Unit at the Kings County District Attorney's Office and is also the law enforcement lead for the Department of Justice-funded Enhanced Collaborative Model, Brooklyn Human Trafficking Task Force. He has been investigating and prosecuting Human Trafficking cases since 2014. After starting his career in 2006, he handled cases involving all types of violent crime. Since joining the Human Trafficking Unit in 2014, David has prosecuted numerous violent traffickers for exploiting children and adults and has led a multi-agency investigation and prosecution resulting in the takedown and closure of two hotels and the arrests of the owners for permitting prostitution at hotels in Brooklyn and Queens. In 2017, David was cross-designated as a Special Assistant United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York to bring federal sex trafficking charges in a case involving the trafficking of several underage girls. David regularly presents on Human Trafficking investigations and prosecutions throughout NY State, around the United States and for international law enforcement officials, focusing on evidence-based prosecutions, prosecuting without a victim, and prosecuting in a true victim-centered manner. David recently testified before the NYS Assembly as a subject matter expert discussing the need to expand the Statute of Limitations on Human Trafficking case to account for trauma and delayed disclosure.



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Frances A Cole (F.A.) is a survivor of FGM and other forms of gender-based violence. She is a mentor to survivors, and a brave advocate to eradicate FGM. F.A. Cole's advocacy is not limited to eradicating FGM. She is also a spokesperson for clitoral restorative surgery and she continues to share her experience with national and international audiences. <https://facole.org/>

Kathryn Finley (Kate) is a Senior Attorney with the Human Rights Violator Law Division (HRVLD) of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security ICE Office of the Principal Legal Advisor. Her portfolios include gender-based violence, human trafficking, human smuggling, and immigration protections for noncitizen crime victims. Kate works closely with the Human Rights Violators and War Crimes Center to prevent the incidence of female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) in the U.S. Prior to joining HRVLD, Kate was managing attorney at the Tahirih Justice Center, an NGO dedicated to serving survivors of gender-based violence and human trafficking. Kate graduated from the University of Wisconsin Law School, where she started the first immigration law school clinical program. Kate has lived, studied, and conducted research on human rights issues in Spain and Latin America. Kate received her B.A. and M.A. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she majored in Latin American Studies and specialized her research on Colombian asylum adjudications and human rights accountability efforts in Argentina and Chile.

Laura Riso, MA, Victim Specialist (VS), Federal Bureau of Investigation, joined the FBI in 1998 and has served in the New York Field Office since 2003. Since November 2006, she has provided tailored, direct services to over 2,000 federal crime victims among 675+ FBI investigations as a highly experienced and skilled victim services provider. VS Riso has coordinated and provided direct services to victims and survivors of the following federal crimes: Human Trafficking, Violent Crimes Against Children (i.e. Child Sexual Abuse Materials, Sextortion, Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children), Violent Crime (i.e. Stalking, Threats, Bank Robberies, Sextortion), Domestic and International Terrorism, Civil Rights Violations (i.e. Hate Crimes, Color of Law), Fraud (i.e. Identity Theft, Mortgage Fraud, Securities Fraud, Immigration Fraud, Romance Scams, and Telemarketing Fraud), Cyber Crime (i.e. Internet Fraud, Business E-mail Compromises, and Computer Intrusion), Transnational Organized Crime, and Crimes Aboard Aircraft and Cruise Ships.

VS Riso also serves as an Acting Program Manager/Relief Supervisor on behalf of the FBI Victim Services Division.

Detective Liam O'Hara is a graduate of Binghamton University. He graduated in 2008 and joined the New York City Police Department a few months later. Detective O'Hara began his career in Harlem and Washington Heights. He has worked Patrol and Street Narcotics in the 25th Precinct in East Harlem, before earning his detective's shield in the Manhattan North Gang Squad. While at the Gang Squad, he was first introduced to human trafficking investigations. After first working alongside the Human Trafficking Squad, he was given the opportunity to join the team and exclusively work trafficking investigations. Since becoming a member of the Human Trafficking Squad, Detective O'Hara has worked with each of the City's five District Attorney's Offices, the NY Attorney General's Office, the Eastern and Southern Districts of NY, the FBI, HSI, and more to investigate, indict, arrest, and convict perpetrators of sex trafficking, child sex trafficking, and child (sexual) exploitation.



