

Title: Addressing the Intersections of Trauma in Child Trafficking: Challenges and Solutions

Date and time: Tuesday 1 April 2025, 14:05-15:05 (CET)

Format: In person (533, 5th floor, Hofburg) and via Zoom (see below)

Convenors: International Forum for Understanding

Child victims of human trafficking often experience multiple forms of trauma before, during, and even after being trafficked. Left unaddressed, this intersectional trauma can increase the risk of further exploitation and personal challenges. Yet efforts to address intersectional trauma connected to child trafficking often remain siloed.

As noted in the US Dept of State's 2024 report *The Impact of Trauma on Child Trafficking Survivors*, intersectional trauma can make children 'more vulnerable to exploitation by traffickers through means such as psychological control, threats of or actual physical abuse, withholding food, or emotional and sexual abuse.'⁶ The National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN) further notes that trauma suffered by children who have been sex trafficked can result in 'sexual, physical, and emotional injuries and sometimes severe lifelong health, educational, economic, legal, social, relational, sexual and spiritual impacts.'⁷

Further, UNICEF observes that climate change has direct 'mental health and psychosocial consequences'⁸ for children and IOM notes: 'the contribution of climate change in creating conditions conducive for trafficking.'⁴⁹

This side event will take a holistic approach to exploring best practices in mitigating trauma resulting from child trafficking. Gaps in existing policies and strategies will be identified; good practices in creating, developing, and implementing culturally-sensitive programs will be discussed. Also covered will be new tech tools for delivering scalable aid in preventing trafficking and supporting survivors and victims along with their communities. This side event is honored to include four child trafficking lived-experience leaders whose input and recommendations will be emphasized throughout the entire session.

Speakers:

Child Trafficking Lived-Experience Leaders

- Kendall Alaimo (remote): Artist and activist exploring biological impacts of slavery and advancing forensic interviewing protocols
- Malaika Oringo (remote): Founder/CEO of Footprint to Freedom, Director of African Survivor Coalition
- Laurent Ziegler: Artist and author finding inspiration and healing through inter-connectedness

Other Experts

- Nour Barakeh: Specialist in public policy, climate mitigation and displacement
- Veronica Zeitlin (remote): Lawyer, foreign policy and aid specialist with broad C-TIP experience

Moderator: Heather Wokusch: Psychotherapist, educator, and founder of blockhub.care

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://osce-org.zoom.us/j/98917927357>

Meeting ID: 989 1792 7357

Passcode: 20692851

⁶ https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/The-Impact-of-Trauma-on-Child-Trafficking-Soldiers_508-Accessible-11.15.24.pdf

⁷ <https://www.nctsn.org/what-child-trauma/trauma-types/sex-trafficking/effects>

⁸ <https://www.unicef.org/parenting/mental-health/climate-anxiety>

⁹ https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/mecc_infosheet_climate_change_nexus.pdf