

HUMAN TRAFFICKING eLearning.com

EDUCATE • EMPOWER • FREE VICTIMS

Tips from Ruth Rondon - WIC Presentation Human Trafficking – A Survivor Success Story May 16, 2018

1. [The Realities of Human Trafficking – From the Inside Out to Freedom](#) Author Ruth Rondon
2. There are many books and websites that teach how to write your memoir but here are 10 great tips to help you get started: (8:40 minutes). [Memoir Writing Made Easy: Ten Tips](#)
3. Here's a book I read that helped me write mine: [The Courage to Heal: A Guide for Women Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse](#)
4. Training video for staff on HT hotline number: (34 minutes) [What to Expect When You Call the Hotline](#)
5. Know the 25 types of trafficking: [Typology of Modern Slavery](#)
6. Prevention:, Stewards of Children video: [Talking With Our Children](#) (2:15 minutes)
7. Print outs and resources: [Five Steps to Protecting Our Children](#)
8. [Help for Victims of Trafficking in Persons – English PDF– FBI Office for Victim Assistance](#)
9. [Help for Victims of Trafficking in Persons – Spanish PDF– FBI Office for Victim Assistance](#)
10. Create a community of practice.

The goal is to get the victim to the point of asking for help, so you can refer them to a qualified interviewer such as a forensic nurse or the police, but only the police if the victim is open to it.

This process can be more frustrating and complicated than straightforward and simple. HT is very complex; it's never black and white.

Because HT is an underground and hidden crime, we have to try to see what's not obvious. We have to try to hear what they are not saying. When you DO see what's not obvious and if you heard what they DIDN'T say, document this in their chart; or if you feel something just isn't right with any of their answers or with their demeanor or interactions with others, document it in their chart. It can be valuable information for a HT case or an abuse case.

11. Don't ask for details about their experiences if they open up about HT. If they feel you are prying or interrogating them, they will shut down; but the more information you gather from HT victims, without asking for details, the more obvious abuse and HT becomes.
12. Gain trust and build rapport. This takes time. Remember it takes a lot of courage for anybody to admit, for the very first time, that they were, abused, raped or trafficked; and they won't ever repeat either, if they don't get a warm response the first time.
13. Help create an environment that makes it safe to talk about sensitive issues, for the clients and the team:
 - Signage:
 - Posting positive affirmations on the walls, or words of hope.

Examples:

- Just because you made mistakes doesn't mean you ARE a mistake.
- You are safe here
- If your documents have been lost or stolen let us know, we can help.

Reading quotes like this can cause people to reflect and it can even help get sensitive conversations started.

Just because the clients are applying for WIC tells you that they're already expecting to have to answer questions and because it's a healthcare facility it won't seem out of the ordinary to ask questions that show you care about their health, their future and their well-being.

10. Question to ask, "I don't mean to pry but your safety is my concern, do you mind if I ask you if you feel safe there?"
11. When victims DO open up, their dark stories can catch you off guard but it's important that you are ready.
 - a) Don't show shock because that can make them feel like they're a burden to you.
 - b) Don't interrupt them, because that can make them feel like you are minimizing their ordeal.

- c) They need to know that they are your priority or they will shut down.
- 12. If you don't know what to say it's best that you admit that. We won't always be able to empathize with what others have endured. Just be yourself and say, "I just don't know what to say right now, but I'm so glad you told me."
- 13. Reassure your client that you're going to do all you can to get the help they need.
- 14. Know the resources in your area.
- 15. Assist victim in calling the HT hotline number - 1 (888) 373-7888. Memorize this number. The folks at this number can help you decipher if what you witnessed was actually a sign of HT. (see *what to expect training* link above).
- 16. Many victims of HT experience a lot of miscarriages and forced abortions while being trafficked. With warmth and concern ask client how they feel about the abortion or miscarriage. Ask them if they were forced to have the abortion. Maybe miscarriage was caused by a beating. Offer them counseling resources if they are open to it.
- 17. If the client can't speak English, it's important that you don't rely on the interpreters they bring in with them. Use an outside source and make sure the interpreters are fluent in both languages, both verbally and in writing and that they are comfortable talking about abuse and HT. It helps interpreters a lot if they know ahead of time that the conversation is to be in support of the client.
- 18. Because traffickers control their victim's documents to have more control over them, make note of it if the clients are not in possession of their ID and document this in their chart.
- 19. If a client tells you they're traveling abroad, start a conversation about it. Ask them if they are looking forward to the trip. International travel is another way traffickers trap their victims. They take their passport and ID from them and they're trapped, especially if they don't speak the language.
- 20. Many times traffickers will speak for the victim or interrupt them and correct them. If you witness any controlling indicators, document this in their chart.

Prevention Begins in the Family and it begins with Education

Why not help parents get these sensitive conversations started at the prenatal visits. If the parents are told they need to do what they can to protect their children from sexual abuse, you are at least planting a seed. Healthcare is in the perfect position to help parents initiate these heart-to-heart talks with their kids and continue with them during all the child's medical visits.

Human Trafficking Elearning Program

- [Human Trafficking Awareness for Healthcare: W.A.R. on Slavery](#)
- [Human Trafficking Awareness for First Responders & Safety Officers: W.A.R. on Slavery](#)

[Human Trafficking Elearning printable pocket guide](#): (printed double sided on legal size)

[Understanding the Four Stages of Recovering from Sex Trafficking](#)

[Ruth Rondon's Sex Trafficking Story](#) (Interview – Seven, 2-3 minute videos)