



CARING FOR SEX TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS

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ABOUT THE SPRING

A photograph of a group of people, likely a choir or a group of performers, wearing white robes. They are shown in profile, looking towards the right side of the frame. The lighting is soft and natural, suggesting an outdoor setting. A dark green rectangular box is overlaid on the image, containing white text.

ABOUT ASCENSION SAINT JOHN



**ABOUT THE OKLAHOMA
COALITION AGAINST
HUMAN TRAFFICKING
(OCAT)**

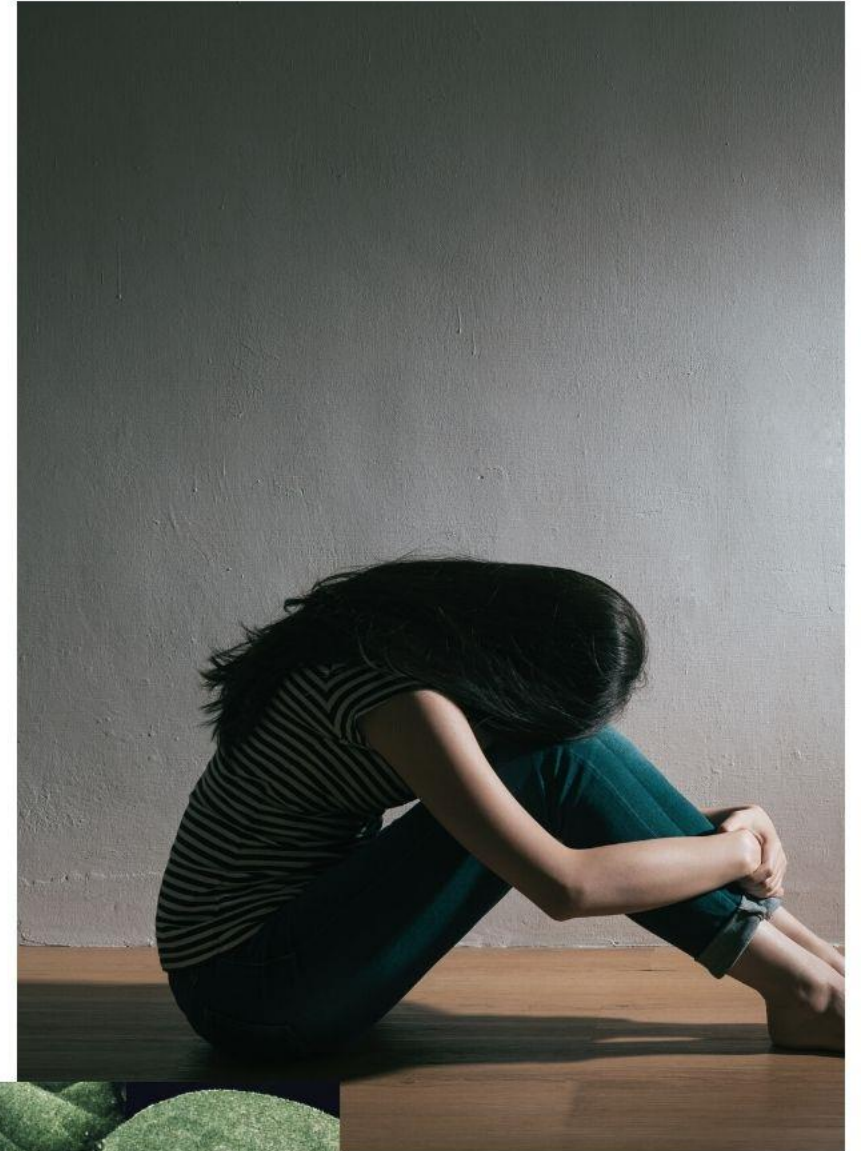
A close-up photograph of a Black woman with a somber and weary expression. She is looking slightly to the left of the camera. The background is a dimly lit room, possibly a living area, with a television screen visible in the distance showing colorful, abstract patterns. The lighting is soft and focused on her face, creating a sense of intimacy and gravity.

UNDERSTANDING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Human trafficking involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion in exchange for labor, services, or a commercial sex act. Causing someone under the age of 18 to engage in a commercial sex act, regardless of using force, fraud, or coercion is human trafficking under U.S. law.

Merriam Webster Dictionary





WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS
THE FASTEST GROWING
CRIMINAL INDUSTRY AFTER
DRUG TRAFFICKING.**

- The person is the product
- Low risk/High Gain

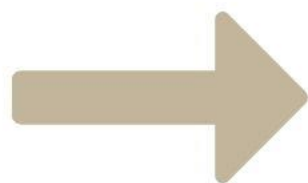
US Justice Department and International Labor
Organization Human Trafficking

THE AMP MODEL

According to the US Trafficking Victims Protection Act, the following must be present to be convicted of human trafficking adults:

