

National Violence Against Women

Law Enforcement Training and Technical Assistance Consortium (LETTAC)

February 9, 2023

LETTAC Webinar Series

Human Trafficking and Intimate Partner Violence:

*Intersectionality, Trauma-Informed Investigation, Victim Identification,
and Multidisciplinary Collaboration*

Session 3: Trauma-Informed Screening, Interviewing, Survivor Support, and Collaboration

Human Trafficking & Intimate Partner Violence: Complexity in Identification and Victim Disclosure

David Ryan, Chief of Police (retired)

Pound Ridge, NY

Co-Founder, Westchester County NY Anti-Trafficking Task Force

Director, Westchester County Domestic Violence High Risk Team

Courtney Albert, LMHC, M.Ed., MA

Founder & President, Give Way to Freedom

Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor



David M. Ryan, Chief of Police

- Pound Ridge Police Department
- 40th year in Law Enforcement
- Co-Founder Westchester Anti-Trafficking Task Force
- LETTAC Human Trafficking Instructor through OVW IIR
- Chair WCPCA DV Committee
- Chief's Association Representative Westchester County DV Council
- Advisory Council Member, Pace Women's Justice Center Friends of Gail
- Advisory Board Member, Hope's Door
- Board of Directors, New Dawn Advocacy and Resource Center
- Co-Founder Northeast Westchester Domestic Abuse Alliance

- Cell: (917) 559-8542
- Email: wcdvhrtdirector@gmail.com

Courtney Albert, LMHC, M.Ed., MA

- Founder & President of Give Way to Freedom & Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor in private practice, Poughkeepsie NY
- Psychotherapist for survivors of human trafficking and torture at the Helen Bamber Foundation. Mental health counselor at Columbia County Mental Health. Mental health counselor at Children's Home of Poughkeepsie for survivors of domestic minor sex trafficking.
- Member of the Dutchess County Taskforce Against Human Trafficking 's steering committee & chair of training subcommittee
- Executive board of the Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Abuse (CASADA, 6 yrs.)
- Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, with honors, University of Rochester, Masters of Education in Counseling Psychology Temple University, Masters of Arts in Industrial/Organizational Psychology University of New Haven.
- Somatic Trauma Therapy, DBT & certified EMDR clinician
- Email: Courtney@givewaytofreedom.org Cell: 914-466-8609

Please Note:

- This training discusses subject matter and contains video that may be traumatizing and trigger an emotional response from those who have experienced corresponding trauma in their own lives. Our goal is to instruct in an environment of *mutual respect and sensitivity to all participants*.
- During this training, we may use the pronouns “she” when referring to victims and “he” when referring to abusers/traffickers. While this is the reality of most intimate partner violence (IPV) and human trafficking cases, we understand that men can be victims, women can be abusers, and IPV and human trafficking can take place in all relationships, including in the LGBTQIA+ community. Our training and our support are *fully committed to serving all victims and survivors* who are impacted by IPV and human trafficking

OBJECTIVES:

Now that you have the knowledge, how do you utilize it in a victim-centered and trauma-informed approach to a victim?

Identifying, Interacting with & Interviewing victims

- Video
- Safety inquiry/danger assessment
- Screening tools/questions

Strategies to address victim needs and provide support

- Being trauma-informed/survivor-centered

COLLABORATION



imagine

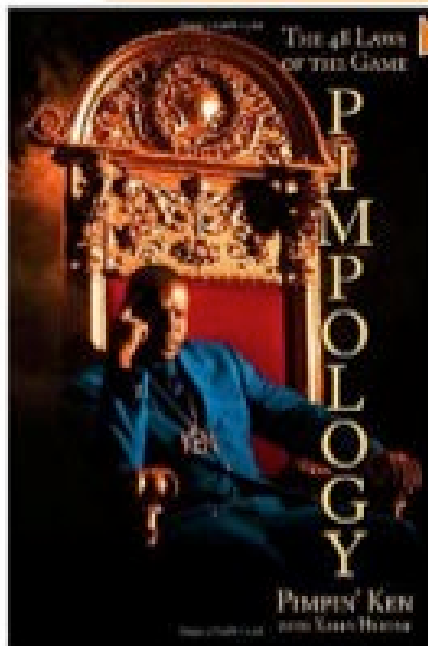
**Former Trafficking Victim Describes
Her Ordeal and Rescue**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jm2QnPSiVpg>

