



# **Supporting Survivors of Trafficking With Intellectual Disabilities: Prevention And Response Through Multi-Systems Collaboration**

Webinar

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# Building Collaborative Responses to Trafficked Victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault TA

Learn more about training, TA and resources:

<https://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/human-trafficking>

Contact: [learning@futureswithoutviolence.org](mailto:learning@futureswithoutviolence.org)

## Resources:

- Ten Action Steps: Building and Sustaining Collaborations to Support Trafficking Survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, A Toolkit for Advocacy Programs
- Building Collaborative Responses with Healthcare, for Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, Task Forces and Multidisciplinary Teams Addressing Human Trafficking
- Collaboration to Increase Access to Employment Opportunities for Survivors of Human Trafficking and Domestic and Sexual Violence



### 10 ACTION STEPS

**Building + Sustaining Collaborations to Support Trafficking Survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault**

A Toolkit for Advocacy Programs and their Partners





# Grounding

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Because domestic and sexual violence and human trafficking are prevalent, assume that there are survivors among us.

- Centering Survivors/Victims
- Take care of yourself first
- Examine your assumptions and biases
- Respect confidentiality
- All voices are needed and welcome





# Presenters

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## **Katherine Antall, MS**

Human Sexuality Specialist

The Cuyahoga Board of  
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## **Susan Kahan, MA, LCPC**

University of Illinois at Chicago's Institute  
on Disability and Human Development



# As a result of this webinar, you will be better able to:

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- Identify individual and systemic factors influencing the risk of vulnerability of individuals with intellectual disabilities (ID) to exploitation and trafficking.
- Recognize factors that contribute to creating a plan of support for survivors.
- Explore methods of balancing institutional responsibility for ensuring safety and respecting individual autonomy.
- Initiate and facilitate multisystem collaboration.
- Apply a survivor-centered response when working with survivors of human trafficking, domestic violence, and sexual assault with ID.



# Polling Question:

## What best describes your organization?

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- ☐ Sexual Assault (SA)
- ☐ Domestic Violence (DV)
- ☐ Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault
- ☐ DV/SA/Human Trafficking Direct Service Provider
- ☐ Anti - Human Trafficking Program
- ☐ Legal Service Provider
- ☐ Law Enforcement
- ☐ Community Based Organization
- ☐ Disability Service Provider
- ☐ Other



# 7 Polling Question: What best describes your experience with working with individuals with disabilities?

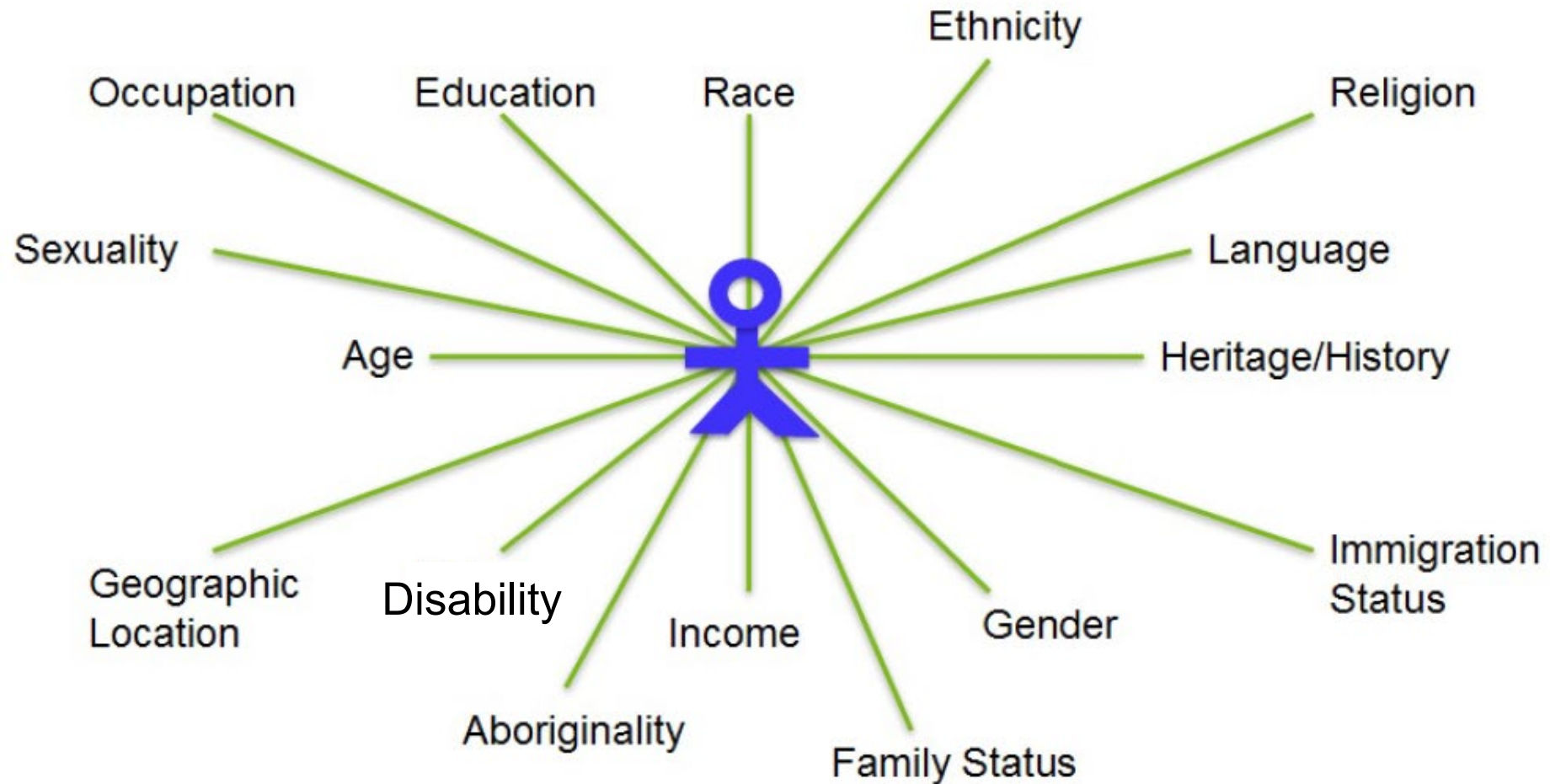
- ☐ No experience
- ☐ Basic – under three years
- ☐ Intermediate – more than three years
- ☐ Advanced – more than five years
- ☐ Expert – more than ten years

