

Human Trafficking, Domestic Violence, and Sexual Assault: *Strategies to Strengthen Community Collaboration to Respond to Survivors' Needs*

As part of the ongoing implementation of the *Federal Strategic Action Plan: Services for Victims of Human Trafficking in the United States 2013–2017*, this webinar series is co-sponsored by:

U.S. Department of Justice's Office for Victims of Crime, Office on Violence Against Women, and Office for Victims of Crime Training and Technical Assistance Center

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Family Violence Prevention and Services Program

State Justice Institute's Human Trafficking and the State Courts Collaborative

Collaborating With Culturally Specific Organizations to End Human Trafficking, Domestic Violence, and Sexual Assault
Welcome!

Opening Remarks and Introductions

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Learning Objectives for the Collaboration Series:

- Understand the overlap between human trafficking, domestic violence, and sexual assault;
- Explore ways to effectively engage the justice system and community stakeholders and sustain involvement;
- Consider examples of partnerships to build agency capacity and enhance victim identification;
- Explore strategies for promoting collaboration while protecting confidentiality;
- **Identify effective collaboration strategies that leverage culturally specific resources on behalf of survivors;**
- Learn about examples of successful law enforcement collaborations; and
- Identify court-based strategies to address the needs of trafficking victims and understand the role and significance of the court and judicial leadership in developing a response to human trafficking.

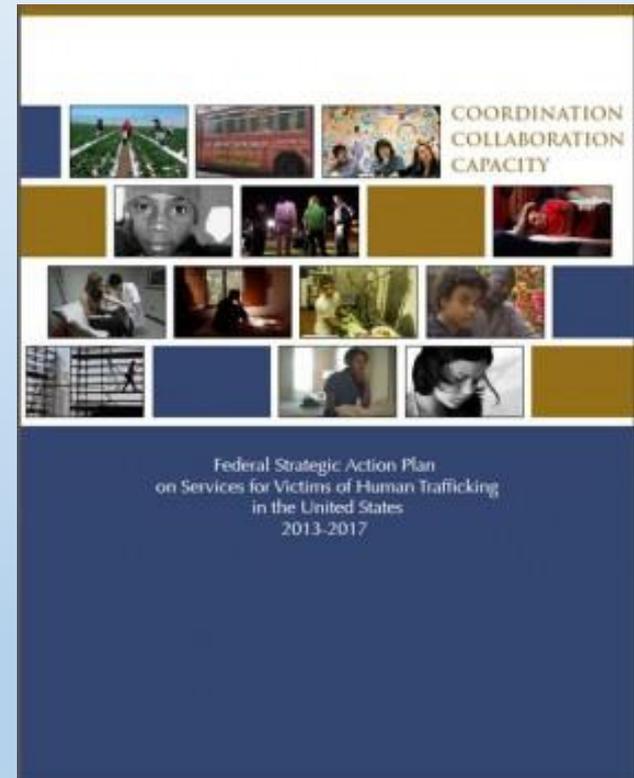
Federal Strategic Action Plan on Services for Victims of Human Trafficking in the United States 2013–2017

“Victim services should promote safety, healing, justice, and rights for victims, and should empower them to participate in efforts to bring traffickers to justice.

Survivors play a key role in elevating understanding and awareness of human trafficking, improving service delivery, and informing policy.

Anti-trafficking efforts should be victim-centered and culturally relevant, holistic, comprehensive, evidence-based, gender-responsive, and trauma-informed.”

<http://www.ovc.gov/pubs/FederalHumanTraffickingStrategicPlan.pdf>



Collaborating With Culturally Specific Organizations to End Human Trafficking, Domestic Violence, and Sexual Assault

July 9, 2015
2:30 p.m. ET

Speakers

Chic Dabby, Executive Director, Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence

Michelle Ortiz, Deputy Director, AI Justice on behalf of the National Latin@ Network

Outline

Thank you to all survivors and victims for speaking out, teaching us, contributing their expertise, and building the field's knowledge

- I. Analyzing the dynamics of trafficking and sources of trauma
- II. Cultural competency and culturally-specific community-based-organizations
- III. Effective collaboration at points of contact to provide culturally-specific, trauma-informed care to survivors

I. DYNAMICS OF TRAFFICKING

Power & Control

- Domestic violence tells us about inequality and control in relationships; the extent of the violence tells us about the extent of the inequality
- Sexual violence tells us about repeated violations and coercion over the lifecourse, often starting at a young age, and the exercise of abusive power
- Trafficking tells us about exploitation; the level of exploitation tells us about the levels of vulnerability and poverty in our social structures

Who is victimized in domestic & international trafficking?

