

January is National Human Trafficking Prevention Month

2021 NYC Child Sex Trafficking Conference: A 14-Day Virtual Event

For Registration:

- For ACS and provider agency staff: **All registration is through your HSLC/STARS Training Coordinator**
- Externals to the NYC Child Welfare System: Email Traffickingtraining@acs.nyc.gov to inquire

Conference Schedule Quick View (session descriptions follow):

- Jan 11 (Mon) from 10 to 1:
Understanding Child Trafficking: A Bio-Psycho-Social Perspective
- Jan 12 (Tues) from 10 to 1:
ACS 2020 Trafficking Policy and Child Trafficking Database (CTDB) Screenings
- Jan 13 (Wed) from 10 to 1:
Law Enforcement and Legal Perspectives on Human Trafficking Panel
- Jan 14 (Thurs) from 10 to 2:
Human Trafficking Expert Resource Service Panel
- Jan 15 (Fri) from 10 to 1:
National Center for Missing & Exploited Children: Child Sex Trafficking Reporting & Resources
- Jan 19 (Tues) from 10 to 1:
Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C): Overview, Engagement Strategies and Resources
- Jan 20 (Wed) from 9:30 to 11:
The Virtual Reality of Safety Enhancement: Cyber Safety and Stress Reduction Groupwork for Trafficked and At-Risk Residential Youth
- Jan 21 (Thurs) from 10 to 1:30:
Safety Planning WITH Trafficked Youth and ACS Credible Messenger Program
- Jan 22 (Fri) from 10 to 12:
Exploring Trauma Through The Creative Arts
- Jan 25 (Mon) from 10 to 12:
Film Viewing/Discussion: A MOST BEAUTIFUL THING trailer, I AM LITTLE RED, Panel
- Jan 26 (Tues) from 10 to 1:
ACS 2020 Trafficking Policy and Child Trafficking Database (CTDB) Screenings
- Jan 27 (Wed) from 10 to 1:
Human Trafficking Through a Medical Lens: Expert Physician Panel
- Jan 28 (Thurs) from 10 to 1:
Endorsing Exploitation: The Influence of Media on the Developing Vulnerable Adolescent
- Jan 29 (Fri) from 12 to 2:
Mitigating Trauma Through Psychodrama: A Skills Focused Workshop

**2021 NYC Child Sex Trafficking Conference:
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Session Descriptions:

Jan 11 (Mon) from 10 to 1:

Understanding Child Trafficking: A Bio-Psycho-Social Perspective

- **Selina Higgins, LCSW-R**, Executive Director, Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy, NYC Administration for Children's Services

An extremely comprehensive view into the potential etiology of child trafficking, beginning with infant attachment and behavioral learning influences. The attachment pattern developed between an infant and the primary caregiver can have extensive influence across the entire life cycle. The deficits and resultant needs that develop in insecure attachment types will unconsciously impact upon subsequent relationship choices. The workshop will demonstrate how the development of certain attachment types in infants can lead to subsequent juvenile trafficking vulnerability, and how traffickers fulfill the inherent social-emotional deficits to trauma bond with, and exploit youth, then proceeds to teen cognitive and social-emotional development, the impact of trauma, relational influences, recruitment techniques, trauma bonding, red flags and language affiliated with the commercial sex industry, and concluding with engagement dos and don'ts for work with trafficked youth. PowerPoint, media clips, and case scenario exercises will be utilized to facilitate learning.

Jan 12 (Tues) from 10 to 1:

ACS 2020 Trafficking Policy and Child Trafficking Database (CTDB) Screenings

- **Selina Higgins, LCSW-R**, Executive Director, Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy
- **Clifton Robertson, LMSW**, Child Trafficking Specialist Social Worker, Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy
- **Marreka Beckett**, Credible Messenger

In September 2020, ACS released Policy and Procedure 2020/05: Identifying, Assessing, and Safety Planning with Child Sex and Labor Trafficking Victims, which articulates guidelines and procedures for ACS and provider agency staff in identifying children and youth for sex and/or labor trafficking, and for safety planning, coordinating with law enforcement, and making referrals for appropriate services. The Child Trafficking Database (CTDB) is the mechanism that all ACS and provider staff must use to screen children for sex trafficking. This training will provide an overview of child trafficking, a description of the legislation that led to mandated sex trafficking screenings for children in the NYS and NYC child welfare system, a detailed overview of the policy and a step by step walk through of CTDB screening procedures, including a hands-on demonstration of CTDB screenings. This training is a must for all NYC child welfare staff and any other professional who needs to understand ACS' trafficking policy and to perform the screenings correctly.