Keep In Mind: Vulnerability



Click to **LOOK INSIDE!**



THE ISM

Most hoes have low self-esteem for a reason. A pimp looks for that weakness, and if it isn't on the surface, he brings that motherfucker out of them. It doesn't matter to a pimp what hoes' weaknesses are, so long as they have them. Then he uses those weaknesses to his advantage.

Weakness is the best trait a person can find in someone they want to control. If you can't find a weakness, you have to create one. You have to tear someone's ego down to nothing before they will start looking to you for salvation. Then you have a chance to build them back up, showing them that it's your program that takes them from darkness to hope. While you want them to feel good about themselves eventually, you want them to feel that it's because of you. They begin to see you as their champion, their hero--even if the weakness you rescue them from is one you created.

Portrait of Exploitation



Dialogue (Ali and Survivor)

- *What did you hear them saying?*
- *What words did they use?*
- *What was their message?*

Pattern Recognition

Red Flags Indicators

- Symptoms of trauma (physical, psychological)
- Illnesses or injuries associated with poor living and working conditions
- Fearful, mistrusting
- Has the victim or their family been threatened with harm?
- Has the victim been threatened with deportation or criminal charges?
- Has the victim been harmed, deprived of food, water, sleep, medical care, or other life necessities?
- Is the victim free to contact friends or family without being coached or monitored?
- Is the victim under the age of 18 and engaged in commercial sex?

Context

- Does the story match the scene?
- Sector or activity commonly associated with exploitation
- Accompanied by a “minder”
- May have migrated locally or internationally (e.g. doesn’t know the local language)
- Doesn’t know where he/she is or can’t explain how he/she arrived

Psychological Coercion in Human Trafficking

- **Isolation**
 - Increases power imbalance and dependence
- **Monopolization of perception**
 - Limit exposure to outside world
- **Induced debility and exhaustion**
 - Deprivation of basic human needs such as food, sleep, healthcare
- **Threats**
 - Threats of violence, threats of death, threats to family, threats of arrest or deportation
- **Occasional indulgences**
 - Countering abusive behavior with occasional kindness or compassion
- **Demonstrating omnipotence**
 - Claiming powerful connections to law enforcement or deities
- **Degradation**
 - Insults, humiliation, denial of privacy and dignity
- **Enforcing trivial demands**
 - Instills a need for conformity and perfection

How These Individuals Might Be Experiencing Their Situation

- Might not see themselves as victims
- Shame/Self blame
- Double shame: drug abuse and sexual behaviors
- Feel unworthy of a better life
- Fearful of law enforcement
- Formed a 'trauma bond' with exploiter
- Fear for their own safety and loved ones



Guiding Principal

DO NO HARM: Treat each potential victim and the situation as if the potential for harm is extreme until there is evidence to the contrary.

*Keep in mind the coercive control framework not just discreet moments of violence

Do not undertake any interview that will make a potential victim's situation worse in the short term or longer term.

