



Human Trafficking and The Covid Crisis

A Zoom Webinar Presented by
Center for the Women of New York

**Tuesday, June 9, 2020
11 am - 12:30 pm**





Center for the Women of New York



Your Host Today:

Victoria Pilotti

CWNY President

Good morning and welcome to CWNY's Human Trafficking in the COVID Crisis webinar.

If you missed our previous webinars and would like to view them, please visit
www.cwny.org/past-events/

Subscribe to our newsletter <https://conta.cc/3bYFKbG> for more information about our upcoming programs.

About CWNy



Since our founding in October of 1987, the Center has shown that women working together can be an effective force. We are a voluntary, non-profit organization, dependent on dues from our members and on the volunteer efforts of business, professional and community women and men in New York City.



We advocate strongly for women's full equality by partnering with like-minded organizations and elected officials. We participate in women's marches and organize symposia on topics like domestic violence and human trafficking. We help women in crisis through referrals to social services.



At the Center for the Women of New York, we believe education is a cornerstone of women's economic independence. To that end, we offer classes in conversational ESL, computer skills, and other topics, and an annual Career Conference to enable women to gain employment and rise in the workplace.



Whether we're marching for worthy causes, celebrating women's accomplishments in leadership, the arts, or sports, camaraderie is a hallmark of CWNy. We've come a long way since the Second Wave of the Women's Movement in the latter half of the 20th century, and while there are many struggles ahead, we celebrate how far we've come.

HOUSEKEEPING



**Tell us how
we did in
the survey**

A copy of the slides will be available at the link below after the presentation:

<http://cwny.org/past-events>

Q&A

Your questions will be addressed after all panelists have presented.

Use the Chat Box at the bottom of your Zoom meeting screen to ask a question.

If you dialed in, email your questions to events@cwny.org





Assistant District Attorney Jessica Melton, Chief, Human Trafficking Bureau, Queens County District Attorney

Amanda Eckhart, Executive Director, RESTORE NYC

Tori Curbelo, Manager of Education, Training & Advocacy, LifeWay Network

Kyra Wooden, Youth Outreach Manager, ECPAT-USA

Karen Lynne Siegel, Ph.D., Founding President Zonta Club of Greater Queens

ADA Jessica Melton



Assistant District Attorney Jessica Melton is the Chief of the Human Trafficking Bureau of the Queens County District Attorney's Office. She is a graduate of St. John's University School of Law and has been a prosecutor with the District Attorney's Office for the past twenty years. Since New York State's first Sex and Labor Trafficking laws took effect thirteen years ago in 2007, she has focused her career solely on the prosecution of human trafficking and related crimes. Most notably she obtained the first conviction for sex trafficking in New York State after a jury trial in which the defendant was sentenced to 25 years to life in prison and also obtained the first labor trafficking conviction in Queens County. In 2013, she was awarded the prestigious Thomas E. Dewey medal by the New York City Bar Association for her work in combating Human Trafficking.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN QUEENS COUNTY

DISTRICT ATTORNEY MELINDA KATZ



SEX & LABOR TRAFFICKING

NEW YORK STATE LAWS TOOK EFFECT IN 2007

■ Sex Trafficking

- Hotels
- Massage
- Parlors
- Brothels
- Street

■ Labor Trafficking

- Grocery Stores
- Hotels
- Nail Salons
- Restaurants
- Domestic Workers
- Any Business Legal or Illegal

No element of transport, travel, movement needs to be proven

A SUB-CULTURE OF MODERN DAY SLAVERY

SEX TRAFFICKING OF A CHILD AMENDMENT SIGNED AUGUST 15, 2018



TRAFFICKERS EXPLOIT USING POWER AND CONTROL OFTEN GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

- Traffickers Typically Target The Most Vulnerable Members of Our Community Using:

