

National Violence Against Women

Law Enforcement Training and Technical Assistance Consortium (LETTAC)

February 2, 2023

LETTAC Webinar Series

Human Trafficking and Intimate Partner Violence:

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

Session 2: Complexity in Identification and Victim Disclosure

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LETTAC

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

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- 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.
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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:

- Recap/ review of Webinar Session 1
 - Intersectionality
 - Utilize the coercive control framework
- Impact of trauma on victim's emotions, cognitions & behaviors
- Red flags and indicators
- Challenges in identification and victim assistance
 - Impact of trauma on victim disclosure



The Intersection

- Intimate partner domestic violence and human trafficking (HT) are both crimes and human rights violations that deserve the same attention from law enforcement and advocacy.
- When we analyze the intersection of domestic violence and human trafficking, we quickly observe how various complex patterns of abusive behavior and coercive control can create an environment that enables and perpetuates violence.

Coercive Control Framework

Coercive control: patterned oppressive behavior using fear, intimidation & threatened repercussions to instill compliance

- Destruction of property
 - Brandishing of weapons
 - Threats of or actual harm to others (i.e., children/pets)
 - Isolation
 - Monitoring –technology (video surveillance, GPS, texts & calls)
 - Threats of reputational harm or of arrest
- Identifies the level of coercive control an abuser utilizes over a victim
 - More accurately determines the victim's vulnerability to serious injury or psychological trauma
 - Allows abuse to be reframed by recognizing that the primary outcome of coercive control is a condition of entrapment that can be hostage like

The Totality of Victim Experience

Backstory

Experience During

Impact

Trauma

Coping Mechanisms

Stigma

Disclosure

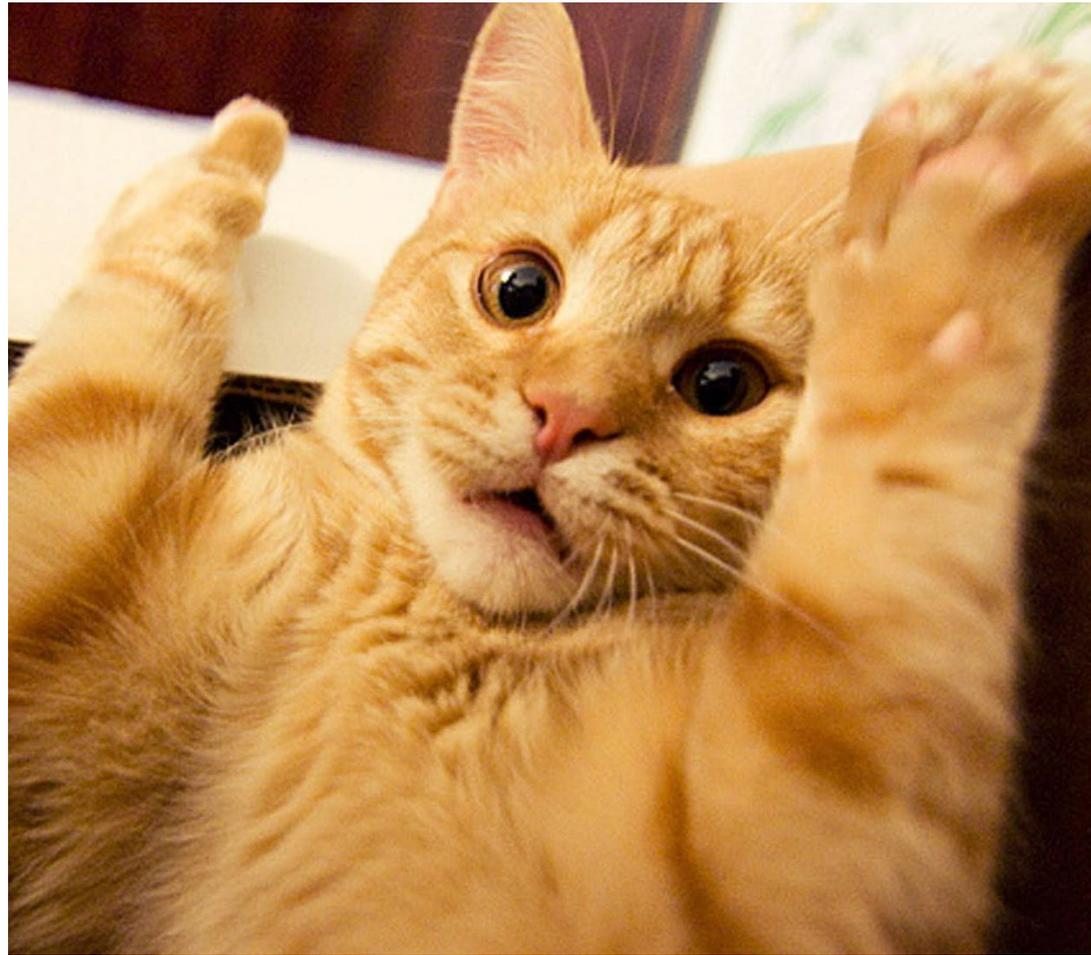
Human trafficking victims may suffer from:

- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
- Mood Disorders
- Generalized anxiety disorder
- Panic Attacks
- Major Depressive disorder
- Dissociative disorders
- Co-morbid substance-related disorders

Alexander et.al., APA, 2005; Family Violence Prevention Fund, 2005; Zimmerman et al 2006; International Organization for Migration, 2006; Zimmerman, 2003.

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)-involved youth reported higher rates of avoidance & hyperarousal as well as higher incidences of:

	Sexual Abuse/Assault	Commercial Sexual Exploitation
Problems skipping school	29%	60.5%
Developmentally inappropriate sexualized behaviors	23%	62.5%
Alcohol use	23%	60%
Substance abuse	26.1%	68.3%
Criminal activity	17.5%	54.8%
Running away from home	25%	71.4%



Dr. Hanni Stoklosa, 2017

Human Trafficking Indicators

Recruitment

- Misleading information was given by the recruiter/employer
- A person is in debt to their recruiter/employer

Personal Documents and Belongings

- A third party arranged travel and work documents
- Passport/documentation confiscated, false documentation
- No or few personal belongings
- Inappropriately dressed for the weather

Threat/Reality of Violence

- Signs of abuse (physical, sexual, drug)
- Signs of fear, anxiety, depression, suicidal ideation
- Inconsistent stories
- Gaps in their story

Human Trafficking Indicators

Freedom of Movement / Living Conditions

- Physically confined, restricted or controlled communications and movement, cannot choose his/her own residence
- Third party insists on being present for conversations
- Person is rarely seen or lacks knowledge of whereabouts

Working Conditions

- Performing tasks for which he or she was not originally recruited
- Excessive and/or irregular hours
- Exposed to risks that compromise health and safety
- Not paid, underpaid, or has wages taken from him/her

Indicators of Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking

- Tattoos, brands, signs of “ownership”
- Child runs away from home frequently and/or for significant periods of time
- Truancy from school
- Indications or reports of domestic violence/intimate partner violence
- Describes a stalking situation
- Older boyfriend/close companion
- New, unexplained possessions - clothing, phone, jewelry
- Excessive, almost pathological attachment to cell phone
- Disconnection from social supports
- Uses street slang for sex work
- Age-inappropriate sexual behavior and/or sexually transmitted infections
- Minor is working more than is in school

INDICATORS / POLICE

- **Fear**
- **Lack of cooperation**
- No control over identification documents
- No control over travel documents
- Signs of bruising and battering
- Little or no pocket money
- Malnutrition and poor hygiene
- **“Coached” conversation by victim**
- Freedom of movement?
- Freedom to communicate with family and friends?
- Freedom to attend their own religious services

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Gabby Petito Case—Bodycam Compilation Video

<https://vimeo.com/794131465/96e4006167>

Many of you are likely impacted by what you just observed. Knowing the outcome makes watching that video even more impactful and heart-wrenching.

Take 30 seconds here to stand up, grab a glass of water, and just gather your thoughts.

