**Human Trafficking Study Group**

*Spring 2020*

Carr Center for Human Rights Policy

Harvard University | John F. Kennedy School of Government

Convened and Moderated by Laura Cordisco Tsai, PhD

**Description**

Human trafficking is a form of interpersonal trauma that has severe immediate and long-term mental health impacts upon survivors. Experiencing human trafficking can lead to depression, hopelessness, post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, harmful substance use, self-harm, and suicidality. The UN Trafficking Protocol stipulates that ratifying states should provide assistance and protection for survivors of human trafficking, including services providing for the social and psychological recovery of survivors. However, fundamental access to appropriate services and the existence of evidence-based approaches to mental health service delivery are highly limited. This study group will explore the mental health impacts of human trafficking, as well as promising practices for strengthening rights-based approaches to addressing the mental health needs of survivors. Participants will learn from active discussion of readings, as well as presentations from invited experts engaged in both practice and research with survivors of human trafficking and anti-trafficking service providers.

Registration is capped at 20 participants. Please send your resume and a short paragraph of your academic or professional interest to Dr. Cordisco Tsai at laura\_cordisco\_tsai@hks.harvard.edu by **February 10, 2020**. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis—earlier submissions will have a higher chance of acceptance. ***If applying, please ensure your availability for the entirety of all three session dates and times listed below.***

**Location/Time**

The study group will take place three times over the Spring 2020 semester on the following dates:

Session 1: Thursday, March 5, 2020 4:30pm – 5:45pm R-414AB

Session 2: Thursday, April 2, 2020 4:30pm – 5:45pm R-414AB

Session 3: Thursday, April 30, 2020 4:30pm – 5:45pm L-324 Fainsod

1. **March 5 – Mental health impacts of human trafficking**

Kiss, L., Pocock, N. S., Naisanguansri, V., Suos, S., Dickson, B., Thuy, D., ... & Zimmerman, C. (2015). Health of men, women, and children in post-trafficking services in Cambodia, Thailand, and Vietnam: An observational cross-sectional study. *The Lancet Global Health, 3*(3), e154-e161.

Hopper, E. K., & Gonzalez, L. D. (2018). A comparison of psychological symptoms in survivors of sex and labor trafficking. *Behavioral medicine, 44*(3), 177-188.

1. **April 2 – Addressing gaps in mental health service provision for survivors of human trafficking**

Powell, C., Asbill, M., Louis, E., & Stoklosa, H. (2018). Identifying gaps in human trafficking mental health service provision. *Journal of Human Trafficking, 4*(3), 256-269.

Safe Horizon (2018). *Global collaboration against human trafficking report: Fourteen essential principles for working with human trafficking victims.* New York: Safe Horizon, Inc.

1. **April 30 – Programmatic case study: Suicide prevention for survivors of human trafficking in the Philippines**

Kiss, L., Yun, K., Pocock, N., & Zimmerman, C. (2015). Exploitation, violence, and suicide risk among child and adolescent survivors of human trafficking in the Greater Mekong Subregion. *JAMA pediatrics*, *169*(9), e152278-e152278.

Frey, L. M., Middleton, J., Gattis, M. N., & Fulginiti, A. (2019). Suicidal ideation and behavior among youth victims of sex trafficking in Kentuckiana. *Crisis: The Journal of Crisis Intervention and Suicide Prevention*, *40*(4), 240–248.

**Moderator/Facilitator**

Dr. Laura Cordisco Tsai is a social work researcher and practitioner specializing in human trafficking and gender-based violence (GBV). Her research broadly targets the development of more empowering and effective services for survivors. At the Carr Center, she is co-leading a new initiative pertaining to cultural adaptation of a suicide prevention intervention for human trafficking survivors in the Philippines. While at Harvard, she has conducted community-based participatory research with human trafficking and GBV survivors in the Philippines using photovoice. This research explores what economic empowerment means to survivors, with the end goal of ensuring that programming and policy match the priorities of survivors themselves. She is an advisor for a 10-year longitudinal study with survivors of human trafficking and sexual exploitation in Cambodia, from which she has conducted analysis pertaining to survivors’ perspectives on and recommendations for strengthening post-trafficking assistance. In addition to her research, Dr. Cordisco Tsai has worked for over fifteen years as a consultant and practitioner with a variety of NGOs in the anti-human trafficking sector. She is the Founder and Executive Director of Eleison Foundation, a private operating foundation that implements and funds reintegration support programs and participatory research with human trafficking and GBV survivors. She serves as a technical advisor for the Philippines nonprofit 10ThousandWindows, which provides economic empowerment services for survivors of violence and exploitation. She has also worked with UNICEF on research pertaining to violence against children and the sexual exploitation of boys globally. She holds a BA from Brown University, MSSW and PhD from Columbia University, and received post-graduate training in trauma recovery and researching GBV from LSHTM and Harvard Medical School.