



Trafficking of People with Disabilities

END ABUSE
of PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
The movement starts here

End Abuse of People with Disabilities

Mission

- To end abuse of people with disabilities and to promote:
 - prevention efforts that address the root causes of violence including the devaluation of people with disabilities in our society, racism and other forms of oppression,
 - practices that are accessible and support survivors with disabilities and their communities heal from violence, and
 - accountability strategies for the people responsible for this violence that are effective, equitable, and restorative.

Achieving our Mission

- **Building Movements:** We are building a movement at the intersection of disability justice, Deaf advocacy, racial equity, and anti-violence.
- **Cultivating Leaders:** We support the leadership of people with disabilities and Deaf people in anti-violence work and amplify their voices.
- **Supporting Organizations:** We strengthen the capacity of organizations working at the intersections to sustain and scale their work. We also help anti-violence organizations become more accessible and disability organizations become more healing-informed.

Achieving our Mission (2)

- **Leveraging Resources:** We regrant money to organizations that center survivors with disabilities and Deaf survivors and help them build capacity to get future grants. We also work with public and private funders to address funding inequities and to adopt more accessible and equitable grantmaking practices.
- **Advocating for Change:** We advocate for policies and practices that promote autonomy, self-determination, sexual rights, and the well-being of people with disabilities and Deaf people.

Human Trafficking

- Human trafficking can involve sex or labor.
- Sex trafficking is use of force, fraud or coercion to make individuals perform commercial sex acts such as prostitution, pornography, or sex tourism.
- Labor trafficking is the use of force, fraud or coercion to make individuals perform work for little to no money.

Human Trafficking in the Lives of People with Disabilities

- Traffickers may exploit the isolation of people with disabilities.
- Traffickers may seek out victims with disabilities to gain access to their public benefits such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits.
- People with disabilities may be trafficked by family members, legal guardians or residential care providers.

What we know about Human Trafficking of People with Disabilities

- The U.S. Department of State's Trafficking in Persons Report from 2012 states that "[P]ersons with disabilities remain one of the groups most at risk of being trafficked."
- From January 2015 to December 2017, the National Human Trafficking Hotline documented 2,116 potential victims that had a pre-existing health concern or disability immediately before their trafficking situation.
- A 2018 study shows that girls with intellectual disabilities were at much greater risk of being trafficked than girls without intellectual disabilities.

What we know about Human Trafficking of People with Disabilities (2)

- In a two-year review of all suspected human trafficking incidents across the country, 94% of sex trafficking victims were female, 40% were Black and 24% were Latinx, despite Black people making up 13% of the total US population and Latinx people making up 18%.
- Additionally, a 2016 study found that in South Dakota, Native American women represent 40% of sex trafficking victims, yet only make up 8% of the population.
- It stands to reason that Black, Latinx, and Native women with disabilities are at greater risk of human trafficking than white women with disabilities and face additional barriers to getting help.

What we know about Human Trafficking of People with Disabilities (3)

- People with disabilities
- Additionally, a 2016 study found that in South Dakota, Native American women represent 40% of sex trafficking victims, yet only make up 8% of the population.
- It stands to reason that Black, Latinx, and Native women with disabilities are at greater risk of human trafficking than white women with disabilities and face additional barriers to getting help.

Today, we will explore...

What does human trafficking look like in the lives of people with disabilities?

What are the structural issues that are putting people with disabilities at risk?

What are the challenges that BIPOC with disabilities experience when seeking help?

What practical guidance would you offer for addressing these challenges?

Our panelists...

Justice Shorter, National Disability Rights Network

Olga Trujillo, Vera Institute of Justice

Ericka Reil, Another Way Vermont