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Fostering Cultural Humility in Addressing Sexual Violence and Sex Trafficking among Youth

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Tips for Serving Youth

I am curious about who you are
vs
I know who you are already

Responding!

- ALWAYS BELIEVE THEIR STORY!
- Memories can be random and stories can change.
- Avoid the “Why” questions. Ask “How” and “What”
- Offer choices to empower.
- Limit the number of times they tell their stories.
- Never make promises.

INCREASING CULTURAL HUMILITY

How could I....

- Show respect for, curiosity about, or celebration of diversity?
- Integrate exploration of cultural differences into my time with youth?
- Foster healthy relationships with culturally diverse parents and caregivers?

Red Flags for Human Trafficking

- Unexplained absences
- Less engaged than usual while at school
- Unexplained bruises or injuries (black eye, bruised lip)
- Self-isolation or withdrawal from friends, sports or social activities
- Shares a plan to drop out of school
- Forced criminalization
- Unauthorized or unfamiliar person tries to check student out from school
- Hypervigilant of authorities

Red Flags for Sex Trafficking

- Appears to have access to money, hotel keys, refillable gift cards, multiple phones
- Evidence of a controlling or dominating relationship, particularly with an older person
- Brags about making or having lots of money
- Less appropriately dressed than before or new expensive clothes, accessories or shoes

THE

SET ME FREE

PROJECT

Red Flags for Labor Trafficking

- Working excessively long or unusual hours
- Recruited to work through false promises
- Are living and working in isolated conditions, largely cut off from interaction with others or support systems
- Appear to be monitored by another person when talking or interacting with others
- Feel pressured by their employer to stay in a job or situation they want to leave
- Are working in dangerous conditions, without proper safety gear, training, adequate breaks and other protections
- Has a debt to pay off

Disclosure Tips

- Listen without interrupting.
- Remain calm and concerned. Maintain eye contact.
- Your face should show “compassion,” not “pity.”
- Don’t react nonverbally when something surprises you.
- Get on the student’s level (even to or below their eye level). If they sit, please don’t stand.
- We are not investigators. There is no reason to probe for more information.
- Do not worry about having to say just the right thing – just being there can help! • Respect the language the student uses to identify what’s happened.
- Tell them you believe them and it’s not their fault.
- Ask what you can do to be supportive. (“Would you like for me to go with you to talk with someone?”)
- Ask yourself, “Am I doing everything I can to create an intentionally safe environment for this student with my verbal and non-verbal language?”

The Stages of Grooming

1. They target someone.
2. They gain trust.
3. They fill a need.
4. They isolate.
5. They exploit.
6. They maintain control.

- **Don’t go it alone**
- **Attend to self-care**
- **If you recognize signs of secondary trauma in yourself, talk to a professional**
- **Seek help with your own traumas**
- **Maintain perspective**



The Set Me Free Project