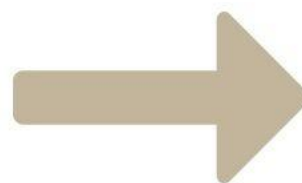
ACTION

Recruiting
Harboring
Transporting
Exploiting
Patronizing
Soliciting



MEANS

Force
Fraud
Coercion

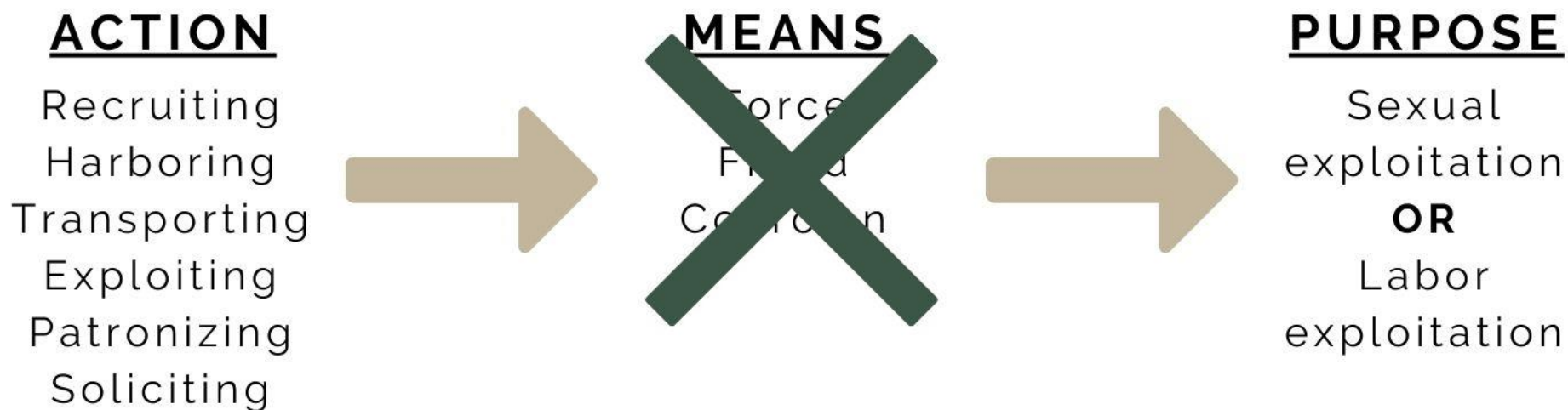


PURPOSE

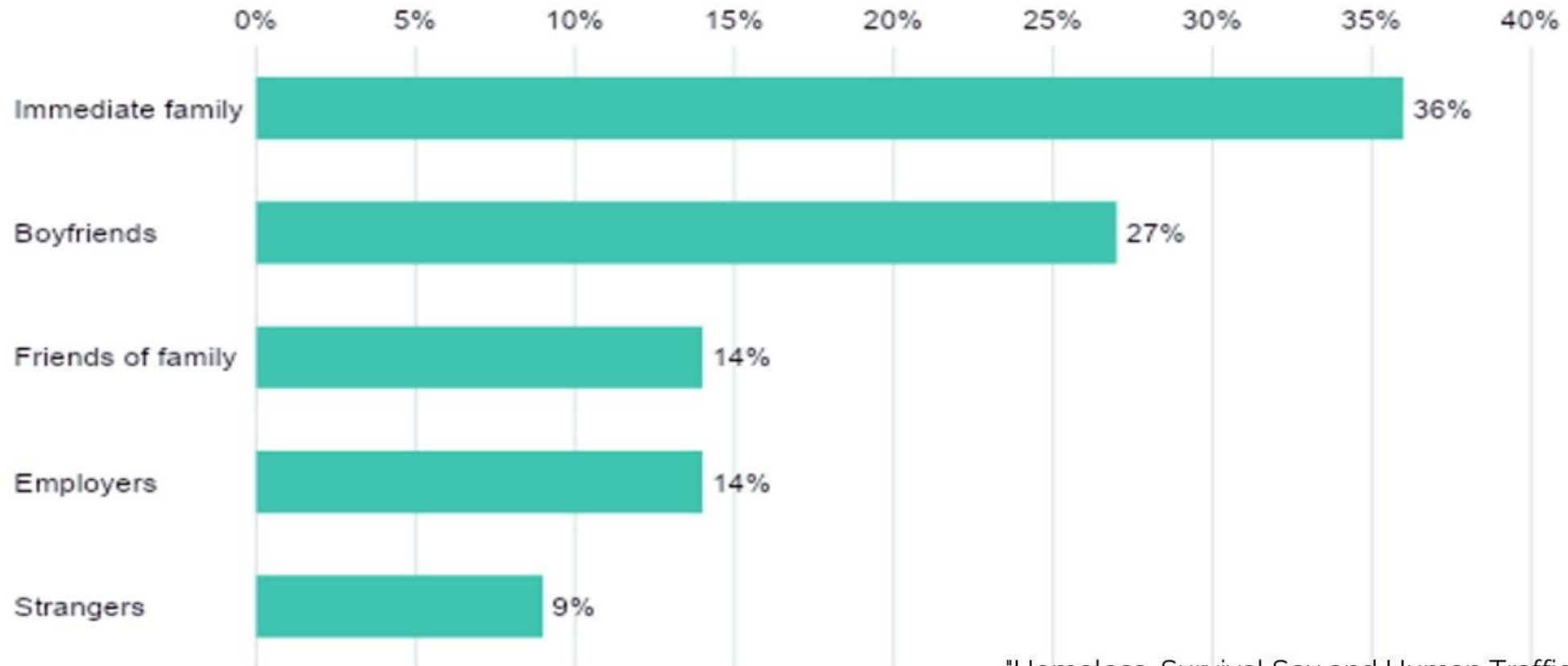
Sexual
exploitation
OR
Labor
exploitation

THE AMP MODEL

According to the US Trafficking Victims Protection Act, the following must be present to be convicted of human trafficking adults:



WHO ARE THE TRAFFICKERS?



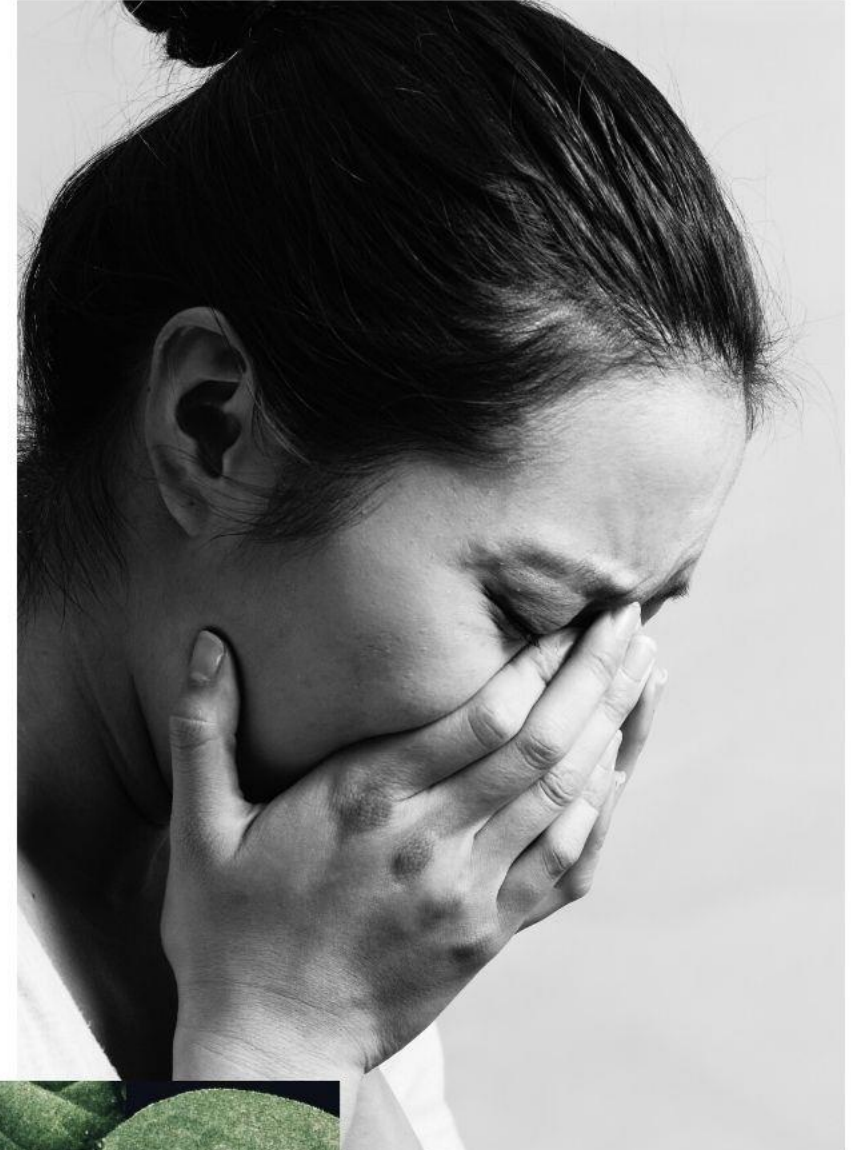
"Homeless, Survival Sex and Human Trafficking: As Experienced by the Youth of Covenant House" New York



