

Rooting Out Trafficking



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Speaker Biography

Samantha Searls is a program manager at the Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center (IJPC). At IJPC, Samantha's education and advocacy work focuses on breaking down unjust systems. As part of her work to end human trafficking, Samantha chairs the Public Education and Awareness Committee of End Slavery Cincinnati's Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition. Samantha has her Master of Social Work from Washington University in St. Louis and her Bachelor of Social Work from the University of Indianapolis. Prior to her time at IJPC, Samantha served as a community organizer working on environmental, economic and social justice issues.



Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center (IJPC)



- **Mission** : The Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center **educates** and **advocates** for peace, challenges unjust systems, and promotes the creation of a nonviolent society
- Through a framework of **nonviolence** and **anti-racism** , we address the issues of **immigration** and **criminal justice**.

Shifting Work on Human Trafficking



- For seven years, IJPC has been a leader in the anti-human trafficking movement, approaching the issue from a **systemic** perspective.
- To live into our mission, we're going deeper - addressing the systems of inequality and violence that make people vulnerable to trafficking in the first place.

Content Warning



- This presentation includes examples of situations that describe or depict people in situations of harm, bondage, and distress.
- Warnings will specifically be given before the triggering content is shared to allow for participant self-care. We encourage community care and support for those who may be activated by this presentation.

101: Review



- The federal definition of human trafficking can be explained using the AMP model. What does AMP stand for?
 - Can someone give me examples of A? M? P?
 - What is the one exception to this rule?
- Are all smugglers human traffickers?
- Are all missing persons trafficked?

Human Trafficking 101



Federal Definition of Human Trafficking				
Action	+	Means*	+	Purpose
Induce Recruits Harbors Transports Provides or Obtains		Force Fraud or Coercion *A means of control isn't necessary to prove in cases of child sex trafficking		Commercial Sex (Sex Trafficking) or Labor/Services (Labor Trafficking)



102: Time to Dig Deeper

- Who defines “human trafficking?”
- What’s our current approach to solving trafficking?
- Does the current approach address the root of the problem?
- What are the root causes of human trafficking?
 - Case study activity
- How do we change our approach to be more effective?

Who Defines Human Trafficking



- Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA)
- 2000 United Nations Convention against **Transnational Organized Crime** (Palermo Protocol)
 - Part 1: Trafficking in Persons
 - Part 2: Smuggling
 - Part 3: Manufacturing & Trafficking Illicit Firearms

U.S. Agencies



- There isn't just one department addressing human trafficking, there are **ELEVEN**
 - **State** Department
 - **Justice** Department
 - Department of **Homeland Security**
 - Department of **Health and Human Services**
 - Plus 7 more

United Nations Agencies



- United Nations Office on **Drugs and Crime** (UNODC)
 - Palermo Protocol
- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for **Refugees** (UNHCR)
- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for **Human Rights** (OHCHR)
- And more

Agencies Define the Approach



UNODC CRIME	UNHCR REFUGEES	OHCHR HUMAN RIGHTS
Human Trafficking	Trafficking in persons	Trafficking in persons, Slavery
Victims	Victims	Victims, Invisible survivors
Traffickers, Perpetrator	Traffickers	Not Mentioned

Strategy: The Three “P’s”



- **Prosecution**

- Criminalize, Investigate, Prosecute, Convict, Sentence
- Award Restitution, Compensation

- **Protection**

- Identifying victims, referrals to services, supporting survivors
- Participation in Prosecution process

Strategy: The Three “P’s”



- **Prevention**

- Intervention programs for at-risk populations
- Expand awareness, leverage expertise, facilitate creative solutions
- Amending, enforcing labor laws; monitoring supply chains, reduce demand for commercial sex, corporate accountability

Questions on the current approach?

