

# **HUMAN TRAFFICKING:**

## **OVERVIEW AND INTERSECTIONS WITH GENDER- BASED VIOLENCE**



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# AGENDA

- Case examples
- Definition, myths, frameworks
- Connection with Strength and Serenity
- Future vision

# CASE: MR. FERRERA



News story and photo: <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/07/25/us/migrant-smuggling-evolution.html>

- Mr. Ferrera (54) , originally from Honduras, had made 10x his salary as a migrant worker in LA and San Francisco in the 90s. He was able to cross into the US without a coyote several times.
- In 2014, Mr. Ferrera’s stepson Mr. Pena hired a smuggler in Piedras Negras MX, paying \$1,500 to help Mr. Ferrera cross to the US.
- Mr. Ferrera was then locked in a trailer. Traffickers called Mr. Pena and demanded \$3,500, as they assaulted Mr. Ferrera.
- The stepson called 911. When authorities arrived, they found other victims had also been assaulted by the cartel members holding them hostage.

# CASE: MS. NAHAR



News story and photo: <https://news.trust.org/item/20190823092412-cysg8/?source=package&id=116f0bdd-2c41-4c7f-b935-b70bd65a2b95>

- Ms. Nahar (23) is a Rohingya woman. The Rohingya are a stateless people forced to flee Myanmar after a wave of violence against them in 2017. Ms. Nahar lives in Kutupalong, a refugee camp in Bangladesh that houses over 1 million people.
- Her cousin offered to connect Ms. Nahar to a job in a garment factory.
- Instead, the cousin sold her as a maid. She was tortured and forced to work with little sleep, little food, and no pay. Other Rohingya women and girls in similar conditions are sold for sex trafficking or as wives to men living in Malaysia.
- Ms. Nahar managed to steal a key and escape while her traffickers slept.

# CASE: TRAFFICKING IN BOSTON

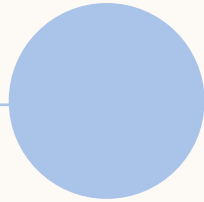


- A 17-year-old was contacted on social media by a 33-year-old man.
- The man promised her a better lifestyle if she flew to Boston to be with him.
- Once she flew to Boston, the trafficker kept her from leaving through threats and physically restraining her. He advertised and sold “dates” with her online, where she was expected to have commercial sex.

News: <https://www.justice.gov/usao-ma/pr/boston-man-charged-sex-trafficking-minor>

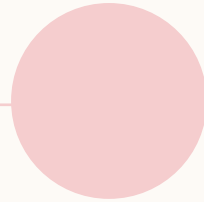
Photo: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Dorchester\\_Heights\\_Historic\\_District\\_South\\_Boston\\_MA\\_01.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Dorchester_Heights_Historic_District_South_Boston_MA_01.jpg)

# WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?



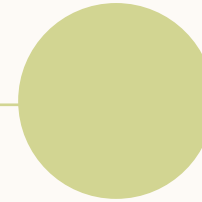
## ACTION

- Recruitment
- Transportation
- Harboring
- Providing
- Obtaining



## MEANS

- Force
- Fraud
- Coercion
- (except in minors induced into commercial sex acts)

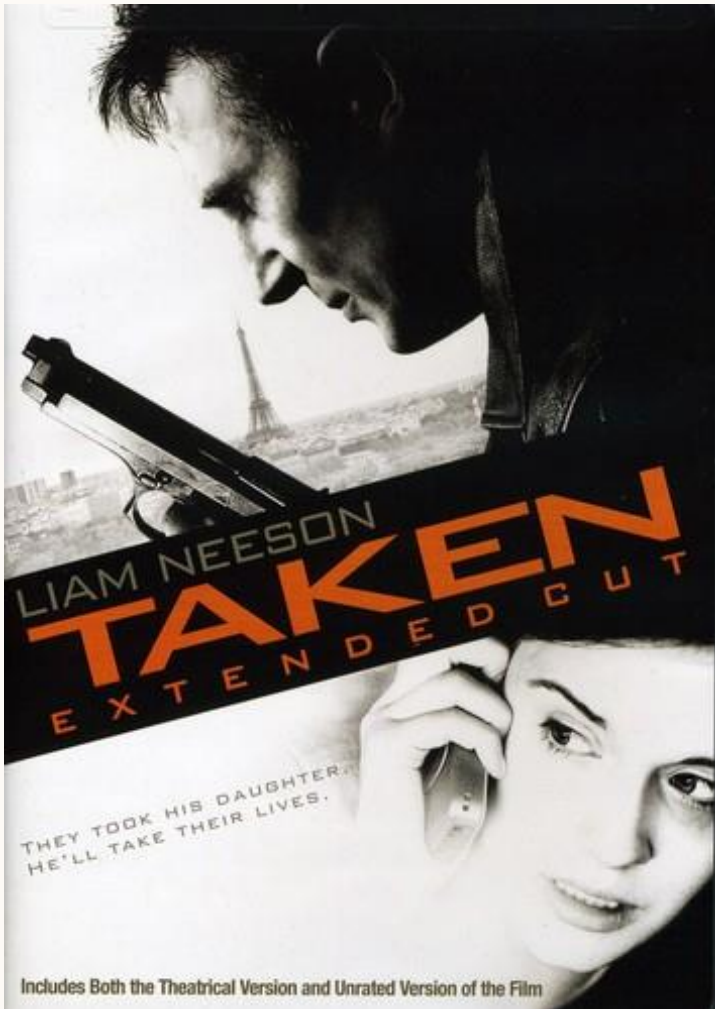


## PURPOSE

- Commercial sexual exploitation
- Forced labor

NOTE: this is a legal definition of the *trafficker*. It's good background information, but doesn't provide guidance on helping *survivors*.