Safety Inquiry/ Danger Assessment

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LETHALITY SCREEN

Officer:	Date:	IR#
Victim:	Offender:	Children Present Y N

Check here if victim did not answer any of the Lethality Screen questions

1. Has he/she ever used a weapon against you or threatened you with a weapon? Y N NA
2. Has he/she ever threatened to kill you or your children? Y N NA
3. Do you think he/she might try to kill you ? Y N NA

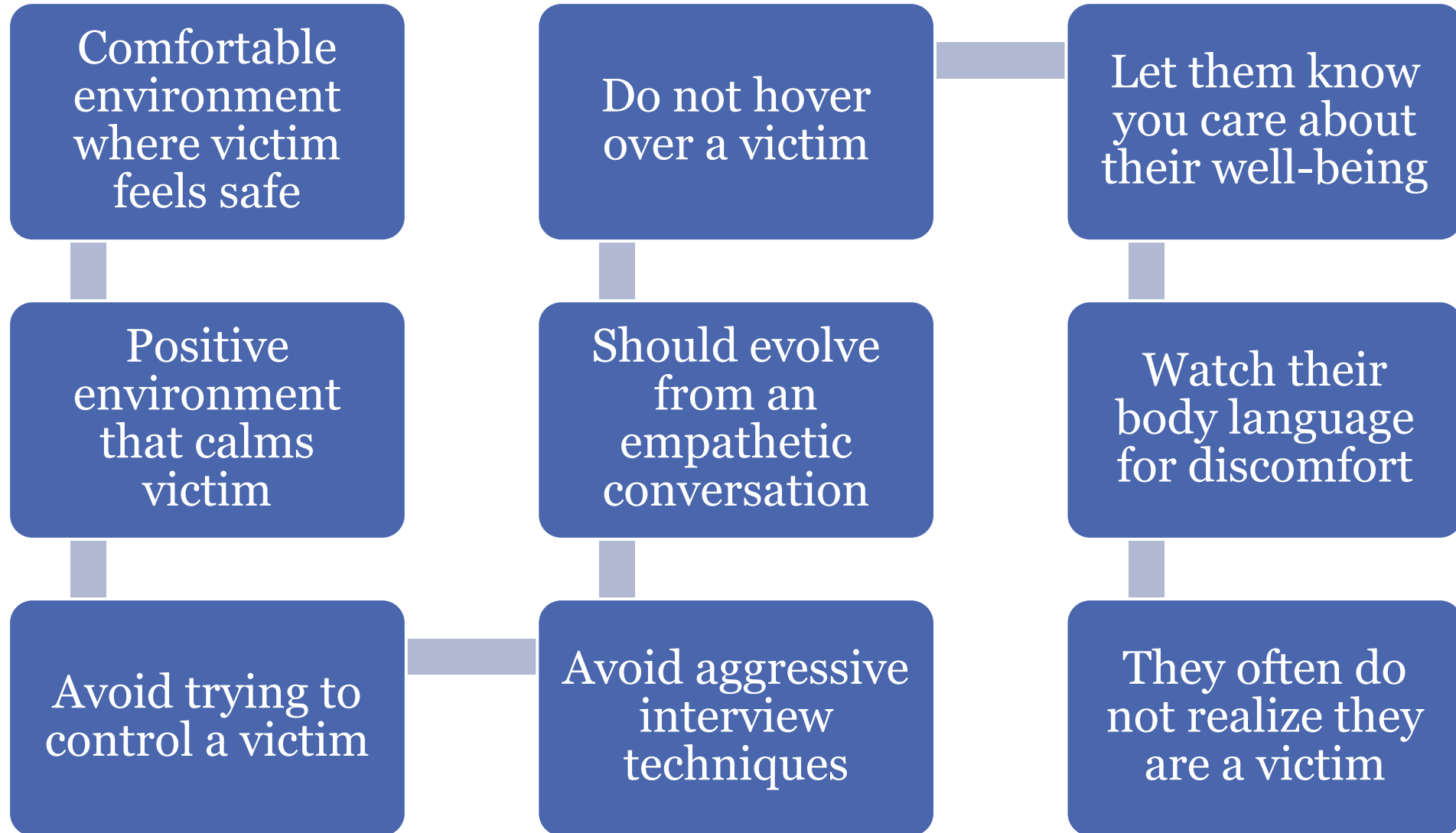
A "YES" response to Questions 1, 2 or 3 automatically trigger referral to DV Liaison Officer **And Service Provider.....Positive responses to any 4 questions below trigger same referral**

