The John J. Brunetti Human Trafficking Academy

2025 Human Trafficking Academy
July 21 – July 25, 2025
In Person or Remote

The Survivor's Academy:

Exploring the Pathways on the Journey from Victim to Survivor to Thriver

MODULE 1 Monday, July 21, 2025 Understanding the Journey: Walking through Pathways to Resilience	
Human trafficking has been with us a long time and we think that by now we have a grasp of all its dimensions. But, to truly understand human trafficking requires a deeper analysis of the systems, structures and conditions that create vulnerability, enable exploitation and hinder restoration and reintegration of those exploited by this heinous act. This module provides a foundational overview examining how social, legal and economic environments shape both risk factors and recovery pathways. It explores the impact of institutional gaps and power dynamics on trafficking, while highlighting survivor-led solutions that drive systemic change. Participants will engage in discussions on mental health, survivor resilience, and the broader landscape of labor and sex trafficking, which will be explored in greater depth in Modules 2 and 3, respectively.	
Session 1	*The Dynamics of Exploitation: Mental Health and Human Trafficking*
Session 2	*Emerging Issues in Labor Trafficking: Structural Challenges and Actionable Insights*
Thematic Luncheon	*The Path to Building Wealth for Survivors of Human Trafficking*
Session 3	*The Power of Unlikely Relationships: Emerging Issues in Sex Trafficking*

MODULE 2 Tuesday, July 22, 2025 Law, Policy & Practice: Strengthening Legal Frameworks & Survivor Protections	
Legal frameworks shape how societies define, respond to and prevent human trafficking. This module critically examines the law, policy and enforcement practices that impact the success, or lack thereof, of addressing the issue. It explores gaps in legal protections, challenges in implementation and innovative policy solutions that contribute toward empowerment of survivors and prevention of human trafficking. Participants will benefit from an analysis of how trafficking intersects with child welfare, the work of law enforcement, legislative advocacy for survivor protections, engagement of civil society, by identifying best practices and areas where legal systems must evolve to more effectively protect and empower survivors.	
Session 1	*Legislative Gaps and Potential Remedies in Combatting Human Trafficking Among Missing and Exploited Children*
Session 2	*Utilizing Legal Frameworks to Strengthen Survivor Protections*
Session 3	*From the Margins to the Center: Advancing Survivor-Led Policy and Legal Reform*

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MODULE 3 Wednesday, July 23, 2025 Labor Trafficking: Stories of Resilience, Systems of Exploitation, and Barriers to Justice	
Labor trafficking often occurs within complex systems shaped by economic vulnerability, organized crime, and social inequalities. This module highlights stories of resilience and lived experience while examining the realities of gang-controlled labor trafficking and the barriers survivors face in seeking justice. Participants will explore survivor-centered responses, prevention strategies, and pathways toward dignity, protection, and empowerment.	
Session 1	*Two Worthwhile Things: Reach and Serve Survivors Without Burning Out*
Session 2	*Gang-Controlled Labor Trafficking*
Thematic Luncheon	*Rethreaded – Unlocking Potential*
Session 3	*Unseeing Victims of Labor Trafficking, Gender Roles and Cultural Components*

MODULE 4 Thursday, July 24, 2025 Overcoming Exploitation: Disrupting Sex Trafficking & Protecting Survivors	
Sex trafficking thrives within deeply entrenched systems of control, where traffickers (individuals or groups) exploit power dynamics, economic hardship, and institutional gaps. This module examines the full spectrum of sex trafficking, from familial exploitation to street-based and organized crime networks, as well as trafficking facilitated through industries such as sports, entertainment and other recreational industries. Discussions will focus on how traffickers manipulate relationships, prey on vulnerabilities, and influence social systems to maintain control. The module further spotlights survivor-led initiatives, effective legal interventions, and policy reforms that are reshaping responses to trafficking.	
Session 1	*Gang-Controlled Sex Trafficking*
Session 2	*Familial Sex Trafficking*
Thematic Luncheon	*My Story: From Trafficking and Exploitation to Growth and Long-Term Healing*
Session 3	*The Predatory Grooming Trifecta© in Sports: An Athlete's Story*

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MODULE 5 Friday, July 25, 2025 The Survivor's Academy: Building a Future Beyond Rescue	
Victims often seek more than mere survival. They pursue empowerment and the opportunity to lead in reshaping the systems that failed them, in order to prevent that others suffer the same. This module focuses on how survivors can transition from being case subjects to becoming policymakers, thought leaders, and agents of systemic change. Sessions will highlight entrepreneurship, political advocacy, and survivor-led movements as powerful tools for achieving long-term justice and creating lasting impact.	
Session 1	*Starting a Nonprofit: Turning Survival into Service*
Session 2	*Writing Your Story: Healing and Advocacy Through Literature*
Thematic Luncheon	*The Thrive Space of Hope and Resources: A Florida Perspective on Building a Resilient Survivor Community*
Session 3	*Thriving in Professional Spaces: Developing a Personal Brand of Trust and Credibility*