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**Reference guide:
Human trafficking
screening tool for Latin@s
accessing domestic violence
shelters and programs**

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Esperanza United has chosen to use “@” in place of the masculine “o” when referring to people or groups that are gender neutral or both masculine and feminine. This decision reflects our commitment to gender inclusion and recognizes the important contributions that women, men, and gender-nonconforming people make to our communities.

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Overview: Human trafficking of Latin@s in the U.S.

In recent years, more data has increased national awareness of human trafficking. Research shows trafficking is a growing issue within the U.S. and an issue impacting Latin@s. Even though there is limited information, we do know the following:

- Latin@s make up a large portion of the U.S. population. As of July 1, 2017, the United States Census Bureau reports a total U.S. population estimate of 325,719,178, of which 50.8% are females, and 18.1% are Hispanic or Latino (United States Census Bureau, 2018)
- Approximately 13.7% of the U.S. population is foreign born, and of those 50.4% or 22,425,056 are from Latin America (“2017 American Community Survey,” 2018)
- Since 2007, more than 51,000 cases of human trafficking in the U.S. have been reported to the National Human Trafficking Hotline, and over 10,000 in 2018 alone (“2018 Statistics,” n.d.)
- Latin@s are among the top five ethnicities reporting human trafficking (“2018 Statistics,” n.d.)
- The most human trafficking cases have been reported in California, Texas, and Florida, according to the National Human Trafficking Hotline (“National Human Trafficking Hotline”, n.d.) All of these three states have high populations of Latin@ according to the United States Census Bureau, 2017. In 2011, the Department of Justice issued a report where victims of labor trafficking were identified as 63% “Hispanic”, 67% undocumented, and 28% with a “qualified alien” status (Banks & Kyckelhahn)

We also know that in Latin@ communities, trafficking can be considered invisible because it is a taboo topic within many traditional families and is, therefore, not openly discussed (Dirks & Stormy, 2016). This is a challenge when trying to identify survivors, provide services, and help them establish a support network within their communities. Education and culturally-responsive awareness campaigns on what human trafficking looks like within Latin@ communities are necessary. Prioritization of community-centered participatory research will support the development of meaningful strategies, tools, and services to the Latin@ community.



Definitions and federal regulations

To have successful approaches to human trafficking, it is necessary to have a basic understanding of the terms and definitions related to human trafficking, even those that refer to a different crime. Below are some basic definitions to consider when using Esperanza United's **Human trafficking screening tool for Latin@s accessing domestic violence shelters and programs**.

Domestic violence

Domestic violence is the willful intimidation, physical assault, battery, sexual assault, and/or other abusive behavior as part of a systematic pattern of power and control perpetrated by one person in a relationship against the other. The frequency and severity of domestic violence varies dramatically from relationship to relationship (NCADV, 2015).

Domestic violence can occur between family members or persons involved in an intimate relationship such as:

- Spouses
- Gay, lesbian, or bisexual individuals involved in a same sex relationship
- Transgender individuals
- Unmarried couples — including youth who are in a relationship
- Adult children and elderly parents
- Individuals and their extended family

Sexual violence

Sexual violence is any type of unwanted sexual contact, ranging from sexist attitudes and actions to rape and murder. Sexual violence can include words and actions of a sexual nature against another person's will (National Sexual Violence Resource Center, n.d.). A person committing sexual violence may use:

- Force
- Threats
- Manipulation
- Coercion

There is also a social context that surrounds sexual violence, including social norms that:

- Condone violence
- Use power over others
- Uphold traditional ideas about masculinity
- Allow for sexism, racism, adultism, and other forms of oppression
- Promote silence about violence and abuse

All of these contribute to the occurrence of sexual violence.

Survivor/Victim

'Victim' refers to a person who has experienced a form of violence. Esperanza United prefers to use 'survivor' to emphasize the strength of people who have survived violence.

Participant

Esperanza United uses 'participants' when referring to the survivors that access support through advocacy because we believe that Latin@s and all survivors are agents of change to end domestic violence in our communities.

Human trafficking

Trafficking is defined in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, as: "The act of recruiting, harboring, transporting, providing, or obtaining a person for compelled labor or commercial sex acts through the use of force, fraud, or coercion." TVPA and its definition of trafficking have been reauthorized several times since 2000.

