



Human Trafficking: The Intersection Between Child  
Welfare and Modern Day Slavery  
by FSM Student Ambassador  
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<http://fosteringuccessmichigan.com/stories/category/brittany-s-blog-straight-talk-by-a-scholar-from-foster-care>

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# HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The Intersection Between  
Child Welfare and  
Modern Day Slavery

**Brittany Bartkowiak, BSW**  
Student Ambassador  
Fostering Success Michigan



# Webinar Objectives

- Define human trafficking
- Discuss prevalence in the U.S.
- Identify common characteristics of individuals who have been trafficked
- Discuss the connection between human trafficking, the child welfare system, and higher education
- After completing this webinar, participants will be able to...
  - Identify suspected cases of human trafficking
  - Identify resources available to assist human trafficking victims
  - Advocate effectively for victims of human trafficking within the child welfare system



“It ought to concern every person, because it is a debasement of our common humanity. It ought to concern every community, because it tears at our social fabric... I’m talking about the injustice, the outrage of human trafficking, which must be called by its true name: **modern slavery.**”

- *President Obama*

# Human trafficking is modern slavery.

There are two types of human trafficking:

- **Sex trafficking**, which includes the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision or obtaining of a person for a commercial sex act that is induced by force, fraud, or coercion.
- **Labor trafficking**, which refers to the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision or obtaining of a person for labor or services by force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

# The A-M-P Model

## Action

Recruits  
Harbors  
Transports  
Provides  
Obtains  
Attempts  
these  
actions

## Means

Force  
Fraud  
Coercion

## Purpose

Commercial  
Sex Acts  
  
Labor or  
Services  
  
Debt  
Bondage

# The A-M-P Model: Child Sex Trafficking

## Action

Recruits  
Harbors  
Transports  
Provides  
Obtains  
Attempts these  
actions

## Purpose

Commercial Sex  
Acts  
  
Labor or Services  
  
Debt Bondage



# Human Trafficking Trends in the United States

Statistics from the National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline (2007 - 2012) [polarisproject.org/traffickingtrends](http://polarisproject.org/traffickingtrends)



## Top 10 Child Trafficking Industries

1. Pimp-controlled prostitution
2. Peddling rings
3. Pornography
4. Escort service/Delivery service
5. Commercial-front brothel
6. Residential brothel
7. Traveling sales crew
8. Domestic work
8. Restaurant/Food service
9. Personal sexual servitude
10. Hostess/Strip club