RISK FACTORS AND INDICATORS

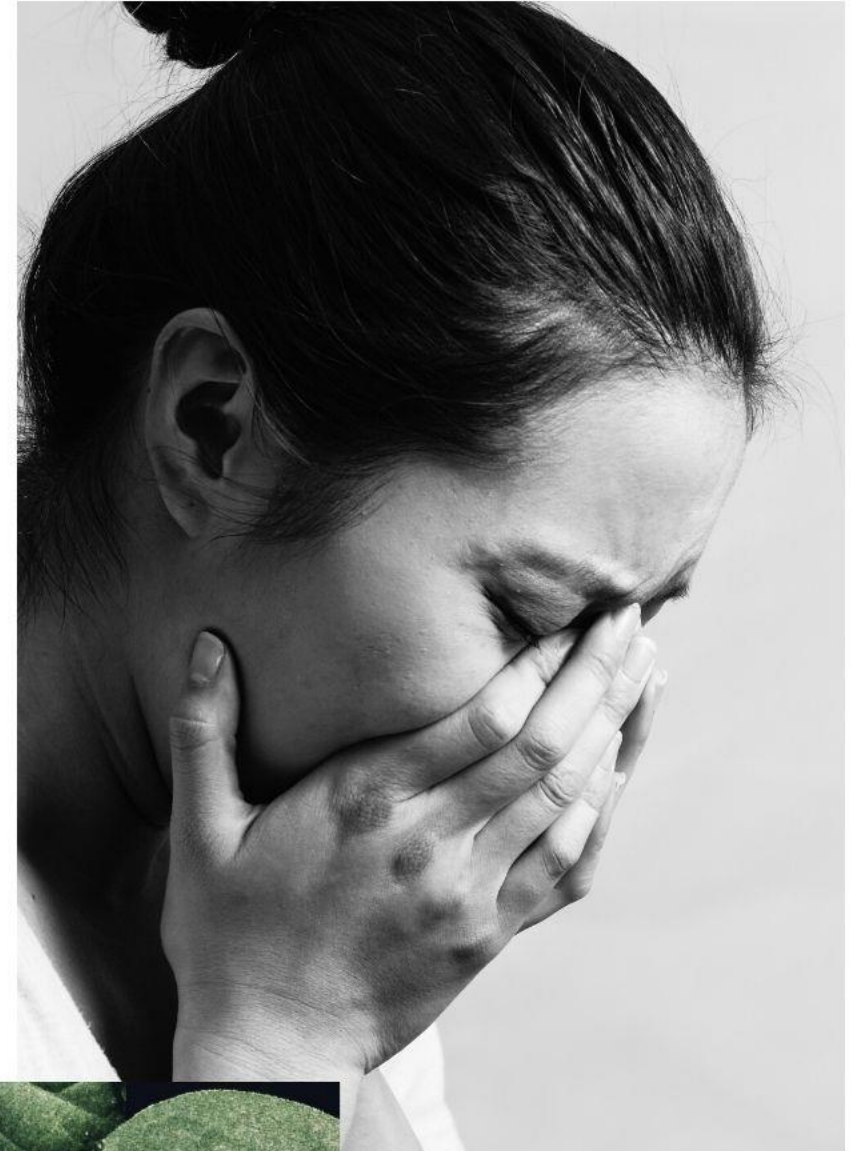
TRAFFICKING RISK FACTORS


- Inadequate living conditions
- Deprivation of basic needs
- Inadequate nutrition
- Sexual assault and violence
- Lack of choice or control regarding safe sex practices
- Dangerous working conditions
- Physical violence and abuse from traffickers or solicitors



TRAFFICKING RISK FACTORS

- Psychological and emotional abuse
- Withholding of medical care
- Isolation
- Substance use as means of control or escape
- Torture
- Physical restraining, bondage, or confinement



A close-up photograph of vibrant green leaves, likely from a plant like a rose or similar, with numerous clear water droplets resting on their surfaces. The leaves are densely packed and fill the entire frame, creating a lush, natural background. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the leaves and the glistening of the water.

**WHEN WORKING WITH
SURVIVORS, WE USE A
TRAUMA INFORMED,
VICTIM CENTERED
APPROACH.**

ASK YOURSELF

Which is more traumatic?

HAVING YOUR CAR STOLEN?

OR

GETTING IN AN ACCIDENT?

GETTING KIDNAPPED?

OR

**BEING PHYSICALLY
ASSAULTED?**

**EXPERIENCING A NATURAL
DISASTER?**

OR

LOSING A FAMILY MEMBER?

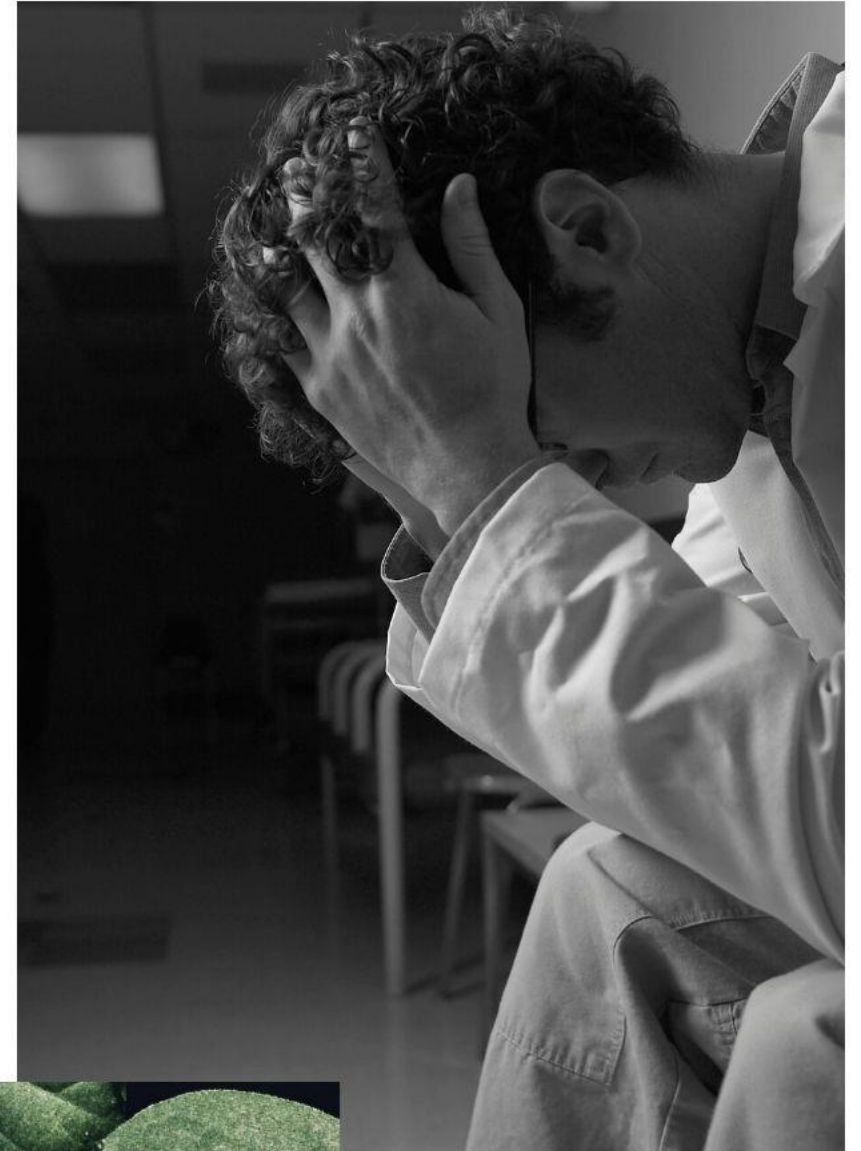
A close-up photograph of vibrant green leaves, likely from a plant like a rosehip, covered in numerous small, glistening water droplets. The leaves are layered, creating a sense of depth and texture. The lighting is soft, highlighting the veins and the wet surfaces of the foliage.

**TRAUMA IS NOT AN EVENT.
IT'S THE OVERWHELMING
RESPONSE TO THE EVENT.**

TRAUMA

A disordered psychic or behavioral state resulting from severe mental or emotional stress or physical injury.

