



Human Trafficking in **AMERICA'S SCHOOLS**



- Human Trafficking Webinar Series -

Protecting Young People from Online Exploitation

Wednesday, October 26, 2022 | 3:00 – 4:30 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.

Dr. Jennifer O'Brien

Assistant Professor, Crimes Against Children Research Center, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH



Dr. Jennifer E. O'Brien, Ph.D. is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Social Work and faculty affiliate at the Crimes against Children Research Center (CCRC) at the University of New Hampshire. Her areas of research include childhood sexual abuse, the commercialized sexual exploitation of children (CSEC), and Internet victimization. A licensed clinician, Dr. O'Brien's research interests stem from her practice experiences both domestically and abroad with survivors of sexual abuse and trauma. Currently, Dr. O'Brien is working on several projects including: the role of technology in the lives of youth who trade sex, law enforcement's response to victims (and survivors) of CSEC, and CSEC survivor's treatment needs and preferences.

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Dr. Wendy Walsh

Research Associate, Crimes Against Children Research Center, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH



Dr. Wendy A. Walsh, Ph. D., is a Research Associate at the University of New Hampshire's Crimes against Children Research Center, where she has worked for over 20 years. She also works as an independent program evaluator. She has published extensively on Children's Advocacy Centers, technology-based victimization, and the criminal justice response to child abuse. Recently, she has also evaluated initiatives to bring Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners to underserved areas via telemedicine.

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Stacey Robinson

Manager, Project-Grant Fund, Division of Equity and Student Empowerment, DeKalb County School District, Stone Mountain, GA



Ms. Stacey Robinson is a former educator with over twenty years of experience in various roles in education. She currently serves as the Project Manager for the HTYPE ~ Human Trafficking Prevention Education grant in the Social Work department for DeKalb County School District, where she provides coordination to two part-time Program Specialist and support 50+ facilitators within in 18 high schools that implement Not a Number, Love146's Child Trafficking and Exploitation Prevention a five-module curriculum. Also, as manager she plans and implements grant programs/professional learning opportunities, prepares budgets, supervises grant staff, monitors expenditure, tracks results, and analyzes financial data. Ms. Robinson received a bachelor's degree in Secondary Education with a concentration in English and

Communications Comprehensive, a master's in School Counseling, and Media Design and Technology.

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Dave Alley

Special Agent, Homeland Security Investigations, Acting Supervisor Child Exploitation Group, Detroit, MI



Mr. Dave Alley is a Special Agent with Homeland Security Investigations and has had the privilege of working in this role for over 15 years. Special Agent Alley is currently the acting supervisor of the Child Exploitation Group for HSI Detroit. Special Agent Alley was a presenter at the 34th International Symposium on Child Abuse and was a nominee for the 2019 and 2020 NCMEC HERO award. Special Agent Alley also serves at the Senior Defensive Tactics Instructor for HSI Detroit. Special Agent Alley graduated from Michigan State University with both a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Criminal Justice.

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Rachel Thomas

Member, U.S. Advisory Council on Human Trafficking, Person with Lived Experience



Ms. Rachel C. Thomas, M. Ed is a graduate of UCLA, a presidential appointee to the United States Advisory Council on Human Trafficking, and a personal survivor of human trafficking. She has extensive experience teaching, training, curriculum writing, public speaking and mentoring. As Director of Sowers Education Group since 2012, Ms. Thomas has reached over 150,000 live audience members and millions more through numerous media outlets including CNN, HLN, The T.D. Jakes Show, The New York Times Upfront Magazine, and ABC's Newsmakers. Ms. Thomas is the lead author of the nation's most widely used Human Trafficking Intervention Curriculum-- [Ending The Game \(Journal Of Women and Criminal Justice, 2021\)](#) as well as [The Cool Aunt Series](#), a sex trafficking prevention course for teens.

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