



# Ensuring Access for Native Survivors of Sex Trafficking with Disabilities

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PRAXIS INTERNATIONAL  
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# Praxis International

- ▶ A nonprofit training and capacity-building organization that works to eliminate all forms of gender-based violence through local, statewide and national social justice initiatives.
- ▶ Praxis promotes social change advocacy by engaging with gender-based violence programs and their communities through:
  - ▶ The Advocacy Learning Center
  - ▶ Strengthening Rural Advocacy Program
  - ▶ Institutional Analysis Program

# Why this conversation?

- ❖ All survivors have unique needs
- ❖ It is our responsibility to make sure that we are able to welcome all survivors
- ❖ Customized tools and strategies are needed
- ❖ When services are more inclusive, ALL survivors benefit

# Survivors with Disabilities

- ❖ There are a wide range of disabilities that may impact a survivor and how they need support
- ❖ Survivors may not share that they have a disability, and you may not be able to tell from looking at them
- ❖ How have you seen this in your work or your own experiences?

# A note on language:

- ❖ Person-first language
  - ❖ “Survivor with a disability” instead of “a disabled survivor”
- ❖ Exceptions: Deaf survivors, autistic survivors, and others
  - ❖ Many in the Deaf community don’t see being deaf as a disability
  - ❖ Other communities are using identity-first language as well
- ❖ Bottom line: respect and mirror how the survivor wants to be referred to

# Scenario:

A Deaf survivor comes to your program after being trafficked.

- ❖ How do you respond?
- ❖ Do you have ASL interpreters you are able to call?
- ❖ Have you worked with those interpreters in the past?
- ❖ Are those interpreters experienced and knowledgeable about trafficking and the Native community?
- ❖ Do you have referrals you can make for additional services that you would trust to be able to work well with this survivor?

# Scenario:

A 42-year-old survivor with an intellectual disability is trafficked by their caregiver.

- ❖ How do you proceed?
- ❖ What unique needs might this survivor have?
- ❖ What partnerships would be helpful to have with other agencies?

# Scenario:

A survivor who uses a wheelchair was trafficked and comes to your organization for support.

- ❖ Is your building wheelchair accessible?
- ❖ Do you have accessible bathrooms?
- ❖ The survivor doesn't have their own transportation and needs help getting to their court appointments. Do you have accessible transport options to offer?



# Organizational Assessment

One of the best things you can do to ensure that your organization is as accessible as possible is to do an assessment of yourselves.

Pay Attention to:

- ❖ The physical space and building
- ❖ Written materials
- ❖ How you organize meetings or events
- ❖ Technology available
- ❖ Policies and procedures

# Physical Space and Building

- ❖ Ramps (including steepness) and elevator
- ❖ Doors (open easily, lever handle, closing speed, width, room to open if using wheelchair, button)
- ❖ Accessible bathrooms
- ❖ Stairs clearly marked and non-slip with handrails
- ❖ Evacuation route that is accessible
- ❖ Signs/light switches/etc. reachable from seated position
- ❖ If there is carpet, is it thin and easy to maneuver on?

# Fonts

SANS SERIF

Vs.

SERIF

# Written Materials

- ❖ Size of writing and font used
- ❖ Colors used (red/green colorblind)
- ❖ High contrast signs and printed materials
- ❖ Vocabulary easy to understand and explained (plain language)
- ❖ Website accessibility
  - ❖ Image descriptions, screen-reader friendly

# Meetings and Events

- ❖ Registration includes space to indicate accessibility needs
- ❖ Able to send materials ahead of time if requested
- ❖ Accessible meeting venue
- ❖ Room set up- space for people to easily maneuver around chairs and tables, aisle width
- ❖ Microphone usage
- ❖ Interpreters, captioning, etc.

# Policies and Procedures

- ❖ Do staff receive regular training on accessibility?
- ❖ Process in place for interpreters
- ❖ Established procedure for providing accessible accommodations and transportation, if needed
- ❖ Training with partners and referral agencies
- ❖ Process for addressing any concerns or complaints



Questions?

# Contact Information

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