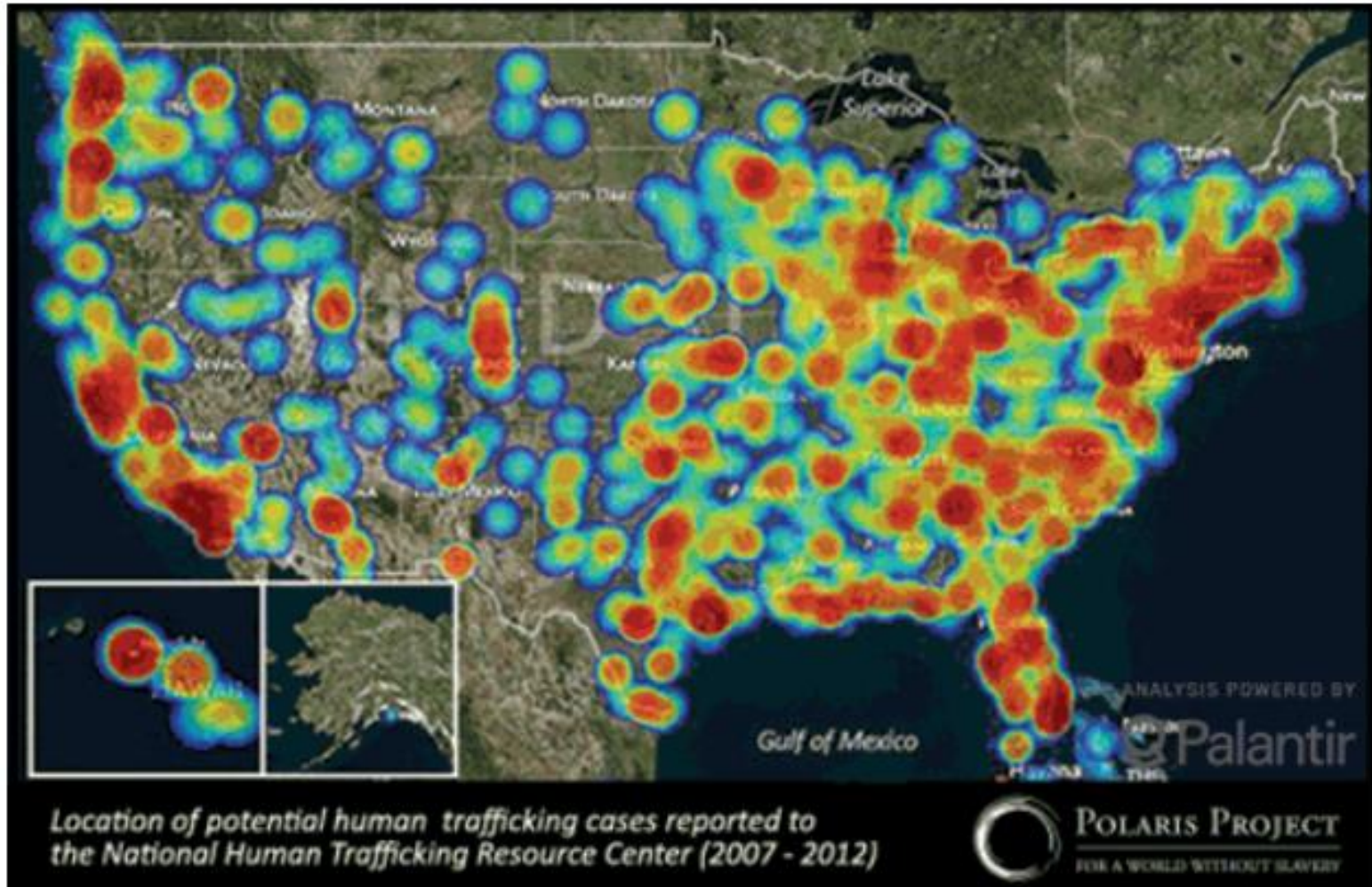


# Trafficking Facts & Statistics

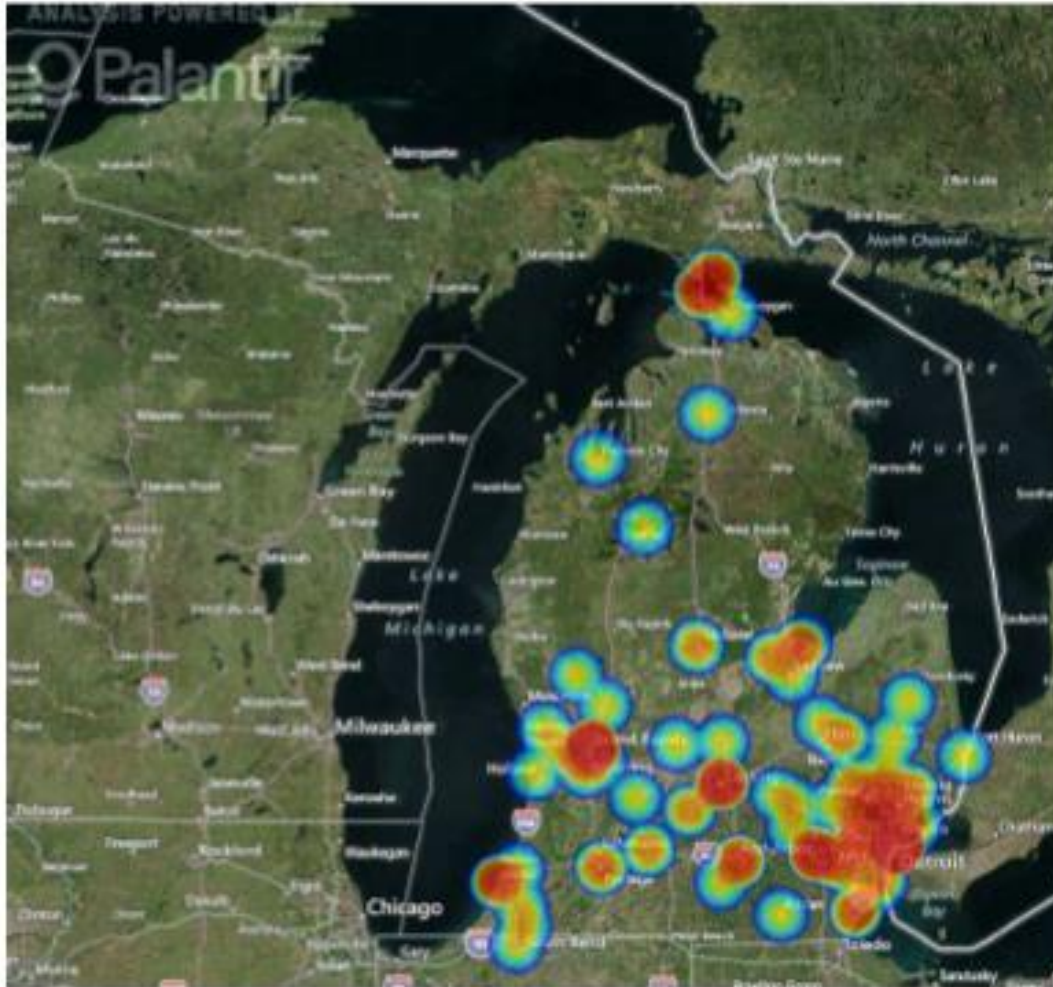
- It is estimated that 27 million people are currently enslaved around the world
- There are at least 100,000 sex trafficking victims who are minors in the United States
- On average, two children are sold every minute (that's 2,880 children every day)
- Beyond performing sexual acts or physical labor, trafficking victims may encounter violence, neglect, and/or be forced to take drugs
- 70% of women introduced into the commercial sex trade entered before the age of 18
- Young people are most likely to enter the commercial sex trade between the ages of 11-14
- 1 in 3 teens on the street will be lured into commercial sex work within 48 hours of leaving home

Source: *The Huffington Post*, "Eight Facts You Didn't Know About Child Sex Trafficking", 2013; National Runaway Hotline, retrieved from <http://www.seattle.gov/humanservices/domesticviolence/prostitutedyouth/nationalperspective.htm>; Kotrla, K., 2010. Domestic minor sex trafficking in the united states. *Social Work*. 55(2). p. 181-187. Retrieved from <http://search.proquest.com.proxy.lib.umich.edu/docview/193904157/fulltextPDF?accountid=14667>

# Modern slavery is happening in the United States.



# Modern slavery is happening in Michigan.



National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) hotline call locations in 2013

- Most concentrated areas around border crossings
- Concentrated areas are also consistent with populated cities (Detroit, Grand Rapids, etc.)

# What is being done?

- **H.R. 4980: Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act** (signed into law September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014)
  - Requires state foster care and adoption agencies to develop a plan for identifying, documenting, reporting, and delivering services to any youth in their supervision who is was or is at risk for being a victim of sex trafficking
  - Includes requirement for states to develop a plan to locate and respond to children who run away from foster care
  - Includes measures in the bill to promote “normalcy” to foster youth, which includes playing a more active role in their case planning team and ability to participate in age appropriate activities, thus increasing the likelihood they will become connected to a community

# Pending Legislation

- **H.R. 3530: Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2014 passed House; waiting to be approved by Senate**
  - Would provide \$25 million of annual funding between 2015-2019 for the Department of Justice (DOJ) to provide grants to states and other recipients aimed at improving the enforcement of laws against human trafficking and to assist victims of such crimes
- **H.R. 3610: Stop Exploitation Through Trafficking Act of 2014 passed House; waiting to be approved by Senate**
  - Mandates states to enact safe harbor laws within three years that treat minors engaged in commercial sex acts as victims rather than criminals and encourages diverting them to child protective services

