Annotated Bibliography

Sex Trafficking

Updated as of July 2016
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This brief annotated bibliography is intended to provide a sampling of resources, research, and tools to combat human trafficking. The resources included below do not constitute a comprehensive review of the resources available to criminal justice professionals and services providers responding to human trafficking crimes and working with victims. For more information on resources and training opportunities please contact AEquitas: The Prosecutors' Resource on Violence Against Women at http://www.aequitasresource.org/taRegister.cfm. The following sections are included:

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1. AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Courtney’s House is a Washington, D.C.-based street outreach organization that provides support and services to victims of trafficking and those at risk of trafficking. Courtney’s House, through staff-survivors, provides survivor-focused, trauma-informed, holistic services. Tina Frundt, Founder and Executive Director works locally and nationally to also provide public awareness, training, and assistance on issues related to sex trafficking.

GEORGETOWN LAW: THE CENTER ON POVERTY AND INEQUALITY,
“The Center on Poverty and Inequality works with policymakers, researchers, practitioners, and advocates to develop effective policies and practices that alleviate poverty and inequality in the United States. … [The Center partners] with Administration agencies and non-profit organizations to host national conferences, produce and widely disseminate in-depth reports, engage in public speaking, and participate in national coalitions and working groups.”

GEMS is a New York-based organization, founded by survivor Rachel Lloyd, that works with women and girls ages 12-24 who have experienced commercial sexual exploitation and domestic trafficking. GEMS provides comprehensive services to address the needs of commercially and sexually exploited girls and young women based on their philosophy and values that each girl and young woman is deserving, and needs support and services to treat the trauma and violence she has experienced.
The University of Michigan, Michigan Law school operates one of the first clinics completely dedicated to combatting human trafficking. The Michigan Human Trafficking Clinic also manages the first publicly available Human Trafficking database providing access to federal and state human trafficking cases, both criminal and civil, within the United States since 1980. Researchers analyze cases prosecuted under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) but also apply the TVPA standard to evaluate other potential human trafficking cases from 1980 to the present.

In June 2015, the Office of the Administration for Children and Families created the Office on Trafficking in Persons to support the response to human trafficking across multiple systems of care, including child welfare, courts, runaway and homeless youth, juvenile justice, and education and health services. The new office will coordinate programs on behalf for both foreign and domestic victims, and will focus on policy and practice issues relating to addressing trafficking across the Office on the Administration for Children and Families. The goals of the new office are to: 1) establish a cohesive national human trafficking victim service delivery system that will serve victims of all forms of human trafficking; 2) develop a culture of data-informed anti-trafficking programming and policy-making; and 3) integrate anti-trafficking efforts into existing and new HHS prevention strategies.

“In 1997, Episcopal priest Becca Stevens opened one home for four women survivors of trafficking, addiction, and prostitution under the name Magdalene. Today the residential program of Thistle Farms serves over 700 women yearly with advocacy and referral services as well as manages a two-year residential program and an inmate program, Magdalene on the Inside. The residential program offers housing, medical care, therapy, education and job training without charging women or receiving government funding.”

Polaris Project is a leader in the global fight to eradicate modern slavery and restore freedom to survivors. It provides client services, policy advocacy, and advisory services. Polaris is home to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) and operates the 24-hour National Human Trafficking Hotline. The data collected from the NHTRC is used to find out where and how traffickers operate and to help survivors find the services they need. Polaris also connects with hundreds of anti-trafficking and related-issue hotlines and organizations from around the world.

Rights4Girls is a Washington, D.C.-based human rights organization that advocates policy combatting policy to protect the dignity and rights of young women and girls; to develop public awareness and social media campaigns; creates global partnerships with international human rights and women’s rights organizations. Rights4Girls also works to dismantle the sexual violence to prison pipeline, to end domestic child sex trafficking and to empower young women and girl survivors to foster a new generation of leaders.
2. HEALTH CARE

This study aimed to determine whether an educational presentation increased emergency department (ED) providers' recognition of human trafficking (HT) victims and knowledge of resources to manage cases of HT. There were 258 study participants from 14 EDs: 141 from 8 EDs in the intervention group and 117 from 7 EDs in the delayed intervention comparison group, of which 20 served as the delayed intervention comparison group. Participants in the intervention group reported greater increases in their level of knowledge about HT versus those in the delayed intervention comparison group. Pretest ratings of the importance of knowledge about HT to the participant's profession were high in both groups and there was no intervention effect. Knowing who to call for potential HT victims increased from 7.2% to 59% in the intervention group and was unchanged (15%) in the delayed intervention comparison group. The proportion of participants who suspected their patient was a victim of HT increased from 17% to 38% in the intervention group and remained unchanged (10%) in the delayed intervention support comparison group.