# Human Trafficking Intersections With Gender-Based Violence





# INTERSECTIONAL: SOCIAL



# Similarities Between Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Trafficking Survivors with Disabilities

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- Survivors face similar barriers to leaving abusive situations and reintegrating in their community
- Survivors may have similar needs for basic services and safety planning
- Survivors may experience significant economic and financial abuse and need to create economic independence



# Types of Disabilities

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- Disabilities can be:
  - Physical
  - Mental Health
  - Sensory
  - **Intellectual**
- A note about language and framework



Image source: Disabled and Here



# Factors Impacting Risk of Vulnerability to Trafficking

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- Marginalization through exclusion
- Lack of sexuality education
- Increased rates of sexual and physical abuse
- Increased rates of poverty
- Communication barriers
- Social Isolation
- Barriers accessing criminal justice system
- Intersecting marginalized identities
- Learned disempowerment



# Learned Disempowerment

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- Reliance on others to meet basic needs
- Loss of bodily autonomy
- Loss of choice-making power
- High turnover rate of direct service providers
- Treated as children or called promiscuous
- Lack of prosecution of/consequences for perpetrators



# Factors That *MAY* Impact Risk of Vulnerability

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- Comprehending new information
- Generalizing information to new situations
- Recognizing danger
- Requiring assistance



# Typologies of Trafficking

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- Street Level Trafficking
  - Compelled (coerced) through drug use/abuse
- Familial trafficking
- Online exploitation
- Micro exchanges
- Labor trafficking





# A Note About Supports

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There are many factors which go into creating a plan of support for survivors:

- Guardianship
- Ethical/legal responsibilities associated with working with individuals with ID
- Assessment of needs
- Availability of ID specific supports and funding





# Chat Reflections

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After reviewing the scenario:

1. Please take two minutes to examine your personal responses or reactions to a survivor with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
2. Feel free to share in the chat.

