

A photograph of a field of golden wheat at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. In the background, there are silhouettes of people standing in the field. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

Recognizing and Responding to Survivors of Human Trafficking

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Director of Anti-Trafficking Services, Preble Street

A photograph of a field of grain, likely wheat or barley, during sunset. The foreground is filled with the heads of the grain, which are slightly out of focus. In the background, a tractor is visible, and the sun is setting on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. The sky is a mix of orange and blue.

Quick Level Setting

Learning Objectives

1

Recognize the different types of human trafficking, common risk factors and intersections

2

Explore potential indicators, dynamics and barriers, & approaches to assessment

3

Be familiar with reporting processes and available resources



Defining Human Trafficking

Sex Trafficking: *The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purpose of commercial sex acts in which the commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age.*

Labor Trafficking: *The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services through the use of force, fraud, or coercion, for the purposes of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage or slavery*

Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000

- Criminal prosecution/penalties of traffickers
- Immigration protections for foreign-born victims
- Civil remedies and victim benefits
- Legally defines severe forms of trafficking

Any compelled activity, whether for labor, services, and/or commercial sex, where **force, fraud, and/or coercive** methods are used for gain

or

Any **MINOR** involved in commercial sex

AMP Model

Action

- Recruits
- Harbors
- Transports
- Provides
- Obtains
- Solicits/patronizes
- Advertises

Means

- **Force**
 - Physical or sexual violence
 - Confinement or kidnapping
 - Withholding/supplying
 - Food, water, medical care, substances
 - Forced abortions
- **Fraud**
 - False or misrepresented:
 - Job offers, wages, work conditions
 - Marriage, promises of love or better life
 - Positions of authority
 - Language or document manipulation
- **Coercion**
 - Psychological manipulation, intimidation, or threats of serious harm
 - Monitoring, surveillance
 - Reproductive coercion
 - Cultural / spiritual abuse
 - Confiscation of ID or other legal documents
 - Quota, debt or contracts

*Means not
required for
minors
induced into
commercial sex*

Purpose

- Commercial Sex
- Forced labor / services
- Involuntary servitude
- Debt Bondage
- Peonage
- Slavery

Distinctions

Human Trafficking

Crime against a person
Movement not required
Involuntary / nonconsensual
Not able to “leave”

Smuggling

Crime against a state or border
Illegal border crossing
Ends at destination
Voluntary, involves consent

Exploitation

May be unfair; a violation;
or an abuse of power
Elements of choice
Ability to leave
Spectrum of experiences

Commercial Sex (aka ‘Prostitution’)

Commercial or transactional
sex is the exchange of money
or goods for sexual services
Mix of choice and circumstance
Spectrum of experiences

Labor Trafficking vs. Labor Exploitation

Labor Trafficking

- Using force, fraud, or coercion to recruit, harbor, transport, obtain, or employ a person for labor or services in **involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery**
 - **Not free to leave**

Labor Exploitation

- Labor trafficking and labor exploitation are "exploitive" crimes
- Poorly treated, not paid, and/or exploited, but "free to leave"

A photograph of a vast field of grain, likely wheat or barley, under a warm, golden sunset sky. The foreground shows the texture of the grain stalks, while the background is softly blurred, showing a tractor and other figures in the distance. The overall mood is peaceful and agricultural.

Pulse Check



Recruitment Pathways & Dynamics

- Romantic or Partner-based
- Befriending or Peer-based
- Bait and Switch
- Guerilla tactics
- Leveraging crimes committed
- Dealer
- Preying on Disabilities
- Familial-Based

Industries

- Escort Services
- Stripping/Dancing
- Pornography
- Sex Work
- Remote Sex Work
- Panhandling/Peddling
- Illicit/Criminal Activity
- Casinos
- Hotels/Hospitality
- Restaurants
- Retail Sales
- Traveling Sales
- Carnivals/Fairs
- Gig economy
- Cleaning Services
- Beauty Services:
 - Nail technicians
 - Hairstylists
 - Braiders
- Health care
- Elder care
- Child/Day care
- Domestic Work
- Forced Marriage
- Transportation
- Construction
- Forestry
- Field work/Agriculture
- Herding/Livestock
- Landscaping
- Manufacturing
- Seafood Processing





