

Traffick-Free NYC,  
The NYC Center for Faith and Community Partnerships &  
The Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence  
present



# Faith in Action Against Human Trafficking



**NYC** Connecting You to Your City  
Center for Faith and  
Community Partnerships

**NYC**  
Mayor's Office to  
End Domestic and  
Gender-Based Violence





Dear Faith Leader:

Thank you for participating in this year's Weekend of Action Against Human Trafficking (January 11 - 13, 2019) and joining faith leaders of many cultures and traditions to come together in our city's effort to respond to and prevent human trafficking. We are thankful for the opportunity for us to all work together to strengthen how our faith communities respond to trafficking survivors and connect them to services.

The Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence (ENDGBV) develops policies and programs, provides training and prevention education, conducts research and evaluations, performs community outreach, and operates the New York City Family Justice Centers. We collaborate with City agencies and community stakeholders to ensure access to inclusive services for survivors of domestic and gender-based violence, including human trafficking.

Human trafficking is a serious societal and spiritual concern. Like other forms of gender-based violence, it hinders the dignity of human being and violates basic moral principles of all religious faith traditions. The work of spiritual leaders to end injustice and help the most vulnerable among us makes you critical partners and powerful advocates in our work to address this issue. You are also in positions to provide counsel, moral support, and safety to those in need, and can help in our goal to raise awareness about human trafficking by educating your community members about the issue, taking action, and alerting survivors to the services and resources available in NYC.

This packet includes information about human trafficking, including its prevalence and guidance on how to address this issue in communities throughout NYC. It also includes links to resources for survivors and their families and information about the training and outreach opportunities that ENDGBV offers.

Thank you for participating in ENDGBV's Weekend of Action against Human Trafficking 2019.

Warm regards,

Cecile Noel, Commissioner

Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence

## What is Human Trafficking?

Human trafficking is the use of power and control to force, defraud, or coerce someone into engaging in labor or services, including commercial sex or sexual activity. Traffickers use tactics including violence, emotional manipulation, and psychological threats, often exploiting social and economic inequity for their benefit. At its core, trafficking is the systematic use of power over another human being.

Human trafficking is a prevalent issue in our society, impacting marginalized and vulnerable people and communities throughout the world and right here in NYC. It can have dire physical and mental health impacts on survivors and their families.

- Globally, sex and labor trafficking are estimated to be a \$150 billion industry with approximately 40.3 million victims (International Labor Organization)
- An estimated 403,000 people are living in trafficking situations in the United States (Global Slavery Index 2018)
- New York continues to be both a gateway and a destination for trafficking, underscoring the need for both prevention and intervention at the local level

Human trafficking has deep impacts on individuals, families and communities. The solutions to this crisis include strategies that go beyond individual victims and address the systemic barriers and inequities that put people and communities at risk.

Broadly, those most vulnerable to exploitation through trafficking are those from oppressed or stigmatized communities, with many victims holding multiple marginalized identities. Vulnerable groups often include: immigrants, particularly those without permanent immigration status; LGBTQ people; young people; people living in poverty; people who have experienced war, displacement, maltreatment as a child, sexual assault, abuse, domestic violence or other forms of violence; people who do not speak English; and people in shelter or without permanent housing.

In New York State, common venues and industries for labor trafficking include domestic work, restaurants and food service, agriculture, and peddling and begging rings. Common venues and industries for sex trafficking include residence-based commercial sex, escort services, hotel- or motel-based commercial sex, online ads, and illicit massage/spa businesses.