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Jan 13 (Wed) from 10 to 1:

Law Enforcement and Legal Perspectives on Child Trafficking Panel

This panel presentation will provide perspectives from the law enforcement and legal professionals who work together with child welfare providers to identify issues and discuss how their agencies contribute to enforcing the law and providing victim support and safety. Panelists will include professionals from the NYPD's Human Trafficking Unit, the FBI's Victim Specialist Program, ACS' Investigative Consultation Program's AWOL Recovery Team, and Family Court Legal Services, all five District Attorney offices, Legal Aid, Brooklyn Legal Defenders, and the NYC Law Department. Each panelist will have eight minutes to describe their program, followed by participant Q&A.

- **Aylese Kanze, Esq.** Director of Anti-Trafficking and Anti-CSEC Initiatives and Outcomes, Family Court Division, New York City Law Department
- **Lt. Amy Capogna**, New York City Police Department, Detective Bureau, Vice Enforcement Division, Major Case - Human Trafficking Team
- **Sgt Robert Duplessis**, New York City Police Department, Detective Bureau, Vice Enforcement Division, Major Case - Human Trafficking Team
- **Laura Riso**, Victim Specialist, Federal Bureau of Investigation
- **ADA Carolina Holderness, Esq.**, Chief, Human Trafficking Response Unit, Manhattan District Attorney's Office
- **ADA David Weiss, Esq.**, Deputy Chief, Human Trafficking Unit, Kings County District Attorney's Office
- **ADA Jessica Melton, Esq.**, Chief of the Human Trafficking Bureau, Office of Queens County District Attorney
- **ADA Jevet Johnson, Esq.**, Chief, Special Victims Bureau, Office of the Richmond County District Attorney
- **ADA Stephen M. Knoepfler, Esq.**, Chief, Human Trafficking Unit, Special Victims Division, Office of the Bronx County District Attorney
- **Ian Sangenito, Esq.** Executive Agency Counsel, Family Court Legal Services, NYC Administration for Children's Services
- **Sgt. (retired) James Maloy**, Supervisor, AWOL Recovery Team, Office of the Commissioner/Investigations, NYC Administration for Children's Services
- **Jillian Modzeleski, Esq.**, Senior Trial Attorney, Women's Defense Project, Brooklyn Defender Services
- **Katherine (Cait) Mullen, Esq.**, Staff Attorney, Juvenile Rights Division, Brooklyn Legal Aid Society

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Jan 14 (Thurs) from 10 to 2:30:

Human Trafficking Expert Resource Service Panel

A diverse variety of NYC programs that provide expertise in awareness and prevention work with trafficked and at-risk youth and adults. Each panelist/panelist group will have eight minutes to describe their program, followed by participant Q&A.

- **ACS' Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy**
 - Selina Higgins, Executive Director
- **Bridging the Gap**
 - Lance Davis, Program Coordinator
- **Covenant House**
 - Shanesha Joyner, Administrator of Anti-Trafficking Services
- **Day One**
 - Billye Jones, Director
- **ECPAT USA**
 - Christian Toala, Director of Educational Initiatives
- **END GBV - Family Justice Centers**
 - Tesa Aroqueta, Director of Outreach, Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence
- **Federal Bureau of Investigation - Victim Specialist Program**
 - Laura Riso, Victim Specialist
- **Freedom Youth, LLC**
 - Monique Ferguson-Riley, CEO and Founder; Joseph Martin Riley; Aqueela Shafeeq
- **Garden of Hope**
 - Eve He, Counselor
- **GEMS**
 - name tba
- **Lifeway Network**
 - Tori Curbelo, Manager of Education, Training and Advocacy
- **Manhattan District Attorney's Office**
 - Melissa Martinez-Valdez, Special Victims Social Worker
- **National Center for Missing and Exploited Children**
 - Nadine Dalley-Smith, Supervisor and Christie Morin, Program Manager

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- **NY Foundling: Child Sex Exploitation and Trafficking Team (CSEET)**
 - Shelly Burke, Program Director and Kamille Stine, Assistant Vice President
- **Pride Center of Staten Island**
 - Carol Bullock, Director
- **Not on My Watch: Alternatives Program**
 - Kioka Jones, Rev Que English
- **Safe Horizon Anti-Trafficking Program**
 - Amelia Shogun, Esq., Supervising Attorney
- **Sanctuary for Families JET Program, ATI and EMPOWER**
 - Anna Thomas, Counselor, Justice and Empowerment for Teens (JET) Initiative;
 - Gabrielle Prieto, Peer Care Navigator, The EMPOWER Center;
 - Letisha McCall, Supervising Social Worker, Anti-Trafficking Initiative
- **Shared Hope, International**
 - Sarah Bendtsen, Director of State Legislative Advocacy; Christine Raino, Senior Director of Public Policy
- **The Center for Healing, JCCA**
 - Jessie Boye-Doe, Director
- **The Salvation Army of Greater NY: Pearl Essence**
 - Major A.A. Margareta Ivarsson and Jennifer Groff, Community Engagement Director