Trafficker Types

- Parent or guardian
- Intimate partner(s) or Spouse
- Friend or Peer
- Dealer / substance provider
- Relatives or extended family
- Employer
- Labor broker
- Landlord
- Diplomats
- Religious Leaders
- Other Community Leaders
- Gangs or organized crime group
- Stranger

What makes someone high risk

Push Factors

Interpersonal

- Sexual/ Domestic/ Childhood abuse
- Systems Involvement
- Sexual orientation/gender identity
- Cognitive/physical disabilities
- Substance Use and/or Mental Illness
- Lack of support system or role models
- Dysfunction in the home
- Illiteracy or lack of education

Community / Societal

- Communities with intergenerational trauma
- Few economic opportunities
- High-barrier work / limited social mobility
- Political instability

Geographic Issues

- Forced migration
- Natural disasters / Climate change



What builds resiliency

Pull Factors

Interpersonal

- Protection from abuse
- Emotional connection
- Belonging and acceptance
- Aid or personal care
- Provision of substances or prescriptions
- Support system of role model
- Free from home dysfunction
- Educational opportunities

Community / Societal

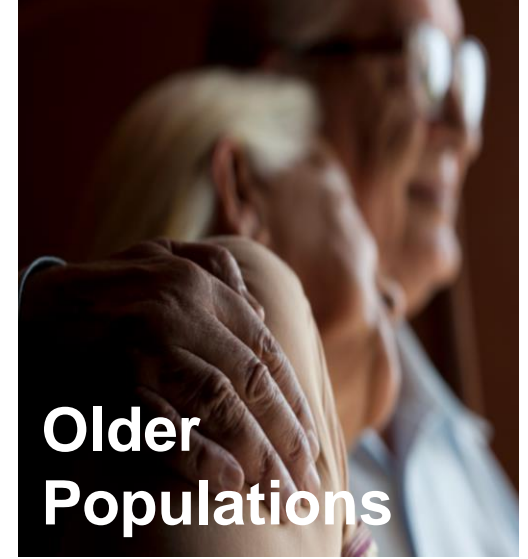
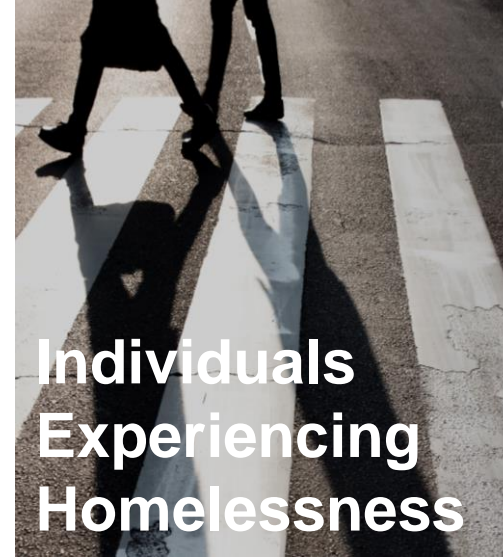
- Financial opportunities
- Low-barrier work and/or social mobility
- Political stability

Geographic Issues

- Location free of violence or environmental harm



Higher Impact Populations



Seasonal Migrant Workers

Seasonal Workers:

- Highly mobile – migrating to jobsites or to origin country
- Low wage, season-based work
- Often hired indirectly (not by employer)
- Recruitment often involves fees
- Visa / immigration status tied to employer
- Rural, out of public view settings, limited transportation
- Often live in employer-provided housing
- Limited English proficiency & sometimes formal education



Compounding Factors

Racial & Ethnic Minorities / Historically Excluded

- Harmful racial sexual stereotypes, adultification and hyper-sexualization of young tribal, black and latinX children
- At multiple intersections of oppression

Indigenous/Tribal Communities

For American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) women...

- **1 in 3** will be raped in their lifetime
- **6 in 10** will be physically assaulted
- Are **2x** more likely to be stalked
- Murdered at more than **10x** the national average
- Non-Native Americans commit **88%** of violent crimes against AI/AN

Foreign Nationals can have...