## How Can Members of the Faith Community Support Victims of Human Trafficking?

### Understand the issue of human trafficking

- Learn about and share information with your community about the dynamics and prevalence of human trafficking and its impact on victims, families, and communities
- Schedule training from professionals who work in the area of human trafficking and other forms of gender-based violence
  - Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence Training Team  
(212) 788-2799  
[ENDGBVtraining@cityhall.nyc.gov](mailto:ENDGBVtraining@cityhall.nyc.gov)  
<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/ocdv/programs/training-institute.page>
  - Not on My Watch Safe Haven International  
(646) 564-6723  
<http://nomwi.org>
- Schedule an outreach event through ENDGBV or a local community-based organization (CBO), to raise awareness throughout your faith community

### Create a culture of safety and support

- Be willing to see and acknowledge the problem
- Foster a welcoming environment for all survivors to come forward, including survivors of child sex abuse and intimate partner violence
- Educate yourself and your congregation on best practices for supporting survivors
- Assist survivors with their choices without being judgmental; be present for them while respecting their right to privacy and self-determination
- Have resources and information readily available and on display (brochures, educational materials, Family Justice Center and other service provider locations and contact information)
- Consider how your community can be part of preventing human trafficking and supporting survivors by reducing underlying vulnerabilities (e.g. help community members with housing and employment)

## Know your community resources and post the information

- Share human trafficking resources with the faith community
- Consult national and international toolkits for faith leaders that recognize that faith leaders of all kinds have shared values and beliefs that directly align with efforts to respond to, and end, human trafficking
- Post the National Human Trafficking Hotline (1-888-373-7888) in visible places in your house of worship
- Share information about the NYC Family Justice Centers, which provide free, confidential assistance to victims of intimate partner violence, sex trafficking, and elder abuse, and welcome people of all ages, sexual orientations, and gender identities, regardless of immigration status, income, or language spoken. They are open Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and no appointment is necessary.
  - **Bronx FJC:** 198 East 161st Street, 2nd Floor. **(718) 508-1220**
  - **Brooklyn FJC:** 350 Jay Street, 15th Floor **(718) 250-5113**
  - **Manhattan FJC:** 80 Centre Street, 5th Floor **(212) 602-2800**
  - **Queens FJC:** 126-02 82nd Avenue **(718) 575-4545**
  - **Staten Island FJC:** 126 Stuyvesant Place **(718) 697-2800**

## Create an ongoing support network

- Partner with ENDGBV and other city agencies and community based organizations that provide assistance to survivors
- Create peer support groups for survivors and individuals dedicated to raising awareness of human trafficking and finding solutions in your community
- Post photos and videos with hashtags on social media platforms to help create inspiring social media posts on this issue across faiths
- Educate and engage the youth community to help raise awareness

## What does the faith community need to know about working with survivors of human trafficking?

### Be aware of common misconceptions that exist about human trafficking

**Misconception:** If someone consents to an exploitative situation, then it is not trafficking.

**Reality:** Even if consent is given, the situation may legally be considered trafficking if force, fraud, or coercion was used.

**Misconception:** Trafficking is an international issue.

**Reality:** Trafficking happens in local communities across the U.S.

**Misconception:** Trafficking mostly impacts adults.

**Reality:** Trafficking impacts victims of all ages, including youth.

**Misconception:** Trafficking always involves transportation.

**Reality:** Trafficking can happen in your own community and does not have to involve movement from one place to another, i.e. smuggling.

**Misconception:** Trafficking victims are ready to self-identify as victims of crime and often reach out for help.

**Reality:** There are many barriers to trafficking victims reaching out for help, including fear of engaging with the criminal justice system.

**Misconception:** Only women are victims.

**Reality:** Trafficking impacts people of all gender identities.

## Be aware of risk factors or signs of human trafficking

Individual red flags include:	
Unable to leave or come and go at will	Few or no personal possessions
Under 18 and engaging in commercial sex acts	Forced to live and work on-site
Engaged in the commercial sex industry and have a pimp or manager	Minimize the abuse they are experiencing or protect the person that hurts them
Unpaid or paid very little, or work excessively long and/or unusual hours	Signs of physical and/or sexual abuse, physical restraint, confinement, or torture
Not allowed breaks, or suffer unusual restrictions at work	Not permitted to speak for themselves (a third party may insist on being present and/or translating)
Owe a large debt to a trafficker or employer	Whereabouts/movement is frequently monitored
Experience verbal or physical abuse by their supervisor	Lack of control over own money, financial records, or bank accounts
Fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, tense, or nervous/paranoid, especially when involving law enforcement or immigration officials	Lack of control over own identification documents (ID or passport)