This resource provides information to educate healthcare providers on human trafficking dynamics and the impact that these crimes have on the health of victims. The Guidebook provides resources for assessment and evaluation, referral, collaboration, self-care, as well as some legal information and ongoing education resources.

“Frontline health providers play an important role in the assistance of human trafficking victims because they are one of the few professionals likely to encounter a trafficking victim who is still in captivity. Whether in captivity or after release, the health care visit is a window of opportunity that opens and may allow health care needs to be addressed. The HCP must take a closer look at their patients who are involved with other crimes or are known in the child protection system. Indicators that should arouse suspicion highlight behaviors reported to individuals.”

Webinar recording published in October 2012 and updated February 2016. This presentation will enable health care professionals to identify human trafficking victims and apply promising practices to assisting anyone who may be a trafficking victim.
3. INVESTIGATION AND RESPONSE


“This Planning Toolkit was designed as a guide to help courts and communities assess their current approaches to human trafficking and prostitution, and develop or enhance a court-based response … This toolkit is a framework to guide the assessment, concept development, planning, and implementation process. The materials in this Toolkit are based upon promising practices identified through both the Center for Court Innovation’s (“Center”) demonstration projects and national training and technical assistance.”


“This self-assessment provides an opportunity for courts to take inventory of current practices and identify areas that may need improvement. This self-assessment, in particular, is designed as a guide for jurisdictions interested in developing or enhancing a court model that responds to prostitution, human trafficking, and/or the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC). It can be administered by an individual court, or be led by a statewide agency, such as the Administrative Office of the Courts. Responses can then be used to inform the development of new policies and initiatives.”


This resource provides background information on identifying and investigating human trafficking of minors. The Guide presents screening tools, case management tools, information on legal protection and advocacy, a resource guide, and finally a case study on Integrating Trafficking Response Protocols and Services within the Child Welfare System. This resource is intended for a multidisciplinary audience looking for tools and resources to improve the response to human trafficking.


“This investigation has four main objectives: first, to understand the overall problem of human trafficking in our region of the Caribbean; second, to examine the problem in the context of Puerto Rico; third, to identify the agencies and organizations instrumental in the development of anti-trafficking measures and initiatives; and fourth, to recommend public policies aimed at appropriate anti-trafficking interventions. This report is the first comprehensive study and analysis of the various forms of human trafficking in Puerto Rico. During the first phase, interviews were conducted with various members of governmental agencies, including: the Department of Justice, the Department of Police, the Department of the Family Services, the Puerto Rican Tourism Company, and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Representatives from various NGOs working on behalf of children’s and women’s rights were also interviewed. Literature on the problem in general and specific to the case of Puerto Rico
was also reviewed, as well as existing relevant legislation.”


“This report examines challenges faced in the investigation and prosecution of human trafficking in the United States. The research targeted counties across the U.S. for a systematic review of human trafficking case records and interviews with police, prosecutors, and service providers. The study found that there was a significant lack of awareness about human trafficking among practitioners and the law enforcement community, as well as a focus on sex trafficking (which is disproportionate to the larger issue of human trafficking). The study provides recommendations to help improve the identification, investigation, and prosecution of human trafficking cases in the United States.”


“Confronting Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Sex Trafficking of Minors in the United States examines commercial sexual exploitation and sex trafficking of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents of the United States under age 18. According to this report, efforts to prevent, identify, and respond to these crimes require better collaborative approaches that build upon the capabilities of people and entities from a range of sectors. In addition, such efforts need to confront demand and the individuals who commit and benefit from these crimes. The report recommends increased awareness and understanding, strengthening of the law's response, strengthening of research to advance understanding and to support the development of prevention and intervention strategies, support for multi-sector and interagency collaboration, and creation of a digital information-sharing platform.”


