

# **Intersections of Harm: Youth Sex Trafficking and Violence Against Women**

Hosted by:

International Organization for Adolescents (IOFA)

Courtney's House (CH)

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# Webinar Hosted by Technical Assistance Partners



## **IOFA** (established in 1999)

- seeks to eliminate human trafficking and exploitation of adolescents worldwide
- provides innovative programming and solutions to empower and protect young people

## **Courtney's House** (established in 2008)

- searches for children forced into prostitution
- embraces survivors in a safe environment
- trains community officials
- creates awareness of the reality of sex trafficking

**COLLABORATION:** 10+ year

**TRAINING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:** Create and implement survivor-led TTA

**YOUTH SEX TRAFFICKING:** Expertise to equip youth-serving organizations nationwide with improved knowledge and skills to address Youth Sex Trafficking (YST).

**OWW CYEM GRANTEE SUPPORT:** Provide accessible, inclusive, survivor-led, youth centered, trauma informed training, resources and targeted TTA to OWW CYEM grantees (2016-2021; 2023-2025)

# Webinar Learning Objectives

## Explore

Explore the intersections of youth sex trafficking and violence against women.

## Understand

Understand how stalking, sexual assault, domestic violence, and dating violence are intertwined with youth sex trafficking, often co-occurring as risk indicators.

## Strengthen

Strengthen trauma-informed frameworks. Equip organizations with strategies for identifying at-risk youth and providing comprehensive, trauma-informed support to survivors of both YST and VAW.

## Recognize

Recognize the role of community collaboration and highlight the importance of engaging community-based organizations and local agencies in efforts to prevent violence and support survivors.

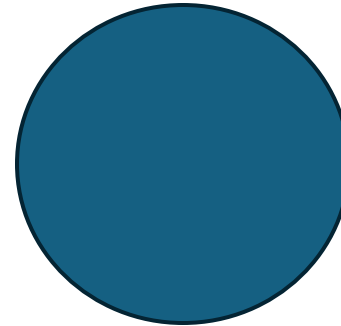
# Presenters



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# Intersection: Human Trafficking & Gender Based Violence

## Human Trafficking

- A crime involving the exploitation of a person for the purposes of compelled labor or a commercial sex act through the use of
- force, fraud, and/ or coercion
- Minors (under age 18) involved in commercial sex
- Those age 18 or over involved in commercial sex via force, fraud, or coercion
- Children and adults forced to perform labor and/or services in conditions of involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery, via force, fraud, or coercion

## Gender Based Violence

- Any harmful act or threat against a person or group based on their gender, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression.
- GBV can be physical, sexual, psychological, economic, or emotional abuse. It can also include threats of abuse
- Based on an imbalance of power and is intended to humiliate and make someone feel inferior. It can happen anywhere and at any time, and can be perpetrated by anyone, including family members, intimate partners, or strangers

# Intersection between HT & GBV is Important

**Trafficking is a subset of GBV:** Trafficking involves dynamics of power, inequality, and human rights that are similar to other types of GBV.

Intimate partner domestic violence and human trafficking (HT) are both **crimes and human rights violations** that deserve the same attention from law enforcement and advocacy.

- When we analyze the intersection of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and human trafficking, we quickly observe how various **complex patterns of abusive behavior and coercive control can create an environment that enables and perpetuates violence.**