Jan 15 (Fri) from 10 to 1:

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children: Child Sex Trafficking Reporting and Resources

- **Christie Morin, Program Manager, Children Missing From Care**
- **Meagan Clark, Case Manager 2, Missing Children Division**
- **Tiffany Henderson, Supervisor, Sex Trafficking Team**
- **Samantha Sahl, DSW, LCSW, Supervisor, Child Sex Trafficking Recovery Services Team**

This presentation will provide information on NCMEC's reporting guidelines and resources, with a focus on child sex trafficking. Attendees will become familiar with the NCMEC Intake process, the importance of providing photos, and the information provided to NCMEC during the course of a case. Child sex trafficking program and resources will be highlighted by NCMEC case management, analysis, and recovery services.



**2021 NYC Child Sex Trafficking Conference:
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Jan 19 (Tues) from 10 to 1:

Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C): Overview, Engagement Strategies and Resources

- **Dr. Deborah Ottenheimer, MD**, Director of Women's Holistic Health, Harlem United; Human Rights Activist
- **R. Nancy Abilal**, President and CEO, Arab-American Family Support Center
- **Danny Salim**, Senior Director of Solution Based Casework, Arab-American Family Support Center

Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) comprises all procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injuries to the female genital organs for NON-MEDICAL REASONS. FGM is a violation of Human Rights and part of a continuum of gender-based violence. This training will discuss the types of FGM, tools used, false assumptions, highest risk cities, and physical and psychological consequences. It will also focus upon cultural awareness and effective strategies (Dos and Don'ts) to use in preventive engagement with families and in sensitive engagement with survivors. It will also highlight ACS' FGM@acs.nyc.gov mailbox where child welfare professions can obtain information, case guidance and resources from ACS' Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy.

Jan 20 (Wed) from 9:30 to 11:00:

The Virtual Reality of Safety Enhancement: Cyber Safety and Stress Reduction Groupwork for Trafficked and At-Risk Residential Youth

- **Selina Higgins, LCSW-R**, Executive Director, Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy,
- **T. Francis, MSW**, Youth Reception Center Liaison, Placement Stability Unit, Nicholas Scoppetta Children's Center

Today, reality is virtual. Due to COVID-19, sheltering in place has become a way of life and recreational escape has become a virtual reality, resulting in greater amounts of screen time than ever before for both vulnerable youth and predators. Child rights groups, law enforcement officials and international organizations have reported greater demands for online sexual abuse material and grooming. Due to school closures, children may feel isolated and mitigate their loneliness by connecting with cyber friends. Safe at home from COVID exposure, they are unsafely exposed to more unsupervised screen time than ever before, resulting in a heightened vulnerability to predators.

Recognizing the risks of increased, unsupervised screen time, a new groupwork model for teens was created and launched in May 2020. The model, Cyber Safety and Stress Release Workshop, focuses upon online child trafficking awareness coupled with Dialectical Behavioral Therapy distress tolerance, emotion regulation, and interpersonal effectiveness skills. The model provides four facilitated sessions on (1) Online Sexual Abuse, (2) Sextortion and Consent, (3) Media and Human Trafficking Vulnerability, and (4) Cyberbullying, each concluding with a DBT skill to help cabin fevered youth enhance their stress tolerance and interpersonal skills.

**2021 NYC Child Sex Trafficking Conference:
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Jan 21 (Thurs) from 10 to 1:30:

Safety Planning WITH Trafficked Youth and The ACS Credible Messenger Program

- **Selina Higgins, LCSW-R**, Executive Director, Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy
- **Dr. Ann Marie Pendleton, Ph.D.**, Director of Mental Health, The Children's Village
- **Jessie Boye-Doe, LCSW, Director**, The Center for Healing, JCCA
- **Marreka Beckett**, Credible Messenger