- **VIOLENCE**

- TRAUMATIC BONDING

- **FEAR**

- OF VIOLENCE
 - HUMILIATION
 - ARREST
 - DEPORTATION

- **TO SUCCESSFULLY COMBAT TRAFFICKING**

- COMMUNITY AWARENESS
 - OUTREACH AND SERVICES TO THOSE TRAFFICKED OR AT RISK
 - HOLD TRAFFICKERS ACCOUNTABLE – MOST TRAFFICKERS HAVE MULTIPLE VICTIMS

QUESTIONS OR TO REPORT TRAFFICKING

CONTACT INFORMATION



ADA JESSICA L. MELTON
CHIEF, HUMAN TRAFFICKING BUREAU
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY QUEENS COUNTY
718-286-6657

Amanda Eckhardt, Executive Director



RESTORE

Amanda Eckhardt is Restore NYC's Executive Director and has been with the team since 2014. With over 15 years of research and practice experience, she leads Restore's impact-driven services for survivors of trafficking in New York City, with a focus on housing and economic empowerment interventions.

Restore NYC exists to end sex trafficking in New York and restore the well-being and independence of foreign-national survivors.

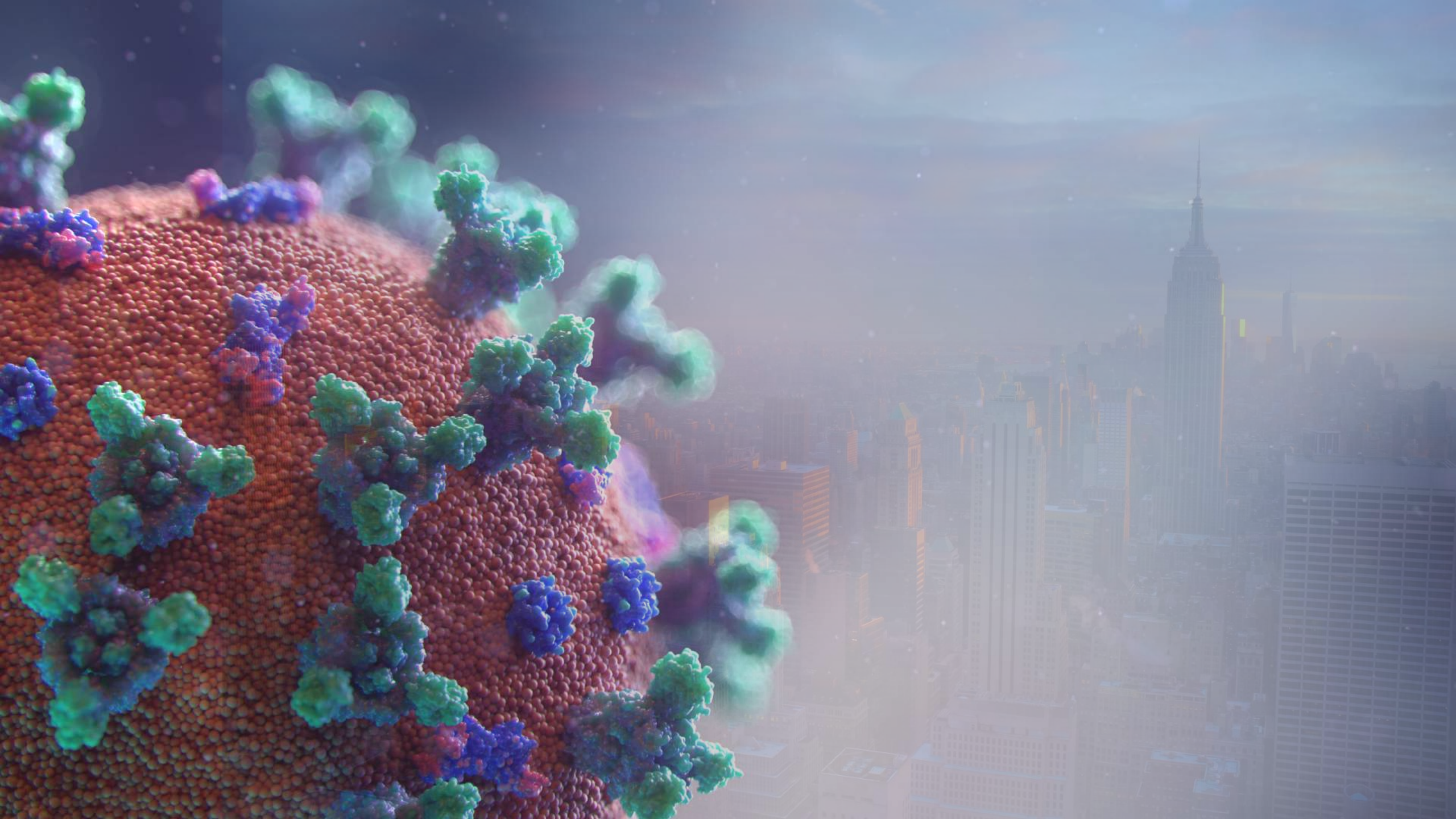