- Minors
- Adults
- Native women and girls
- U.S. and foreign born individuals
- Refugees
- Immigrants: LPRs/documentated, undocumented
- LGBTQ youth and young adults
- Individuals in remote, rural, urban areas

Who are International Traffickers?

Organized crime syndicates: international/local

- Street gangs, drug cartels
- Syndicates with diversified portfolios who traffic humans, drugs and guns

Independently owned businesses

Large, third-party labor recruiters

- Contractors/agents providing labor for food, agriculture, construction, janitorial services

Community and family members

- From the victim's own community
- Related through immediate or extended family ties
- With greater social or political status in their home country than their victims
- "Mom-and-pop" family operations, involving extended family

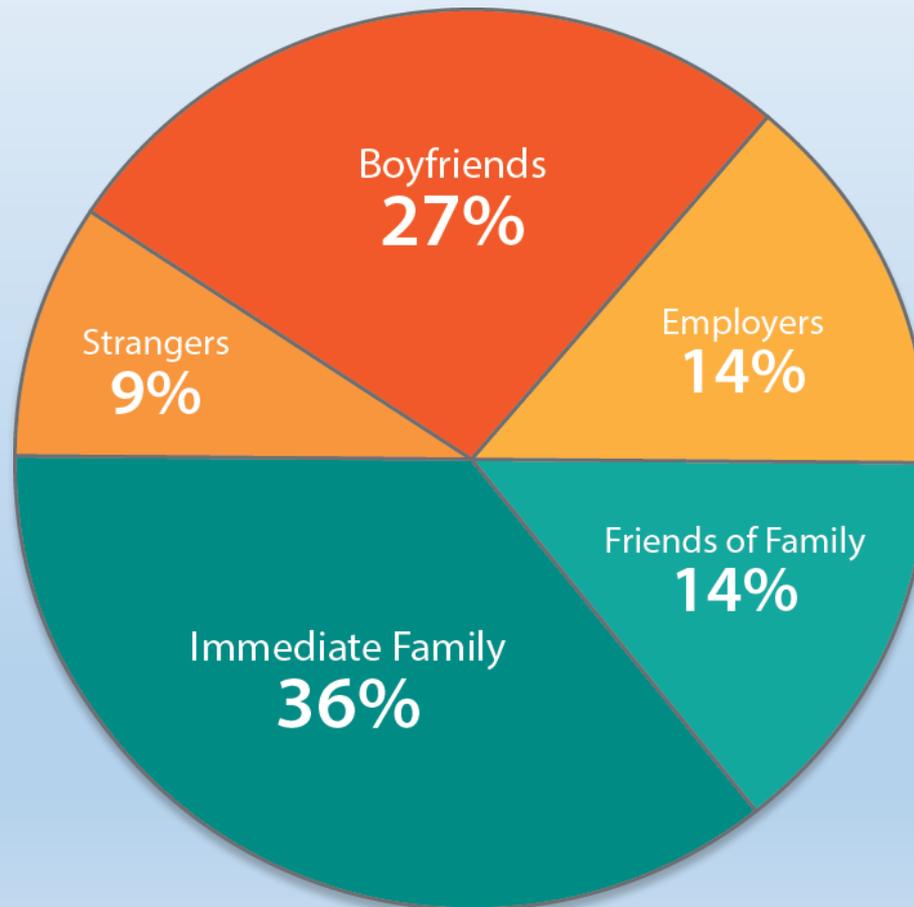
Who are DMST | CSEC Traffickers?

