

Mental Health Impact of Child Trafficking

House Committee on Homeland Security

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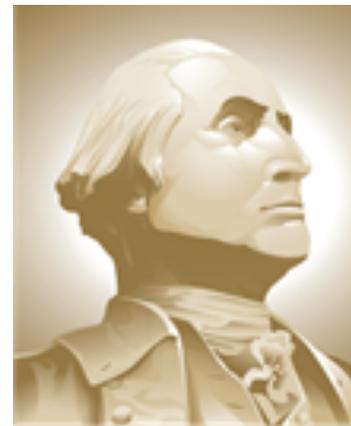
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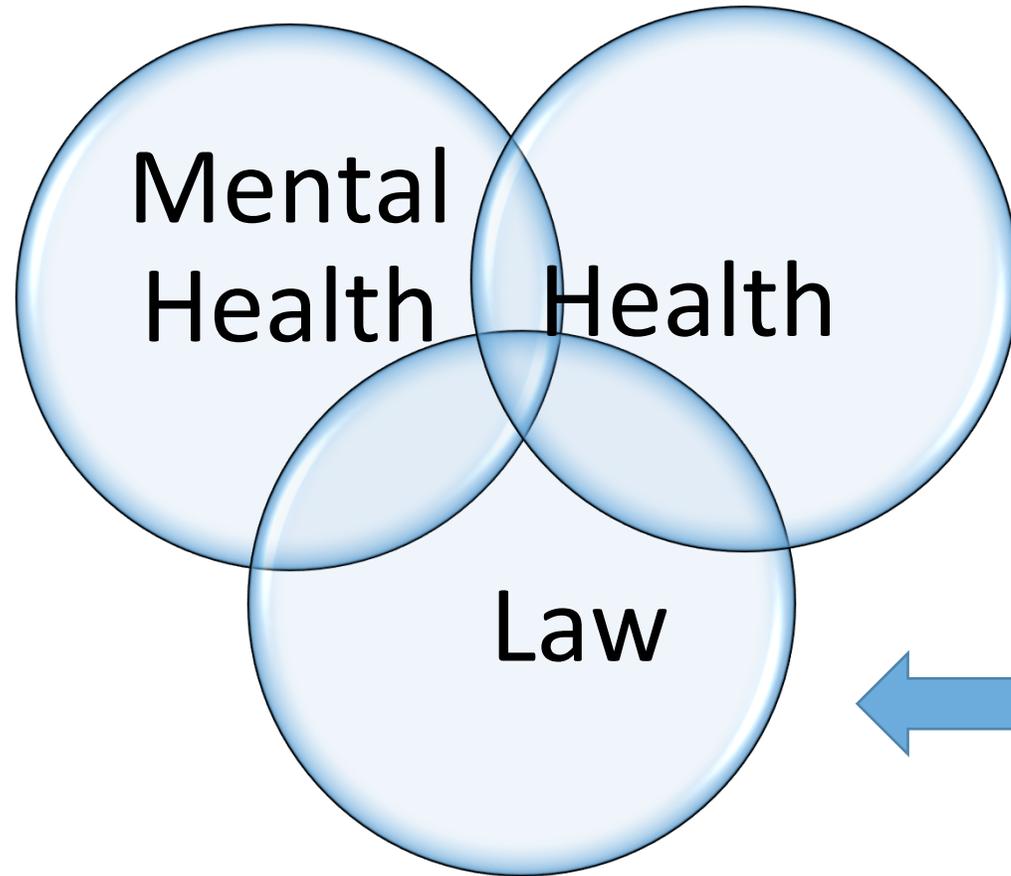
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Developing Ethical Policy



Ethics



Spirituality

Definitions

TRAFFICKING - the action or practice of illegally transporting people from one country or area to another, typically for the purposes of forced labor or commercial sexual exploitation.

