



## National Human Trafficking & Disabilities Working Group Steering Committee Member Biographies



**Name:** Alison Boak

**Organization/Affiliation:** International Organization for Adolescents (IOFA)

**Job Title:** Executive Director

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**Ali Boak** co-founded IOFA and currently serves as Executive Director. Ali launched IOFA in 1999, after returning from three years abroad as a Peace Corps Volunteer and Fulbright scholar where she became aware of the extensive trafficking of children and youth. Ali brings more than 20 years experience in organizational development, program design, grant writing, building strategic partnerships, designing and facilitating strategic planning initiatives, conducting research and evaluation, and writing curricula. Her work has focused on improving the health and well-being of vulnerable adolescents in more than 12 countries especially those who are parentless, unaccompanied, LGBTQ, juvenile justice involved or commercially sexually exploited. Ali is an internationally recognized expert on the issues of child and adolescent trafficking and exploitation, and as a pioneer in this field, she has created several model programs and founded numerous organizations, networks, and coalitions to coordinate the multi-disciplinary work required to assist trafficked persons. Ali is known for her strategic responses to emerging problems and issues and her ability to bring groups together for a comprehensive response. She is a founding member of the Freedom Network USA for Trafficked and Enslaved Persons



**Name:** Cindy C. Liou, Esq.

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**Cindy C. Liou, Esq.** is an attorney and consultant and is participating in the National Human Trafficking and Disabilities Working Group in her individual capacity through Cindy C. Liou Consulting and Law. She is also currently the Deputy Director of Legal Services at Kids in Need of Defense (KIND), a national non-profit working to provide legal counsel to unaccompanied refugee and immigrant children in the United States. Previously, she was the Director of the Human Trafficking Project at Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach (API Legal Outreach), where she also co-counseled several civil litigation cases on behalf of human trafficking survivors, and represented survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, elder abuse, and hate crimes. She continues to provide consulting and training on topics ranging from human trafficking, domestic violence lethality, to best practices on how to collaborate in cross-disciplinary teams to support survivors of violence. She is also formerly the Co-Chair of the Policy Committee of the Freedom Network to Empower Trafficked and Enslaved Persons (USA). Cindy is also the co-author of several articles and the second edition of the manual

Representing Survivors of Human Trafficking. Before working at API Legal Outreach, Cindy handled a variety of pro bono cases at Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, ranging from asylum to police misconduct cases. Cindy is a graduate from Stanford Law School and the University of Washington.



**Name:** David T. Hutt, Ph.D.

**Organization/Affiliation:** National Disability Rights Network

**Job Title:** Senior Staff Attorney

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**David T. Hutt, Ph.D.** is a Senior Staff Attorney at the National Disability Rights Network who currently provides training and technical assistance to the federally created Protection and Advocacy System on investigations of abuse and neglect of people with disabilities, monitoring, guardianship, employment discrimination and subminimum wages, human trafficking, and federal lobby restrictions. Prior to joining NDRN, Dr. Hutt practiced law at Legal Services of Central New York representing clients with disabilities in cases involving employment discrimination, vocational rehabilitation, Medicaid, consumer debt, and physical accessibility. He holds a J.D. and Ph.D. in political science from the State University of New York at Buffalo, and is admitted to practice law in New York and the District of Columbia.



**Name:** Jae Jin Pak

**Organization/Affiliation:** IL Imagines Chicago/Self Advocate

**Job Title:** Member

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**Jae Jin Pak** is a social justice advocate, educator, and ally with over 25 years of experience. He has worked on issues of domestic and sexual violence prevention, mental health, disability, anti-oppression and cultural competency. In recent years, he worked to strengthen connections between the Asian, Disability and Human Trafficking Prevention communities to work to better respond and support survivors. He also is the Self Advocacy Training Coordinator for the IL Leadership and Education in Neurodevelopmental and related Disabilities (LEND) Program at the University of IL at Chicago. Jae Jin is active on the Statewide Independent Living Council of IL, IL Imagines Chicago Team, and The National Human Trafficking & Disability Working Group Steering Committee.