## Be aware of barriers to survivors getting help

Individual barriers may include:	
Distrust of service providers and law enforcement from personal experience or trafficker's narrative	The need for a high level of care (physical and mental health, shelter, resources, economic support)
Physically and/or psychologically controlled by traffickers	Fear of arrest and prosecution for criminal acts they have been forced into
Trained by traffickers to tell lies and false stories, or "scripted narratives"	Individual does not self-identify as victim of human trafficking
Loyalty or debt to traffickers (attachment, addiction, fear)	Individual not accurately identified by community, law enforcement, or service providers as a trafficked person
Fear of arrest and deportation for lack of legal status	Survivor may feel shame

## Work to support survivors of human trafficking



Listen to the members of your congregation and surrounding community, and pay attention to vulnerabilities that can be risk factors for human trafficking



Create a welcoming and supportive environment that will encourage survivors to use your space as a source of comfort and support



Encourage survivors to seek out assistance when it is safe to do so



Use language that recognizes survivors' diverse experiences and that does not isolate or create additional barriers for survivors in need

## What steps can faith leaders take to get involved and stay connected?

During the Weekend of Action Against Human Trafficking (January 11-13, 2019), and throughout Human Trafficking Awareness Month, ENDGBV and partners invite you to take action against human trafficking in the following ways:

**Show your support:** Blue is the official color of Human Trafficking Awareness. On the weekend of January 11-13, 2019, when this campaign commences, we ask faith leaders and their members to wear blue in solidarity with human trafficking survivors. Decorate your houses of worship with blue ribbons and decorations. Post videos of your sermons that denounce human trafficking and express support for survivors, their families, and their communities. Take and post photos of your congregation wearing blue to social media, to share with the world your show of support. Use the hashtags **#endhumantrafficking** and **#awarenesshelphope**.

**Sermons and messaging:** Carry messages within your sermons that denounce human trafficking and commit to care for the vulnerable and marginalized people and communities that can be most impacted by this issue. Share messages about the need to protect and prioritize the safety and well-being of all people, especially those most vulnerable and marginalized. Promote prevention efforts that address root causes of trafficking and other forms of gender-based violence, including poverty and other systemic inequities and barriers.

**Share information and resources:** Invite ENDGBV and partners addressing the issue of human trafficking to present to your congregation or table at a service or faith event, so people can avail themselves of materials and information, and can support and promote prevention and intervention within all their networks.

**Build Capacity:** Request training for you and your staff from ENDGBV and other community based organizations. Create a policy and procedure within your house of worship for how you will respond and address disclosures of trafficking within your congregation or surrounding community. Consider joining a trafficking group, such as Traffick-Free NYC or Not on My Watch Safe Haven International.

**Help spread the word:** Plan and organize an outreach event in your community to raise awareness about services and resources. Work with the ENDGBV Outreach Team to hand out flyers at a busy transit station, or host a town hall, special event, or forum where the issue can be presented and discussed.

**Support:** Organize a donation drive to collect food, clothing or supplies for an organization that provides trafficking services.

As we seek to increase capacity, build trust and awareness, and engage with you and your faith communities, please feel free to contact the following ENDGBV departments and partners:

## **NYC HOPE RESOURCE DIRECTORY**

The City of New York's Resource Directory of domestic and gender-based violence services provides comprehensive information on services available to survivors throughout the five boroughs.

Before referring a survivor to an organization listed in the directory, you should first contact the organization to ensure that appropriate services are available. You can also contact 311 for up-to-date service information, and assistance in over 150 languages.

Find local resources in New York City for survivors and their children with the Resource Directory at: [nyc.gov/NYCHOPE](https://nyc.gov/NYCHOPE)

## **NYC FAMILY JUSTICE CENTERS**

New York City Family Justice Centers (FJCs) are safe, caring environments that provide one-stop services and support. Key City agencies, community, social and civil legal services providers, and District Attorney's Offices are located on-site at NYC FJCs, to make it easier for survivors of intimate partner violence, elder abuse, and sex trafficking to get help.

All are welcome regardless of language, income, gender identity, or immigration status. Interpretation services are available on-site, and locations are wheelchair accessible. People can call ahead to request other accommodations.