**MAKE
FREEDOM
REAL**



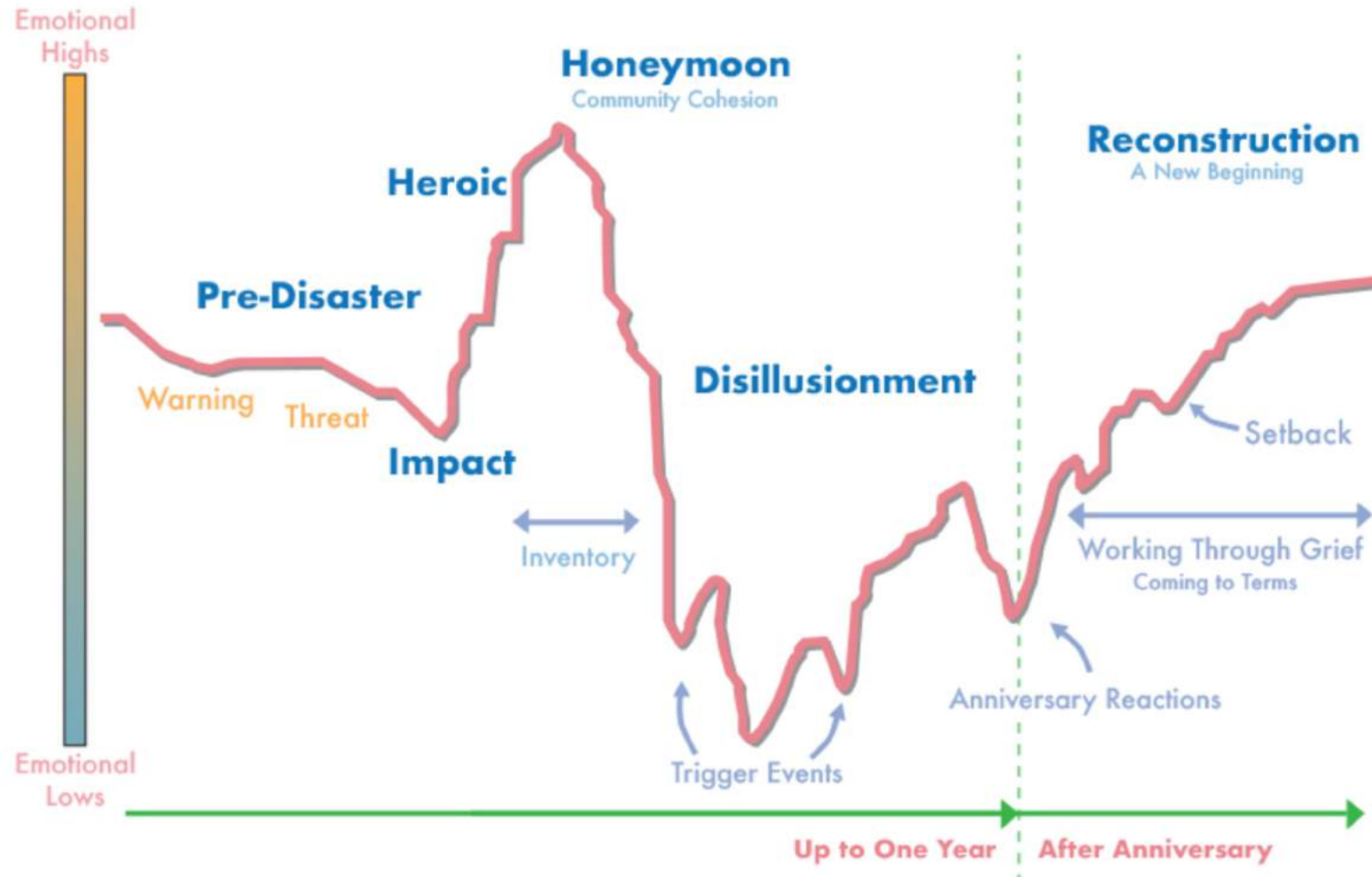
OUR MISSION

Restore exists to end sex trafficking in New York and to restore the well-being and independence of foreign-national survivors.

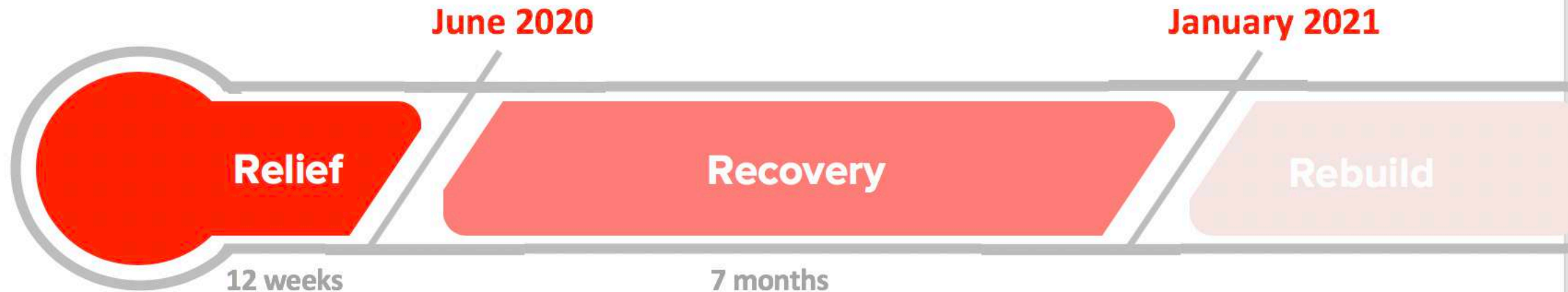




Phases of Disaster



Our 3-Phase Model of Response



Our 2-Part Strategy for Economic Empowerment



Targeted reemployment



Entrepreneurship and investment in survivor-led businesses



Tori Curbelo, Manager of Education, Training, & Advocacy



LIFEWAY
NETWORK

Tori Curbelo is responsible for advancing LifeWay Network's educational & advocacy initiatives. Drawn to LifeWay's commitment to servicing human trafficking survivors, Tori's career has focused on combating exploitation and similar human rights abuses. She carries experience from UNICEF USA, Fair Trade USA, the International Rescue Committee, and Win. Tori enjoys connecting with individuals around the urgency of human trafficking and has engaged audiences everywhere from the United Nations to Times Square. In 2015, she launched UNICEF USA's podcast, Ending Human Trafficking Locally and Globally. She holds a Master's in Public Health from the CUNY Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy, and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Italian from the College of the Holy Cross.

LifeWay Network confronts the reality of human trafficking every day by changing the future for women survivors through our Safe Housing Program and increasing awareness and engagement through our Education Program..LifeWay Network is one of only two organizations in the New York Metro area providing safe housing for women survivors of human trafficking. What sets LifeWay's Safe Housing Program apart is its community living model. It goes beyond offering shelter by welcoming each woman into a supportive, caring environment that helps them recover from their trauma, regain their sense of self-worth, and enables them to move from isolation towards reclaiming their independence.



