



# Human Trafficking in **AMERICA'S SCHOOLS**



## - Human Trafficking Webinar Series – Part 1: Supporting Students Who Have Experienced Familial Human Trafficking

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*Wednesday, January 11, 2023 | 3:00 – 4:30 PM ET*  
*SPEAKER BIOS*

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### 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.

## Harold D'Souza

Lived Experience Expert, President and Co-Founder, Eyes Open International, Former Member - US Advisory Council on Human Trafficking



Mr. Harold D'Souza is a survivor of labor trafficking and debt bondage in the United States of America. Originally from India, Mr. D'Souza is well educated and experienced in sales management. He has a Bachelor's degree in Business and a Master's of Commerce from The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda. Mr. D'Souza stepped down from a senior management position to pursue the American Dream, which he believed was within his reach.

Mr. D'Souza came to the U. S. following the advice and encouragement of a man who would become his trafficker. For over 18 months, Mr. D'Souza was exploited at the hands of the human trafficker, losing his freedom and struggling to keep his family safe.

Today, Mr. D'Souza is a Survivor-Advocate and Public Speaker. His experience has given him a new purpose and meaning in life. Harold is the co-founder of Eyes Open International, a non-profit focused on developing prevention efforts through survivor-informed research. Today, Eyes Open International is an inspiration worldwide. Mr. D'Souza sits on the Board of Directors for 'Justice at Last' and remains active in local anti-trafficking organizations and efforts. Mr. D'Souza is also the Advisory Council Ambassador for the Ohio Attorney General's Trafficking Commission and a member of Survivor Advisory Council at 'Collaborative to End Human Trafficking' organization.

United States President Barack Obama appointed Mr. D'Souza to the United States Advisory Council on Human Trafficking in 2015, and he has continued his service under President Trump through July 2020. He is also an expert consultant to the Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons.

In 2017, he was awarded both the Liberator Award and the iCan award for his activism and work with other survivors. In addition, he has recently published a book titled Human Trafficking: A Frog in a Well. Mr. D'Souza has been recognized with the "Rashtra Perna Award 2021" for his social activist mission by the World Book of Star Record jury members for his services in India and Worldwide. Harold has also been awarded the "HEART OF THE FATHER AWARDS 2022" in Los Angeles. As of spring 2022, two different films are in production telling Mr. D'Souza's story.

## Liz Williamson

Lived Experience Expert, Survivor Advocate, Member, Survivor Leadership Institute  
GEMS, CA



Ms. Liz Williamson is a survivor of human trafficking and works as a survivor advocate based in Northern California where she and her husband reside. Ms. Williamson has done direct service work with survivors on a local, regional, and national level. For the last decade, she has trained and spoken nationally to audiences regarding her survival of familial trafficking to help dispel the myths surrounding this topic and to empower individuals to help make a difference.

She has also trained medical professionals to identify victims who come in to receive medical services with special attention given to what the medical community missed or was unable to assist her with during her trafficking experience. She is a member of the Survivor Leadership Institute through GEMS. Ms. Williamson has a position on the Survivor Council with the NJ Coalition Against Human Trafficking and the NJ Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics Trafficking Task Force.

With a Bachelor's in English Literature and a flair for all things creative, Ms. Williamson enjoys communicating and creating. Ms. Williamson passionately believes that survivors deserve the opportunity to use their experiences to rewrite their stories and their futures.

## Courtney Dunkerton

Human Trafficking Program Coordinator, Content Strategist, North Carolina Coalition  
Against Sexual Assault



Ms. Courtney Dunkerton is the Human Trafficking Program Coordinator and Content Strategist for the North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault where she designs and develops training programs, materials, and resources to equip rape crisis centers and other member programs to serve survivors of human trafficking. Ms. Dunkerton delivers training and technical assistance to rape crisis centers and a variety of stakeholders, including North Carolina school districts.

## Dr. Kate Price

Lived Experience Expert, Visiting Scholar, Wellesley Centers for Women, Wellesley College, Senior Research Associate, Advocates for Human Potential, MA



Dr. Kate Price is a visiting scholar at the Wellesley Centers for Women, a gender-based research institute at Wellesley College, and a senior research associate at the health and human services research and evaluation firm Advocates for Human Potential. Prior to her Wellesley appointment, Dr. Price was a visiting scholar at the Brandeis University Women's Studies Research Center. A children's advocate, Price served on the National Centers for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) Child Sex Trafficking Expert Working Group from 2019-2022. Her writing has been published in books, scholarly journals, blogs, and newspapers. Most recently, Dr. Price was featured in the Sunday Globe Magazine article "Kate Price Remembers Something Terrible." Nominated for the 2023 Pulitzer Prize, the article is the culmination of a 10-year collaboration between Price and Boston Globe journalist Janelle Nanos. The story examines Price's family-controlled child sex trafficking history in Appalachia, as well as the science of traumatic memory and healing from interpersonal violence and commercial sexual exploitation.