Merriam Webster Dictionary



TRAUMA INFORMED CARE

practices that promote a culture of
safety, empowerment, and healing

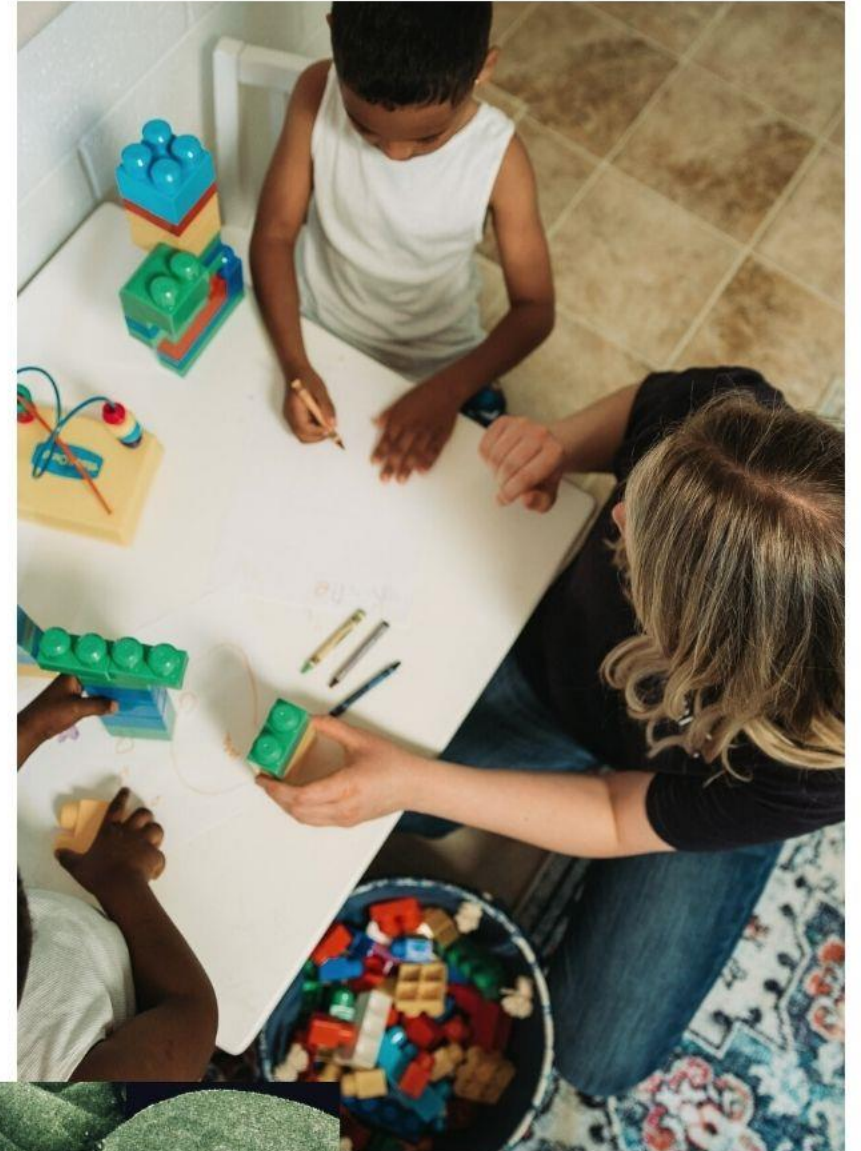
Harvard Health



TRAUMA INFORMED CARE

recognizes the presence of trauma symptoms and acknowledges the role trauma may play in an individual's life—including service staff.

University at Buffalo Center for Social Research





**WHY
DON'T
THEY
LEAVE?**

THREATS AND INTIMIDATION

DEBT BONDAGE

ISOLATION

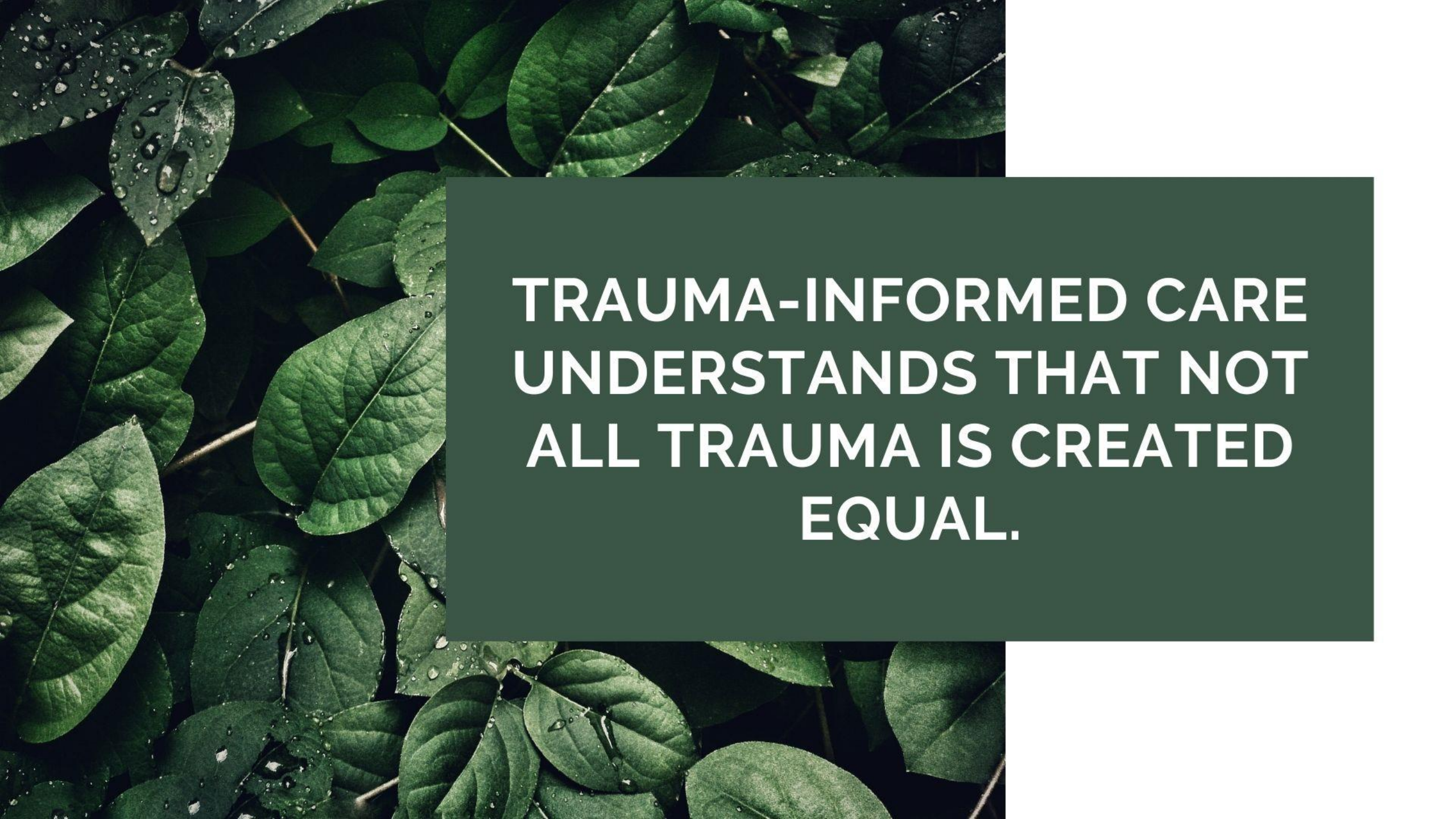
EMOTIONAL ATTACHMENT

**THEY DON'T SEE
THEMSELVES AS VICTIMS**



**WHY
DON'T
THEY
LEAVE?**

**TRAUMA INFORMED CARE
FORCES US TO BE
KNOWLEDGEABLE OF WHY A
VICTIM MAY NOT LEAVE,
BUT TO RELEASE THE NEED
TO KNOW WHY OR THE
ENTIRE STORY.**

A close-up photograph of vibrant green leaves, likely from a plant like a rosehip, with numerous small, clear water droplets resting on their surfaces. The leaves are densely packed and fill the entire frame, creating a lush, natural background. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the leaves and the glistening of the water.

**TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE
UNDERSTANDS THAT NOT
ALL TRAUMA IS CREATED
EQUAL.**

SELF DETERMINATION

the empowerment of survivors to make
their own decisions about the care they
would like to receive

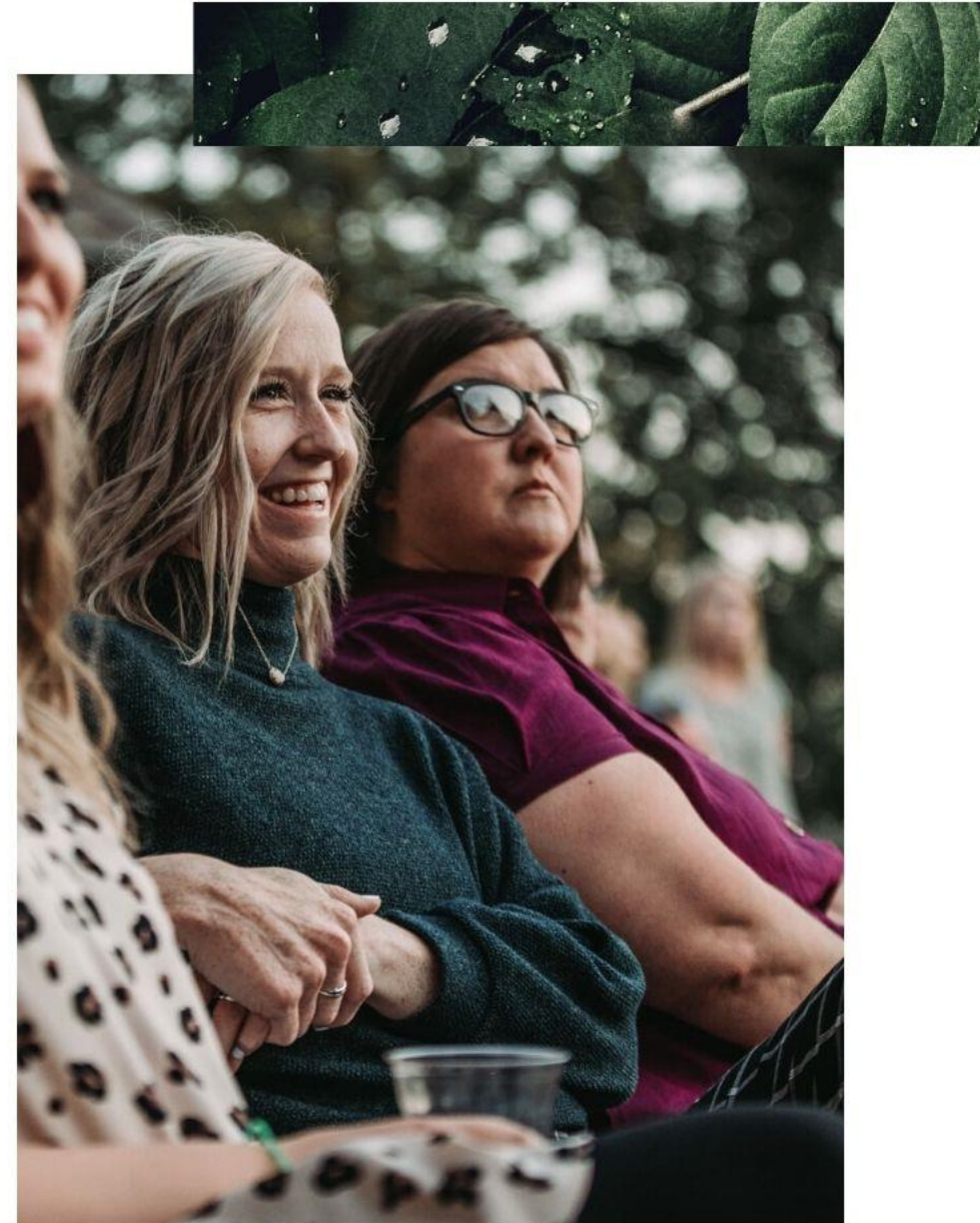
United States Department of State



SELF DETERMINATION

We may be subject matter experts but we are not the experts of the victim's life or story - they are.

Our job is to simply help them identify possible options for next steps.



KNOWING THEIR NEEDS

Barriers to Self-Identification

SHAME OR GUILT

**FEAR OF RETALIATION BY
THE TRAFFICKER**

**FEAR OF ARREST OR
DEPORTATION**

Human Trafficking Hotline

KNOWING THEIR NEEDS


Barriers to Self-Identification

**LACK OF TRANSPORTATION
OR CONTROLLED
MOVEMENT**

**FEAR OF A REPORT TO
SOCIAL SERVICES**

**LACK OF UNDERSTANDING
OF THE US HEALTHCARE
SYSTEM**

Human Trafficking Hotline



**WHAT
TRAUMA
CAN
LOOK
LIKE**


**FEELING HOPELESS ABOUT
THE FUTURE**

**FEELING DETACHED FROM
OTHERS**

**TROUBLE CONCENTRATING
AND MAKING DECISIONS**

**EASILY STARTLED AT
SUDDEN NOISES**

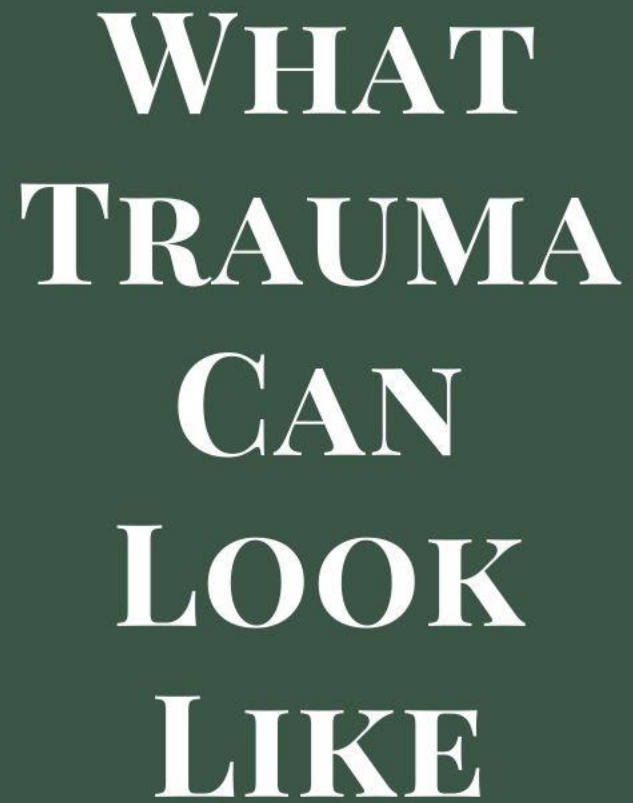
**FEELING ON GUARD AND
CONSTANTLY ALERT**



**WHAT
TRAUMA
CAN
LOOK
LIKE**

**"EVERY BEHAVIOR MAKES
SENSE"**

**UNDERSTANDING TRAUMA
CAN HELP US TO IDENTIFY
WHEN THERE HAS BEEN A
"TRIGGER" TO THE VICTIM.**



**WHAT
TRAUMA
CAN
LOOK
LIKE**

**HAVING DISTURBING
DREAMS AND MEMORIES**

**PROBLEMS WITH WORK OR
SCHOOL**

**UPSET STOMACH AND
TROUBLE EATING**

**EXCESS SMOKING, ALCOHOL,
DRUGS, AND FOOD**

**AVOIDING PEOPLE, PLACES,
AND THINGS RELATED TO
THE EVENT**



**DON'T
ASK**

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?