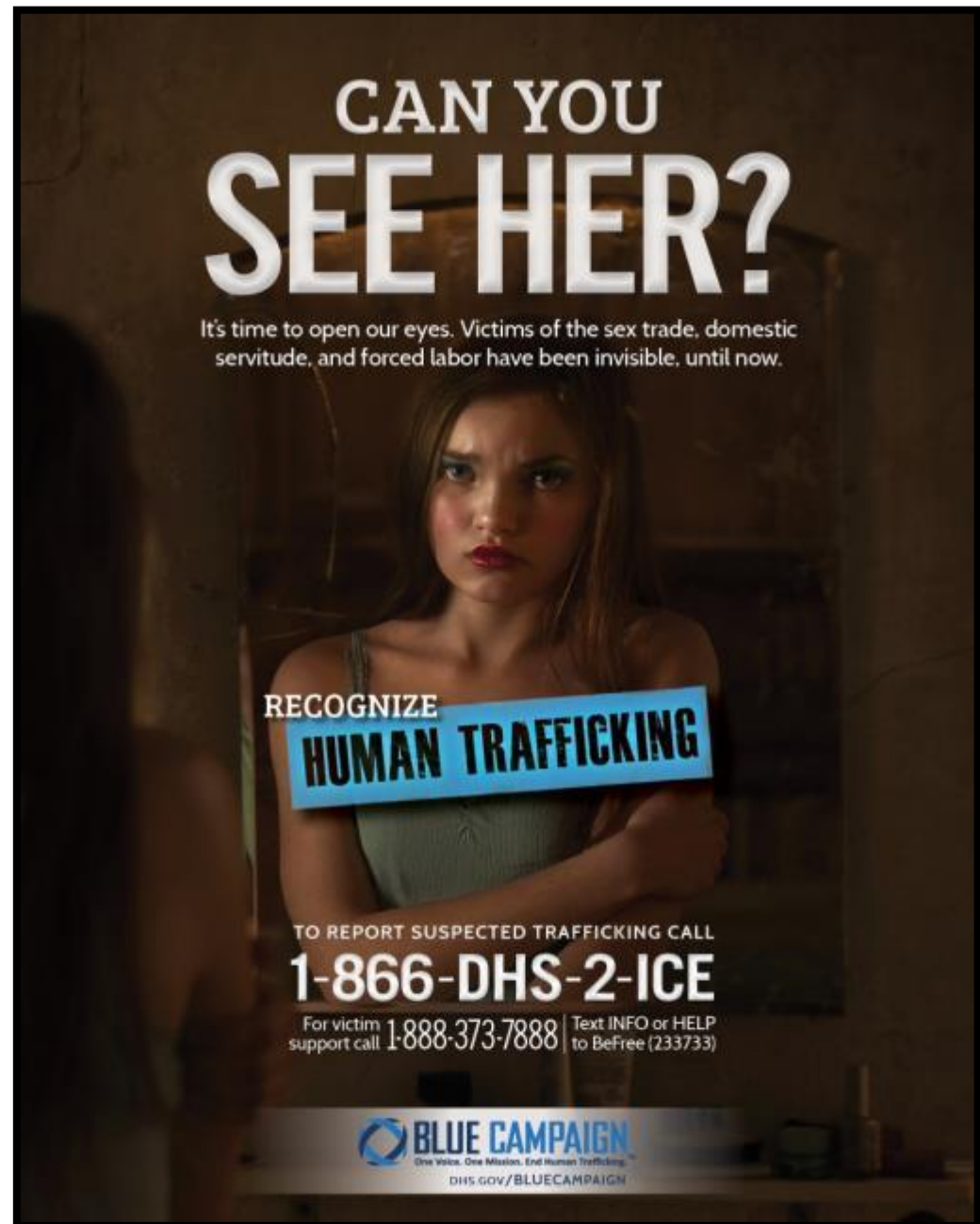
Source: <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/113/hr3530#summary>; <https://www.cbo.gov/publication/45349>;  
<http://www.naco.org/newsroom/countynews/Current%20Issue/6-2-2014/Pages/House-passes-legislation-on-sex-trafficking,-foster-care.aspx>