- Financial debt; lack documents to prove identity
- Limited English Language skills
- Lack of understanding about U.S. system and protections
- Connections to family back home
- Previous negative experiences with law enforcement

Forced Criminality

A survivor's involvement in crime is often a direct result of the coercion they experience at the hands of their traffickers

Criminalization can take the form of:

- Conviction of sex trafficking victims as prostitutes
- Penalization of trafficked foreign nationals for violating immigration laws
- Arrest of individuals threatened with violence to produce/distribute drugs
- National Survivor Network survey **91%** of survivors had a criminal record as a result of being trafficked
- One study found **81%** of youth trafficked for labor reported instances of forced drug dealing
- **Maine's** incarceration rate is one of the highest in the country (328 per 100,000 people) and ranks #1 of all New England jail admissions



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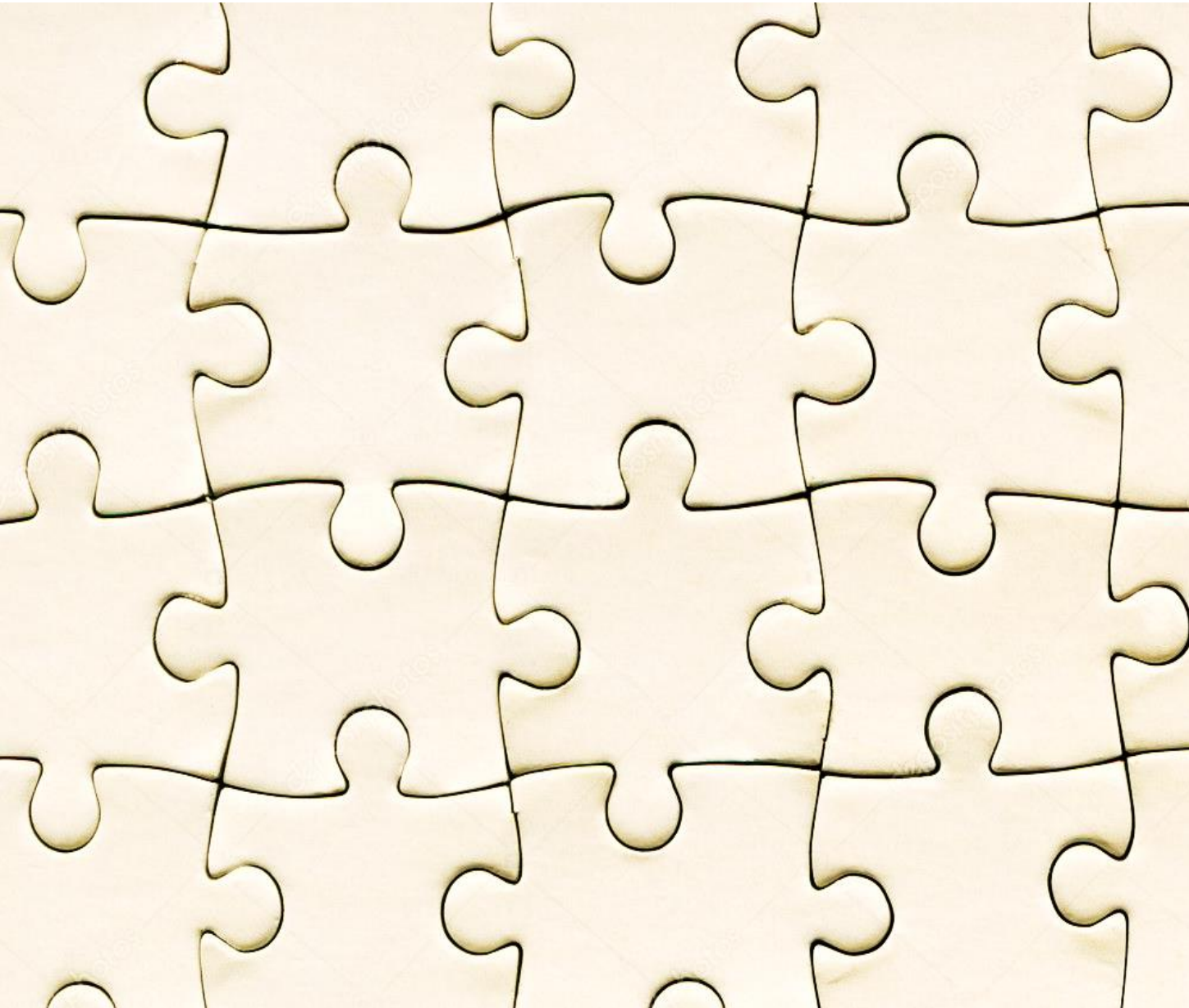
3

Be familiar with reporting processes and available resources



Our Role as Assessors?