- Places blame on the victim for something that was likely out of their control
- Assumes the victim is aware that something is wrong





**INSTEAD
ASK**

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?

- Invites them to share their experience from their perspective
- Informs you about what makes it hard to leave



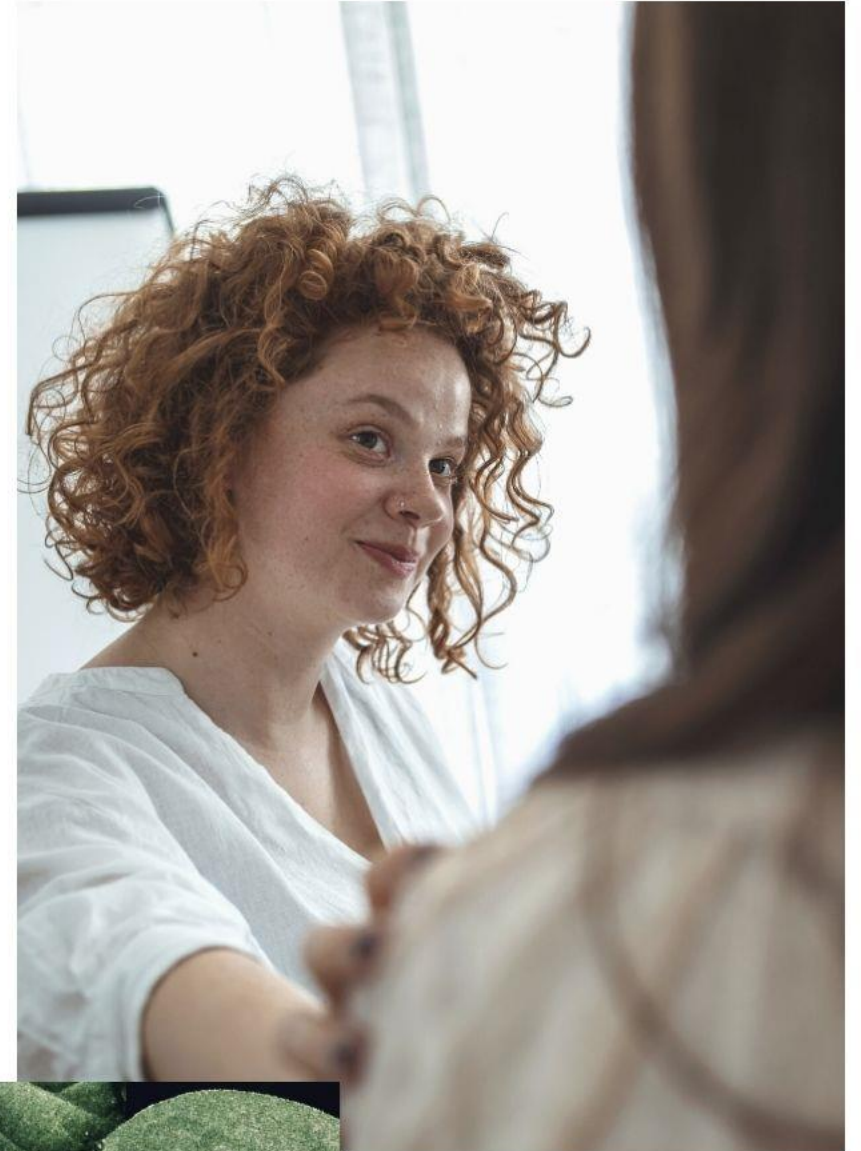
A photograph showing a person from behind, wearing a black top with white floral patterns. They are being held or supported from behind by several other people. One person in a red and blue plaid shirt is visible on the left, and another person in a grey patterned top is visible on the right. A dark green rectangular box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the text "ETHICS AND BOUNDARIES" in white, bold, uppercase letters.

ETHICS AND BOUNDARIES

ETHICS

the discipline dealing with what is good and bad and with moral duty and obligation

Merriam Webster Dictionary



A close-up photograph of vibrant green leaves, likely from a plant like a rose or similar, with numerous small, clear water droplets resting on their surfaces. The leaves are densely packed and fill the entire frame, creating a lush, natural background. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the leaves and the glistening of the water.

**AS ADVOCATES, OUR MAIN
PRIORITY IS TO DO NO
FURTHER HARM WHEN
PROVIDING SERVICES**

ETHICS CHECKLIST

Questions to Ask Yourself



IS IT LEGAL?

IS IT BALANCED?

**HOW WILL IT MAKE ME FEEL
ABOUT MYSELF?**

**HOW DOES THIS AFFECT
THE SURVIVOR I AM
WORKING WITH?**

N. Ann Lowrance, MS, CDSVRP

ETHICS CHECKLIST

More Questions to Ask Yourself

**DO YOU TELL PERSONAL
PROBLEMS TO THE SURVIVOR?**

**DO I SPEND MORE TIME AND
ENERGY WITH THIS SURVIVOR
THAN WITH OTHERS?**

**DO YOU WANT TO BE FRIENDS
WITH THE SURVIVOR WHEN THEY
LEAVE SERVICES?**

**DO I TEND TO ACCEPT GIFTS OR
FAVORS FROM SURVIVORS?**

N. Ann Lowrance, MS, CDSVRP




BOUNDARIES

something that indicates or fixes a limit or extent. This extends to our minds, body, emotions, and overall well-being

Merriam Webster Dictionary





CROSSING VS VIOLATION


BOUNDARY CROSSING

a departure from commonly accepted practices that could potentially benefit survivors

BOUNDARY VIOLATION

a serious breach that results in harm to the survivors



A close-up photograph of vibrant green leaves, likely from a plant like a philodendron, with numerous clear water droplets resting on their surfaces. The leaves are densely packed and fill the entire frame, creating a lush, natural background. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the leaf veins and the glistening water droplets.

**UNDERSTANDING
CONFIDENTIALITY HELPS
EMPOWER VICTIMS IN
HOW THEY ENGAGE WITH
THE SERVICES BEING
PROVIDED.**



CAPACITY

ABILITY TO COMPREHEND
THE INFORMATION AND
UNDERSTAND THE
CONSEQUENCES



COMPREHENSION

ABILITY TO MAKE
RATIONAL DECISIONS



VOLUNTARINESS

ACTING FREELY TO MAKE
INFORMED DECISIONS

INFORMED CONSENT



**IS THIS ROI ABSOLUTELY
NECESSARY TO PROVIDING
SERVICES?**



**DOES THE SURVIVOR
UNDERSTAND ALL OF THE
CONDITIONS FOR THE ROI?**



**DOES THE SURVIVOR
UNDERSTAND THEIR
RIGHTS WHEN SHARING
INFORMATION?**

RELEASES

SPEAK UP

Exceptions to Confidentiality


CHILD ABUSE

**ABUSE OF AN
INCAPACITATED ADULT**

**CREDIBLE THREAT TO HARM
SELF OR OTHERS**

**INFORMED WRITTEN
CONSENT OF THE CLIENT**

**IN SOME INSTANCES, BY
ORDER OF THE COURT**



**WE MUST UNDERSTAND
THE MEANING OF BEING
RESPONSIBLE TO
SOMEONE VERSUS BEING
RESPONSIBLE FOR
SOMEONE.**



TO VS FOR

WHEN I AM RESPONSIBLE TO...