## Common characteristics of individuals who have been trafficked:

- Has very little control over their life, body, and choices
- May have a pimp or manager
- May owe a large amount of debt
- Was recruited under false pretenses or promises
- Often does not realize they are a victim of human trafficking
  - This is largely because they have come to view their trafficker as a type of family member, boyfriend, or boss and have some sort of relationship or bond with them
- Experiences higher than average rates of homelessness
- May look just like any other youth you encounter in your work

Source: *"Recognizing the Signs" by Polaris Project*



# CAN YOU SEE HER?

It's time to open our eyes. Victims of domestic servitude, forced labor, and the sex trade have been invisible, until now.

RECOGNIZE

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

TO REPORT SUSPECTED TRAFFICKING CALL

**1-866-DHS-2-ICE**

For victim support call 1-888-373-7888 | Text INFO or HELP to BeFree (233733)



**BLUE CAMPAIGN**

One Voice. One Mission. End Human Trafficking.

DHS.GOV/BLUECAMPAIGN

## Common characteristics of individuals who have been trafficked:

- Works or lives in an environment with high security measures (boarded up windows, security cameras, etc.)
- May be overly submissive, fearful, or nervous/paranoid
  - Especially prominent around law enforcement members
- May have expensive gifts
- May have multiple identities, including names, birthdays, and addresses
- May refer to their pimp/trafficker as “Daddy” and call other women under his control “Wifeys/Wife-in-Law/Sister Wife”
- May be in poor physical health or show signs of abuse

Source: *"Recognizing the Signs" by Polaris Project*



## Common characteristics of individuals who have been trafficked:

- Receives little to no wages for their work
- Is not allowed to take breaks at work or has unusual hours
- Not free to come and go as they please
- Does not have access to important documentation
- Discusses frequent travel to other states or cities
- Exhibits signs of hunger, malnourishment, trauma, fatigue, abuse, or depression
- History of truancy
- May have more than one cell phone
- Has frequent unexplained absences from school

Source: *"Recognizing the Signs" by Polaris Project*



**CAN YOU SEE HIM?**

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**RECOGNIZE HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

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# Modern slavery and the child welfare system: how they connect

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TnWRx-3s-Ag>

# What does human trafficking have to do with child welfare?

- Child trafficking victims are often placed in the child welfare system once they are identified by law enforcement
- Child welfare agencies are in an ideal position to identify and respond to child trafficking cases
  - 60% of child sex trafficking victims recovered by a FBI nationwide raid in 2013 were children from foster care or group homes
  - In 2012, Connecticut reported that 86 out of 88 total child victims of sex trafficking were involved in the child welfare system
  - Also in 2012, 50-80% of California minor sex trafficking victims were in the child welfare system
  - The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services estimates the majority of human trafficking victims experienced sexual abuse growing up – victims of sexual abuse are 28 times more likely to be coerced into trafficking than children who have not suffered such abuse

Sources: [http://www.casre.org/our\\_children/fcht/](http://www.casre.org/our_children/fcht/); <http://roskam.house.gov/media-center/opinion-piece/fighting-human-trafficking-in-the-foster-care-system>; [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/malika-saada-saar/stopping-the-foster-care-b\\_4170483.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/malika-saada-saar/stopping-the-foster-care-b_4170483.html)

# Being in foster care makes a young person more susceptible to being trafficked.

## **Populations most vulnerable to trafficking**

- Homeless or runaway youth
- LGBTQ youth
- Youth with special needs
- Differently abled youth
- Unaccompanied or undocumented youth
- Individuals with a history of abuse
- Isolated youth

## **Shared risk factors between human trafficking and experiencing foster care**

- Homelessness
- Substance use
- Lack of community connection
- Scarcity of resources
- Transient lifestyle
- Rejection of systems
- Complex trauma
- Increased desire for belonging and connection

“Youth within the system are more vulnerable to becoming sexually exploited because youth accept and normalize the experience of being used as an object of financial gain by people who are supposed to care for us. We experience various people who control our lives, and we lack the opportunity to gain meaningful relationships and attachments... the most consistent relationship I ever had in care was with my pimp and his family.”