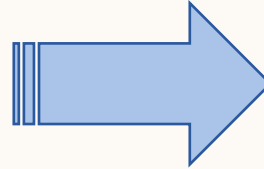
# MYTHS AND (MIS)CONCEPTIONS



- **MYTH:** Trafficking only affects young women exploited for sex.
- **REALITY:** Trafficking affects all genders and involves a range of exploitative practices. Labor trafficking is 3x as common as sex trafficking.
- **MYTH:** Victims of human trafficking are kidnapped.
- **REALITY:** They are usually trafficked by people they know and trust, such as a family member or romantic partner.
- **MYTH:** Victims are always smuggled across international borders.
- **REALITY:** Though media sources often uses the word “trafficking” interchangeably with “migrant smuggling,” they are not the same thing.

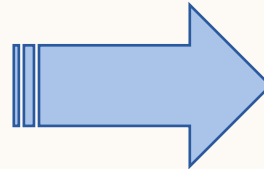
# REFRAMING

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE**



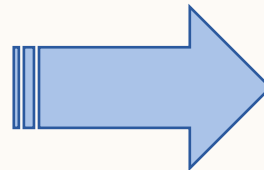
**PUBLIC HEALTH**

**SAVING VICTIMS**



**SUPPORTING  
SURVIVORS**

**PERFECT VICTIM**



**HUMANIZED & TRAUMA-  
INFORMED CARE**

- Assumes history of trauma
- Avoids re-traumatization
- Promotes choice and empowerment



# WHY STRENGTH & SERENITY?



**INTERSECTION WITH  
GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE**



**EDUCATION OF PUBLIC  
AND WOMEN'S HEALTH  
CARE PROVIDERS**



**WORK WITH VULNERABLE  
POPULATIONS**

# FUTURE VISION



## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- Human trafficking training in collaboration with Global Response Management
- Global Disaster Response: training modules for humanitarian deployments



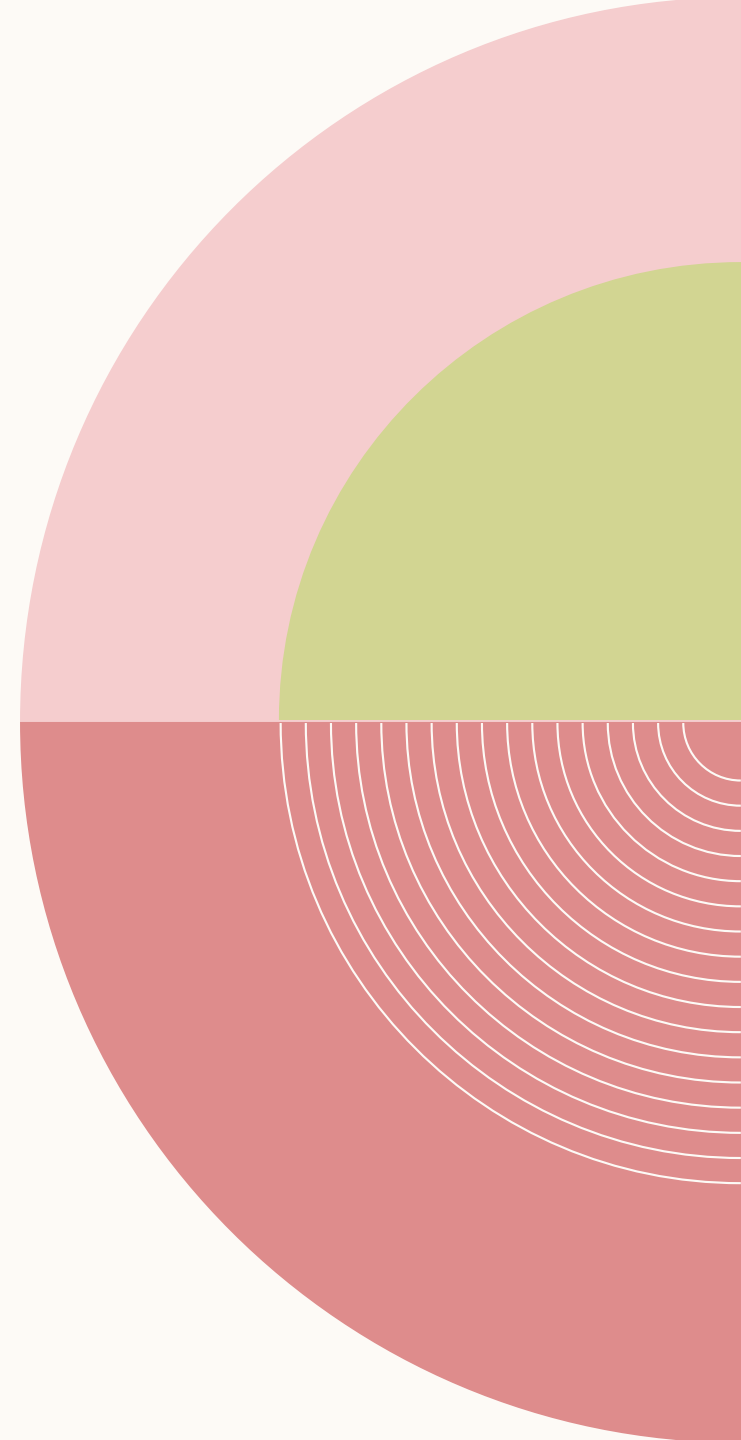
## AWARENESS RAISING

- Collaborate with medical students/residents on related student projects



## TRAUMA INFORMED OBGYN RESOURCES

- Lessons from MGH Freedom Clinic



**THANK YOU**

The background features a large white circle on the left, a dark blue circle at the top and bottom, and a pink circle on the right containing white concentric lines.