- **Pimp-controlled:** targeted recruitment, grooming, turning out
- **Family-controlled:** incest, sexual abuse, trading, buying and selling
- **Gang-controlled:** can include recruitment by girls, blackmail, threats, violence
- **Transgender-controlled:** gay, transgender and straight male minors
- **Crime syndicate-controlled:** traffickers with diversified portfolios

DMST: Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking CSEC: Commercially Sexually Exploited Children

Common Misperception about DMST: People are Trafficked by Strangers

Covenant House Study of Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking Survivors



Root Causes

- **Gender oppression:** Culture normalizes objectifying, devaluing, abusing women and girls; marginalizing LGBTQ
- **Male demands for commodified sex:** Sex trafficking relies on male impunity – higher prices for younger girls
 - 100,000 estimated DMST victims annually, turning 10 tricks/day = 1 million male buyers/year
- **Escaping abuse:** Familial physical/sexual abuse, neglect, or abandonment; leaving home in hopes of greater safety
- **Money:** Organized crime, pimps find it lucrative w/ fewer penalties and losses than drugs and arms trafficking
- **Poverty | Debt traps:** Exploitation of poverty, reliance on systems of indebtedness created by local recruiters, organized crime
- **Demands for Cheap Labor:** Demands for cheap, exploitable labor in a globalized market

Definition of Trafficking Locates Trauma

Physical, Psychological, Economic Traumas Are Caused By:

- **Actions:** Recruitment, harboring, provision, receipt, transportation and/or obtaining of individuals
- **Means:** Using force or threats, coercion, abduction, fraud and/or systems of indebtedness or debt bondage
- **Purposes** can include:
 - Fraudulent adoption
 - Forced labor in domestic, industrial, agricultural, fishing, mining, construction, extraction sectors
 - Sexual exploitation/commercial sexual abuse including prostitution, pornography, internet-aided prostitution, strip clubs, massage parlors, peep shows
 - Organ removal/harvesting
 - Involuntary servitude, including servile marriages
 - Transporting drugs by serving as drug mules

Sources of Trauma

- Actions and means used to traffic victims
- Purposes for which they are exploited
- Climate of fear, danger and indebtedness
- Poverty
- Vulnerability
- Abusive homes
- Physical violence, deprivation, food insecurity
- Violence by controllers to prevent escape
- Negative help-seeking experiences
- Repeated sexual assault by pimps, buyers, family
- Relationship and/or attachment to pimp/controller

As one pimp said...Anyone can control her body, but only a pimp can control her mind

In other words...poly-victimization

II. CULTURAL COMPETENCY

What is Cultural Competence?

- Cultural competence is a set of congruent behaviors, attitudes and policies that come together in a system, agency or professional and enable that system, agency or professional to work effectively in cross-cultural situations.
- A culturally competent system of care acknowledges and incorporates--at all levels--the importance of culture, the assessment of cross-cultural relations, vigilance towards the dynamics that result from cultural differences, the expansion of cultural knowledge and the adaptation of services to meet culturally unique needs.

Cultural Competence Involves:

- learning to build awareness, knowledge and skills to better understand, communicate with, and serve culturally diverse clients;
- identifying one's own assumptions and biases; and
- creating flexibility in your service provision that creates space for varying cultural and individual needs and expectations

Why is Cultural Competence
Important When Working with
Survivors of Human Trafficking?

Case Example: *Maria*

Maria is a 32 year old indigenous woman born in rural Guatemala who speaks very basic Spanish and an obscure dialect of a (fairly) common indigenous Guatemalan language, Kanjobal. A co-worker observed bruises on her arm and offered to help Maria. The co-worker called the police.

- The police attempted to communicate with Maria using their Spanish-language interpreter. The police officer understood that Maria needed help, and transported her and her children to a DV shelter across the county.
- Once at the shelter, Maria insisted that she wanted to leave and go home. The Spanish-speaking shelter advocates feared that she was returning to a dangerous situation and advised her not to leave.
- She had no transportation and could not leave the shelter without financial assistance.

Case Example: *Maria* (cont'd)

- The DV Shelter connected Maria with an immigration attorney.
- When the immigration attorney attempted to communicate with Maria via a Kanjobal telephonic interpreter, communication was still extremely difficult. The one thing that was translated, was Maria's question to the attorney: "Why am I in jail?"
- The attorney called a CSO that specializes in serving indigenous Guatemalan families in South Florida. Staff at the CSO passed the phone around to other staff until the right language match was made.
- Through the appropriate interpreter, the attorney was able to now communicate with the client, who until then, did not understand where she was, why she was being held, and why she had been removed from her home.
- After many hours of conversation, and explanations of cultural context given by the interpreter/advocate, the attorney was able to identify the client as a victim of human trafficking and connect her with appropriate services. Because of her cultural norms, she would have never self-identified as either a victim of trafficking or DV.
- In addition, the CSO provided the victim with a sense of community and belonging.