We will continue in a moment.

Coercive Control

“The primary outcome of coercive control is a condition of entrapment that can be hostage-like in the harms it inflicts on dignity, liberty, autonomy, and personhood as well as to physical and psychological integrity”

Evan Stark

Why Don't Women Leave Violent Partners?

Evidence suggests that most abused women are not passive victims – they often adopt strategies to maximize their safety and that of their children.

Reasons they stay:

- Fear of retaliation
- Lack of alternative means of economic support
- Lack of support from family and friends
- Stigma or fear of losing custody of children associated with divorce
- Love and the hope that the partner will change

Heise and colleagues (1999)

Challenges to Identifying & Assisting HT

Distrust of law enforcement and/or service providers

- Immigration concerns

Lack of awareness of resources

Debt-Bondage

Frequent movement of victims

Victims may be trained to tell lies

May be the one in trouble for that which they are being coerced, tricked, or forced to do

Fear of retaliation (threats to self or loved ones)

A belief that no one can help them – hopelessness & resignation

Challenges to Identifying & Assisting

- Coping mechanisms may still be present and can contribute/cause barriers to relationship building
- Coping mechanisms may also still be necessary for that person's life circumstances
- Most victims do not self identify
- Normalization of experiences
- Trauma bond to trafficker(s)
- Shame/Self-blame
- Social withdrawal
- Substance misuse
- Avoidance of trauma triggers (people, places, topics)
- Dissociation
- Suicidal ideation
- Risk-taking behaviors
- Self-harm
- Agitation, outbursts
- Deflection

Complexity: Disclosure

Trafficking victims often have to tell their stories to get help. However, traumatic accounts are often confused and inconsistent.

1. The memory of the event can be recalled accurately but there is a barrier to disclosure.
2. There is a genuine failure to recall a traumatic event.



Dr. REBECCA CAMPBELL
Professor

Dr. Rebecca Campbell—The World’s Messiest Desk
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vdx2E5wArt8&t=21s>

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Discussion and Q&A

- **What did you hear in this video “differently” from your first viewing?**
- **What dialogue did you hear from Gabrielle that evinced trauma? Coercive control? Total domination?**
- **What dialogue did you hear from law enforcement that was (or was not) trauma-informed and victim-centered?**
- **Please offer some alternative trauma-informed and victim-centered dialogue in the chat box.**

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 force-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 small jurisdictions).	Maximizing U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and OVW investments by leveraging existing resources, talents, and technologies.	Spotlighting grantees 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 as well as focus 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, capture qualitative measures, and build peer connections and the LETTAC community of practice.
Developing resources for immediate availability for all levels of technology expertise and independent of special requirements.	Developing a consistent TTA process for all requestors.	Kinging at the forefront LETTAC's guiding North Star: 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 10-year period.¹
- 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.²
- Law enforcement grantees made 48,412 arrests in violence against women cases in two years. VAWA funded national justice solutions centers.³
- More than 55% of female homicides are related to IPV.⁴

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 call 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 Incidence of Adult Women and the Role of Intimate Partner Violence – United States, 2003–2014* (see <http://dx.doi.org/10.1186/s12874-015-0261-2>).
2 From *National Domestic Violence, 2003–2012* (see <http://dx.doi.org/10.1891/1548-3718.2014.00012.pdf>).
3 From *The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, 2010–2012* (State Report) (see <http://dx.doi.org/10.1891/1548-3718.2014.00012.pdf>)).
4 From *The 2010 Biennial Report to Congress on the Effectiveness of Grant Funds under the Violence Against Women Act* (see <http://www.justice.gov/ovw/grant-programs>)).

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What's Next and How to Connect



Human Trafficking and Intimate Partner Violence:

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

Next Week

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

February 9, 2023, 11:00 a.m. – 12 Noon, ET

Share registration with your colleagues!

<https://registration.iir.com/lettac/webinar/9930>

Your feedback will improve future events!

Use the QR code or <http://s.iir.com/HTIPVWebinar2Feb022023>



Assistance and Feedback



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