



Holding Complexity: Young People, Sex Work, and Trafficking

A Participant Guide

BACKGROUND

The intersections of sex work and sex trafficking are complex, and often result in tensions among practitioners who work in the sexual assault and human trafficking fields. Our aim is to provide webinar participants with knowledge as well as practical methods that can be used to build coordinated learning opportunities alongside our training.

In honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, this webinar will focus on deconstructing language and policies that tend to divide us, rather than unite us in our work to support young people in living healthier, safer lives. Participants will learn from young people and practitioners, about strategies for building rapport with, and developing supportive youth-centered responses for, youth engaged in the sex trades. By examining where we are, this webinar will offer methods to keep a vision of the future we want to create.

ACTION ITEM

We hope that the following ideas can be a springboard for you and your staff to discuss the issues covered in our April 12th webinar, with the goal of extending the conversation to local partners in the near future. But first, how can you start the conversation among your own staff? Here are a few ideas to get you started:

Organize a Brown Bag Lunch

The set up can be easy! Simply secure a meeting space at the time of the webinar and invite your staff, volunteers, and interns to join you. Attendees may be incentivized to attend if food is provided but brown-bagging works just as well. Consider inviting young people from your programs and community. The key: Marketing the event!

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This project is a collaborative effort with The Northwest Network of Bisexual, Trans, Lesbian and Gay Survivors of Abuse.

The Northwest Network
of bisexual, trans, lesbian & gay survivors of abuse



ACTION ITEM

Integrate a Youth Speak Opportunity

Our webinar can be a launch point to discuss these topics with the young people in your community. Consider adding a listening session to the docket after participating in the webinar together!

Coordinate a Professional Development Event

We will do the heavy lifting; all you need to do is get bodies into the room. Proactively securing a large meeting space at the time of the webinar, and promoting in advance can turn this event into a conversation starter for you and your staff. Don't forget to invite volunteers and interns to join you!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Keep the conversation moving by hosting a group discussion after the webinar. This is an excellent way to engage the entirety of your organization in assessing your community's strengths and needs when support young people involved in the sex trades. Here are a few questions to get the conversation flowing:

1. To what extent is the sex trades an issue in your community? What do you not know?
2. What support in your community is available to young people in the sex trades?
3. What are some of the barriers to supporting these young people?
4. Does a young person's experiences around their gender and/or sexuality affect what supports might be available to them?
5. What can be done in your community to reduce these barriers?

THE FOLLOW UP

Following the webinar, Break the Cycle and the Northwest Network will provide a guide on how to integrate this webinar into your work, collaborations, and coordinated community response teams. This guide will include discussion questions that can be posed to the group, to begin establishing youth-informed and inclusive prevention and response practices that fit your community needs.

To begin planning for a larger, community-based conversation, we encourage your and your staff to discuss the following after participating in the webinar:

1. Who needs to be at the table to enhance community support for young people in the sex trades?
2. Which community partners would benefit from trainings and discussion related to the tensions between sex work and human trafficking?
3. Which additional community leaders or entities should be present to best establish community discussion, support, policies and procedures for supporting young people in the sex trades?
4. What support can your staff, or your technical assistance providers offer to community leaders and entities that may need additional support in building their capacity to serve young people in the sex trades?

Still not registered? You can register [here](#), for our April 12th webinar beginning at 12:00pm PST.