

Migration and Human Trafficking: Practical Applications for Social Work

Human trafficking is the acquisition of people by improper means such as force or deception, with the purpose of exploiting them. There is currently a global consensus that human trafficking is a severe violation of human rights. Due to the complex dynamics of trafficking, and the fact that it thrives mostly underground, victims are often overlooked by front line workers such as social workers, and victims rarely self-report out of fear or shame.

This workshop will be designed to help social workers gain a better understanding of human trafficking and modern day slavery. Participants will learn about the methods used to recruit and control victims, and how social workers can reach out and establish rapport with potential victims. As human trafficking is an umbrella term covering many forms of trafficking, the focus will be on the intersection of migration and human trafficking for sexual exploitation and forced labor. Participants will learn how they can help victims on a micro level as well as advocate for their rights on a policy level.

The workshop will be a blend of lecturing and activities to engage participants in the learning process. This will be a structured workshop, with time for reflection and questions at the end.