- **Withelma Ortiz Walker Pettigrew**  
a child sex trafficking and foster care system survivor

*Source: “Stopping the Foster Care to Child Trafficking Pipeline”, the Huffington Post, 2013*

# Trafficking Power and Control Wheel





# There is no “perfect victim” of human trafficking.

## Victims of human trafficking....

- Often don't realize they are being trafficked
- May not want to leave their trafficker
- Don't always ask for (or want) help
- May come in contact with law enforcement or child welfare professionals through other means, such as when seeking health care services
- May not feel comfortable identifying as a victim or survivor of human trafficking (self-identification)



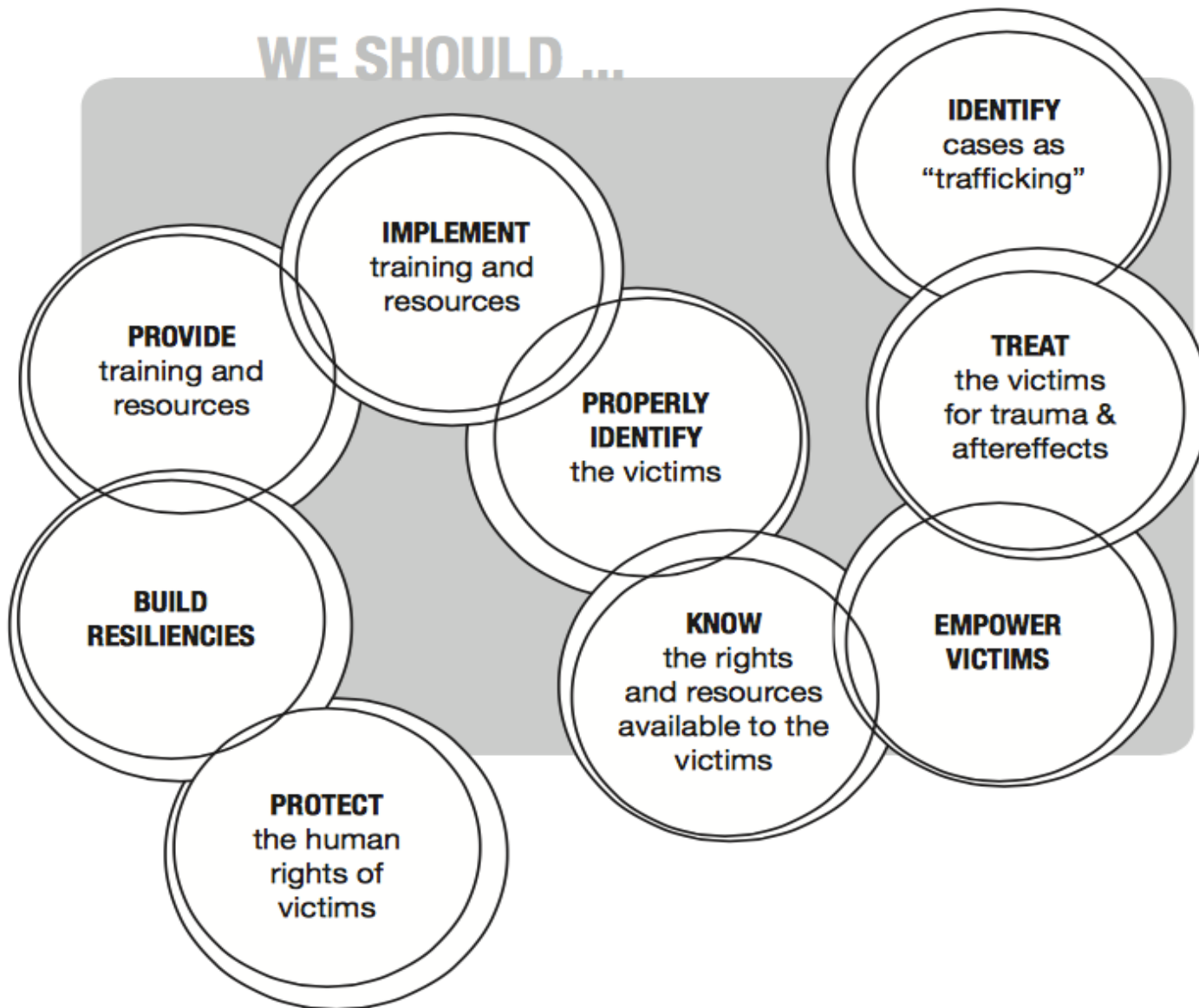


# Questions to Ask Potential Victims

- “Can you tell me the way to get to your house?” or “Tell me about where you live.”
- “Tell me about your typical day.”
- “Are you in school? If so, which school? Who is your teacher?”
- “If you work, what kind of job do you have? How are you paid?”
- “What are the rules you have to follow where you live or work?”
- If the youth is from another country, ask “how did you get to the U.S.? Who has your documents?”
- “Are you afraid of anyone or anything?”

Source: *Building Child Welfare Response to Child Trafficking*, Center for Human Rights for Children, Loyola University Chicago and International Organization for Adolescents (IOFA)

# “What can I do?”



## **“What can I do?”**

- Identify human trafficking as a risk for young people in foster care
- Report suspected trafficking cases by calling the National Human Trafficking Resource Center 24/7 hotline: 1-888-373-7888 or text BeFree (233733) to report a tip
- Acknowledge the connection between the child welfare system and modern slavery
- Educate yourself, educate others
  - Though it's important to educate young people about the risks of human trafficking, it's just as important to educate them not to traffic humans – “Pimps couldn't sell girls if men didn't buy them”
- Advocate for trafficking victims within your organization
- Establish process for handling suspected trafficking cases in your organization
- Actively work to identify and screen for victims within the youth population you work with
- Work to connect youth in foster care to resources which will empower them to pursue higher education