Poverty/Housing  
Instability

Immigration  
issues

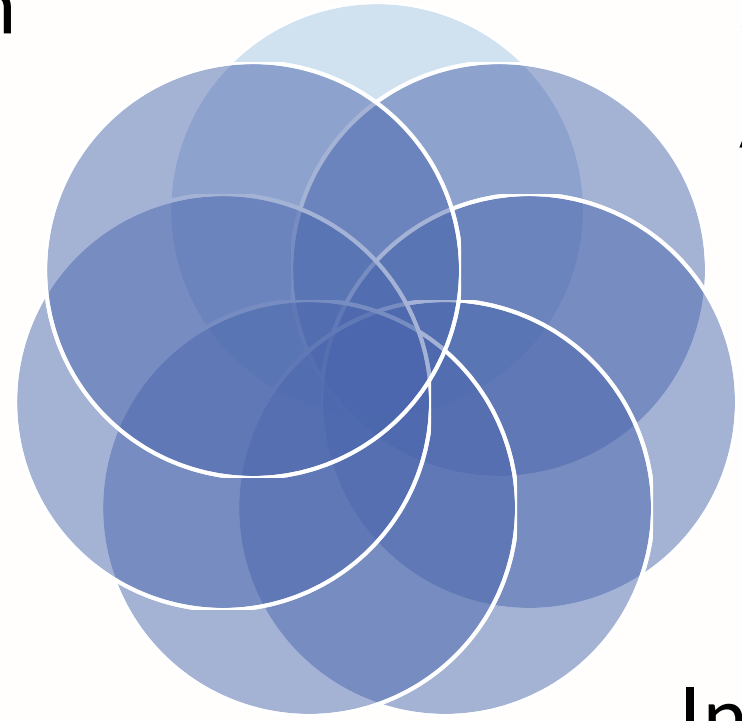
Substance  
Abuse

Child  
Abuse

Human  
Trafficking

Sexual Assault

Intimate Partner  
Violence



# Sex Trafficking

## COERCION and THREATS

Threatens to do physical harm • Threatens to harm family • Threatens to shame victim to community • Threatens to report to police/immigration

## INTIMIDATION

Harms or kills others to show force • Displays or uses weapons • Destroys property • Harms children • Lies about police involvement in the trafficking situation

## ECONOMIC ABUSE

Creates debt bondage that can never be repaid • Takes some or all money earned • Forbids victim to have access to their finances or bank account • Forbids victim to go to school

## EMOTIONAL ABUSE

Humiliates in front of others • Calls names • Plays mind games • Makes victim feel guilt, blame for the situation • Creates dependence by convincing victim they're the only one that cares about them

## USING PRIVILEGE

Treats victim like a servant • Defines gender roles to make subservient • Uses nationality to suggest superiority • Uses certain victims to control other victims • Hides or destroys important papers

## ISOLATION

Keeps confined • Accompanies to public places • Creates distrust of police/others • Moves victims to multiple locations • Rotates victims • Doesn't allow victim to learn

## SEXUAL ABUSE

Forces victim to have sex with multiple people in a day • Uses rape as a weapon and means of control • Treats victim as an object used for monetary gain • Normalizes sexual violence and selling sex

## MINIMIZING, DENYING & BLAMING

Makes light of abuse or situation • Denies that anything illegal is occurring • Places blame on victim for the trafficking situation

## POWER & CONTROL

domestic servants, farm workers, food service

prostitution, brothels, massage parlors

# Labor Trafficking

# PHYSICAL VIOLENCE SEXUAL

## USING COERCION AND THREATS

Making and/or carrying out threats to do something to hurt her • threatening to leave her, to commit suicide, to report her to welfare • making her drop charges • making her do illegal things.

## USING INTIMIDATION

Making her afraid by using looks, actions, gestures • smashing things • destroying her property • abusing pets • displaying weapons.

## USING ECONOMIC ABUSE

Preventing her from getting or keeping a job • making her ask for money • giving her an allowance • taking her money • not letting her know about or have access to family income.

## USING EMOTIONAL ABUSE

Putting her down • making her feel bad about herself • calling her names • making her think she's crazy • playing mind games • humiliating her • making her feel guilty.

## POWER AND CONTROL

## USING MALE PRIVILEGE

Treating her like a servant • making all the big decisions • acting like the "master of the castle" • being the one to define men's and women's roles

## USING ISOLATION

Controlling what she does, who she sees and talks to, what she reads, where she goes • limiting her outside involvement • using jealousy to justify actions.

## USING CHILDREN

Making her feel guilty about the children • using the children to relay messages • using visitation to harass her • threatening to take the children away.

## MINIMIZING, DENYING AND BLAMING

Making light of the abuse and not taking her concerns about it seriously • saying the abuse didn't happen • shifting responsibility for abusive behavior • saying she caused it.

