



Human Trafficking in **AMERICA'S SCHOOLS**



- Human Trafficking Webinar Series –

Centering the Experience of Boys, Young Men, and Male Identifying Students in Human Trafficking

Wednesday, September 13, 2023 | 3:00 – 4:30 PM ET
SPEAKER BIOS

Jerome Elam

President and CEO Trafficking in America Task Force, Survivor Leader, FL



Mr. Jerome Elam is President and CEO of Trafficking in America Task Force. Raised in a broken home by an alcoholic parent, he is a survivor of child abuse/domestic violence, child sex trafficking, and child pornography. Brought up in the South, Mr. Elam enlisted in the United States Marine Corps at the age of seventeen. Mr. Elam has received the Award for Courage presented by the National Council of Jewish Women for his work in the advocacy arena and in 2015, he was appointed as a Special Advisor to the Utah Attorney General on human trafficking. In 2016, Mr. Elam founded his nonprofit Trafficking in America Task Force using his notoriety to help promote global awareness of human trafficking. In 2021, Mr. Elam was appointed to the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) inaugural International Survivors of Trafficking Advisory Board (ISTAC) where he has trained law enforcement, judges and prosecutors in the Ukraine and Uzbekistan. In 2021, he spoke at conferences in Africa, Australia, India, the UK and South Africa. In 2023, Mr. Elam received a lifetime achievement award from the United States Attorney General's Alliance.

Jose (Peps) Garcia

Newcomer Safety Initiative, Program Manager, Oakland Unified School District, CA



Mr. Jose “Peps” Garcia is an indigenous, community activist and artist who has been doing advocacy work since he was 17 years of age. Peps migrated from Mexico at 12 and has lived in Oakland California ever since. Mr. Garcia has worked in many areas of advocacy from direct action to policy and systemic change such as being the primary witness representing Northern California in the Williams vs California Case and has been a part of many youth led coalitions and grass roots organizations. Most recently in creating the Newcomer Safety Success Initiative and the Young Hawks Youth Program, a youth leadership and advocacy program that centers indigenous culture and pedagogy for the purpose of healing, and preparing the relationships between youth and themselves, their families and community this also serves as a contact point for restorative justice and conflict resolution, gang prevention and intervention work. Mr. Garcia’s current role is Manager of Safety and Security for BACR overseeing these areas across 5 California counties.

Caroline Greig

Anti-Trafficking Initiatives Program Director, WestCoast Children’s Clinic, CA



Ms. Caroline Greig, MEd, MPA, is the Project Director of Anti-Trafficking Initiatives at WestCoast Children’s Clinic. This includes managing the Commercial Sexual Exploitation Identification Tool (CSE-IT) and CSE-IT Online partnerships. Ms. Greig is a former special education teacher and has 12 years of experience supporting children and families with current or former involvement in the child welfare system. She provided educational services and advocacy to families struggling with a complex medical need. She has received multiple recognition awards for collaboration and expertise from the Administration of Children’s Services. Ms. Greig received her Master in Education from Arcadia University with a focus in Special Education and her Master in Public Administration at the Marxe School of Public and International Affairs at Baruch College.

Jesse Leon

Author, TedxSpeaker, Lived Experience Expert, President of Alliance Way LLC



Mr. Jesse Leon is the award-winning author of I’m not Broken (No Estoy Roto). He is a TEDx and motivational speaker, Lambda Literary Award Finalist, certified executive coach, and consultant to philanthropy and social impact investors on affordable housing, racial justice, access to mental health, 2SLGBTQ+ issues, CSEC, CSA, and sex trafficking. Mr. Leon has managed grant-making budgets ranging from \$10MM to over \$1B in both the public and private sectors and has built over 5,000 units of affordable housing. Mr. Leon received his bachelor’s degree from University of California, Berkeley, his master’s degree from Harvard

University's John F. Kennedy School of Government and completed a post graduate fellowship from the University of Pennsylvania. Mr. Leon is fluent in English and Spanish and proficient in Portuguese.

Jodi de la Peña

Grant Manager, Human Trafficking Prevention, Oakland Unified School District, CA



Ms. Jodi de la Peña holds a MSW from Washington University (St. Louis) and has 30 years of direct social work and managerial experience in the U.S. and Latin America supporting children, youth and families and newcomers (refugees/immigrants/asylees). She now works with Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) in Northern California to oversee the district's Human Trafficking Prevention Education and Response. Previously, Ms. Peña was the Executive Director of a community-based organization in Oakland providing post-resettlement support for newcomers where she now chairs the board. She also chairs the California State Advisory Council on Refugee Assistance and Services. Ms. Peña gained expertise on unaccompanied minors through managerial roles with Refugee Foster Care at Catholic Charities and as the Colorado Unaccompanied Refugee Minor Program Specialist. She has worked with newcomers in community-based, medical, and school settings, and with children/youth as a child welfare worker, clinical supervisor for programs in Bolivia, and program consultant in Costa Rica. Ms. Peña is passionate about collaborations emphasizing person-centered, strengths-based, trauma-informed, and culturally responsive support to those experiencing vulnerabilities.

David Perry

Health Data Research Analyst, WestCoast Children's Clinic, CA



Mr. David Perry, MA, is the Research Analyst for WestCoast Children's Clinic. He has worked on several research projects related to the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) over the past 5 years, including the Gender and Exploitation study and report briefs on universal screening and CSEC prevalence, as well as a scoping project on developing a screening tool to help identify labor trafficking in children and youth. Mr. Perry regularly monitors and analyzes data from WestCoast Children's Clinic's Commercial Sexual Exploitation Identification Tool (the CSE-IT, pronounced "see-it"), which includes over 280,000 screenings of nearly 197,000 youth. Mr. Perry received his Master's in Psychology from San Diego State University with a focus on Social Psychology. His thesis centered around the links between ethnic diversity in neighborhoods and schools and residents' implicit bias.