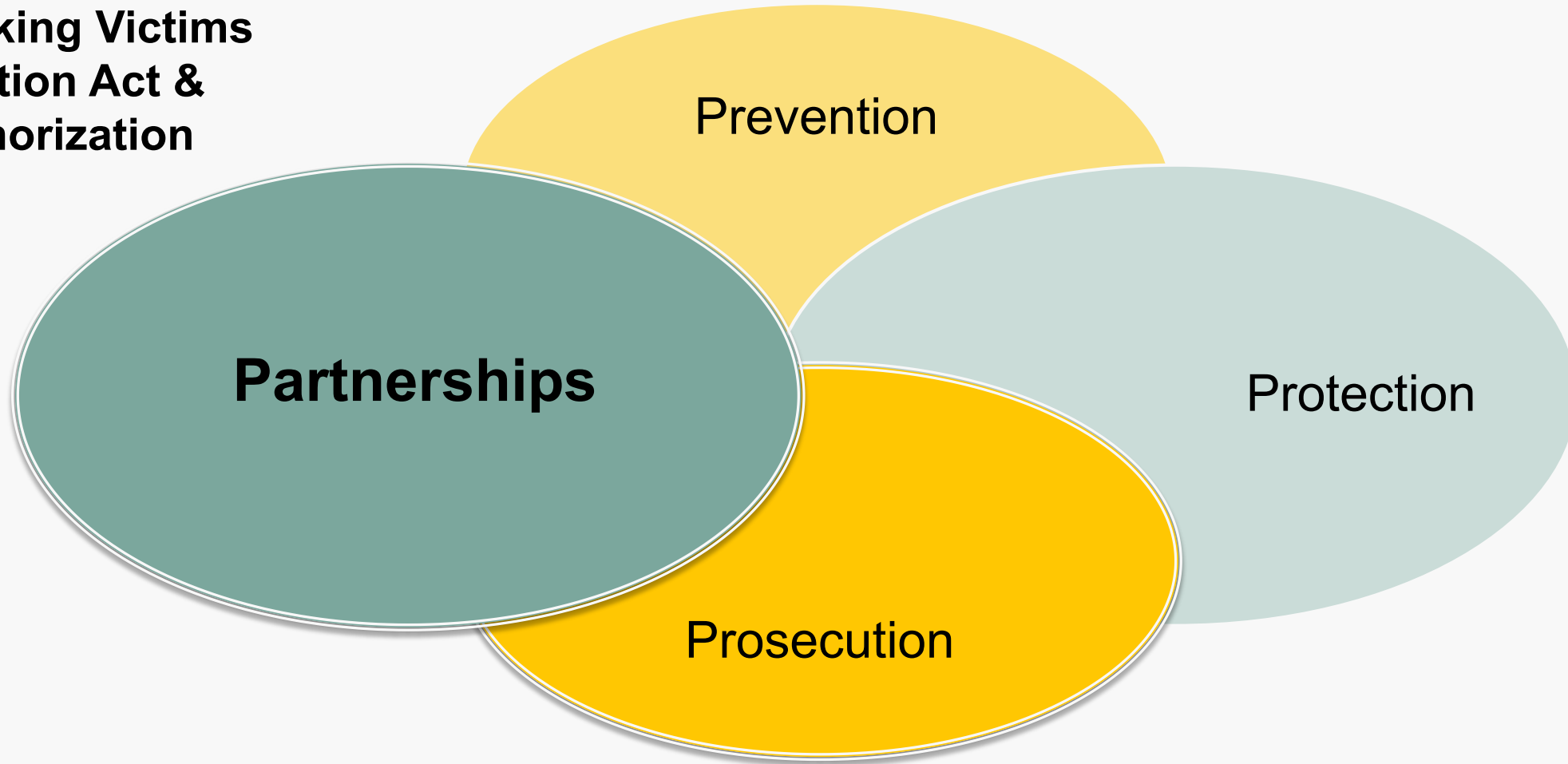


# Trafficking Victims Protection Act and Reauthorization

## Collaborative Goals

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Trafficking Victims  
Protection Act &  
Reauthorization  
2000





# Identification

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- Acknowledgement of a person's lived experience, strengths, and areas of need
- Linkages to accessible supports, opening new funding/support services
- IDD can be “masked” or missed
- Screening for support needs
  - Sample tool: Learning Disabilities Screening Questionnaire (McKenzie et al., 2015)



# Disability Rights Stakeholders

- State Agencies of DD Services
- Centers for Independent Living
- Self-Advocacy Groups/Peer Advocates

- The Arc
- United Cerebral Palsy
- Lighthouse for the Blind

- National Disability Rights Network
- Protection & Advocacy Services
- Public Benefits Attorneys
- Disability Rights Attorneys

- Hospitals
- Community Health Center
- Anti-Trafficking Coalition and Program
- Others?