- I remain sensitive to the survivor's needs and concerns
- I often maintain boundaries
- I am present as who I am, and that is enough

WHEN I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR...

- I feel like the survivor must meet my expectations
- I often violate boundaries
- I become the gatekeeper to their needs



**CREATE
A SAFE
SPACE**

**PROVIDE ACCURATE
INFORMATION**

PRIORITIZE CLIENT SAFETY

KEEP YOUR WORD

HONOR THEIR EXPERIENCES

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF



SELF CARE AND COMPASSION FATIGUE

VICARIOUS TRAUMA

also known as secondary trauma, can be described as indirect exposure to a traumatic event through first-hand account or narrative of that event

Good Therapy





HOW IT AFFECTS YOU

VICARIOUS TRAUMA



Leads to a Change in Worldview



A Spectrum of Responses



Negative



Neutral



Positive



HOW IT AFFECTS YOU

NEGATIVE

negative traumatic stress, compassion fatigue, and overall digression in functioning

NEUTRAL

healthy ability to manage the traumatic material (not that it has no effect)

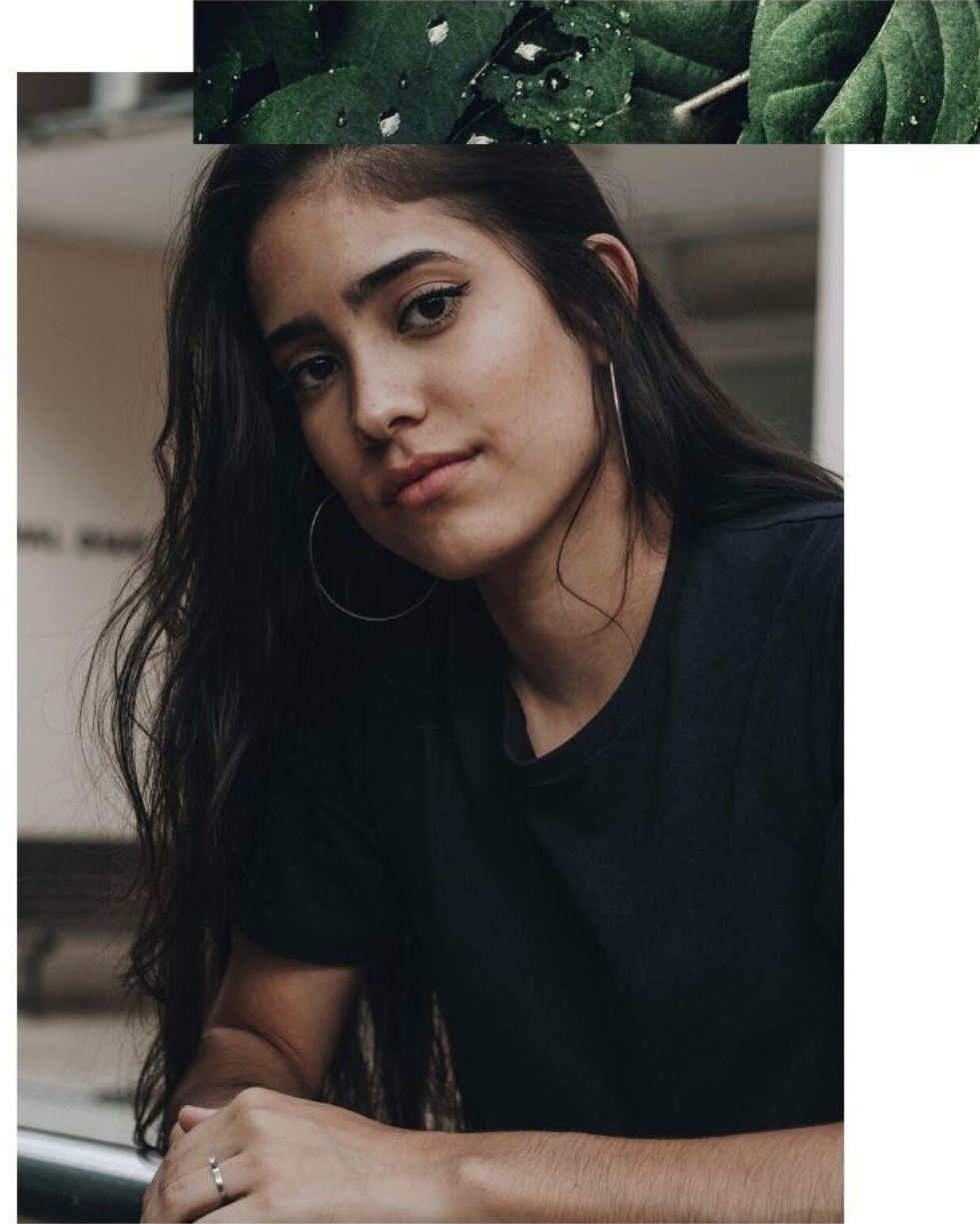
POSITIVE

draws a sense of meaning from a victim's resilience that strengthens their own mental and emotional fortitude

COMPASSION FATIGUE

the physical and mental exhaustion and emotional withdrawal experienced by those that care for sick or traumatized people over an extended period of time