LIFEWAY
NETWORK



Exploring Labor Trafficking with LifeWay Network



Labor trafficking: Where does it occur? Which Industries?



Factories



Casinos



Domestic Servitude



Traveling Sales Crews



Peddling/Begging



Restaurants



Agriculture



Construction

Labor trafficking: Where does it occur? Which Industries?



Factories



Casinos



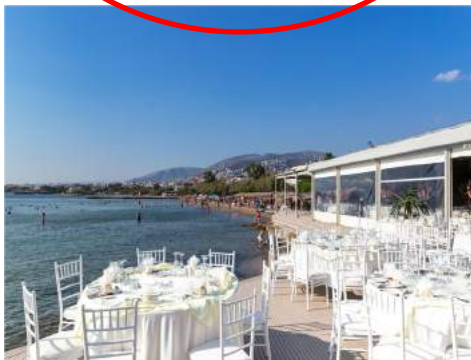
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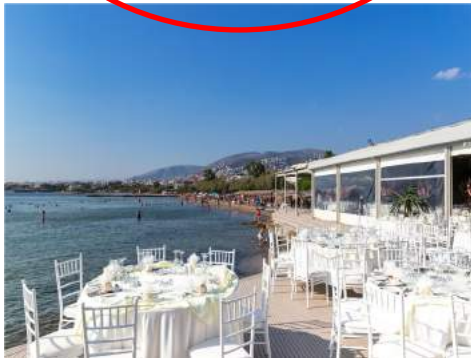
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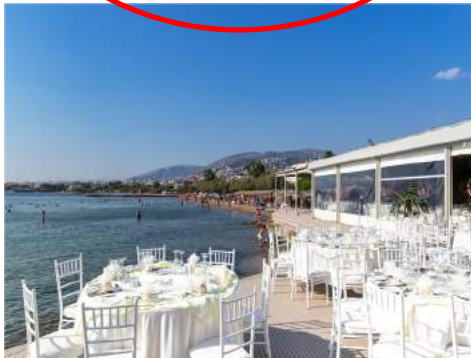
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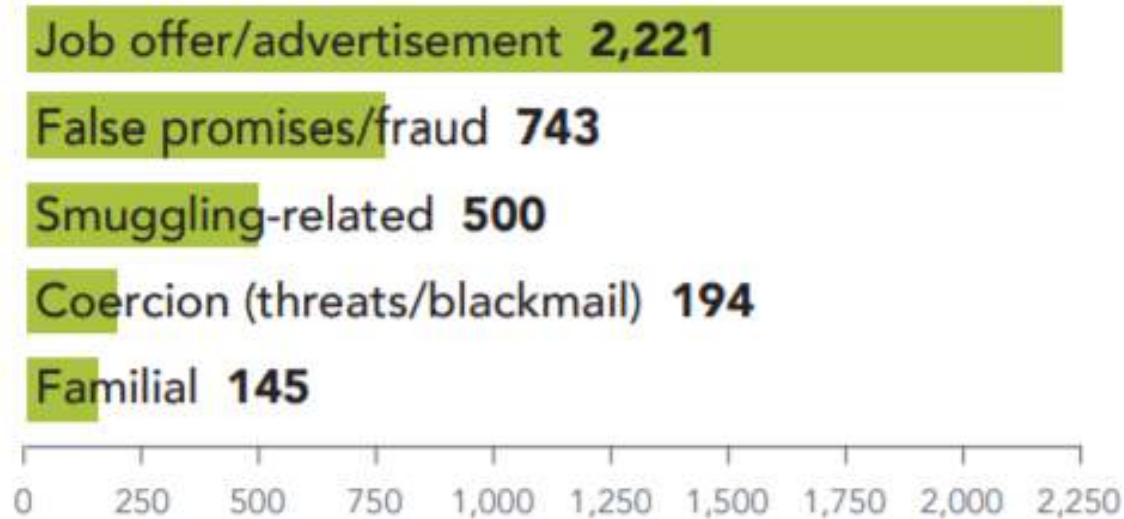
Agriculture



Construction

How victims are recruited for labor trafficking?