Safety plans are integral to optimizing safety at every stage for survivors of trafficking and youth at-risk of sexual exploitation. Planning should occur regularly, relate to whether the survivor plans to leave or remain with the trafficker, and address multiple criteria. Since youth are the experts of their situations and experiences, they should always have an opportunity to be engaged directly in safety-planning. This workshop will discuss the importance of safety planning WITH youth and provide strategies to encourage them to take ownership of and participate in the development of their own personalized plans. The workshop will suggest dos and don'ts, discuss short-term versus long-term planning, and provide strategies to engage youth who may be reluctant to participate in planning. It will also provide an opportunity to practice individualized plan development through case scenarios and role play opportunities

Jan 22 (Fri) from 10 to 12:

Exploring Trauma Through the Creative Arts

- **Crystal Chen, ATR-BC, LCAT, LMHC-A**, Board Certified Licensed Creative Art Therapist, Garden of Hope

Art therapy provides clients with an alternative method of communication and understanding of oneself. The art work that one creates is a reflection of the self, which can be more intimate in nature but also less intrusive. This makes it effective when working with clients who have experienced trauma. In this workshop you will learn about how art therapy can be utilized to explore the depths of trauma in children and adults, explore the benefits of art therapy, and get to do your own self-care art therapy exercise led by Art Therapist Crystal Chen, ATR-BC, LCAT, LMHC-A. No art skills or knowledge is necessary to participate in the art therapy exercise.



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Jan 25 (Mon) from 10 to 12:

Film Viewing and Discussion with 50 Eggs Productions:

- **Trailer: A MOST BEAUTIFUL THING; Feature: I AM LITTLE RED**
- **Panel:**
 - **Andrew Sanderson, Production, 50 Eggs, Inc. (award winning film company)**
 - **Shereene McDermott-Greene, LMSW, Child Trafficking Specialist Supervisor II and Group Facilitator**
 - **Clifton Robertson, LMSW, Child Trafficking Specialist Social Worker and Group Facilitator**

I AM LITTLE RED is a 10-minute animated short aimed at children most at-risk for sex trafficking (e.g. foster-care, runaway, LBGTQ, homeless, and adopted children), with the goal of prevention and awareness. The film, written by 10 survivors of sex trafficking (aged 14-21) along with Alec Sokolow (Academy Award nominated writer of Toy Story) and Mary Mazzio (director/Producer of I AM JANE DOE), is a contemporary re-imagining of the classic fairy tale, Little Red Riding Hood. I AM LITTLE RED addresses the four tactics a “wolf” (trafficker/pimp) will typically use to lure a Little Red off their path. I AM LITTLE RED was created especially for middle school students (ages 11-14) of all genders. When coupled with the teaching guide’s 75-minute lesson plan, I AM LITTLE RED is a primary prevention tool aimed at reducing the risk of commercial sexual exploitation among children. Following the screening, group facilitators will share their groupwork experiences with vulnerable youth and respond to questions.

Jan 26 (Tues) from 10 to 1:

ACS 2020 Trafficking Policy and Child Trafficking Database (CTDB) Screenings

- **Selina Higgins, LCSW-R, Executive Director, Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy,**
- **Clifton Robertson, LMSW, Child Trafficking Specialist Social Worker, Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy**
- **Marreka Beckett, Credible Messenger**

In September 2020, ACS released Policy and Procedure 2020/05: Identifying, Assessing, and Safety Planning with Child Sex and Labor Trafficking Victims, which articulates guidelines and procedures for ACS and provider agency staff in identifying children and youth for sex and/or labor trafficking, and for safety planning, coordinating with law enforcement, and making referrals for appropriate services. The Child Trafficking Database (CTDB) is the mechanism that all ACS and provider staff must use to screen children for sex trafficking. This training will provide an overview of child trafficking, a description of the legislation that led to mandated sex trafficking screenings for children in the NYS and NYC child welfare system, a detailed overview of the policy and a step by step walk through of CTDB screening procedures, including a hands-on demonstration of CTDB screenings. This training is a must for all NYC child welfare staff and any other professional who needs to understand ACS' trafficking policy and to perform the screenings correctly.

**2021 NYC Child Sex Trafficking Conference:
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Jan 27 (Wed) from 10 to 1:

Human Trafficking Through a Medical Lens: Expert Physician Panel

The highest expertise in NYC child abuse and/or human trafficking physicians tell it like it is. This wealth of knowledge and talent who work directly with the most vulnerable youth and adults in NYC will share information about their programs (many of which were self-developed) and encounters they have experienced. Each panelist will have eight minutes to describe their program and work, followed by participant Q&A.