- **Sex trafficking** is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purposes of a commercial sex act, in which the commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age (22 USC § 7102)
- **Labor trafficking** is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purposes of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery, (22 USC § 7102)

Frequent activities and experiences among survivors of human trafficking, both labor and sex, include:

- Involuntary servitude
- Domestic labor
- Sexual assault
- Extended family abuse
- Tax fraud
- Identity theft
- Prostitution
- Pornography
- Massage parlor work
- Exotic dancing
- Escort services
- Forced to participate/commit crimes

Laws and penalties can be different among states and are constantly being revisited; it is vital to spend time making sure that

you are up to date with your state's regulations. Some national legal resources are listed in the resource list at the end of this guide.

Smuggling

Smuggling is the facilitation, transportation, attempted transportation, or illegal entry of a person(s) across an international border, in violation of one or more countries laws, either clandestinely or through deception, such as the use of fraudulent documents. Often, human smuggling is conducted in order to obtain a financial or other material benefit for the smuggler, although financial gain or material benefit are not necessarily elements of the crime. For instance, sometimes people engage in smuggling to reunite their families. Human smuggling is generally with the consent of the person(s) being smuggled, who often pays large sums of money. Most people who are assisted in illegally entering the United States are smuggled, rather than trafficked.

Smuggled persons may become victims of other crimes. In addition to being subjected to unsafe conditions on the smuggling journeys, smuggled persons may be subjected to physical and sexual violence. Frequently, at the end of the journey, smuggled individuals are held hostage until their debt is paid off by family members or others. It is also possible that a person being smuggled may at any point become a trafficking victim (U.S. Department of State, 2017).

Trafficking vs. smuggling

The following table outlines the differences between human trafficking and smuggling. While the terms are often mistakenly used interchangeably, there are important distinctions to understand – primarily that smuggling is voluntary, and trafficking is not. It is important to point out, though, that smuggling can quickly turn into trafficking once force, fraud, or coercion are involved.

Trafficking	Smuggling
Must contain an element of force, fraud, or coercion (actual, perceived, or implied), unless involved in commercial sex acts under 18 years of age.	The person being smuggled is generally cooperating.
Forced labor and/or exploitation.	There is no actual or implied coercion.
Persons trafficked are victims.	Persons smuggled are complicit in the smuggling crime; they are not necessarily victims of the crime of smuggling (though they may become victims depending on the circumstances in which they were smuggled).
Enslaved, subjected to limited movement or isolation, or had documents confiscated.	Persons are free to leave, change jobs, etc.
Need not involve the actual movement of the victim.	Facilitates the unlawful entry of person(s) from one country into another.
No requirement to cross an international border.	Smuggling always crosses an international border.
Person must be involved in labor/services or commercial sex acts, i.e., must be “working.”	Person must only be in the country or attempting entry unlawfully.



Intersections of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking

Human trafficking intersects with other forms of violence through the dynamics of power and control over all aspects of the survivor's life (Bessel, 2018). Survivors of human trafficking may be any age, gender, race, ethnicity, and nationality; they may be LGBTQUI+ or of any immigration status. Survivors of human trafficking and survivors of domestic violence and/or sexual violence may have the following common experiences:

- Previous or current **relationship with the trafficker** (i.e., partner, boyfriend/girlfriend, spouse, fiancé)
- Unwanted **pregnancy** and/or forced abortions
- Other person **controlling their decisions**
- Direct **threats** to the person or family as a means of coercion, including threatening family abroad
- Force or **coercion to commit crimes**, such as stealing or fraud
- Other person **controlling their personal documents** (i.e., Social Security cards, ID's, travel documents, etc.)
- **Isolation** (i.e., not being able to leave a house, cannot talk to anyone besides partner/trafficker, has not been to the doctor, etc.)
- **Fear of speaking** or the person using abuse always speaking for them
- Being told **false promises**
- Psychological or **emotional abuse** (i.e., threats, insults, and put downs)
- **Physical abuse** (i.e., hitting, kicking, punching, strangling)
- Having a **rehearsed story** to explain a situation (i.e., bruises, lack of money, etc.)
- **Economic abuse** or other person controlling finances (i.e., taking away money earned, making them pay for everything, putting their job at risk by stalking or harassing them at work, or getting them in trouble with their boss)
- **Sexual abuse** (i.e., forced sex or sexual acts, or forcing them to watch sex acts)
- **Intimidation** (i.e., threatening to take away children or get kicked out of the house; throwing things or punching walls; harming pets; threatening to harm children, loved ones or prized possessions here or abroad)
- **Immigration status used in abuse** (i.e., threats to call immigration authorities, stealing their passport, or not filing immigration papers they said they would)

- Fear of **persecution** and/or deportation for not having proper documents
- Other person **monitoring phone** and/or social media use

These forms of abuse can happen **in-person or long distance** via phone, text, social media, email, etc.

