



NATIONAL
HUMAN
TRAFFICKING &
DISABILITIES
WORKING GROUP

National Human Trafficking & Disability Working Group

Identifying & Eliminating Ableism In Human Trafficking Frameworks

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Handout

Prevention Practices

- Leadership of survivors with disabilities as decision makers, strategists, educators, councilors, peer supports, call specialists, case managers, supervisors, executive directors etc. throughout anti-trafficking programs/organizations
- Preventative counseling around sexual/informed consent, bodily autonomy and financial exploitation
- Accessible outreach/educational material about how to recognize, respond and recover from trafficking
- Cross-issue Partnerships & Coalitions (housing/sheltering, transportation, home & community-based services, equitable employment etc.)
- Advocacy campaigns addressing communities/cities/states that ignore, encourage or are complacent regarding trafficking of people with disabilities. Campaigns may also target conditions that heighten the risk of trafficking
- Assistance with sourcing services and resources to meet critical needs (durable medical equipment (DMEs), consumable medical supplies, accessible sheltering/housing/transportation, disability specific assistance etc.)



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Response Practices

- Consider the impact of carceral living conditions when recommending “safe/accessible housing” options for survivors with disabilities
- Question with the intent to invite conversation rather than an atmosphere of interrogation
- Offer support that incorporates physical, mental, emotional, financial, and spiritual safety as appropriate
- Create an ever-evolving infrastructure of disability inclusive contacts/partners
- Provide rapid responses to accommodation requests
- Promote available accommodations/connection options

Protection Practices

- Remain attentive to Laws and Leadership
- People with disabilities are also Protectors. They must therefore always be intricately involved in prevention, protection, and recovery efforts.
- America’s Protection & Advocacy System
- Centers For Independent living
- Assistive Technology Programs
- Maintaining a robust list of diverse disability organizations/direct contacts
- Community Based Services, mutual aid groups, rapid responders and both formal and informal peer support networks
- “Check Ins not Checklists” – Ericka Reil



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- How are disability related needs captured in data to better support survivors?

Additional Tips

- Time: Consider how time impacts a survivors ability to interact with call specialists, escape violence, work with service providers etc. “The difference between a problem and a crisis is time”
- Space: Physically accessible sheltering and transportation options are vital
- Energy/Capacity: Tasks involved with securing safety/transitioning out of a trafficking situation may require varying amounts of energy/capacity levels for survivors with different disabilities
- Long-term Recovery: Source support that is likely to be sustained throughout a survivor’s unique recovery process
- Community: If no community supports exists, work with regional/national disability advocates to address geographically specific needs without disclosing PII.