“This card is aimed at helping juvenile court judges identify situations that may involve elements of human trafficking and determine what steps may be taken to assure that a juvenile in a dependency case or delinquency case who might be a victim of human trafficking is protected.”


This resource provides state court practitioners with a comprehensive resource addressing sex and labor trafficking dynamics for both domestic and international victims; identifies how traffickers first encounter the justice system through criminal, family, juvenile, child protection, ordinance violation, and civil cases; how to access tools and guidelines to help courts identify and process cases where trafficking is involved; and to provide links to other resources.

“This card is aimed at helping state court judges identify situations before them that may involve elements of human trafficking and determining what steps to take to assure that victims of human trafficking are protected. While the responsibility for combatting human trafficking falls first on law enforcement, human service agencies, and prosecutors, there are at least two reasons why judges also need to be aware of possible human trafficking activity in cases before them.”


This resource lists the components of an effective human trafficking infrastructure, including: resources to support victims, assessment tools, technology, equipment, facilities, budget and finance, planning, policy making and dispute resolution, staffing/training, communications and coordination, and leadership and management. For each of these components, the resource identifies the reasoning and goals behind each component.


This resource provides background on the sex trafficking of children in the United States and an overview of the current law. It discusses the current federal response to sex trafficking and other selected issues including funding, resources for victims, the child welfare response, the treatment of trafficking victims as criminals, reducing demand, and available data on victims and perpetrators.


“This study focuses on the exchange of information among men who post on the USA Sex Guide in Illinois regarding what they call their “great hobby,” buying sex. Studying these online forums where men trade information with one another on buying sex with women sheds light on the attitudes of a segment of men who buy sex in Illinois as well as a broader community of sex purchasers. It offers a unique glimpse into a world that remains hidden and often inaccessible to researchers. Researching the online johns’ boards also contributes to a better understanding of the increasingly important role of the Internet in the lives of men who buy sex.”


The Vera Institute of Justice developed this report, recognizing a significant gap in providing effective response and services to victims of human trafficking stems from the ability to identify
victims. This study intended to field test and validate a screening tool that can reliably identify victims of sex and labor trafficking—both adults and minors, domestic and foreign-born; conducted a process evaluation of the tool's implementation to learn how it can be most effectively and appropriately used in practice; made the tool available nationwide to social services providers working with trafficking victims while exploring ways to make it available to allied sectors such as law enforcement. The results of the study indicated that the tool was effective for predicting the outcome in both labor and sex trafficking cases. The research includes lessons learned from the implementation of the tool as well.


“The Pathways Project examines pathways into and out of commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) via prostitution and to provide useful information to practice and policy communities. The goal of the research was to understand the victims’ perspectives; to identify the factors (individual, family, peer, school, and community contexts) associated with the commencement of CSEC; to identify factors that surround its maintenance and escalation; and to identify factors that impede or empower exiting from or overcoming exploitative situations.


“The underground commercial sex economy (UCSE) generates millions of dollars annually, yet investigation and data collection remain under resourced. Our study aimed to unveil the scale of the UCSE in eight major US cities-Atlanta, Dallas, Denver, Kansas City, Miami, Seattle, San Diego, and Washington, DC. Across cities, the UCSE’s worth was estimated between $39.9 and $290 million in 2007, but decreased since 2003 in all but two cities. Interviews with pimps, traffickers, sex workers, child pornographers, and law enforcement revealed the dynamics central to the underground commercial sex trade-and shaped the policy suggestions to combat it.”


This report grows out of a conference held on March 12, 2013, that was hosted by Georgetown Law’s Center on Poverty and Inequality; the Human Rights Project for Girls; and The National Crittenton Foundation. The conference gathered survivors, direct service providers, advocates, and state and federal government officials to discuss the challenges of addressing the domestic sex trafficking of children and the importance of working collaboratively to help identify and support survivors.

This guidance is intended for child welfare and runaway and homeless youth service providers and is based on current research and practice, to improve the collective response to this issue. It covers the scope and nature of child trafficking, understanding the needs of victims, coordination, screening and assessment, intervening to meet the needs of trafficking victims, emerging shelter and services considerations, child welfare responses, additional assistance available to child victims.