4. Does he/she have a gun or can he/she get one easily? Y N NA
5. Has he/she ever tried to choke you or obstructed your breathing? Y N NA
6. Is he/she violently or constantly jealous or does he/she control most of your daily activity? Y N NA
7. Have you left him/her or separated after living together or being married? Y N NA
8. Is he/she unemployed? Y N NA
9. Has he/she ever tried to kill himself/herself? Y N NA
10. Do you have a child that he/she knows is not his/hers? Y N NA
11. Does he/she follow or spy on you or leave threatening messages? Y N NA
12. Is there anything else that worries you about your safety? Y N NA
If yes, What worries you?

Approach to the Assessment of a *Potential* Victim of Human Trafficking / IPV



Tips: Interviewing a Victim



Tips: Interviewing a Victim (Interpreters)

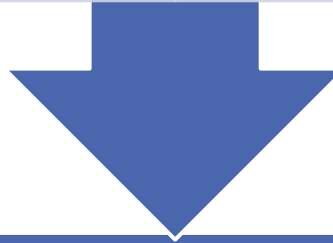
Ask general questions about the circumstances as opposed to specific questions

Where have they lived?

Who did they work or travel with?

Who made their travel arrangements or transported them?

Have they witnessed bad treatment of others?



As trust is developed, more detailed questions about the victim's specific experiences can be asked

Homeland Security Investigations Blue Campaign Indicator Card

IDENTIFYING HUMAN TRAFFICKING - ASK YOURSELF:

- Is the victim in possession of their own identification and travel documents?
- Is the victim coached on what to say to community members, workers, law enforcement or immigration officials? Does someone else communicate for the victim?
- Is the victim recruited for one purpose but forced to engage in other work?
- Are the victim's wages being unlawfully garnished to pay off a debt or fee? (Paying off a smuggling fee alone is not considered trafficking.)
- Is the victim forced to perform commercial sex acts?
- Has the victim or their family been threatened with harm if they attempt to leave?
- Has the victim been threatened with deportation or criminal charges?
- Has the victim been harmed, deprived of food, water, sleep, medical care, or other life necessities?
- Is the victim free to contact friends or family without being coached or monitored?
- Is the victim under the age of 18 and engaged in commercial sex?
- Is the victim living in substandard housing?

Rapid Appraisal for Trafficking (RAFT)

1. It is not uncommon for people to stay in work situations that are risky or even dangerous, simply because they have no other options. Have you ever worked, or done other things, in a place that made you feel scared or unsafe?
2. In thinking back over your past experience, have you ever been tricked or forced into doing any kind of work that you did not want to do?
3. Sometimes people are prevented from leaving an unfair or unsafe work situation by their employers. Have you ever been afraid to leave or quit a work situation due to fears of violence or threats of harm to yourself or your family?
4. Have you ever received anything in exchange for sex (for example, a place to stay, gifts, or food)?

Concealable Leaflet



www.givewaytofreedom.org

Somewhere,
anywhere,
everywhere...

Is someone taking
advantage of you?
Are you safe?



Can you leave your situation
and/or job if you want to?
 Yes No

Is there a lock on your door
so that you cannot get out?
 Yes No

Are you currently working in the
job you thought you were
supposed to be doing?
 Yes No

Are you being paid
for your work?

Yes No

Has your identification or
documentation been taken
from you?

Yes No

Do you owe any money to
anyone related to your
current situation?

Yes No

Are you being forced to engage
in sexual acts that you do not
want to do?

Yes No

Do you need to ask permission to
eat, sleep or use the bathroom?

Yes No

Have you ever been asked to
exchange erotic or sexual acts
for money, food, shelter, or
drugs?