Culture may play a role in the Trafficking Experience

- Cultural nuances may affect the dynamics of human trafficking, or make the survivor vulnerable to victimization
- The Survivor may come from a culture of gender violence, where violence against and exploitation of women is normalized
- Traffickers may use culturally specific means of coercion or fraud to control the victim
 - Without cultural competence, service providers and law enforcement might not recognize the situation as one of human trafficking because we do not recognize certain actions as coercive due to our own cultural norms/assumptions

Trauma May be Culturally Specific

- Culture may affect the way a survivor experiences trauma

Culture May Shape Your Client's Needs and Expectations

- Culture may affect your client's willingness to seek help from mainstream services or report the trafficking to law enforcement
- Culture may affect a survivor's expectations
- Culture will most certainly influence the needs of your client (social, religious, dietary, etc.)

Culture May Also Affect Your Own Ability to Provide Culturally-Relevant Services:

- Our own understanding of and attitudes toward trauma, human trafficking, and social services may limit our ability to “think outside the box” and provide truly client-centered services that are both trauma-informed and culturally responsive
- A lack of understanding of cultural context may inhibit our ability to understand a survivor’s needs and expectations

The Trauma-Informed Approach lays a Strong Foundation for Cultural Competence:

- In the same way that a trauma-informed approach considers the particular experiences and needs of a client based on her individual experience, a culturally competent approach looks at the survivor's experiences and needs with a flexible, adaptable lens that provides space for the variance in culture
- Try to understand her reality without imposing your own assumptions based on mainstream ideas or stereotypes you may have about her culture
- Understand that a survivor's individual needs may be very different within the same cultural group

Increase Cultural Competence by Collaborating with Culturally Specific Organizations

What is a Culturally Specific Organization?

- The majority of members and/or clients are from a particular community that shares a culture (typically around shared race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, immigration status, disability etc.)
- The staff, board, and leadership reflects the community that is served
- The organizational environment is culturally- focused and identified as such by members
- The organization has a track record of successful community engagement and involvement with the community being served
- **The community being served recognizes the organization or program as a culturally-specific organization**

What are the benefits of Culturally Specific Organizations?

- Services are designed to address the needs of the culturally specific population
- Client's primary experience is as an insider
- Client's own culture is centered and affirmed
- In addition to services, CSO's can provide your client with a sense of community after being displaced as a result of human trafficking

How can DV/SA Providers Initiate Collaboration with CSO's to better serve survivors of trafficking?

- Identify Culturally Specific Organizations in your community
- Develop relationships before you work on a case (if possible)
- Request a training on the Culturally Specific Needs of survivors from that community (by the CSO)
- Identify gaps in services and/or accommodations that each organization can fill
- ASK the CSO how you can improve services to increase your cultural competence for the culturally specific population

How can DV/SA Providers Collaborate with CSO's to better serve survivors of trafficking? (cont'd)

- CSO's can provide a variety of services, such as:
 - Interpreter and translation services
 - Advocacy with Criminal Justice Systems
 - Accompaniment to Medical Appointments
 - Child Care
 - Religious Services and Support
 - Housing and/or emergency shelter
 - Financial Assistance
 - Social interaction and events

Culturally-specific CBOs

- ✓ Increase access for historically marginalized survivors
- ✓ Address intersections of domestic violence, sexual assault, trafficking and other forms of gender violence
- ✓ Provide multilingual services in up to 40 languages
- ✓ Identify dynamics and trends to tailor services to survivors in their communities
- ✓ Design trauma-informed interventions pertinent to types of trauma their communities experience
- ✓ Make available a range of resources and remedies
- ✓ Collaborate with other domestic violence, sexual assault and anti-trafficking programs
- ✓ Advocate for systems change to mitigate barriers
- ✓ Organize cultural change through community engagement

Culturally-specific Community-based-organizations

- ✓ Have been serving victims at intersections of DV, SA and HT.
- ✓ Asian and Pacific Islander domestic violence programs have been addressing trafficking since 1999.
- ✓ Analyze gender, culture, intersectionality to change cultural norms, confront patriarchy, organize communities, and strengthen culturally-specific, trauma-informed advocacy
- ✓ Increase access for survivors with multilingual advocacy, some Asian programs provide services in 20-40 languages
- ✓ Collaborate with systems to mitigate barriers, so systems can be gateways to services & justice

□ QUESTIONS?