These common experiences of survivors of human trafficking, domestic violence, and sexual violence may be especially evident in situations of intimate partner relationships, arranged marriages, and international marriages.



Esperanza United's Latina advocacy framework

Often cultural relevance is missing within human trafficking screening processes. Since it is important to build trust with participants, lack of cultural competence within tools compromises the relationship building process. Therefore, an understanding of our Latin@ culture and the Latin@ advocacy framework is essential when screening Latin@s for trafficking. The following gives a brief overview of **Esperanza United's Latina advocacy framework** – a model designed to serve immigrant Latin@s and those raised in the United States with strong ties to Latin@ cultures, customs, and traditions.

Cultural context shapes everyone's life. Advocates should be knowledgeable of Latin@ cultural context and to allow that context to inform their advocacy. Latin@ advocacy is much more than speaking Spanish, being a Latin@, or understanding cultural differences. The framework for approaching advocacy with Latin@s is a *mindset*.

Esperanza United believes that the cultural context of Latin@s' lives include three components: experience, reality, and consciousness.

- **Experience** addresses a Latin@'s daily experience and is influenced by various factors including: the age when they or their family immigrated (if they did), if they were born in the U.S., and past experiences with government systems and individuals.
- **Reality** addresses a Latin@'s "way of living" and is based on factors like: familia (family) coming first, regardless of good or bad, triumph, or turmoil; the familia being made up of nuclear and extended members as well as close friends; and daily decisions being based on the good of the "whole," not the "individual."
- **Conscientiousness** addresses the "way of thinking" and is reflected in factors such as: using storytelling as a method of communication, being interdependent and highly relational, and living in the moment – not in the future. These components may vary within each Latin@ survivor. Therefore, it is a description of the unique cultural differences that exist within the Latin@ culture, which can inform your approach when starting conversations, listening, and connecting with Latin@ survivors.

This cultural context is the "lens" through which Latin@s see the world. The lens informs their successes, challenges, goals, and needs. For example, by placing priority on family and community, the lens affects how Latin@s understand their personal situations and make decisions. The Latin@ collective orientation often stands in sharp contrast to the individualistic orientation of many U.S. cultures. Acculturation and religious beliefs can also be important elements of a Latin@'s life.

Esperanza United views the role of an effective advocate as listening to the participant, providing support in their decision making, and being creative. It can be summarized by the four P's: be **patient, proactive, positive,** and a **problem-solver.** Effective Latin@ advocacy is a combination of both organizational and the individual advocate's commitment and training. **Quality Latin@ advocacy is not possible without these components – no matter how hard you work at it.**





Limitations, challenges, and promising practices

Esperanza United created the **Human trafficking screening tool for Latin@s accessing domestic violence shelters and programs** based on our experience working with Latin@s in the Twin Cities metropolitan area of Minnesota. We recognize the great diversity among Latin@s and how different elements may influence Latin@s in other communities and states.

Screening tools are brief and support service providers to identify potential trafficking victims. Based on Esperanza United's experience, we incorporated key elements of Latin@ advocacy and trauma-informed practices to screen Latin@s who are survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking. Rather than a check box, the tool is more hands-on, designed to be used in pieces and incorporated into normal conversation.

In the process of developing this tool, we had two rounds of meetings and feedback from our community and El Refugio (shelter) advocates, as we wanted to validate the information with our on-the-ground experts. The result was a series of enhancements, adding pieces and information to have a more comprehensive tool that could be used by other service providers. We wanted to create a simple yet comprehensive tool that can be adapted to various contexts, communities, and participants.

In January 2018, Esperanza United published [A scan of the field: learning about serving survivors of human trafficking](#). The study was conducted across the U.S. to learn and understand how domestic violence and sexual violence organizations were serving survivors of human trafficking. We learned that organizations were trying to serve survivors the best they could, but there was an enormous need for organizational development in areas such as enhancing staff capacity, increasing supportive services, developing procedures, and acquiring new funding. Organizations also needed increased understanding of the nuances of human trafficking and intersecting forms of violence, as well as how to implement culturally and linguistically responsive approaches.

