



Office for Victims of Crime
Training & Technical Assistance Center

Western District
of New York
Human
Trafficking Task
Force

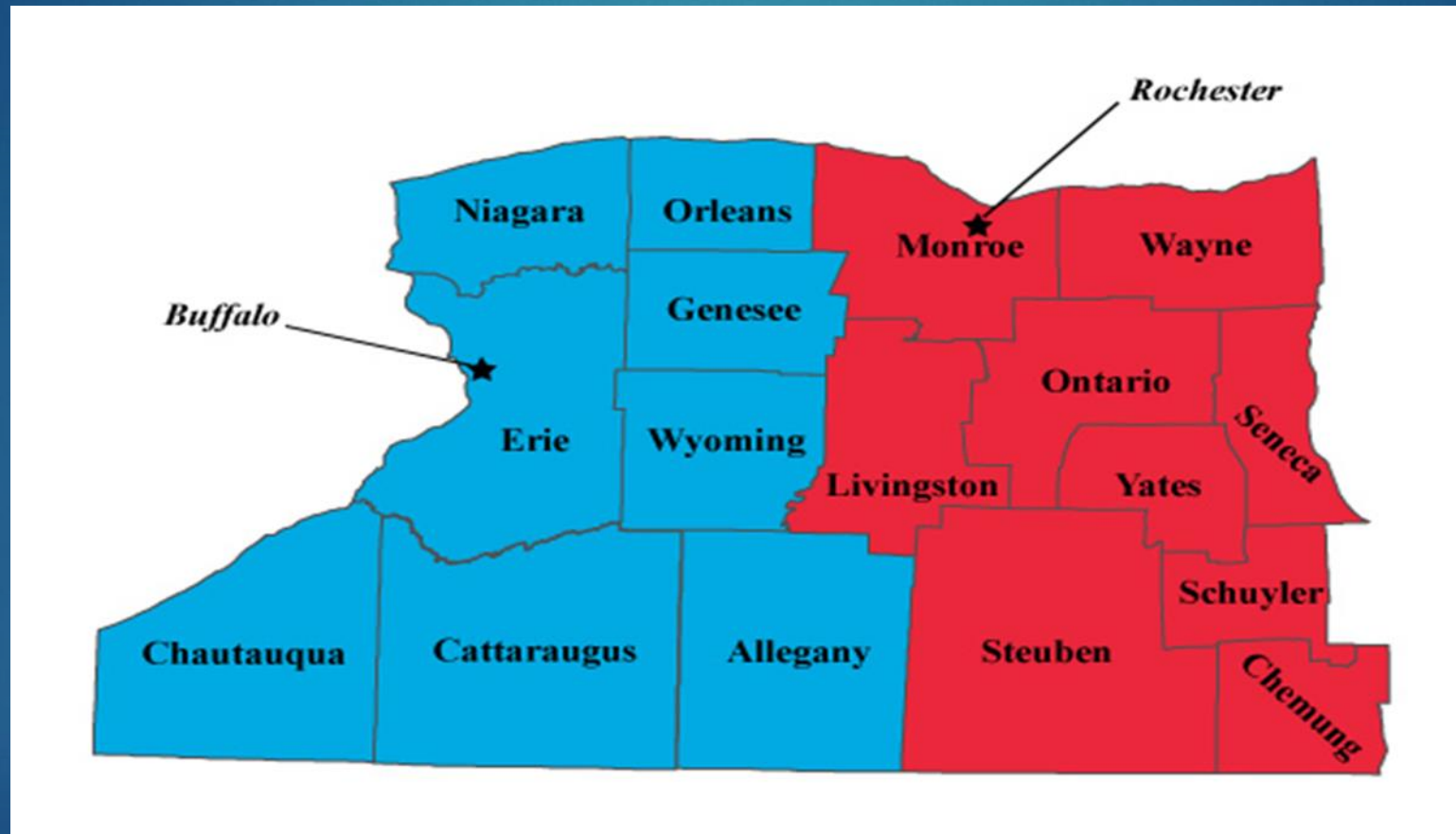
HUMAN TRAFFICKING

VICTIM CENTERED AND
TRAUMA INFORMED

Purpose of the Task force

- ▶ The Western District of New York Human Trafficking Task Force is a multi-disciplinary task force that brings law enforcement and social service agencies together to identify and investigate human trafficking utilizing a victim centered and trauma informed response.
- ▶ Founded in 2006, the task force is focused on increasing successful victim-centered identification, investigation, and prosecution of human trafficking cases within seventeen (17) counties of Western New York including high exploitation areas in Erie, Niagara, and Monroe counties.

