



Human Trafficking in **AMERICA'S SCHOOLS**



- Human Trafficking Webinar Series -

The Impact of Bias, Inequities, and Injustices in Supporting Students Impacted by Human Trafficking

Wednesday, June 29, 2022 | 3:00 – 4:15 PM ET
SPEAKER BIOS

Ruth Ryder

Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Policy and Programs, U.S. Department of Education



Ms. Ruth Ryder is the Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Policy and Programs – Formula Grants in the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE) at the U.S. Department of Education. In this role, Ms. Ryder oversees a broad range of management, policy, and program functions related to formula and discretionary grant programs under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESEA). Ms. Ryder was previously the deputy director of the Office of Special Education Programs in the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, which she joined in 1988. Prior to joining the Department, Ms. Ryder was a program administrator in a Washington state school district. There she had responsibility for the Elementary and Secondary Education Act Title 1 and Title II programs, state-remediation, gifted education, outcome-based education, and state- and district-wide testing programs. Ms. Ryder has a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and Elementary Education and a Master's degree in Special Education.

Jacquelyn C.A. Meshelemiah

Associate Professor, The Ohio State University



Dr. Jacquelyn C.A. Meshelemiah is an Associate Professor in the College of Social Work at The Ohio State University. She is the author and co-author of numerous publications, presentations, and trainings on human trafficking, human rights, social justice, and leadership at the university, local, national, and international levels. Her last co-authored pressbook (with Raven E. Lynch) is entitled, “The Cause and Consequence of Human Trafficking: Human Rights Violations”. She is the 2019 recipient of the Influential Scholar Award by the International Human Trafficking & Social Justice Conference award committee. Dr. Meshelemiah has held a number of leadership positions that include serving as the Associate Vice Provost (AVP) for Diversity and Inclusion at The Ohio State University, Director of Leadership Initiatives for Women of Color, the Master of Social Work Program Director in the College of Social Work and the Undergraduate Program Director in the College of Social Work. Professional travels have taken her to over half of the United States as well as to Africa, Europe, Asia, and Central America in her capacity as a visiting scholar, presenter, and researcher.

Lugine Gray

Region 1 Youth Trafficking Coordinator, Louisiana Alliance Children Advocacy Centers



Mr. Lugine Gray is the Regional Child and Youth Trafficking Coordinator for the Louisiana Child and Youth Trafficking Collaborative. This is a new position that represents the partnership and commitment between the Louisiana Child Advocacy Centers and the Governor’s office to combat human trafficking statewide, support and provide resources to victims and survivors, and hold traffickers accountable for their role in continuing modern day slavery. As the Region 1 coordinator, he is the central point of contact for agencies and victims throughout the Jefferson Parish, New Orleans, St. Bernard, and Plaquemines area.

Since starting this position, he has coordinated services for victims of human trafficking and those that are high-risk. He has administered awareness trainings to local schools and non-profits that focus on how to recognize key indicators of human trafficking within the community and the proper protocols to report concerns in a trauma-informed way that puts the well-being and interests of the survivors first. He has also created the first Regional Child Trafficking Multi-Disciplinary Team for Region 1 to increase coordination of services to victims.

His field of research and study is disaster science with a focus on human trafficking/refugees and forced migration. Before joining the Louisiana Child and Youth Trafficking Collaborative, he lived abroad and did anti-trafficking work beginning in Eswatini with initiatives that aimed to end the use of human trafficking and sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict to Swazi women and children and the forced commercial

agriculture labor of Swazi boys. From there he worked with similar projects located in Africa and the Middle East in countries such as Nigeria, Ghana, Djibouti, Sudan, and Syria. Upon returning back to his hometown of New Orleans, he graduated with a Master's of Science in Disaster Resilience Leadership from the Tulane School of Social Work while also working as the Sr. Human Trafficking Case Manager at Covenant House where he provided direct care services to survivors of human trafficking throughout the region. He is a combat veteran of the United States Army and founder of the New Orleans chapter of Veterans for Peace. He is also currently an acting member of the community advisory board for Institute of Women and Ethnic Studies.

Tanya Gould

Lived Experience Expert, Founder of Identifiable Me



Ms. Tanya Gould, a survivor of domestic sex trafficking, child pornography, sexual abuse as a minor, and controlling relationships, is the founder of Identifiable Me, a nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening the emotional and mental health of victims of trafficking and other related sexual violence and moving them towards self-discovery and their life's purpose.

Years after being forced to drop out of school by her trafficker, she went back to college and earned her B.A.Sc. in Communications in 2015. Now, Ms. Gould serves as a mentor, consultant, advisor, trainer, and speaker on topics relating to her story. She has trained and presented trafficking awareness programs to over 150 organizations nationally and internationally. She is the founder and director of Identifiable Me.

She currently serves on the Children's Hospital of the Kings and Daughters Advisory Board (on Commercial Sexual Exploitation – CSEC), as well as the Advisory Boards of Beloved Haven and Street Ransom two NGOs working to stop trafficking. She is an active member for Survivor Alliance. She is a consultant to Global Centurion, CHKD, DHS Blue Campaign, Safe House Project, OVC TTAC, Department of State TIP office, and Task Force implemented by the Attorney General office in the Hampton Roads region of VA. Lastly, Ms. Gould was appointed by President Trump to the U.S. Human Trafficking Advisory Council in 2018.

She is inspired by the quote: "Just because life gave me lemons doesn't mean I have to make lemonade. I like my lemons just the way they are, I have nothing to be ashamed of...." ~ Tanya Gould-Street.