Additional research on how to prevent human trafficking and serve survivors within Latin@ communities and subpopulations¹ will enhance the development of culturally specific approaches, tools, services, and support to Latin@s who survive this crime. Human trafficking is both a crime and a public health issue for our communities.

¹ These include but are not limited to Afro-Latin@s, Indigenous peoples LGBTQUI+, youth, elderly women and men, people with special needs, people displaced by natural disasters, and documented immigrants.



Organizational preparedness for human trafficking screening

Esperanza United recommends organizations consider the following areas in order to better support Latin@ survivors of human trafficking:

- Organizational training, assessment, and procedures
- Assessment of current services and referrals process
- Language access
- Trauma informed services
- Legal services

We consider these 'best practices' that can streamline the support offered to survivors, reduce re-traumatization, and prepare your staff. What follows is a description of each area and some suggestions on possible enhancements to your organization.

Enhancing organizational training, assessment, and procedures

It is important for advocates and direct service providers to be trained and able to recognize signs of trafficking – what trafficking may look like in your local communities, how to ask screening questions to Latin@ participants, and key places to make referrals to address all areas the trafficking has impacted in the survivor's life." with "key places to make referrals to that address the areas in the survivor's life that the trafficking has impacted.

Before screening Latin@ survivors, consider:

- Evaluating and/or expanding the existing safety measures in your shelter or program so that they address any added risks factors related to the realities of supporting survivors of trafficking
- Basic and advanced training and/or knowledge-sharing on:
 - » Human trafficking
 - » Trafficking of Latin@s in the U.S. and in your local communities
 - » Survivor and staff safety
 - » Trauma-informed response to trafficking survivors
 - » Addressing vicarious trauma among staff
 - » Language access
 - » Legal options for trafficked survivors, both immigrant and U.S.-born
- Creating a plan for on-going training of best practices for staff and volunteers that will support and enhance the current services to survivors
- Reviewing and updating internal protocols, policies, and procedures to guide implementation and addressing the topics listed above

- Leveraging community resources by partnering with other service providers
- Creating or updating a referral network list of state and national resources. The list should include information about how to connect trafficked survivors with state and national resources (brochures, business cards, handouts)

Assessing services and building a referral network

Survivors of trafficking may come to your door with a variety of needs. It is important to identify what support and services you can provide immediately and what you will need to refer out. Remember that services can go beyond urgent needs; they can also serve as bridges to building trust. We suggest investing time to assess your organization's capacity and have relevant referrals on hand. Below is a template to help you list what you can offer to survivors of trafficking and where you can refer them to if you do not provide it in-house. Be sure to note any culturally relevant organizations and organizations that have multi-lingual capacity to provide meaningful language access.

Services related to	Type of services	Available in-house? (Yes/No)	Outside referral source
Safe housing			
Interpretation/ Translation			
General healthcare			
Mental healthcare			
Emotional support/ Survivor support groups			
Chemical dependency/ Substance abuse			
Transportation			
Employment			
Education			
Legal services			
Advocacy/ Case management			



Ensuring language access

Staff should have in place a plan and resources to provide services to survivors that are deaf/hard of hearing, have special needs, or for whom English is not their first language. Programs receiving federal funds are required to provide reasonable accommodations to provide meaning language access under Title VI ([LEP.gov](https://www.dhs.gov/lepl), n.d.). Language access goes beyond translation and interpretation. It is vital to understand the impact language may have on survivors to tell their story to one more person (the interpreter) apart from advocates, law enforcement officials, prosecution, etc. Interpreters may also be impacted by vicarious trauma as a result of interpreting for survivors of trafficking. You should make an effort to avoid as much revictimization to survivors as possible (Bryant-Davis, 2005).

