



Every day, every town: Lifting the Veil on Human Sex Trafficking

Human trafficking is the fastest, largest growing criminal industry in the world because people can be sold repeatedly and for high profit. Every day in every town across the country people of all ages are being exploited. Through involuntary forced servitude and debt bondage, people are used as unpaid labor and/or are forced to have sex without consent (=rape). In fact, it is so common, that it is possible that one of your family members is being trafficked and you wouldn't even know it. There are many reports of teenagers being trafficked while still living at home and attending high school without their families ever even knowing.

For members of the criminal justice system and allied professional, we are charged with the responsibility of effectively intervening, yet there is very little success. Arrest rates of Sex Traffickers are dismal. They function in invisibility and safety because they are shrouded in mythology and misconception. Many people still view trafficking as something that “involves people from other countries” or “as a homeland security issue”, while that may sometimes be true- it is not majority of incidents.

Further, traffickers have learned how to navigate our limited systems counting on the fact that many members of law enforcement may focus on arresting the victims rather than the perpetrators. They are practiced in the art of manipulation and in the creation of fear, thus victims may protect them or take the fall for them. The victims often look like criminals. They have long rap sheets and they may not choose to cooperate with law enforcement, medical professionals or even with advocates. They have experienced a great deal of trauma and are likely to be exhibiting typical trauma side effects: anxiety, fear, self-medication, mistrust, mental health issues, low self-worth...Many are not easy to work with.

Through an understanding of neuroscience and the impact of trauma, this presentation will explore trauma informed methodologies that are effective with both traffickers and with victims. We will discuss the cultural atmosphere that allows this crime type to thrive and imagine possible ways in which we could effectively intervene and possibly prevent.

On average, a victim of human sex trafficking is raped over 9,000 times in his or her lifespan. There is a lot of room for improvement in this area.

Objectives:

- Explain the difference between cognitive thinking and experiential memory for victims of trauma
- Deliver the results of decades of neuroscience research as it relates to traumatization
- Define a newly recognized class of evidence called psychophysiological evidence
- Identify the elements of the Forensic Experiential Trauma Interview process
- Compound/ Complex Trauma and Victimization of Human Trafficking
- Identifying and Understanding Human Trafficker Behavior
- Identify offender behavior and Theory of the Third Persona
- Aiming higher than the low hanging fruit
- Charge them with: Kidnapping, Domestic Violence, Labor Trafficking, Child Abuse, Sexual Assault, -- Revenge Porn, Assault...