- **Victims** of child trafficking can be used and abused over and over.
- A \$32 **billion**-a-year industry, human trafficking is on the rise and is in all 50 states
- 4.5 **Million** of trafficked persons are sexually exploited. Up to 300,000 Americans under 18 are lured into the commercial **sex** trade every year

Human smuggling, under US law, is transportation or illegal entry of a person or persons across an international border, in violation of one or more countries' laws

People who are trafficked have **diminished choices**
and are often **coerced** by one or another **dependencies**:

- Physical – need shelter, food, security
- Emotional – the need to be cared for
- Chemical – the need for drugs to avoid chemical withdrawal

Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs



Table 4 – Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study Findings

Adverse Childhood Experience* ACE Categories (Birth to 18)	Impact of Trauma and Health Risk Behaviors to Ease the Pain	Long-Term Consequences of Unaddressed Trauma (ACEs)
<p>Abuse of Child</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Emotional abuse ■ Physical abuse ■ Contact Sexual abuse <p>Trauma in Child’s Household Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Alcohol and/or Drug User ■ Chronically depressed, emotionally disturbed or suicidal household member ■ Mother treated violently ■ Imprisoned household member ■ Not raised by both biological parents (Loss of parent – best by death unless suicide, - Worst by abandonment) <p>Neglect of Child</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Physical neglect ■ Emotional neglect <p>* Above types of ACEs are the “heavy end” of abuse. *1 type = ACE score of 1</p>	<p>Neurobiologic Effects of Trauma</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Disrupted neuro-development ■ Difficulty controlling anger-rage ■ Hallucinations ■ Depression - other MH Disorders ■ Panic reactions ■ Anxiety ■ Multiple (6+) somatic problems ■ Sleep problems ■ Impaired memory ■ Flashbacks ■ Dissociation <p>Health Risk Behaviors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Smoking ■ Severe obesity ■ Physical inactivity ■ Suicide attempts ■ Alcoholism ■ Drug abuse ■ 50+ sex partners ■ Repetition of original trauma ■ Self Injury ■ Eating disorders ■ Perpetrate interpersonal violence 	<p>Disease and Disability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ischemic heart disease ■ Cancer ■ Chronic lung disease ■ Chronic emphysema ■ Asthma ■ Liver disease ■ Skeletal fractures ■ Poor self rated health ■ Sexually transmitted disease ■ HIV/AIDS <p>Serious Social Problems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Homelessness ■ Prostitution ■ Delinquency, violence, criminal ■ Inability to sustain employment ■ Re-victimization: rape, DV, bullying ■ Compromised ability to parent ■ Negative alterations in self perceptions and relationships with others ■ Altered systems of meaning ■ Intergenerational trauma ■ Long-term use of multiple human service systems

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NEEDS OF INDIVIDUALS



COST TO SOCIETY

Forced from Home



World is facing the largest immigration crisis since World War II

- 69 million people displaced

Human Rights

Four Freedoms:

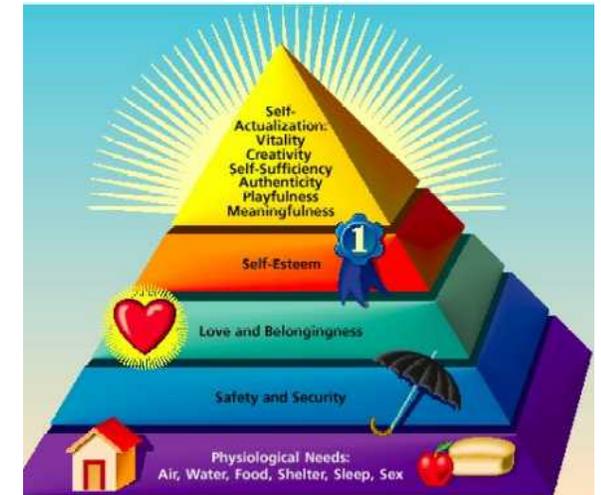
- freedom of speech,
- freedom of religion,
- freedom from fear, and
- freedom from want

United Nations Charter

- "reaffirmed faith in fundamental human rights, and dignity and worth of the human person" and **committed all member states** to promote "universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion."
- **Right to asylum**



The Parable of 12 Thai boys in a cave



Global response to Thai boys **separated** from their **families** and their **communities**