- ✓ Create conditions and environments of safety that destigmatize talking about these issues
- ✓ Through relationship and validated tools, gather information necessary to identify which individuals may need additional assessment and support
- ✓ Offer information
- ✓ Partner with survivors when they want to connect with other services and help make effective referrals



Keys to Identification

- ✓ Dismantle traditional “pictures” of what a “victim” looks like and who a “trafficker” can be
- ✓ Recruitment Pathways and Methods of Control
- ✓ Recognize Signs and Indicators
- ✓ What Needs Could / Are being met by a Trafficker
- ✓ Barriers to Identification or Exit

Indicators

What are some of the signs of potential trafficking

Observational

- Travel/Trips without means to do so
- Inappropriate clothing for weather or situation
- Evidence of monitoring
- Constant accompaniment
- Not allowed to speak for self
- Controlled movement
- Unexplained injuries
- Frequent hair/nail maintenance
- Frequenting Hotels
- Unusual branding or tattoos
- Live-in employment

Financial

- Lack of control over finances
- Unexplained valuables/cash
- Multiple Phones
- Mentions of quotas, debt or contracts
- Social media solicitations
- Labor violations:
- Works excessive, unusual or long hours
- Poorly paid or unpaid
- Disciplined through fines or wage theft
- Lack of paper trail

Behavioral

- Hyper-vigilance or flat affect
- Shame or guilt around work
- Communication seems memorized or scripted
- Hyper focused on phone or responding to someone
- Conflicting stories
- Employer makes their decisions
- Protects or justifies harmful someone or abuse
- Evidence of being 'punished' for bad behavior

Health:

Sexual and Physical

- Multiple or frequent treatment for STIs
- Multiple pregnancies or abortions
- Bruises at various stages of healing
- Trauma to the vagina and/or rectum
- Malnutrition / Dehydration
- Unexplained progression of illnesses
- Occupational-type injuries
- Exposure to harmful chemicals / Untreated skin infections/inflammation

What Needs Could/Are being Met?

Intangible

- Love or partnership
- Sense of self-worth
- Sense of belonging
- Racial / ethnic belonging
- Parent-like figure
- Protection/security

Tangible

- Basic Needs
- Shelter / housing
- Financial advantages
- Supply of alcohol/substances
- Childcare and/or parent to child(ren)

Barriers that Prevent Identification

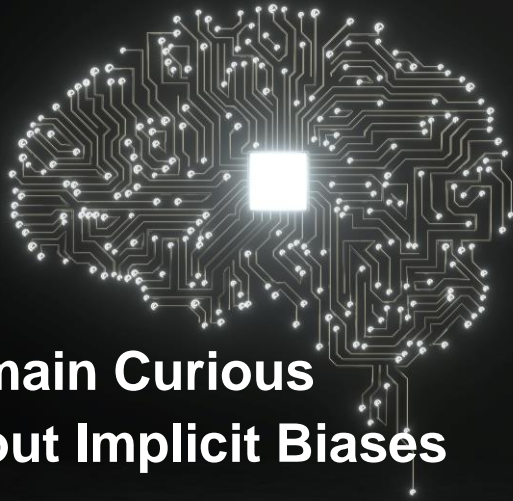
Why Victims May Not Disclose and/or Exit

Psychological

- Shame, blame, embarrassment
- Learned loyalty / obligation
- Reluctance to leave others
- Distrust of authority
- Fear of report to:
 - Police / ICE (deportation)
 - CPS / losing children
 - Retaliation
- Lack substantial "proof" for a charge
- Lack of alternative options
- Normalized abuse
- Cultural stigma / taboo
- Doesn't view self as victim
- Harmful language/assumptions

Environmental

- Isolation
- Language barriers
- Frequent supervision
- No Documentation
- Threats or violence
- Unaware or misinformed about rights or resources
- Blackmail
- No term for trafficking
- Limited or lack of transportation
- Poor coverage or restricted phone or internet access
- Limited anonymity
- Available/accepted firearm use
- Longer police response times