“After more than a decade of sustained efforts to combat human trafficking in the United States, it is necessary to step back and examine the effectiveness of key anti-trafficking strategies. Utilizing a multi-method approach, we examine 1) the effectiveness of state-level human trafficking legislation to determine what specific legislative provisions are most effective for obtaining desired outcomes, 2) the characteristics of state prosecutions for human trafficking offenses to determine how state laws are being used to hold offenders accountable, and 3) what the public knows about human trafficking, why the public holds the beliefs that they do, and what the public expects from government anti-trafficking efforts. Together the three parts of the study inform efforts to develop effective counter-trafficking programs and practices for legislators, law enforcement, the courts, anti-trafficking agencies, and the public.”


This resource will provide law enforcement, prosecutors, and allied justice system professionals with tools to more effectively interview victims of human trafficking through building rapport, establishing trust, and responding to common challenges. Contextual information is provided about how traffickers operate, including their methods of victim selection, recruitment, manipulation, and control. The resource discusses how victims’ psyches are affected by their exploitation and provides tactics that can address the trauma, violence, and intimidation they experience. Ultimately, the article will provide interviewers with the tools needed to combat trafficking by holding traffickers accountable, addressing demand, and providing meaningful support to the victims.


“This manual is intended primarily for victim service agency staff and other social service providers, who will administer the Trafficking Victim Identification Tool (TVIT) to clients who are potential trafficking victims … The manual content is based on results of research conducted by the Vera Institute of Justice, which collaborated with leading legal and victim services agencies in the United States, to produce the validated screening tool and best practices for identifying trafficked persons, and on other expert sources in government and non-governmental agencies. Vera’s research found that the TVIT instrument is highly reliable in predicting both labor and sex trafficking in women and men and among foreign- and U.S. born victims.”

This STRATEGIES describes a trauma-informed approach to responding to crimes of violence against women and human trafficking and discusses practices where such an approach has already been incorporated, highlighting areas where continued, additional integration is necessary. It also identifies gaps in the application of the approach, specifically in reference to other co-occurring, violence against women and human trafficking crimes, and suggests strategies to more effectively integrate a trauma-informed response investigation and prosecution.


This webinar provided practical information and investigative strategies that will assist in the identification, investigation, and successful prosecution of traffickers. It addressed how digital evidence can corroborate victim and witness testimony, support charging decisions, and reinforce evidence-based trial strategies that do not rely entirely upon victim testimony.

4. LEGAL


This STRATEGIES in Brief discusses civil and criminal asset forfeiture as a tool for prosecuting case of human trafficking. Asset forfeiture – even where it might take a separate action or more in-depth preparation for sentencing – gives criminal justice professionals the opportunity to hit the traffickers where it will hurt them the most. It takes the profit out of the crime, and returns it to the individuals whose lives were most impacted – the victim as well as the jurisdiction whose resources supported the victim.


This STRATEGIES provides seven strategies to enhance prosecution practices in human trafficking cases: create a collaborate comprehensive task force, create specialized units and prosecutors, identify victims and perpetrators by recognizing indicators of human trafficking, understand the health consequences, conduct offender-focused and victim-centered investigations and prosecutions, develop victim services to rehabilitate victims and reintegrate them into the community, and to educate and improve the current response.


This STRATEGIES addresses one of the most common and difficult challenges in prosecuting human trafficking, the inability or unwillingness of victims to participate in the process. This challenge is significant but not insurmountable. Prosecutors and allied professionals can
employ strategies to enhance the willingness of victims to participate in the prosecution of their traffickers and to enhance the success of the trafficking prosecution even without their participation. When victims do not participate, however, preparing and litigating forfeiture by wrongdoing motions is critical to the successful prosecution of these cases. Several key investigative and prosecution strategies are discussed in this resource.


This resource is a compilation of federal prosecutions of commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) between 1998 and 2005. The study looked at questions related to existing laws, key features of prosecutions, increased penalties in CSEC cases, and the effects of legislation on service providers. The study found that CSEC legislation is being utilized at a federal level. The authors included implications of the research for policy, practice, and further research.


This STRATEGIES in Brief identifies issues that often arise when trying to return property to victims in human trafficking cases and provides collaborative strategies for prosecutors and allied criminal justice professionals seeking to balance victim and criminal justice interests. It also includes a brief overview of restitution as another means of relief for victims of human trafficking to be considered by prosecutors.