The FJCS can help clients with the following services:

- Safety planning and risk assessment
- Case management and advocacy, including help accessing emergency shelter and public benefits, and applying for housing (if eligible)
- Mental health and counseling services for adults and children to support emotional well-being
- Referrals to job training and education programs, including educational workshops to help with budgeting, credit repair, resume writing, and interviewing skills
- Legal information regarding orders of protection, custody, visitation, child support, divorce, eviction proceedings, and immigration
- Connecting to trained law enforcement, such as the NYPD, the NYC Sheriff's Office, and the District Attorney's Office
- Childcare for children age 3+ is available for clients on-site at all NYC FJCS

## **THE ENDGBV POLICY AND TRAINING INSTITUTE**

The Policy and Training Institute (“the Institute”) leads ENDGBV’s training, prevention and policy work. The Institute, which comprises our policy team, the Training Team, and the NYC Healthy Relationship Training Academy, was created to enhance City agency and community-based organization (CBO) responses to domestic and gender based violence, identify key areas for policy change and development, and engage in primary prevention through work with young people throughout New York City.

The Training Team is comprised of skilled trainers with expertise in numerous topics that relate to intimate partner violence (IPV) and gender-based violence (GBV), including family violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, elder abuse and stalking. Our trainers work with City agencies and CBOs to identify IPV training needs for staff, create work plans for ongoing, refresher and advanced staff trainings, and assist agencies in the review and development of their existing policies and protocols around IPV and GBV. Our Training Team also develops advanced trainings and curricula around the intersections of GBV, and customizes trainings for service providers and in their specific roles at City agencies and CBOs. Request a training online at:

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/ocdv/programs/policy-training-institute-request-form.page>

## HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP TRAINING ACADEMY

The Healthy Relationship Training Academy (“the Academy”) is a prevention/education program that provides free interactive and discussion-based workshops to young people ages 11-24, as well as parents and professionals who work with young people. Workshop topics include teen dating violence, consent, and healthy relationships. All workshops are led by Community Educators, young professionals—typically in their early to mid-twenties—who have received extensive training on the subjects.

Request a workshop or staff training:

<https://a002-oom03.nyc.gov/IRM/EventRegistration/RegForm.aspx?eventGuid=757a1912-f217-4b2c-ae9d-86cf2a809452>

## THE ENDGBV OUTREACH TEAM

ENDGBV's charter mandate includes public education and outreach to communities across the city. To perform these functions, we have a team of Community Liaisons, as well as a Director of Programs and Community Partnerships at each NYC FJC, who can be conduits to agency and partner services, or travel to your community to engage and support you in your outreach efforts.

ENDGBV is currently engaged with artists and art organizations that use various modalities to support community conversations and learning.

If you are interested in planning or hosting an event, such as a presentation, activity, or performance, please contact a member of the Outreach Team in your borough. Dial (212) 788-3156, or email the following team members for events in these boroughs...

### **Manhattan:**

**Flore Baptiste**

(212) 788-2870 or [FBaptiste@endgbv.nyc.gov](mailto:FBaptiste@endgbv.nyc.gov)

### **Brooklyn & Queens:**

**Kevin Morris**

(212) 788-2405 or [KMorris@endgbv.nyc.gov](mailto:KMorris@endgbv.nyc.gov)

### **Staten Island:**

**Mateo Cello**

(212) 788-8384 or [MCello@endgbv.nyc.gov](mailto:MCello@endgbv.nyc.gov)

### **Bronx:**

**Tiziana Nin**

(212) 788-6825 or [TNin@endgbv.nyc.gov](mailto:TNin@endgbv.nyc.gov)





In January and throughout the year, share messages of awareness and/or support on social media.

Use the hashtags  
**#endhumantrafficking** and **#awarenesshelphope**

Don't forget to tag us:  
**@NYCagainstabuse @MayorsCAU**

Also, create your own awareness events and email it to [CFCP@cityhall.nyc.gov](mailto:CFCP@cityhall.nyc.gov) so we can share your event too!