Western District of New York



WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE –CORE TEAM

▶ CO-FACILITATORS

- ▶ The United States Attorney for the Western District of New York
 - ▶ Erie County Sherrif's Office
 - ▶ International Institute of Buffalo (IIB)
 - ▶ Homeland Security Investigations
 - ▶ Erie County District Attorney's Office
 - ▶ Monroe County District Attorney's Office
 - ▶ Volunteers Lawyer Project
 - ▶ Willow Domestic Violence Center
 - ▶ U.S. Department of Labor
 - ▶ U.S. Department of State
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- ▶ Committees: Law Enforcement Committee - Survivor Services Committee - Training and Outreach Committee - Labor Trafficking Committee

What Is Human Trafficking?

- ▶ The TVPA defines a “severe form of trafficking in persons” as—
 - ▶ • Sex trafficking - the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act) in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age.
 - ▶ • Labor trafficking - -The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

Who Are the Victims of Human Trafficking?

- ▶ Anyone who is compelled (**through force, fraud, or coercion**) to perform any kind of work or commercial sex act by another person, and any minor engaged in a commercial sex act, is a human trafficking victim.
- ▶ Victims of human trafficking come from all walks of life and are entrapped in many different settings.
- ▶ Anyone can be a victim, regardless of their race, color, national origin, disability, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic status, or citizenship status.
- ▶ These victims are deceived by false promises of love, a good job, or a stable life and are lured into situations where they are forced to work under deplorable conditions with little to no pay.

Where Are Victims Found?

not a comprehensive list

- ▶ In some cases, victims are hidden behind doors in domestic servitude in a home.
- ▶ Others are in plain view, interact with people on a daily basis.
- ▶ Others are forced to work under extreme circumstances in exotic dance clubs, construction, health and beauty services, or restaurants.
- ▶ These conditions exist across the United States.

Understanding Victims of Human Trafficking

Understanding the mindset of human trafficking victims is important:

- ▶ Many victims do not see themselves as victims and do not realize what is being done to them is wrong.
- ▶ Traffickers sometimes promote drug dependencies among their victims, keeping the victims reliant on the trafficker for access to the substances that fuel their addiction.
- ▶ Some victims do not know what city or country they are in because they are often forced to move.
- ▶ Most victims have a strong sense of distrust because they fear deportation.
- ▶ Many victims do not speak English and do not understand American culture.

Who Are the Traffickers and How Do They Ensnare Their Victims?

- ▶ Just as there is no one type of trafficking victim, perpetrators of this crime also vary. Traffickers can be foreign nationals or U.S. citizens, family members, partners, acquaintances, and even strangers.
- ▶ Criminal networks, large and small; and front businesses that appear legitimate at first glance but disguise human trafficking.
- ▶ Traffickers often go beyond physical abuse and use extreme forms of psychological abuse that exploit victims' vulnerabilities to maintain control over victims and prevent them from escaping.
- ▶ To achieve their ends, traffickers instill fear: of arrest or deportation, use threats of harm to a family member, perpetuate shame or guilt about what is happening.
- ▶ People often incorrectly assume that all traffickers are males; however, multiple cases in the United States have revealed that women can also be traffickers. Traffickers can be pimps, gang members, diplomats, business owners, labor brokers, and farm, factory, and company owners.

What Services Do Victims of Human Trafficking Need?

While each trafficking victim is unique, the emergency and long-term services that trafficking victims require

- ▶ intensive case management,
- ▶ victim advocacy,
- ▶ Shelter, housing, food,
- ▶ medical and dental care,
- ▶ mental health treatment,
- ▶ substance abuse treatment,
- ▶ interpretation and translation services,
- ▶ immigration and other legal assistance,
- ▶ literacy education, and employment and training service

Faces of Human Trafficking Video Series

Faces of Human Trafficking Video 1: An Introduction -This video introduces the issue of human trafficking—both sex and labor trafficking—in the United States in order to raise awareness and provide a foundation for further discussion and training.

https://ovc.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh226/files/2020-01/HT_CH1_Introduction_download.mp4

Your Agency Information