POLL: Who's Participating Today?

Please check the box that best represents your role:

- Dual Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Coalition
- Domestic Violence Victim Service Provider/Coalition
- Sexual Assault Victim Service Provider/Statewide Coalition
- Human Trafficking Victim Service Provider
- Runaway and Homeless Youth Service Provider
- Legal Service Provider
- Civil Law Enforcement (Dept. of Labor, EEOC, etc.)
- Criminal Justice (Law Enforcement, Prosecutor, Judiciary/Court Staff)
- Medical/Mental Health Practitioner
- Training/Technical Assistance Provider
- Federal Agency
- Other

III. COLLABORATION AT POINTS OF CONTACT

Danger in HT differs from DV & SA

Endangerment Levels are Affected by:

- Complexity of case
- Stage at which victims escape; number of victims in group
- Stage of the investigation
- Breaks in confidentiality, especially w/multiple systems involvement
- Type of traffickers controlling the operation; e.g., gang- and crime-controlled trafficking can be more dangerous and violent
- Lack of coordination between providers
- Procedures, including safety planning, traditionally applied in foster/group home, or DV or runaway homeless youth shelters – that have not been designed for trafficked individuals
- Former victims who have become middle management and/or traffickers and are not properly identified as such

Collaboration: (a) Raids | Stings

Raids are traumatic leading to potential jail time or homelessness, increased suicide risk

Establish protocols for coordinated response between law enforcement and advocates before raids are conducted in order to meet victim needs and separate out traffickers

Being trauma-informed

- Provide emotional safety, e.g., make appropriate clothing available for sex trafficking victims
- Understand sources of trauma e.g., debt, separation from pimp, danger to self or family,
- Identify triggers such as being in confined spaces

Culturally-specific CBOs have

- ✓ Bilingual advocates who can speak victims' languages
- ✓ CBO's community connections that can help start identifying who the traffickers might be
- ✓ Community resources to help identify minor trafficked victims

Collaboration: (b) Arrest

Trafficked individuals are victims, not criminals, they must be interviewed, not interrogated. *“No one talked to me like I was a real person outside a criminal case” **

Being trauma-informed

- Help victims feel in control: Provide clear information about procedures, choices victims have, impact of their decisions on next steps, use language that minors and those with limited English or education levels can understand
- Help victims manage feelings: Offering respect and compassion can allay victims' mistrust, fears; understand their loyalty to traffickers and anticipated 'rescue' by them
- Identify trauma triggers/sources: previous arrests, interrogations in their home countries, loss of earnings and future income

Culturally-specific Resources: Advocates can help

- ✓ Identify interpreters not connected to traffickers, or for languages of lesser diffusion; serve as observer about interpretation inconsistencies
- ✓ Provide culturally-specific interview tips e.g., explain how names on false documents don't match what victims state
- ✓ Find safe spaces for victims to be released to

**Walking Prey* by Holly Austin Smith

Collaboration: (c) Investigation

“Uncooperative” victims: Fear? Hostility? Self-protection?

Being trauma-informed

- Minimize re-traumatization caused by recounting stories, details repeatedly; facing traffickers’ lawyers; feeling humiliated by information in medical, mental health, other service systems’ files
- Provide information to survivors about trauma triggers: Explain how being challenged on inconsistencies during investigation can trigger memories of trafficker and feeling stupid, worthless

Culturally-specific CBOs collaborate on:

- ✓ By understanding cultural prohibitions to disclosing sexual violence, advocates can help survivors cope w/shame
- ✓ Safety planning based on how dangerous traffickers/controllers are
- ✓ Connect international HT survivors with family members in home countries
- ✓ Witness safety: tips from community members alert advocates to risks/plans

Collaboration: (d) Shelter

Safety in Runaway Homeless Youth (RHY) or DV shelters depends on whether resident is in pimp-, gang-, family-, crime-, or transgender-controlled trafficking situation