LABOR TRAFFICKING



Common visas: H-2A, H-2b, B-1 work visas

HUMAN TRAFFICKING RED FLAGS



Lack of Control

- ✓Frequently monitored
- ✓Not allowed to speak for themselves
- ✓Has few personal possessions
- ✓Not in control over their own money
- ✓Does the person not have access to their own identification



Work Conditions

- ✓Works excessively long hours
- ✓Paid a little or only through tips
- ✓Forced to meet daily quotas
- ✓Lack of safety equipment

Labor Trafficking Signs

- ✓Living in overcrowded conditions
- ✓Have a debt that they owe to their employer

LifeWay Network's Model:

Fear

Safe housing

Education/Advocacy

Wings Mentorship

Partnerships

Safety

TAKE ACTION

NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE

*24/7 • Toll free
Confidential
200+ languages*



CALL

1-888-373-7888



TEXT

"BeFree" (233733)



LIVE CHAT

humantraffickinghotline.org

GET HELP



REPORT TRAFFICKING

Be a conscious consumer



Start a Fair Trade Congregation: FairTradeCampaigns.org

Questions?

Tori Curbelo -Tcurbelo@lifewaynetwork.org

Follow @LifeWayNetwork

Kyra Wooden, Youth Outreach Manager



Kyra Wooden works as the Youth Outreach Manager for ECPAT-USA, a leading anti-trafficking policy organization in the United States. It belongs to an international network of 103 members in 93 countries, all working to end the commercial sexual exploitation of children. Their mission is to protect every child's basic human right to grow up free from the threat of sexual exploitation and trafficking. Kyra leads the Youth Against Child Trafficking (Y-ACT) program, educating middle and high school youth regarding child sexual exploitation, healthy relationships, and healthy virtual identities. The curricula is designed to educate, empower and develop the leadership skills of young people.

Kyra has recently received her B.A. in Psychology and Statistics at Macaulay Honors College at Hunter College and is currently pursuing her M.A in Public Health at the CUNY School of Public Health.





YOUTH AGAINST CHILD TRAFFICKING PROGRAM

#ReadItSetIt



**ECPAT-USA's mission
is to protect every
child's basic human
right to grow up free
from the threat of
sexual exploitation
and trafficking.**



ECPAT-USA

Our Vision: a world in which no child is bought, sold, or used for sex.



Youth
Education



Private Sector
Engagement



Community
Education



Legislative
Advocacy

Human Trafficking

Sex Trafficking

- **Commercial sexual exploitation**
 - Prostitution
 - Pornography and child sexual abuse material (CSAM)
 - “Sex tourism”
- **Non-commercial sexual abuse**
- **Combinations of the above**

Human Trafficking – Labor Trafficking

All work or service extracted from a person under the threat of penalty and for which the person has not offered her/himself voluntarily

- **Common in the U.S.**
 - **People forced to work in homes as domestic servants**
 - **Farmworkers coerced through violence as they harvest crops**
 - **Restaurants, cleaning services, construction, factories and more**

Who Are the Victims?

- **All backgrounds – girls, boys, women and men**
- **Target vulnerable youth and adults**
- **Use false promises to trick victims**



Who are the perpetrators?

- Pimps
- Sex Buyers
- Brothel owners/managers
- Massage Parlor operators
- Family Members
- Acquaintances/Classmates
- Employers
- Employment Agencies
- Other victims

I was groomed.



"When I was 16 years old, I met some older men at the local mall. One of the men started taking me on dates and buying me clothes and meals. Not long after we started dating, he coerced me into sex trafficking, convincing me that if I complied, I would never need to rely on anyone ever again. At 17 years old, I was forced to make at least \$1,000 per day. Eventually, my traffickers forced me to take on a different role where I was in charge of recruiting more teenagers to be exploited in commercial sex. Most of the money went to my traffickers. To keep me under their control, my traffickers threatened my family who lived nearby."