Merriam Webster Dictionary





**WHAT IT
LOOKS
LIKE**

**FEELINGS OF FAILURE, GUILT,
SELF-DOUBT, SADNESS, AND
POWERLESSNESS**

LOSS OF SLEEP

**REDUCED SENSE OF EFFICACY
ON THE JOB**

DIFFICULTY CONCENTRATING

**FEELING OVERWHELMED WITH
OBLIGATIONS**



**WHAT IT
LOOKS
LIKE**


**APATHY AND EMOTIONAL
NUMBNESS**

**SECRETIVE ADDICTIONS OR
SELF-MEDICATING IN A
VARIETY OF WAYS**

**ISOLATION AND
WITHDRAWAL**

**INTRUSIVE THOUGHTS,
DREAMS, OR NIGHTMARES**

PESSIMISM



**WHEN YOU THINK OF
SELF-CARE, WHAT ARE THE
THINGS THAT COME TO
YOUR MIND?**

MYTHS ABOUT SELF CARE

IT LOOKS THE SAME FOR
EVERYONE

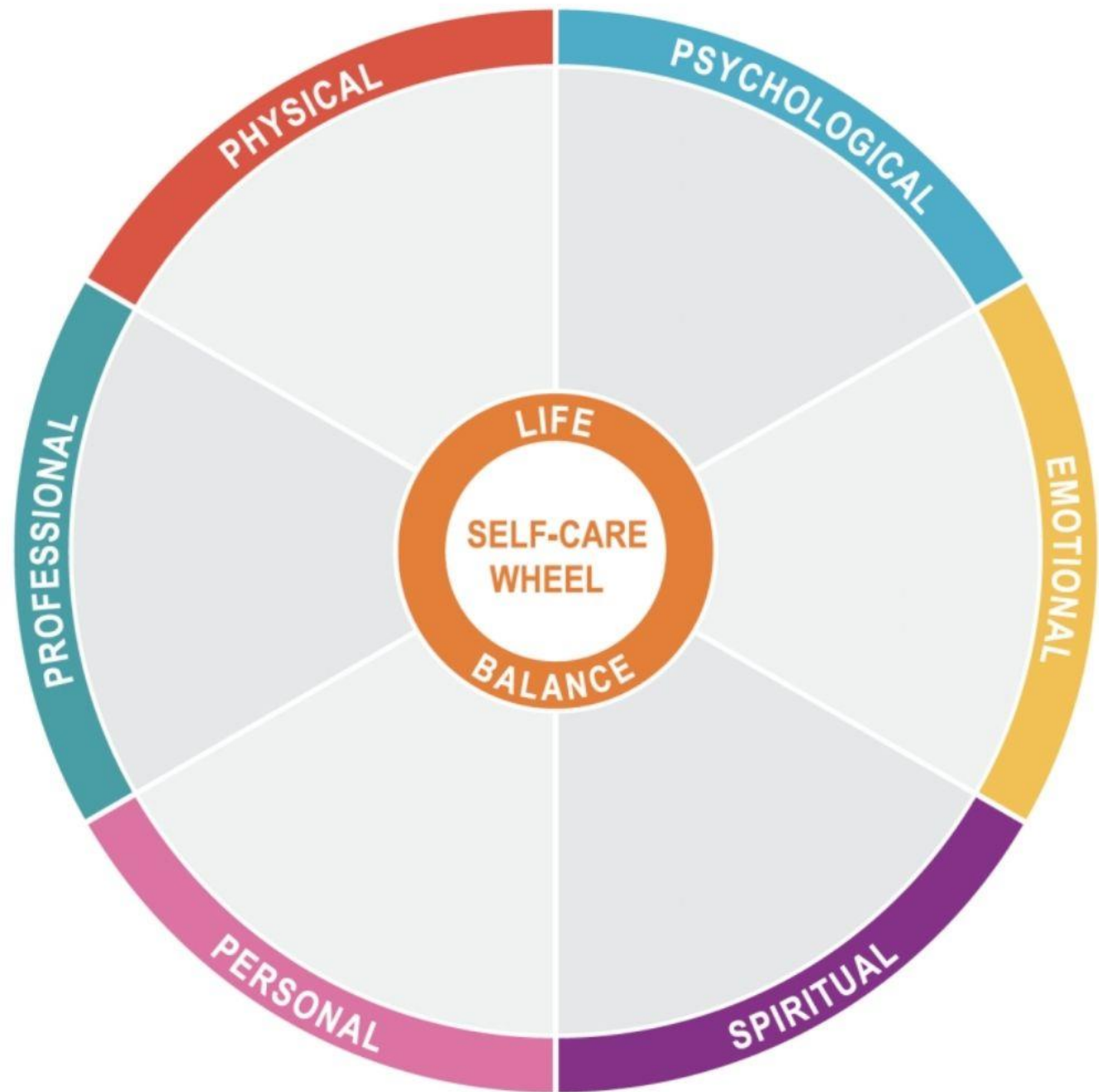
SELF CARE IS ANYTHING
THAT SOOTHES YOU

WE HAVE TO EARN SELF
CARE

YOU HAVE TO CHOOSE
BETWEEN YOURSELF AND
OTHERS

IT IS OPTIONAL

SELF CARE WHEEL



SELF CARE WHEEL



**AM I AWARE OF WHETHER I AM
DOING WELL OR NOT IN THESE
AREAS OF MY LIFE?**

If not, it may be more difficult to be proactive with self-care versus reactive (when a crisis or burnout occurs).

SELF CARE WHEEL



**DO I HAVE CLEAR BOUNDARIES
AROUND MY WORK AND
PERSONAL LIFE?**

The goal isn't to stop caring about what happens at work, but having healthy outlets to process it (i.e. therapy, hobbies, etc.).

SELF CARE WHEEL



HAVE I EXPERIENCED A RECENT LIFE TRANSITION?

Sometimes we forget to practice self care because what worked for us in a previous season of life, no longer works for us now. We have to make space to adjust!

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a dark blue t-shirt with 'SPG' on it, is smiling and serving a portion of food onto a white tray. She is standing behind a stainless steel counter in a kitchen or cafeteria. In the foreground, the back of a person's head with dark hair in a ponytail is visible, looking towards the server. Below the counter, there are stainless steel trays containing various food items, including a large tray of round, golden-brown fried items. The background shows kitchen equipment like a rack of pots and pans, a sink, and a window.

INTERACTIVE SCENARIOS



QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER WITH THE SCENARIOS

WHAT ARE THE POTENTIAL INDICATORS FOR SEX TRAFFICKING THAT YOU NOTICE?

WHAT FEELINGS COME UP FOR YOU WITH EACH SCENARIO?

HOW MIGHT YOU WANT TO RESPOND? IN WHAT WAYS WOULD YOUR RESPONSE DIFFER AFTER TODAY'S TRAINING?

HAVE YOU ENCOUNTERED A SIMILAR SCENARIO ON THE JOB?
IF SO, WHAT HAPPENED THEN?

SCENARIO 1

Jasmine comes to a clinic for an HIV screening. Although her intake paperwork says she is 19, you observe that developmentally, she seems far younger. Jasmine tells you she's mature for her age and very experienced. She also has a tattoo of the name 'Li'l G' on one arm.

During the exam she constantly receives texts and calls to her cell phone. She answers the phone and says 'Daddy, don't worry, I'll be done soon.' She tells the nurse her boyfriend, who is 30, is so in love he can't be away from her for even one minute.

The screening results indicate that although Jasmine is HIV negative, she has multiple other STIs. You ask Jasmine whether she uses protection during sex, but Jasmine shrugs and says 'sometimes they don't want to.' When you ask who 'they' are, Jasmine says that sometimes she has sex with other men, but won't say how many. She says she won't be in the life forever, just until she and her boyfriend can save up some cash."

SCENARIO 2

Angela is a 25-year-old woman seeing you for her first prenatal appointment. Upon reviewing her intake paperwork, you notice that most of her contact information was left blank. When you ask her about it she says, "Oh, my husband and I are always moving around and won't be here for long."

Further into the appointment, you discover Angela is actually three months pregnant. She shares that she has known about it "for a while" but hasn't had the chance to "get away to take care of things" like she planned. When you go to take a blood sample, she jumps, startled, and pulls her arm back. You notice multiple bruise marks from what look like previous injections.

You tell Angela that you can resume the blood test later, and the doctor will be in shortly. She says "Wait, I thought you were the doctor...is the doctor a man? Will you be back?" You reassure her that you'll be with the doctor during the appointment and she lets out a sigh of relief.

SCENARIO 3

You're working one of the overnight shifts, and two women approach the lobby's check-in counter. The first woman shares with you that the woman she's with (Jane Doe) needs to see a doctor as soon as possible. She discloses Jane Doe has a broken arm. Jane Doe is standing behind the woman, holding her arm and wincing in pain.

You look past the woman to ask Jane Doe for her name. The first woman cuts you off saying, "You can ask me whatever questions you need." After a few minutes of going back and forth, she finally lets you speak to Jane Doe directly. As you're asking Jane Doe questions, the woman stands behind her staring intently. You find out Jane Doe's name is Melissa. Melissa doesn't share her last name with you, and the rest of her answers are short and sound scripted. She's visibly uncomfortable and doesn't make eye contact with you.

After finishing gathering her information, you escort her back to an exam room. One of the nurses comes to tell you that she recognizes Melissa from a couple of months ago. She came in a broken nose and bruised ribs, but didn't remember her name. The same woman was with her, and never left her alone for the entire appointment.

A close-up photograph of vibrant green leaves, likely from a shrub or tree, covered in numerous small, glistening water droplets. The leaves are densely packed and fill the left and bottom portions of the frame. A dark green rectangular box is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing white text.

QUESTIONS?

Crisis Line: 918-245-4075

Business Line: 918-245-3995

P.O. Box 1588

Sand Springs, OK 74063