Being trauma-informed

- Minimize re-traumatization triggers due to being in environment with other victims; where movements are curtailed; [shelter] rules are enforced
- Build emotional safety: HT victims will feel isolated in DV shelter, not identify with domestic violence survivors, mistrust other trafficked women housed with them
- Understand trauma caused when victim & perpetrator boundaries are blurred –trafficked youth may be forced, or even consent to use violence/recruit others for their pimp

Culturally-specific CBOs can provide:

- ✓ For DMST survivors, identify intergenerational trauma
- ✓ For DMST survivors (not trafficked by family), educate family members about sexual exploitation
- ✓ Life skills training – cooking, working, making decisions
- ✓ ESL classes

Collaboration: (e) Healthcare

Building Capacity for Victim Identification

Healthcare providers, untrained in screening for trafficking, may misdiagnose presenting problems. E.g.:

- Malnutrition ≠ eating disorder, but food insecurity
- Drug poisoning ≠ substance abuse, but being used as a drug mule
- Multiple pregnancies, multiple abortions, HIV/AIDS, STIs and STDs ≠ ignorance of safe sex or high-risk behavior, but reproductive coercion and assault
- Repeated Depo Provera use ≠ teen who can't be bothered with her periods, but prostituted teen
- Untreated work injuries/diseases rarely seen in U.S. ≠ negligent or uninsured patient, but trafficked

Culturally-specific CBOs provide:

- ✓ Accompaniment
- ✓ Help for patient to understand informed consent

❑ QUESTIONS?

Wrap Up and
Conclusion

Key Toolkits and Technical Assistance Resources

NHTRC

NATIONAL
HUMAN TRAFFICKING
RESOURCE CENTER

1-888-373-7888

<http://www.traffickingresourcecenter.org/>



<https://www.ovcttac.gov/taskforceguide/eguide/>



HUMAN TRAFFICKING
AND THE STATE COURTS COLLABORATIVE

<http://www.htcourts.org/>

Futures Without Violence, "COLLABORATING TO HELP TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS: EMERGING ISSUES AND PRACTICE POINTERS"

<http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/collaborating-to-help-trafficking-survivors-emerging-issues-and-practice-pointers/>.

Special Collection: Trauma-Informed Domestic Violence Services

<http://www.vawnet.org/special-collections/DVTraumaInformed-Overview>

Runaway and Homeless Youth Tool Kit

<http://www.nrcdv.org/rhydtoolkit/critical-issues/>

Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence (formerly API Institute on DV)

info@apiidv.org

<http://www.apiidv.org/violence/trafficking.php>

Need More Help?

Specialized Human Trafficking Training and Technical Assistance Providers

The logo for the Office for Victims of Crime, Training and Technical Center (OVCTTAC). It features the letters 'OVCTTAC' in a bold, sans-serif font. The 'OV' is dark blue, and 'CTTAC' is light blue. The letters are set against a white background that is part of a larger blue rectangular area.

Office for Victims of Crime, Training and
Technical Center
www.ovcttac.org

The logo for the Center for Court Innovation. It consists of four horizontal bars of alternating colors: white, black, white, and black. The words 'CENTER', 'FOR', 'COURT', and 'INNOVATION' are written in white, uppercase, sans-serif font on the white bars, from top to bottom.

Center for Court Innovation
www.courtinnovation.org

Don't Forget – Upcoming Webinar Schedule

<i>Getting Out of the Box: The Key Ingredients to Cultivate Collaboration</i>	Completed
<i>Balancing Collaboration, Confidentiality, and Privilege in Human Trafficking Cases</i>	June 18, 2015 @ 2:30 p.m. ET
<i>Collaborating With Culturally Specific Organizations to End Human Trafficking, Domestic Violence, and Sexual Assault</i>	July 9, 2015 @ 2:30 p.m. ET
<i>Working Together Part I: Law Enforcement</i>	August 13, 2015 @ 2:30 p.m. ET
<i>Working Together Part II: The Courts</i>	September 24, 2015 @ 2:30 p.m. ET

All webinars are being recorded and will be available at:

<https://www.ovcttac.gov/views/HowWeCanHelp/dspHumanTrafficking.cfm>

Your feedback is important to us – please take a few minutes to fill out the online evaluation form.

Thank you so much!

<https://www.research.net/r/July0915HTwebinar>