Esperanza United incorporates and recommends the following practices based on our day to day work with Latin@ survivors to ensure meaningful language access and interpretation/translation:

- Ask a deaf/hard of hearing survivor what form of communication they prefer (i.e. sign language, signed English, fingerspelling, lip reading, cued speech, oral communication, written text)
- Ask a deaf/hard of hearing survivor if they have preferred interpreters and attempt to work with those interpreters/agencies (A.D.D.V.O.C.A+E, 2018). Proactively establishing relationships with interpreters and agencies supports enhances service delivery and safety
- Offer survivors the option to elect male-or female-identifying interpreters, law enforcement officers, doctors, and other service providers that may become aware of the details of the survivor's experience. Latin@ survivors may not feel comfortable and therefore may not disclose details of violent incidents, especially sexual violence, to a service provider identifying as the same gender as their perpetrator
- Determine if an interpreter is using word-for-word interpretation of the spoken language and translation of written language, if they are interpreting by paraphrasing, or if they are interpreting into comprehensible phrases. Comprehensible phrases communicate the intended understanding. This is critical for a survivor's understanding of legal documents being interpreted out loud and for accurate interpretation of a survivor's testimony inside and outside of a court setting. Some of the risks of inaccurate interpretation are a survivor misunderstanding their legal rights, obligations, or other binding agreements. Different interpretation methods can also lead to a survivor's testimony being misinterpreted or appearing 'inconsistent' and losing credibility in legal settings
- Be sure interpreters can accurately interpret details of violence and human trafficking (i.e., body parts, types of physical/sexual

assaults, etc.), and are not generalizing a survivor's detailed testimony into summarizing phrases like "sexual acts"

- Explain to survivors the process of using an interpreter (i.e., address the judge when speaking in court, not the interpreter), what to expect, and how to advocate for themselves or ask for questions to be repeated or explained differently if they are not understanding
- Check with the survivor frequently if they understand an interpreter or if they have any questions about the meaning of specific words or phrases

The Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime Training and Technical Assistance Center offers these strategies when using an interpreter:

- Interpreters should be neutral. Never use another participant, a family member, or someone who has a relationship with the participant
- Interpreters should have a complete wrap of the two languages they are interpreting as well as training in the skill of interpreting
- Meet with the interpreter before conducting an interview. Prepare an interpreter for the potential of asking difficult questions. Questions that get to the heart of exploitation are often very difficult, invasive, and probing; it is important to prepare the interpreter for the topics that may be covered and ensure they can handle it
- Review confidentiality with the interpreter before the interview and then describe confidentiality at the beginning of the interview and right after introducing the interpreter to the survivor
- Ask the interpreter to explain any particularly relevant cultural dynamics that may impact communication with the survivor prior to the interview. This could be valuable in helping to build the relationship with the survivor if you are not familiar with the cultural aspects of the participant

Providing a trauma-informed response

Survivors of human trafficking have often endured a degree of trauma significant enough to have lasting psychological and physical effects. Trauma is defined as an individual's unique experience of an event, series of events, or set of circumstances that are physically or emotionally harmful or life threatening and that have lasting adverse effects on the individual's mental, physical, social, emotional, or spiritual well-being. When a person experiences trauma, their coping capacity and ability to integrate their emotional experience is overwhelmed, causing significant distress (NCDVTMH, 2017; SAMHSA, 2017). Most people have experienced some form of trauma in their lifetime, but remember that each person responds differently to trauma.

The term “trauma-informed” describes an approach that recognizes the pervasiveness and impact of trauma on survivors, staff, organizations, and communities, and incorporates this understanding into every aspect of an organization’s administration, culture, environment, and service delivery. A trauma-informed organization actively works to decrease re-traumatization and support resilience, healing, and well-being. Additionally, trauma-informed organizations recognize ongoing and historical experiences of discrimination and oppression and are committed to changing the conditions that contribute to the existence of abuse and violence in people’s lives (NCDVTMH, 2018).

Trauma-informed approaches emphasize the creation of physical, psychological, and emotional safety and well-being to address the unique experiences and needs of survivors. Most importantly, they promote survivor empowerment and self-sufficiency. Survivors of trauma and human trafficking should be empowered with choice whenever possible, including the ability to determine whether to participate in the criminal justice process. They should also have access to services that promote autonomy and are comprehensive, survivor-centered, and culturally appropriate (U.S. Department of State, 2018).

In Latin@ culture, establishing trust is essential to providing trauma-informed support. Many Latin@ cultural groups have a strong tradition in storytelling and sharing narratives. The time and ability to listen to these forms of communication builds trust and supports survivors to feel safe and share their story.