Yes No

When you are not working,
are you able to come and
go as you please?

Yes No

Are you being harmed?

Yes No

Are you being threatened?

Yes No

Is anyone threatening your family?

Yes No

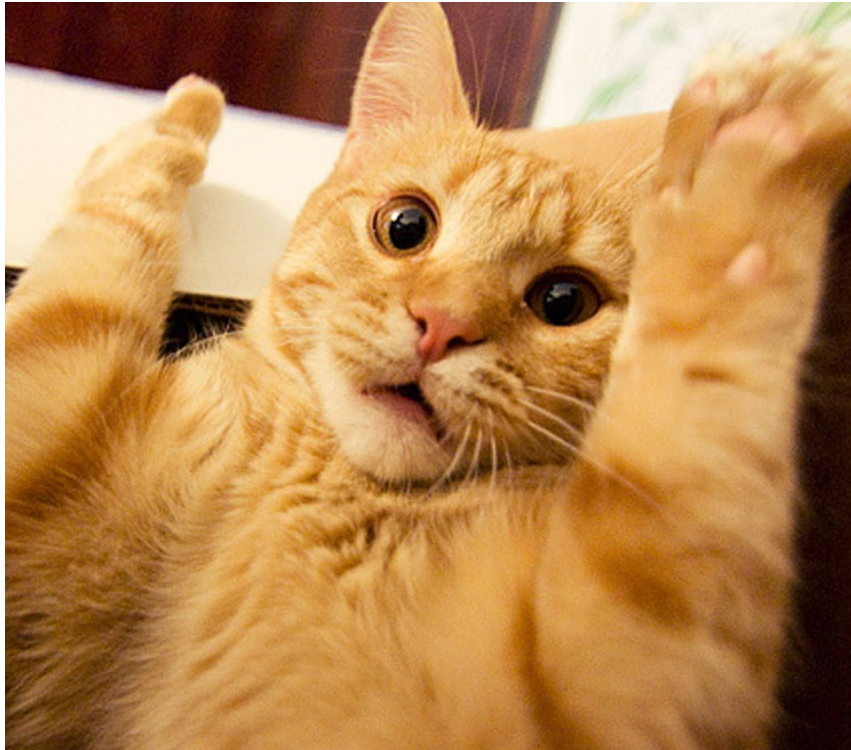
If you answer yes to one or more
of these questions, you may be in
a Human Trafficking situation.

Our first priority is
your safety. Please contact:

**National Human Trafficking
Resource Center
1.888.373.7888**

Human trafficking is recruitment by
force, fraud, deception or coercion
in order to exploit someone.

Human Trafficking is a
crime and there is help.



Dr. Hanni Stoklosa, 2017

**Remember :
Be Trauma-informed**

**What has happened
to you?**

NOT

**What is wrong with
you?**

Being Trauma-Informed

The survivors complaints and behaviors are often coping mechanisms

- These have been the resources they have used to survive
- Change can take time – add to their resources

You are being assessed from the get go:

- Can you be trusted?
- Why should you be trusted?
- Do you care or just pretend to care?
- What are your interests and priorities?

Being Trauma-Informed

The relationship should be collaborative

- At every step, emphasis is on **choice** – when safe to do so
- Survivors need to know that there is someone who cares and will **listen** carefully
- Let survivors have **predictability** and **control** over their healing

Respect, inform, connect

Survivor Support

Immediate

- Safety
- Medical
- Bed
- Language
- Other

Short Term

- Housing
- Mental health
- Legal
 - Crime victim
 - Immigration
 - T or U visa

Long Term

- Education, training, employment
- Options!