This resource includes the 2014 ratings from Polaris Project on human trafficking laws enacted in the 50 United States and the District of Columbia. The ratings look at 10 categories of laws Polaris assesses as basic to the legal framework of human trafficking laws. Those categories include whether the jurisdiction has a: a sex trafficking provision, labor trafficking provision, asset forfeiture law, training and/or human trafficking task force, lower burden of proof for sex trafficking of minors, human trafficking hotline, safe harbor law, law providing for victim assistance, law granting access to civil damages, law providing for vacating convictions for sex trafficking victims.


This guide provides a summary and overview of the relevant statutes for sex and labor trafficking as well as restitution to trafficking victims. The resources addresses the availability of restitution, the process for obtaining restitution in cases involving human trafficking, issues that may arise in pursuit of restitution, entry and enforcement of restitution orders, and
alternative avenues of relief for victims. The guide is intended for prosecutors and lawyers representing human trafficking victims and also addresses protection of immigration statutes for victims seeking U and/or T Visas.


This Article explores the prosecution of domestic sex trafficking from three perspectives. It discusses victims of domestic sex trafficking and identifies recurring characteristics to prosecutions. The authors discuss the means and methods domestic sex traffickers use to enslave and exploit their victims. The article also looks at the federal child sex trafficking law, which broadly criminalizes any involvement in, or benefit from, commercial sex acts, where the victim is either a minor or caused to engage in the act through the use “of force, threats of force, fraud, or coercion.”

5. SUGGESTED VIDEOS

America’s Daughters, YouTube, [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aTAVZChvLR4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aTAVZChvLR4).

“America’s Daughters is a powerful piece of spoken word written and performed by a female survivor of sex trafficking. Through her words, we gain a brief glimpse into the unbelievable exploitation so many people have endured while yearning for what we all need: LOVE. This woman’s brave decision to speak out also demonstrates the remarkable resilience of the survivors Polaris Project serves every day.”

Very Young Girls, YouTube, [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pe7NZBBh2-4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pe7NZBBh2-4).

Very Young Girls is a documentary film created by Girls Educational and Mentoring Services (GEMS) that depicts young girls who are working with GEMS founder Rachel Lloyd to escape their pimps and exit the life. The documentary follows teen girls who are struggling to leave their exploiters for good and those who have successfully broken away. Very Young Girls highlights the psychological manipulation these girls undergo and the significant efforts expended by GEMS and the girls themselves to create a new path.

6. VICTIM EXPERIENCES


This study “focus[es] on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer or questioning (LGBTQ) youth; young men who have sex with men (YMSM); and young women who have sex with women (YWSW) who get involved in the commercial sex market in order to meet basic survival needs, such as food or shelter. The report documents these youth’s experiences and characteristics to gain a better understanding of why they engage in survival sex, describes how the support networks and systems in their lives have both helped them and let them down, and makes recommendations for better meeting the needs of this vulnerable population.”

Ric Curtis, et al., *Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in New York City, Volume One:*
The goal of this study was to gain a better understanding of the population of commercially sexually exploited children (CSEC) in New York City. The research team conducted a study of 329 youth to estimate the size of the CSEC population and to provide a reliable and ethnographically rich description of the characteristics, experiences, and service needs of the local CSEC population. Looking at arrest records for loitering for prostitution and prostitution, the study found that the estimated CSEC population for New York City is 3,946. The findings are further broken down by gender, involvement of a pimp, ethnicity, age of entry, how they were recruited, how they get customers, and more.

Polaris Project, Breaking Barriers: Improving Services For LGBTW Human Trafficking Victims (July 2015), https://polarisproject.org/sites/default/files/breaking-barriers-lgbtq-services.pdf. LGBTQ youth may be disproportionately affected by human trafficking. LGBTQ youth are frequently penalized for their minority sexual or gender identification, leading to inappropriate or inadequate service provision. Therefore, LGBTQ youth are less likely to self-identify as victims of trafficking or report exploitation. Further complicating proper identification, many professionals and community members who do want to help frequently lack the training needed to recognize trafficking or how to compassionately assist these youth. While the anti-trafficking field has excelled in providing service to marginalized and vulnerable populations, many trafficked LGBTQ youth still go underserved or unserved. This resource seeks to shine light on the encouraging practices taking place among anti-trafficking providers in recognizing the needs of LGBTQ youth and supporting them as they do all victims and survivors.

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