Esperanza United uses and encourages the following trauma-informed considerations when working with Latin@s:

- Be aware that participants may be experiencing physical violence, exploitation, and emotional abuse along with other kinds of trauma and oppression (racism, anti-immigration, sexism, heterosexism, classism, ableism, etc.)
- Create a safe space for having on-going conversations. Do not jump right to asking about trafficking unless the survivor indicates they want to talk about those past experiences. Again, building trust is essential
- Meet the person’s immediate necessities – Do they need medical attention? Do they have enough clothing? Provide snacks or water if possible, show the person where the restrooms are, ask if there’s anything you can do or get for them, and don’t rush the process. Have materials or resources available to support the survivor’s needs
- Be mindful of your body position and your non-verbal cues – respect personal space
- Check in to make sure the person is hearing and understanding your statements or questions. Consider providing breaks as needed

- Remember that changes in memory do not indicate falsehood but instead may be indicative of trauma
- Engage with the participant by regulating your tone of voice, eye contact, and using active listening skills
- When talking with the participant, keep in mind that the goal is to identify and support them. Obtain only the information needed to provide immediate care and make referrals. This is the starting point of a long process and you do not want to overwhelm or put the participant in any distress. Allow time for the participant to process the questions and answer at their own pace. At the same time, be patient if a survivor offers information they deem as important that may not directly be related to the conversation. Again, this also builds trust
- Do not take strong reactions personally; be aware of how you manage your emotions
- Be prepared for any crisis or trauma reaction – use a calm and steady voice, consider having in mind simple stress management exercises such as deep breathing or aromatherapy
- Secure privacy if it seems an accompanying person is unsafe or that the survivor is not comfortable disclosing their situation. The process of separating a participant from accompanying persons is a delicate one. If the participant desires one, doing so effectively and safely takes preparation and practice
- Alternatively, allow the survivor to bring key support people into a conversation with them – whether in person or over the phone. Group oriented cultures and individualistic cultures differ. Survivors from group-oriented cultures may want someone with them for support
- Focus on the facts and identifying elements that may help identify human trafficking. Avoid any temptation to probe for unnecessary details. Reflect on why you are asking for things and how that helps or supports the survivor

Legal considerations of supporting survivors

Latin@s who are survivors of human trafficking have rights, legal options, and legal protections. However state and federal provisions often change, so it is important to remain updated on current laws.

When working with potential human trafficking survivors provide them with basic information in regards confidentiality, mandatory reporting, legal rights, and options. Also consider that immigrant communities come from countries with different laws regarding trafficking and violence. Make sure the survivors you support are familiar with the following:

Confidentiality: Make survivors aware of your ability to maintain confidentiality when you first begin supporting them as well as the limitations of your confidentiality. As the survivor interacts with

different service providers, ensure that they are aware of who can maintain their information confidential and who cannot.

For example, explain the differences of confidentiality between victim advocates, doctors, and prosecution. Also notify survivors of who is not bound by confidentiality laws, like third party support people or law enforcement.

Mandatory reporting: Mandatory reporting laws are intended to enhance the safety of both the participant and community by connecting potential victims to protective services and perpetrators to law enforcement. Mandatory reporting laws regarding human trafficking vary from state to state, but when reasonable cause exists to suspect that a child is a victim of trafficking, mandated reporting is required in all U.S. states and territories under child abuse and neglect statutes. In cases where the suspected victim is an adult, if human trafficking is not a component of your state's mandatory reporting statutes, under certain circumstances, a potential case could still become reportable. Some of these circumstances may include domestic violence, injuries caused in violation of criminal law, and injuries caused by a deadly weapon. Be aware of the intersections and impact of local mandatory reporting laws, child protective services protocols, and the impact it can have on survivors of human trafficking. Include training and procedures in your internal policies when applicable.

For example, be aware if mandatory reporting or child protective services can trigger involvement of law enforcement or immigration enforcement officials. Visit victimlaw.org to find mandatory reporting laws for your state.

Become familiar with legal options for immigrant survivors:

Build your knowledge of rights and resources available for immigrants both with legal status and undocumented in the U.S.

- Be able to discuss the processes and eligibility criteria for [T Visa](#), [U Visa](#), [VAWA Self-petition](#), [asylum](#) and [SIJ Visa](#) applicants
- Talk through entire processes, requirements, and if survivors would have to disclose trafficker information before pursuing a specific legal support
- Consult with immigration attorneys when immigrant survivors are involved or may become involved in criminal, civil, family, housing, or other legal proceedings
- Find out what public benefits survivors are eligible for on behalf of their children or for themselves. Be aware of time-restrictions of receiving benefits and exceptions for people fleeing violence
- For more resources regarding legal options for immigrant survivors visit asistahelp.org/

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