Collaboration

- Assemble a multidisciplinary team
- Develop protocols to enhance victim safety and improve access to services
- Create cross-sector partnerships to increase capacity
- Integrate a trauma-informed response into policies, procedures, and practices
 - Adapting practices throughout the criminal justice system to emphasize safety and concern for the victims over fear and punishment

Collaboration & Boundaries

- Have a clear understanding of the limits and responsibilities of your role
- Model healthy communication and relationships
- Avoid the “rescuer” role
- Stay focused on one’s responsibilities to the client
- **If working in conjunction with other services providers: maintain a healthy, open, communicating and functioning team**
- Maintaining one’s physical and emotional safety
- Be friendly, not friends
- Avoiding burn-out (“compassion fatigue”)

Chat Box Comments

- *What did you hear them saying?*
- *What words did they use?*
- *What was their message?*

Resources

- **National Human Trafficking Hotline**
 - 1 (888) 373-7888
 - **SMS:** 233733 (Text "HELP" or "INFO")
 - **Hours:** 24 hours, 7 days a week
 - **Languages:** English, Spanish and 200 more languages
 - **Website:** <http://humantraffickinghotline.org>
- **U.S. Department of Homeland Security**
 - 1-866-347-2423 (24/7/365)
- **Local FBI Office**
 - You can get their number at <https://www.fbi.gov/contact-us/field-offices/field-offices>
- **Give Way To Freedom**
 - <https://givewaytofreedom.org>
- **National Center for Missing & Exploited Children**
 - 1-800-THE-LOST or www.cybertipline.com
- **Local Agencies and Services**
 - <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/en/find-local-services>


Thank You for Participating



We Look Forward to Supporting You!

LETTAC

LETTAC | SERVING VICTIMS
BY SUPPORTING
LAW ENFORCEMENT



**NATIONAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING AND
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CONSORTIUM**

New Resource for Our Nation's Law Enforcement

The National Violence Against Women Law Enforcement Training and Technical Assistance Consortium (LETTAC) serves as the single connection point for all Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) law enforcement grantees and the field (including prosecutors, civilian staff, and campus police) to request training and technical assistance (TTA) to best respond to, investigate, and prosecute cases of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. LETTAC advances criminal justice solutions that are trauma-informed and victim-centered, aid in the successful prosecution of these crimes, prioritize offender accountability, and support victim healing, safety, and justice. This driving goal is captured in the LETTAC tagline: *Serving Victims by Supporting Law Enforcement.*

LETTAC STRUCTURE AND DESIGN: INNOVATIVE AND PROGRESSIVE

LETTAC is transforming the way that TTA on Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)- and intimate partner violence (IPV)-related crimes is delivered by combining funds from several OVW grant programs into one face-multiplying Consortium: LETTAC. This smart government approach maximizes resources, minimizes duplication, and enhances collaboration.

LETTAC is designed to support the full range of law enforcement TTA needs of current and potential OVW grantees. This comprehensive capability will be facilitated through the LETTAC Resource Center, composed of three main components:

- A TTA request portal.
- The LETTAC Clearinghouse, which enables users to create, save, and share unique toolkits to address priorities and interests.
- An online learning center (forthcoming) to provide quality training to justice practitioners regardless of geography, available travel budgets, or prescribed time schedules.

LETTAC PRINCIPLES

Prioritizing Inclusivity	Ensuring Efficiency and Agility	Sharing Solutions, Serving Victims
Supporting all law enforcement, including those in areas traditionally underserved and that consistently experience challenges in leveraging resources (such as rural communities and tribal jurisdictions).	Maximizing U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and OVW investments by leveraging existing resources, talents, and technologies.	Spotlighting grantee and innovative evidence-based projects to promote promising practices to leverage and replicate.
Serving all victims and survivors, including those in culturally specific communities, with disabilities, and the elderly.	Responding to new priorities, including DOJ's commitment to foster trust and legitimacy in communities we serve, based on community-based efforts, strategic enforcement priorities, and capture metrics and measures.	Documenting success stories to share real-world stories of hope from the field, create qualitative measures, and build peer connections and the LETTAC community of practice.
Developing resources for immediate usability for all levels of technology expertise and independent of special equipment.	Developing a consistent TTA process for all requestors.	Ensuring that the LETTAC gateway leads their serving victims by supporting law enforcement.

WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

- 21% of our nation's violent crime was domestic violence-related (during a two-year period).
- About 1 in 3 women and nearly 1 in 6 men experience some form of contact sexual violence in the United States during their lifetime.
- Low enforcement grants made 18,413 arrests in response against women cases in two years. VAWA-funded criminal justice solutions matter!
- More than 95% of female homicides are related to IPV.

LETTAC EXPERTS = LETTAC STRENGTH

Because of the Consortium—the cadre of leaders, experts, and innovators seasoned in addressing VAWA and IPV challenges and priorities—LETTAC truly is a one-stop, by-the-field/for-the-field resource. LETTAC was shaped by and continues to evolve thanks to the generous contributions of time and talents from the National Stakeholder Partnership (NSP) members and a cadre of subject-matter experts (SMEs).

The LETTAC NSP is an executive collaborative guiding LETTAC development, implementation, and evolution. The NSP comprises premier leaders at all levels of government, constituting a collective of long-standing expertise across the range of LETTAC areas of focus.

The LETTAC SMEs constitute a deep bench of TTA providers poised to guide and support all law enforcement practitioners involved in addressing VAWA- and IPV-related crime (including prosecutors, law officers, civilian staff, campus police, and staff (center personnel) and all jurisdictions and localities served (including tribal nations and culturally specific communities and groups). At the core of the Consortium's responses to TTA requests, these experts are the backbone of LETTAC.

ABOUT OUR FEDERAL FUNDER: OVW

The Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), an office within the U.S. Department of Justice, provides federal leadership in developing the national capacity to reduce violence against women and administer justice for and strengthen services to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. OVW was created following the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) of 1994. VAWA was renewed in 2005 and again in 2013. Visit www.justice.gov/ovw for more about the Office; OVW-supported podcasts and blogs, funding information, guidelines, and resources, and links to information about the crimes of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. A listing of the OVW grant programs, designed to strengthen services to victims and hold offenders accountable, is available at www.justice.gov/ovw/grant-programs. LETTAC is supported with funding from several of these programs.

LETTAC RESOURCE CENTER NOW LIVE!

VISIT AND SHARE
WWW.LETTAC.ORG
QUESTIONS AND NOTES
WELCOMED AT
CONTACT@LETTAC.ORG

1. From *Racial and Ethnic Differences in Homicides of Adult Women and the Role of Intimate Partner Violence* – United States, 2001–2014 (www.cdc.gov/mmwr/mmwr.mm61.e02a1.html).
2. From *National Domestic Violence, 2003–2012* (www.1800.org/violence/pubs/nvdb012.pdf).
3. From *The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, 2010–2012 Data Report* (www.1800.org/violence/pubs/nisvs2010-2012.pdf).
4. From *The 2012 Biennial Report to Congress on the Effectiveness of Grant Funds under the Violence Against Women Act* (www.1800.org/violence/pubs/2012-03-09-ovw-report.pdf).

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Your Voice Matters!

LETTAC

Webinar Series

Human Trafficking and Intimate Partner Violence:

Intersectionality, Trauma-Informed Investigation, Victim Identification, and Multidisciplinary Collaboration

Your feedback will improve future events!
Use <http://s.iir.com/HTIPVWebinar3Feb092023>
or the QR code



Assistance and Feedback



Donna Jean Lindquist

Senior Manager/LETTAC Program Leader
Victim Services and Support Portfolio
Institute for Intergovernmental Research (IIR)

Phone: (850) 766-9806

Email: dlindquist@iir.com

Trelles D'Alemberte

Senior Research Associate/TTA Coordinator
Victim Services and Support Portfolio
Institute for Intergovernmental Research (IIR)

Phone: (850) 445-1696

Email: tdalemberte@iir.com