



Meaningful Engagement and Partnership with Lived Experience Experts of Human Trafficking, Domestic, and Sexual Abuse: Roundtable Webinar

Presenter Bios, March 6, 2023

Chris Ash (they/them) Survivor Leadership Program Manager, Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST)

Chris Ash (they/them), a member of the United States Advisory Council on Human Trafficking, started their community healing work in 1994 as both a suicide hotline volunteer and LGBTQ activist and organizer. In 2009, they started answering hotlines at a rape crisis center in town with a major university, and from there they spent almost a decade answering hotlines, doing hospital and court accompaniment for survivors, and training and supervising hotline staff. In 2018, they began their work at the North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault providing training and technical assistance (TTA) to all of NC's 78 rape crisis centers, first on human trafficking and eventually as the CDC-funded TTA provider for all the state's federally funded sexual violence prevention work. Currently, they are the Survivor Leadership Program Manager at the Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking, where they manage the National Survivor Network.

Sheri Combs (she/her), Director of Community and Youth Engagement, Covenant House of New Orleans

Sheri has a decade of serving survivors of Human Trafficking. Sheri's powerful presentations on her experiences as both a survivor and a survivor's advocate have captured the attention of key stakeholders across the country. Sheri has worked within support of local, state, and federal law enforcement to identify cases of Human Trafficking. She is trained in child forensic interviews through The American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC). Sheri participated in a yearlong undercover investigation, written by The Times Picayune, "The Track". Sheri has won multiple awards locally and nationally for her anti-trafficking work, including recognition by the City of New Orleans and Senator Fedor. Sheri continues to share her knowledge of Human Trafficking throughout the state of Louisiana and nationally, presenting to health and human service professionals, law enforcement, political platforms, and community organizations. Most recently, a United Nations Panel Event - Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 66), Mitigating the Risks of Disaster for Gender Violence Survivors.

Perla Flores, JD, MPA (she/her/ella), Senior Division Director, Community Solutions

Perla has worked on issues of gender-based violence since 2003. In her current role as Division Director, Ms. Flores oversees domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking programs at Community Solutions, a non-profit human services agency serving South Santa Clara County and San Benito County. She is a founding member and current chair of the South Bay Coalition to End Human Trafficking. Ms. Flores co-authored the *Human Trafficking Advocate Manual, A Resource Guide for Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Advocates Working With Human Trafficking Survivors* and has developed several guidelines and promising practices on human trafficking crisis intervention and case management.

Ms. Flores is a commissioner on the Santa Clara County Domestic Violence Council and an alternate commissioner on the Santa Clara County Human Trafficking Commission. She is also a member of the Santa Clara County CEDAW Task Force. Ms. Flores holds a master's degree in public administration and a Juris Doctor. She was a recipient of the 2010 California Peace Prize, the 2015 Santa Clara County Domestic Violence Council Outstanding Advocate Award, and the 2023 Lifetime Achievement Award from the South Bay Coalition to End Human Trafficking.

Siberia Moreno (she/her/ella), Case Manager | Thriving Self-Sufficiency Pilot, Solutions to Violence Division, Community Solutions

My country of origin is Venezuela, where I studied Chemical Engineering. In 2017, I came to the United States with the promise of a better life. I was brought to this country under contract to work as a nanny in the San Francisco Bay area. I am a survivor of human trafficking. It was very difficult for me to be alone in a country with a different culture, especially without knowing the English language. After this experience, I have been focused on working so hard to get my life back and overcome all the obstacles that have come my way.

From the first moment that I was connected with Community Solutions, I have found great support and many opportunities for my recovery, improvement, and achievement of proposed goals like to obtain my legal immigration status, housing, physical and mental health, among other benefits. Likewise, with professional and university preparation, and achieving up to now an AA in Water Resources Management, I am currently in a stable job. I can already say that I have largely recovered the courage to continue with my life and achieve my purposes in a dignified and responsible way. Now, my commitment is supporting social projects, and talking about my experience to the communities as a standard in the fight against the crime of Human Trafficking.

Siberia Moreno

Mi país de origen es Venezuela, donde estude Ingeniería Química. En el 2017, vine a Estados Unidos con la promesa de tener una vida mejor. Me trajeron a este país contratada para trabajar como niñera en el área de la Bahía de San Francisco. Soy sobreviviente de trata de personas. Fue muy difícil para mí el estar sola en un país con diferente cultura, especialmente sin saber el idioma inglés. Después de esta experiencia, me he concentrado en trabajar fuertemente en recuperar mi vida y superar todos los obstáculos que se me han presentado.

Desde el primer momento que fui conectada a Community Solutions he encontrado un gran apoyo y diversas oportunidades para mi recuperación, superación y logro de metas propuestas. Pude obtener mi legal estatus migratorio, vivienda, salud física y mental, entre otros beneficios. Así mismo, preparación profesional y universitaria, logrando tener hasta ahora un AA en Gestión de Recursos Hídricos. Actualmente me encuentro trabajando de manera estable. Ya puedo decir que he recuperado en gran parte el valor de continuar con mi vida y lograr mis propósitos de una manera digna y responsable. Ahora, mi compromiso es apoyar proyectos sociales, llevando mi experiencia a las comunidades como estandarte en la lucha contra el crimen de la Trata de Personas.