# Collaborating Across Movements

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- ✓ Initiate conversations and collaborations with self-advocates and survivors, (include compensation, consider impact on benefits)
- ✓ Assess in-house policies & procedures: include IDD specific information in your mission, trainings, materials, and accessibility
- ✓ Initiate cross-agency training modules
  - Identify and acknowledge differing roles and movement-specific goals
  - Acknowledge areas of overlapping expertise
- ✓ Identify additional civil and criminal legal supports and engage in conversation about survivors living with IDD

# A Survivor is Identified...Now What?

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- Determine your reporting mandates
- Evaluate your communication style, materials
- Ask about sensory needs
- Based on needs, determine what immediate action needs to be taken
  - Prioritize basic needs
- Contact state DD services agency for resources in your area
- Collaborate with survivor to create person-specific action plan, with identified point-person

# Safety and Autonomy

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- Strengths-based, person-centered approach
- Flexible thinking, evaluation of unconscious ableism
- Evaluation of ability to provide informed consent, level of support needs
- Dignity of risk
- Collaborate with stakeholders
- Moral injury to provider, secondary trauma

# Most Importantly

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- Have a back-up plan
- Unexpected organizational barriers can derail initial planning



# Service Coordination

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- ☐ If guardianship is in place, must work with guardian
- ☐ Safety Planning
- ☐ Shelter
- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Accommodations
- ☐ Personal support providers
- ☐ Finding employment
- ☐ Financial support
- ☐ Advocacy



Image source: Disabled and Here

# Collaboration and Support for Survivors Exchange

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What **collaboration and service practices** have you developed to support the holistic needs of survivors with intellectual disabilities?



Questions?



# Call to Action and Commitment



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Are you ready to support survivors of trafficking with intellectual disabilities, if they come to your program?

- ☐ Establish relationships with disability rights programs and experts
- ☐ Identify individuals and develop referral list for service providers with expertise
- ☐ Incorporate accessibility and accommodations into policies, protocols, practices
- ☐ Incorporate disability-specific considerations for intake
- ☐ Modify safety plan and access plan for persons with disabilities
- ☐ Clarify confidentiality and privilege
- ☐ Create appropriate outreach plan for persons with disabilities
- ☐ Organize training and capacity building on disability awareness and justice

# Support Resources



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## The Arcs

Direct service care providers, advocacy, day programs and employment, etc.

[www.thearc.org](http://www.thearc.org)

## State Agencies on Developmental Disabilities

Single point of entry for all long-term services, housing, mental health, etc.

[www.nasddds.org](http://www.nasddds.org)

[A Resource Guidebook for Human Trafficking Victims and Survivors with Disabilities](https://www.adultadvocacycenters.org/assets/documents/aacs_resource_guidebook_for_victims_and_survivors_of_human_trafficking.pdf), Adult Advocacy Centers (Ohio)

[https://www.adultadvocacycenters.org/assets/documents/aacs\\_resource\\_guidebook\\_for\\_victims\\_and\\_survivors\\_of\\_human\\_trafficking.pdf](https://www.adultadvocacycenters.org/assets/documents/aacs_resource_guidebook_for_victims_and_survivors_of_human_trafficking.pdf)



# Resources



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## Human Trafficking and Disabilities Fact Sheet

<https://www.htlegalcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/Trafficking-of-Persons-with-Disabilities-in-the-United-States-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

## Just Ask: A Toolkit to Help Advocates, Attorneys, and Law Enforcement Meet the Needs of Crime Victims with Disabilities, Activating Change

<https://www.endabusepwd.org/resource/just-ask-a-toolkit-to-help-advocates-attorneys-and-law-enforcement-meet-the-needs-of-crime-victims-with-disabilities/>

## How to Identify and Communicate with a Human Trafficking Victim of Intellectual and/or Developmental Disability, (webinar power point).

[https://www.ovcttac.gov/downloads/Trafficking/files/TA%20Webinar%20OVC\\_Grantees%20April%202014\\_PPT%20-508c\\_5\\_20\\_2014.pdf](https://www.ovcttac.gov/downloads/Trafficking/files/TA%20Webinar%20OVC_Grantees%20April%202014_PPT%20-508c_5_20_2014.pdf)

## Ten Action Steps: Building and Sustaining Collaborations to Support Trafficking Survivors of DV and SA, A Toolkit for Advocacy Programs

<https://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/wp-content/uploads/10-Action-Steps-DV-Programs-Building-Collaborations-to-Support-HT-Survivors-Final.pdf>





# Thank You and Evaluation

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Please take a moment to take a short evaluation and request a certificate of participation.

**Link:** <https://forms.gle/6AKtFurHr4NjjQMj8>

Learn more and access resources:

<https://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/human-trafficking>

For questions and resources, contact:

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