—Taylor, Survivor

How Does the Y-ACT Program Work?

- To prevent trafficking from happening in the first place, ECPAT-USA developed our Youth Against Child Trafficking (Y-ACT) program.**
- Through facilitated workshops and guided conversations, middle school and high school aged youth in NYC learn about the existence of child sexual exploitation in their communities, what it looks like so they can protect themselves**
- Y-ACT's interactive, skills-based curriculum utilizes a holistic, trauma informed approach.**

Series of Three Workshops

(Free of charge for schools)

Child Sex Trafficking 101

Healthy Relationships 101

Healthy Virtual Identities 101

Child Sex Trafficking 101

When thinking about human trafficking, many people picture the kidnapping, physical restraint, and force of girls in developing countries. Students learn about the misconceptions, vulnerable populations, the warning signs of child sex trafficking, and more. The session closes out so that participants leave with concrete steps they can take to help raise awareness about this human rights abuse happening in our backyard.





Healthy Relationships 101

Many survivors of sex trafficking have reported viewing their trafficker as a romantic partner. With this in mind, *HR 101* explores the components of healthy & unhealthy relationships, power & control, consent, and more. The session includes a self-reflection piece so that students can think of ways to make their existing relationships healthier and leave any unhealthy relationships.

Healthy Virtual Identities 101

With the growth of the technology, sex trafficking is rapidly moving from the streets to online venues; traffickers are now using social media platforms to lure in and recruit new victims. To protect our youth from these predators, *HVI 101* explores the components of “healthy virtual identities”, addresses the “do’s & don’ts” of posting, catfishing, warning signs of online predators, and more. Participants are encouraged to think of ways to make their online identity healthier while still having fun online.



Program Highlights

During the program's first year, two students self-identified as victims of sexual exploitation. Since then, our workshop series has been facilitated to over 6500 youths at 40+ schools and organizations.

For the 2018 academic year, The program reached 1,454 students in public and private schools throughout NYC,

26% overall increase in knowledge acquired about child trafficking.

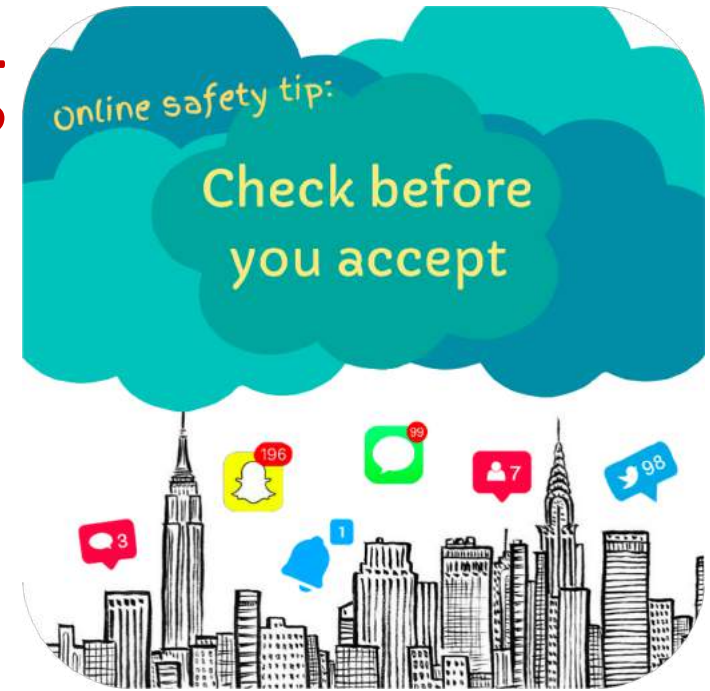
64% of students were interested in raising awareness about child sex trafficking

84% of students were able to define and give an example of consent

90% of students were able to recognize traffickers use social media during recruitment

These data demonstrate student attraction to this subject and the critical need for this type of education to be provided within the school system.