Carceral Welfare



- Puts criminalization first, human rights second
 - **Carceral welfare** - arresting people first, acknowledging their situation, but still forcing them into programs “for their own good”
 - Relying on policing as a way to “protect people from themselves” has never worked
 - Criminalizing addiction, homelessness, etc

Study: Perceptions of Justice



- Funded by the National Institute of Justice, DOJ
 - Interviewed 80 labor and sex trafficking survivors & 100 social service/criminal justice stakeholders
- **“More than three -quarters of interviewed survivors did not view justice in terms of seeing their trafficker incarcerated”**

Study: Perceptions of Justice



- “...[M]ost trafficking survivors favor prevention and victim healing over incarceration of those who committed the crime.”
- Alternative models of justice
 - **Procedural Justice** - Engaged in process, share story
 - **Restorative Justice** - Acknowledgement, reparations
 - **Transitional Justice** - Preventing recurrence

“Survivors spoke ...about desired changes in immigration, criminal justice, and service provision policies, as well as a need for more resources for services and specific law changes.”

Traffickers Exploit Vulnerable People



- Unemployed/Underemployed
- Experiencing homelessness
- Living with addiction
- Survivors of violence
- People with disabilities
- Children & teenagers
- Returning citizens
- Black communities
- Indigenous communities
- LGBTQ+
- Immigrants & Refugees
- Women

The Roots of Vulnerability



- Economic
- Social
- Political/Legal

Economic Root Causes



- Poverty
 - Affordable, safe housing
 - Sustainable employment
 - Food insecurity
- Healthcare
 - Mental Health services
 - Addiction services

Economic Root Causes



- Education
 - Quality of public education
 - Comprehensive sex education
 - Language & literacy
- Climate Change
 - Land use

Social Root Causes



- Historical Oppression
 - Black communities
 - Indigenous communities
 - Immigrants & Refugees
- Gender & Sexuality Discrimination
 - Violence against Transgender communities, Women
 - LGBTQ+

Social Root Causes



- Family Status
 - Children/Dependents
 - Abuse and neglect
 - Foster Care
 - Older Adults

Political/Legal Root Causes



- Neoliberalism, Capitalism
- Worker Protections
 - Seasonal workers, domestic workers
- Immigration
 - Visa system, access to citizenship
- Criminal Justice System
 - Over-policing, over-incarceration

Case Study - Harold D'Souza



- Listen for things that made the D'Souza family vulnerable to human trafficking
- Challenge yourself to look beyond their individual circumstances to the larger systems at play



THE D'SOUZA FAMILY:

ESCAPING LABOR TRAFFICKING

Case Study - Harold D'Souza



- What are some of the root causes that made the family vulnerable to trafficking?
 - Promise of well paying job - economic root cause
 - Immigrant visa tied to employer, punitive system
 - Anti-immigrant sentiment/xenophobia
 - Lack of labor/worker protections - knowledge of rights
 - Demand for cheap labor/low risk of accountability

Case Study - Harold D'Souza



- Eyes Open International
- <https://www.eyesopeninternational.org/>



Questions on the root causes?

“We’ll talk about poverty, but we don’t talk about capitalism. We’ll talk about disability, but we won’t talk about ableism. We’ll talk about racism, but we won’t talk about white supremacy. I think we need to be able to just jump right in and name the things that are responsible for, and create most of the containers for, trafficking to exist and perpetuate.”
-Survivor Advocate

How Do We Address the Roots?



- Listen to Survivor-Leaders
 - National Survivor Network, local advisory boards
- Recognize Complexity
 - Labor Exploitation
 - Sex Work
- Speak Up & Make the Connection to the Root

How Do We Address the Roots?



- Connect to Other Movements
 - Healthcare for All
 - Liveable Wage
 - Affordable Housing
 - Immigration Reform
 - Labor Rights & Union Organizing

Three More “P’s”



- **Partnership** - officially added in 2009
 - We can't address the root causes of trafficking by ourselves
- **Privilege**
 - Listen to the most vulnerable
- **Power**
 - Use your power to open doors, name root causes

Questions



Samantha Searls, MSW

samantha@IJPCcincinnati.org

Direct: 513-864-5781 (No cases please)

www.IJPCcincinnati.org



@ijpccincinnati



@ijpc.cincinnati

A portrait of Dr. Suk-hee Kim, a woman with short dark hair, smiling. She is wearing a green and white patterned top and a name tag that reads "NKU DR. SUK-HEE KIM".

Human Trafficking, Health Equity, and Academic Collaborative

For more information, please visit [website](#) and contact Dr. Suk-hee Kim, Ph.D., COI, MSW, Associate Professor in the School of Social Work & NKU's Diversity Faculty Fellow at kims16@nku.edu