# PHYSICAL VIOLENCE SEXUAL



# Crimes that can overlap

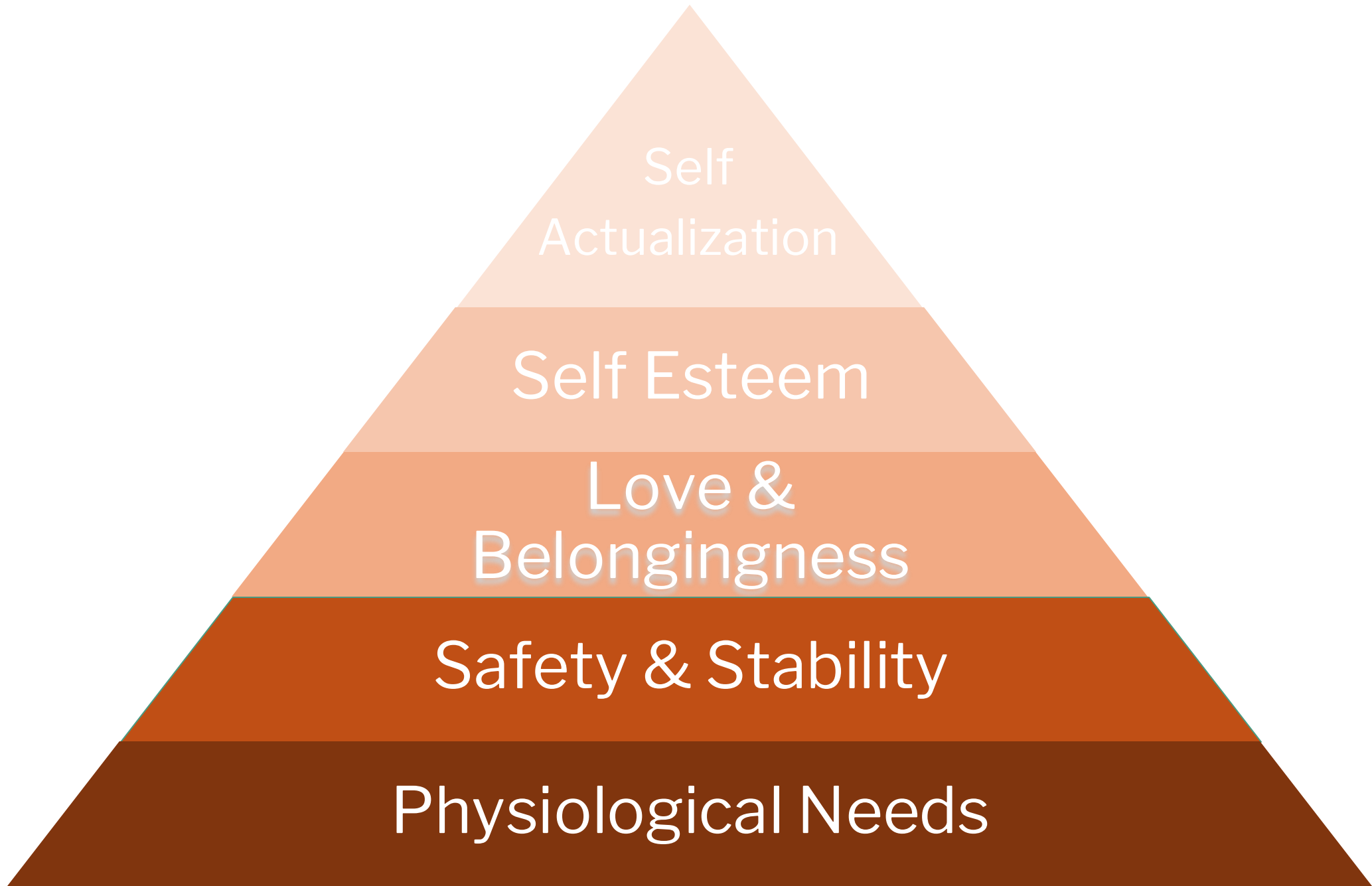
- It is not always the case that the relationship between a trafficking victim and trafficker is a fraud at its inception.
- Trafficking victims often have complex relationships with their traffickers based on short or long periods of exploitation.
- A “legitimate” marriage or relationship may devolve into a situation of human trafficking.

# Offenders

A study of 28 adult male offenders arrested for domestic trafficking revealed that:

- 71% also had a documented history of IPV
- 64% had a documented history of general violence
- 46% had a documented history of additional sexual violence

(Gotch, 2016)



Self  
Actualization

Self Esteem

Love &  
Belongingness

Safety & Stability

Physiological Needs

# Collaboration: Role of Community