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Melissa Kaiser, LBSW is an independent consultant in the anti-human trafficking field. She was the first Human Trafficking Navigator hired for Eastern North Dakota, contracted with the North Dakota Human Trafficking Task Force. Melissa was employed with the Bureau of Criminal Investigations as their first Victim/Witness Specialist, and assisted in creating the integrated victim services and law enforcement program in ND. Melissa graduated with a bachelor's degree in social work from Minnesota State University Moorhead. She was a member of the North Dakota Human Trafficking Task Force for six years, and during that time she was the vice chair of the Labor Trafficking Subcommittee. Melissa has been involved in additional committees and task forces specific to underserved populations, and is a trained facilitator in Compassion Fatigue, Green Dot, SHARP, GEMS, My Life My Choice, and Stand to Protect. She has additional training in Child Welfare, Pride and Safe Zone. Melissa is a board member for the Fargo Police Department's Badges of Unity program and was a nominee for the YWCA's Women of the Year 2020. She is a skilled facilitator working with groups within foster care systems, psychiatry and addiction patients, and human trafficking multi-disciplinary teams. She has experience in team supervision, protocol development, team development and maintenance, crisis management, public speaking, training development, prevention/education, advocacy, and case management. Melissa has trained over 11,000 professionals and students, and has trained at Dallas Crimes Against Children, GRIT, IHSTJ/GAHTS, NCPTF, Shared Hope/JuST and IAHTI conferences on the topics of human trafficking and secondary traumatic stress. Melissa assisted in creating a summer food service program for children in Fargo, ND, and studied abroad the social welfare system of Ireland. She currently lives in Clearwater, FL, and working nationally and internationally in the anti-human trafficking field. Melissa was born and raised in North Dakota.

Michelle Panella is a Special Agent with Homeland Security Investigations (HSI). With almost twenty years of federal law enforcement experience, Special Agent Panella has investigated crimes related to fraud, contraband smuggling, and financial violations. SA Panella has helped create the first proactive female genital mutilation (FGM) initiative at JFK International Airport, aimed to identify and protect girls at risk while spreading awareness to the general public.

Dr. Natasha Jouk, MD, Child Protection Fellow, obtained her medical degree at St. George's University, and completed her pediatric training at BronxCare Hospital in 2021. She is currently a second year Fellow in Child Abuse Pediatrics at Maimonides Hospital in Brooklyn. In addition to her role at Maimonides, she is a rotating fellow at NYU/Bellevue, and Staten Island University Hospital where she works under the mentorship of Dr. Dana Kaplan. Dr. Jouk has a particular interest in the racial and ethnic biases within the child welfare system and mandated reporting. She is working on two policies with the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) to address these issues. She is a member of the AAP's Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (COCAN) and the Ray Helper Society. Dr. Jouk is the Co-Editor in Chief for COCAN's quarterly newsletter publication and a Junior editor for the Journal, Child Maltreatment. Her current research is focused on Parental Adverse Childhood Experiences and how it reflects in parenting practices.



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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. Since 2015, she and her training partners have provided trafficking related trainings for over 38,000 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 developed or co-developed several therapeutic/anti-trafficking groupwork models for youth and has published on the topic. You can learn more about her work at <https://www.nyc.gov/site/acs/youth/traffickedyouth.page>

Shyla Eubanks is a Child Protective Specialist with ACS, where she works directly with children and families. She is pursuing her MSW degree at Fordham University. She is currently a MSW Intern with the Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy at ACS. Shyla also facilitates Parenting Journey groups for caretakers with Child Welfare involvement. Shyla enjoys using her skills in social work to contribute to the agency and the families she serves.

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.



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Suzanne Priest is the National Program Manager for the Homeland Security Investigations, Human Rights Violator and War Crimes unit. She manages the Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and SGBV portfolio and conducts training and outreach for Federal, local law enforcement, and other professionals around the country. Suzanne has created a comprehensive FGM investigation program that includes Education, Partnership, Prevention and Prosecution. She has been with HSI for 8 years.

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.

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



Help us end child and adult trafficking.