

## **Meeting the Needs of Human Trafficking Victims with Disabilities through a Disability Justice Lens**

Recommended practices to implement in your organization and community:

### **In your work with survivors:**

- Give people with disabilities the time and space they need to process information, complete paperwork, and decide how they want to move forward.
- Support survivors in determining what justice and healing looks like to them. Do not decide for them.
- Check in with survivors frequently, even if you don't have anything new to report. Develop trust through ongoing communication.
- Center the needs of people traditionally excluded from services, including survivors of color with disabilities. Ask them what they need and build your practices and policies to address those needs.
- Educate your staff on how racism & ableism impact the experiences of trafficking survivors of color with disabilities.

## **In your work with community partners:**

- End the practice of criminalizing victims.
- Advocate to redirect funding from law enforcement to survivor-led initiatives.
- Lift up and address the issue of missing and murdered indigenous women (MMIW), including the role extractive oil practices play.
- Collaborate – bring together organizations in your community to address human trafficking, including disability rights organizations, culturally specific organizations, LGBTQIA organizations, domestic and sexual violence networks, etc.

**Practice hope** - Miriam Kaba says “Hope is a discipline,” which Justice Shorter understands to mean “[Hope] is a daily devotion, something that has to be practiced every day. Hold hope in your hands, your heart, and your mind.”

## **Other resources:**

- [Human Trafficking of Youth with Disabilities](#)
- [Runaway Homeless Youth \(RHY\) Human Trafficking Screening Tool](#)
- [Disability Rights PA](#) resource for free advocacy
- [Autism Connection of PA](#) resource for free advocacy