# National Resources

- **The National Human Trafficking Resource Center** (NHTRC) operated by Polaris Project, non-profit and non-governmental organization
  - Human trafficking national, 24/7 toll-free hotline: Call 1-888-373-7888 or text BeFree (233733) to report a tip, connect with area services, or request information and/or resources (Spanish-speaking help available through this number)
  - Text messaging also available, which has proven to be a very effective outlet in securing safety for victims
- **Polaris Project**
  - **Mission Statement:** “Polaris Project is committed to combating human trafficking and modern-day slavery, and to strengthening the anti-trafficking movement through a comprehensive approach.”
  - Resources, information, and research available on their website: [www.polarisproject.org](http://www.polarisproject.org)

# National Resources (cont.)

- **U.S. Department of Homeland Security:** Blue Campaign Resource Catalog
  - [www.dhs.gov/resource-catalog](http://www.dhs.gov/resource-catalog)
  - Training available for educators, law enforcement, and other service professionals on the Blue Campaign website
- **Child Welfare Information Gateway:** “Responding to Human Trafficking of Children” Resource Glossary
  - [https://www.childwelfare.gov/responding/human\\_trafficking.cfm](https://www.childwelfare.gov/responding/human_trafficking.cfm)

# Local Resources

- **The University of Michigan Legal Clinic**
- **Alternatives for Girls in Detroit, MI**
  - (313) 361-4000 Main, 888-234-3919 Hotline
  - [www.alternativesforgirls.org](http://www.alternativesforgirls.org)
- **Underground Railroad, Inc. in Saginaw, MI**
  - 989-755-0413 Main, 989-755-0411 Hotline
  - [www.undergroundrailroadinc.org](http://www.undergroundrailroadinc.org)
- **Bethany Christian Services, [www.bethany.org](http://www.bethany.org)**
- **Jewish Family Services, [www.jfsdetroit.org](http://www.jfsdetroit.org)**
- **National Immigrant Justice Center in Chicago, IL**
  - 312-660-1370 Main
  - [www.immigrantjustice.org](http://www.immigrantjustice.org)
- **Freedom House, <http://freedomhousedetroit.org>**

# Thank You!

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# For More Information:

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<http://groups.google.com/group/fostering-success-michigan>