**Name:** Jody Haskin

**Organization/Affiliation:** International Organization for Adolescents (IOFA)

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**Jody Haskin** is the Program Director and Anti-Trafficking Specialist at IOFA. Jody has worked to support and lead various anti-trafficking programs for IOFA since 2013. Currently, Jody leads the Training and Technical Assistance initiative funded through the Department of Justice Office on Violence against Women. Jody has trained both professionals and community leaders on the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSE) and child labor trafficking through the Asian American Trafficking Outreach Project (AATOP) in Chicago, and has contributed to curricula and handbook development to guide child welfare professionals in identifying and responding to child trafficking for the New York Office of Children and Family Services. Jody graduated from the Josef Korbel School of International Studies (JKSIS) at the University of Denver with a Master's degree in International Human Rights with a concentration in Human Trafficking and Public Policy. While attending

JKSIS, Jody was a member of the Human Trafficking Center, in which she completed research on human trafficking in Canada, as well as its effects on the security of the U.S. and Canadian border. Jody was also a Fellow at Polaris in Washington D.C., where she worked to support the training and technical assistance department in its human trafficking trainings to community members, law enforcement, and the hotel industry. Jody's foundation of her passion for social justice and human rights stems from her education in Social Work at Western Michigan University.



**Name:** Lydia Sharp

**Organization/Affiliation:** Equip for Equality

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**Lydia Sharp** is an Equal Justice Works Fellow and Staff Attorney sponsored by Greenberg Traurig, LLP at Equip for Equality. She provides legal advocacy and outreach to people with disabilities who survived sexual abuse or trafficking in Illinois. Lydia is a member of the Cook County Human Trafficking Task Force and Illinois Imagines. Lydia is also on the Board of Directors for Community Activism Law Alliance and the Chicago Council of Lawyers. Lydia earned her JD from Chicago-Kent College of Law and her BA in Journalism and Integrated Media from Biola University in La Mirada, California.



**Name:** Mónica Arenas

**Organization/Affiliation:** Futures Without Violence

**Job Title:** Senior Program Specialist

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**Monica Arenas** is a Senior Program Specialist at Futures Without Violence, working in the Rights and Social Justice Project and Legal Program. Ms. Arenas has participated in the development and implementation of training programs and technical assistance on human trafficking, and organizational sustainability of programs working with underserved communities. Including organizing trainings on immigrant women leadership development, trainings to build multidisciplinary collaboration to assist adult victims of human trafficking, and trainings/visits for international partners. She also helped in the production of the Latina leadership manual "Breaking the Silence: Training Manual for Activists, Advocates and Latina Organizers". Monica, an immigrant from México, is a member of ASISTA Immigration Assistance board of directors.



**Name:** Sandra Harrell

**Organization/Affiliation:** Center on Victimization and Safety, Vera Institute of Justice

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**Sandra Harrell** currently serves as the Associate Director of the Center on Victimization and Safety at the Vera Institute of Justice. Sandra's professional life has focused almost exclusively on addressing domestic and sexual violence. She began working in the anti-violence against women movement in 1990 working on her local crisis line and local domestic violence shelter. She pursued her Master's degree in Women's Studies to more fully explore gender-based violence and attained her degree from Goddard College in 2000. Shortly thereafter, Sandra was hired as the Project Director for Vanderbilt University's Grant to Reduce Violence Crimes Against Women on Campuses where she provided education of students, faculty and staff on the topics of sexual violence, domestic violence and stalking. In 2005, she accepted a position at the

California Coalition Against Sexual Assault where she worked on Project Access, an initiative that introduced her to complex barriers faced by survivors with disabilities and Deaf survivors.



**Name:** Sarah Bessell

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**Sarah Bessell** is a staff attorney at The Human Trafficking Pro Bono Legal Center, where she conducts research on accountability for human trafficking victims. Bessell has a background in international human rights and conflict prevention. She spent time in Cambodia, where she worked in the Office of the International Co-Prosecutor of the Khmer Rouge Tribunal. Prior to this, she worked on international conflict resolution issues at the University for Peace in Ethiopia and at the U.S. Institute of Peace. Bessell holds a J.D. from the George Washington University Law School and an M.A. (Conflict Resolution) from Georgetown University.