Follow [@youthagainsttrafficking](https://www.instagram.com/youthagainsttrafficking)
on Instagram



#READITSETIT Campaign

As kids spend more time than ever on the internet, we are stepping up to help protect youth across the country from online exploitation. Check out our new guides to online safety and take action by updating your privacy settings on your own computer. Then, spread the word and encourage others to do the same by taking a photo with a sign that reads **#ReadItSetIt** and posting on social media using the hashtag **#ReadItSetIt**.

Learn more: www.ecpatusa.org/online-safety-tips.



SIGNS OF ONLINE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OR TRAFFICKING

This period of social distancing offers an opportunity to monitor for common indicators of trafficking and online exploitation. Below are some behaviors to consider:

- 1) frequently exits and enters the home despite prohibitions on travel;**
- 2) works excessively long hours for a new “job” (virtually or outside of the home);**
- 3) displays signs of depression, anxiety or unusual fears, or a sudden loss of self-confidence;**
- 4) exhibits injuries or other signs of abuse;**
- 5) fears authority figures;**
- 6) receives sums of money transferred into accounts such as Venmo, CashApp, and PayPal;**
- 7) experiences a disturbance from usual sleep patterns;**
- 8) spends an increased amount of time online or on the phone, checking in with an unidentified “friend”;**
- 9) suddenly changes their appearance or style of dress;**
- 10) has an increase in package deliveries, money, clothing or jewelry;**
- 11) provides inconsistent explanations for any of the above.**

Karen Lynne Siegel, Ph.D., Founding President of Zonta Club of Greater Queens Zonta International, UN NGO Representative; NGO Committee on Mental Health. 1998-2010



The Zonta Club of Greater Queens is a local chapter of Zonta International. Their mission is to advance the status of women, girls and their families through service and advocacy, locally and globally. Service funds are raised through annual events, donations, and grants, and then donated to assist local organizations, including Child Abuse Prevention Services of Long Island and SAVI (Mount Sinai Sexual Assault and Violence Intervention Program). They also support crucial international organizations, such as UNICEF, UN Women and CARE International.



Statistics on Human Trafficking

Zonta International USA Caucus



ZONTA
INTERNATIONAL
USA CAUCUS
EMPOWERING WOMEN
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

Human trafficking is the fastest-growing criminal enterprise in the world, generating more than \$150 billion annually, yet few people know exactly what it is and who it affects.



The United Nations defines human trafficking as the *recruitment and/or transportation of persons through force, fraud, or coercion.*

Human trafficking occurs when someone in a position of power exploits an individual in a vulnerable situation, typically for financial gain. Traffickers will use a variety of manipulation tactics to undermine a victim's autonomy, some of which include lies and manipulation, physical isolation, and theft of personal identification documents.



The many forms of trafficking:

- ❖ Labor trafficking
- ❖ Sexual exploitation
- ❖ Involuntary domestic servitude
- ❖ Forced marriage
- ❖ Child soldiering
- ❖ Forced begging
- ❖ Forced criminal activity
- ❖ Organ trafficking



Girls alone make up
23% of all documented
trafficked persons.

Women and girls

are overwhelmingly the victims of sex trafficking.



In the U.S.,

there have been cases of human trafficking in all 50 states and Washington, D.C.

In rural, urban, and suburban areas all across the U.S.

Anti-trafficking laws and improved data collection are improving the capacity of countries to respond to human trafficking.





Zonta Clubs
and Districts
across the US
work locally
and at the
State Level to
end human
trafficking.

Zonta partnership with Truckers Against Trafficking



Q&A

We're ready for your questions!

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Upcoming CWN Y Events

- Book Club
- Computer Classes
- Legal Clinic
- Women Artist Exhibit
- Women Performing Artist Event
- Walking Group



Current Services

- Caregivers Phone Support Group
- Conversational English as a Second Language (ESL) Classes
- Referral Services
- Webinars



Center for the Women of New York



Help CWNY continue to
provide educational
programs:

cwny.org/donations/

cwny.org/membership/