

WORKING WITH HT & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS

Overview

Domestic violence (DV) is a crime that may overlap with human trafficking.¹ If human trafficking (HT) is labeled as domestic violence, those working with survivors may overlook or mislabel trafficking.

Both sex trafficking and labor trafficking can intersect with domestic violence. A trafficking survivor may have been living with their trafficker who used violence, manipulation or control.² DV may be a risk or "push" factor - almost 70% of trafficked adult women experience domestic violence before being trafficked.³

Best Practices

Recognize the Signs of HT in DV Cases

- Intimidation, emotional abuse, isolation, economic abuse, and coercion and threats are some methods of power and control that are used in both DV and HT
- In both human trafficking and domestic violence, force is not required and abuse can be physical or non-physical.⁴

Address Needs Related to HT and DV

- Consider whether a multi-disciplinary team or cross-sector partnership is appropriate to best address the needs of your survivor client.

Shelter Options for Victims of Human Trafficking

- If you are not able to find a place at an HR shelter for your client, consider a shelter for DV survivors. DV shelters are better able to meet HT survivors' needs than generic shelters, but may need additional resources to do so.⁵

¹ Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence Fact Sheet, Human Trafficking Legal Center

<http://www.htlegalcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/Human-Trafficking-and-Domestic-Violence-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

² The Intersections of Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking, National Network to End Domestic Violence. (2017, November 10)

https://nmedv.org/latest_update/intersections-domestic-violence-human-trafficking/

³ UNICEF USA: End Trafficking Campaign. Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking (2017, November 15)

<https://www.unicefusa.org/stories/domestic-violence-and-humantrafficking/33601>

⁴ Serving Human Trafficking Victims: An Introduction for Domestic Violence Organizations. (2016, September).

<https://humantraffickinghotline.org/resources/serving-humantrafficking-victims-introduction-domestic-violence-organizations>

⁵ New Report Identifies Business Sector Intersections to Human Trafficking. Polaris Press Release (2018, July 12).

<https://polarisproject.org/news/press-releases/new-report-identifies-business-sector-intersections-human-trafficking>



WORKING WITH HT & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS

Resources

For an online training on identifying trafficking victims and domestic violence:

Serving Human Trafficking Victims: An Introduction for Domestic Violence Organizations (2016, September)

<https://humantraffickinghotline.org/resources/serving-humantrafficking-victims-introduction-domestic-violence-organizations>

For an assessment tool to help you identify if a DV survivor is also a HT survivor:

Human Trafficking Assessment Tool for Domestic Violence Programs, National Human Trafficking Resource Center (2011, January)

<https://humantraffickinghotline.org/resources/human-trafficking-assessment-tool-domestic-violence-programs>

