



Human Trafficking in **AMERICA'S SCHOOLS**



- Human Trafficking Webinar Series -

Human Trafficking & Exploitation Prevention Strategies for Vulnerable Students

Wednesday, March 27, 2024 | 3:00 – 4:30 PM ET

SPEAKER BIOS

Nicole White

Program Specialist, Office of Safe and Supportive Schools, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, U.S. Department of Education

Ms. Nicole White has served in both the private and public sector. In her government role, she has worked for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Department of Education. At the U.S. Department of Education, Ms. White previously functioned as Chief of Staff to the Assistant Secretary of the Office of Educational Research and Improvement. Ms. White currently holds the position of Program Specialist in the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Safe and Supportive Schools working on issues related to school climate, mental health, and community violence interventions.

M. Elizabeth Bowman, PhD, LICSW, LCSW-C

CEO, Restoring Ivy Collective, Person with Lived Experience, Professor, Gallaudet University, D.C.



Dr. Beth Bowman is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Social Work at Gallaudet University. She is also a minor domestic sex trafficking survivor, anti-trafficking advocate, mother of two teens, researcher, clinician, and speaker. In her clinical practice she works with trafficking survivors using trauma-informed yoga group therapy and other expressive arts therapies. She is the founder and executive director of the Restoring Ivy Collective in Washington, D.C.

Lina Caswell Munoz

Associate Director, Children and Youth Programs, Church World Services, NJ



Ms. Lina Caswell Muñoz has a B.A. in Human Services from Springfield College and an M.A. in Sociology and Social Justice from Kean University. In the past twenty years, she served in CT as an advocate for minoritized immigrant children and families and low-income Latinx communities for the Hispanic Health Council, the City of Hartford Office of Youth Development, The Refugee Assistance Center, and the Center for Children's Advocacy in Hartford. She served as a volunteer child advocate for unaccompanied immigrant children through the Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights for five years. In 2015 she began working as volunteer advocate and board member for the Children's Emergency Medical Fund of New Jersey representing chronically ill, uninsured, and underinsured, immigrant children of mixed status and their families. Currently, she works at Church World Service as the Associate Director for Children and Youth Services overseeing the New Jersey Office of Refugee School Impact and Youth Mentoring programs as well as the Home Study and Post Release Service program for unaccompanied minors.

Cali MacEachen

Program Officer, Aspire, U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, VA

Ms. Cali MacEachen is the Program Officer for Aspire: Child Trafficking Victim Assistance Program, funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office on Trafficking in Persons (OTIP) and operated by the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI). In this role, Ms. MacEachen oversees the standards of care for minor foreign-national survivors of human trafficking receiving comprehensive case management services and provides training and technical assistance to providers serving minor survivors of trafficking. Prior to working in this role, Ms. MacEachen coordinated local response to trafficking in a rural setting, building partnerships and response protocols. Ms. MacEachen holds a Masters of Arts from St Mary's University, Twickenham, and a Bachelor of Arts from Providence College.

Diane Smith Howard

Managing Attorney, Institutions and Community Integrations, National Disability Rights Network, D.C.



Ms. Diane Smith Howard is the Managing Attorney for Institutions and Community Integration at the National Disability Rights Network (NDRN) team that works on community integration for people living in institutions, such as, prisons, hospitals, residential treatment centers, migrant shelters. Her individual work focuses on conditions for children and youth with disabilities in institutional systems, with a concentration on those who are members of multiple protected classes. Ms. Smith Howard also provides training and technical assistance to the P&As, and advocates on these issues within the Administration, on the Hill, and in the courts, through NDRN's work on amicus briefs.

Ms. Smith Howard holds a B.A. with honors from Colby College, and a J. D. from Wayne State University Law School. She has represented individual clients and handled systemic cases at the P&As in Maine and Michigan. She has classroom teaching experience at the graduate, undergraduate, and high school level. Ms. Smith Howard's passion for this work is rooted in a family connection to children and adults with disabilities, LGBTQ and foster and adopted children and youth.

Katie Talbott

Program Officer, Aspire, U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, VA



Ms. Katie Talbott is a licensed K-12 Intervention Specialist with a Masters in Educational Leadership. She currently teaches at Orchard Park Elementary School in Kettering, Ohio. Ms. Talbott has taught 9th-12th grade students with special needs for 15 years and K-5 students for 1 year. While at Kettering High School, she advised an awareness club about human trafficking and participated in the school's Human Kindness Day. She has worked with college students, survivors, and advocates to increase awareness of human trafficking. Ms. Talbott is most passionate about preventing child labor and labor trafficking by teaching others to be informed, educated consumers. She believes it is everyone's responsibility to do whatever they can to protect kids and to increase awareness about this important issue.

Kaitlyn Zedalis

Program Officer, Aspire, U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, VA



Ms. Kaitlyn Zedalis, MSW, LSW, LCADC, is the Associate Director of Research, Learning, & Advocacy for Covenant House Action and Research Tank (CHART) at Covenant House New Jersey, where she oversees agency initiatives related to research, program evaluation, data analysis, and advocacy.

Working for Covenant House New Jersey since 2017, Ms. Zedalis previously served as the Behavioral Health Specialist for the Atlantic City sites, addressing young people's mental health and substance abuse needs, and conducting human trafficking assessments. Ms. Zedalis has worked in the social work field since 2011 in a variety of settings including a corrections facility, school-based counseling program, and addictions treatment centers. In 2023, Ms. Zedalis co-authored published research on domestic labor trafficking by forced criminality and completed a regional needs assessment on McKinney-Vento services in schools. Ms. Zedalis is a consultant for the National Human Trafficking Training & Technical Assistance Center (NHTTAC) and has assisted organizations across North America on the topics of human trafficking screening and assessment, trauma informed care, and best practices for serving youth experiencing homelessness and survivors of human trafficking.

Ms. Zedalis has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and a Master's degree in Social Work from Stockton University, where she currently serves as an adjunct professor. She is a Licensed Social Worker and Licensed Clinical Alcohol and Drug Counselor in the State of New Jersey.