- **Dr. Allen Keller, MD.** Founder, Bellevue Program for Survivors of Torture; Director of the NYU Center for Health and Human Rights; Associate Professor of Medicine at the NYU Grossman School of Medicine and an attending Physician in the Bellevue Hospital Primary Care Medical Clinic
- **Dr. Angel Mendoza, MD, MPH.** Agency Medical Director, NYC Administration for Children's Services; Director, Center for Health Policy and Programs, New York Academy of Medicine
- **Dr. Angela Diaz, MD, PhD, MPH.** Director, Mt. Sinai Adolescent Health Center; Jean C. and James W. Crystal Professor in Adolescent Health, Department of Pediatrics and Department of Environmental Medicine and Public Health at the Icahn School of Medicine
- **Dr. Dana Kaplan, MD.** Founder and Director, STAND Clinic; Director, Child Abuse and Neglect and Residency Program Director, Pediatrics Residency Program for Staten Island University Hospital; Medical Director, Staten Island Child Advocacy Center
- **Dr. Lori Legano, MD.** Director, Child Protection Services, Department of Pediatrics, NYU Langone; Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics at NYU Grossman School of Medicine
- **Dr. Nina Agrawal, MD, FAAP.** Child Abuse Pediatrics Specialist
- **Dr. Peter Sherman, MD, MPH.** Chairman, Pediatrics Department, BronxCare Hospital Center
- **Dr. Veronica Ades, MD, MPH, FACOG.** Founder and Director, The EMPOWER Center for Survivors of Sex Trafficking and Sexual Violence, NYC HHC; Associate Professor, Obstetrics and Gynecology, NYU Langone



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Jan 28 (Thurs) from 10 to 1:

Endorsing Exploitation: The Influence of Media on the Developing Vulnerable Adolescent

- **Selina Higgins, LCSW-R**, Executive Director, Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy, Society's normalization and glorification of exploitation through the attitudes and norms expressed within media both overtly and covertly promulgate over sexualization and unhealthy relationships for adolescent and pre-adolescent youth. The normalizing concepts within media ads, museum art, films, shows, social media influencers and music videos serve to numb reactions and promulgate a sense of false glamour concerning sexual exploitation. This detrimental impact upon juvenile social-emotional development coupled with immature cognitive processes and often previously experienced trauma can influence the concept that exploitation is not only acceptable, but also appealing. The vulnerability to trafficking is also deeply enhanced through deficits and resultant needs that develop in insecure attachment types which unconsciously impact upon subsequent relational choices. The workshop will focus upon the identification of a variety of media platforms that not only influence, but actually normalizes and/or glamorizes exploitation. Media ads, film extracts, music videos, museum art, social media influencers and video games will be utilized as influential examples. Warning: Some media material is explicit in nature, so persons who are sensitive, easily offended or have the potential for traumatization/re-traumatization should not attend.

Jan 29 (Fri) from 12 to 2:

Mitigating Trauma Through Psychodrama: A Skills Focused Workshop

- **Melody J. Centeno, LMSW**, Founder and CEO, Foster Care Unplugged (FCUP) Psychodrama provides an active, experiential approach that facilitates the ability to unpack and explore personal life stories, solve problems, set goals, express feelings appropriately, improve interpersonal skills and relationships, and strengthen the ability to perform personal life roles and in many cases, help to mitigate traumatic experiences. In 2016, Melody J. Centeno founded Foster Care Unplugged (FCUP), a 501(c)(3) agency to focus on enriching the lives of youth in foster care and at risk of being placed in the child welfare system by promoting positive spiritual, emotional and physical outcomes for disadvantaged individuals. ACS has worked with Ms. Centeno throughout her former years in the foster care system and partnered with her on her first stage play, "Foster Care Unplugged, The Stage Play" a 12-week performance-based training where youth in foster care were assigned a therapist, acting coach, and life coach to process their personal child welfare experiences.

Building upon this success, ACS' Office of Child Trafficking Prevention and Policy and FCUP are co-creating a psychodrama model, *Mitigating Trauma through Drama: Developing Positive Pathways for Lives Through Expressive Arts*, to focus upon trafficking, trauma mitigation and mental health support through therapeutic expressive arts group work for trafficked and at-risk girls and young women within NYC's child welfare system. Survivor-led therapeutic drama and writing exercises coupled with trafficking awareness serve as mediums for youth to safely express and process their life stories, allowing them to identify strengths and strive towards supportive and positive alternate pathways. In this workshop, Ms. Centeno will provide an overview of her successful work with Foster Care Unplugged, discuss the ongoing development of the Mitigating Trauma Through Drama groupwork model (currently in its first cohort at a residential facility) and explain/direct several psychodrama exercises in which attendees can participate to experience firsthand the value of the medium.