Remain Curious About Implicit Biases

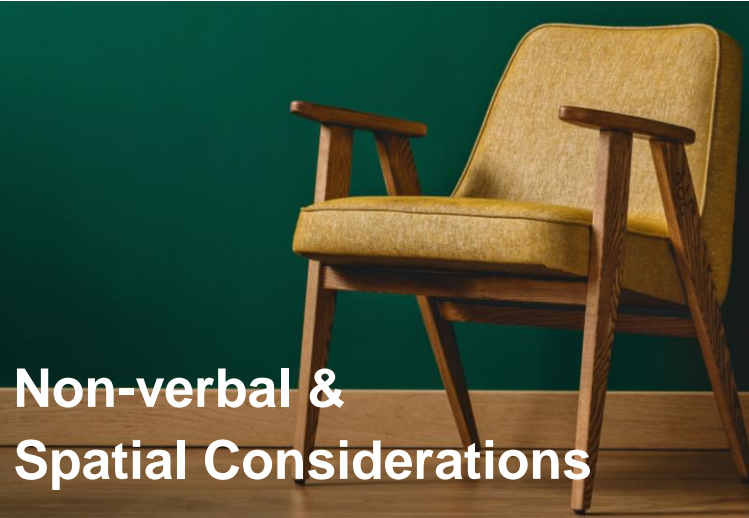
- Our biases may reinforce who gains access to supportive services and who does not:

Thinking masculine people cannot be sexually assaulted or victimized

Thinking feminine people cannot perpetuate abuse

Believing intimate partner violence only happens between cisgender people or straight couples

Perceiving sexualized behavior in young girls as normal in certain racial groups or economic statuses



Non-verbal & Spatial Considerations

- Meet basic needs (snack, water)
- Create safe conditions to speak
 - Prioritize safety
 - Separate from third parties
 - Offer breaks
- Be mindful of physical positioning
 - Chairs
 - Bodies
 - Proximity to exit
- Keep hands in view
- Open body language; limited notes
- Be aware of eye contact



Verbal Considerations

- If using an interpreter:
 - Only involve professionals
- Clearly explain confidentiality and limitations as a mandated reporter, and check for understanding
- Ask permission and affirm someone's right to not answer
- Mirror someone's language or terms
- Explore for clarity not curiosity
- Normalize asking everyone these questions
- Listening and asking about all types of victimizations



Assessment

Assessment varies depending on age, validated tool, and provider role

Questions can range from direct or indirect – possible questions:

- *What kinds of ways do you make money?*
- *Are you able to keep all the money you earn?*
- *Do you owe money to your employer or to the person who helped you get the job?*
- *Have you ever exchanged sex/acts for food, a place to stay or other things you need?*
- *Have you ever worked for someone who asked you to lie about the work?*
- *Have you ever done work that was different than what you were promised or told?*
- *Have you ever felt afraid to leave someone or a situation due to fear of violence or harm to you or your family?*
- *Do you feel you could leave if you wanted to?*
- *Are you able to take breaks or time off?*
- *Has your identification or documentation been taken from you?*



“No Wrong Door” Relationship

- Leave every conversation with the door open; plant the seed
- Be transparent about your concerns
- If ambivalent, talk through what ifs, talk in “others” if easier
- Validate their autonomy and honor whichever choice is made
- True harm reduction creates opportunities to talk and offer options (not instruct or persuade!)
- Trust yourself!

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Responses



DHHS: Child or Adult Protective Services

Child: 1(800) 452-1999
Adult: 1(800) 624-8404

Mandated Reporting
Investigations



Law Enforcement or Emergencies

911
Or non-emergency numbers by area
Portland: 874-8575

Emergency and non-emergency response
Investigations



National Human Trafficking Hotline

1 (888) 373-7888

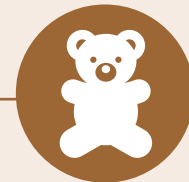
Connective services
Urgent and non-urgent,
200 languages,
anonymous option



Preble Street: Anti-Trafficking Services

(207) 775-0026
(207) 415-8554
Online

Supportive services
Outreach, referrals,
case management,
safety planning,
housing support, etc



Children's Advocacy Centers

By County

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) cases
Case coordination,
Forensic interviews,
Medical exams, follow up



Sexual Assault

Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MECASA)

- **Sexual Assault Services (AMHC)**
- **Immigrant Resource Center of Maine (IRCM)**
- **Rap Response Services (RRS)**
- **Sexual Assault Prevention & Response Services (SAPARS)**
- **Sexual Assault Crisis & Support Center (SAC&SC)**
- **Sexual Assault Response Services of Southern Maine (SARSSM)**
- **Sexual Assault Support Services of Midcoast Maine (SASSMM)**



Domestic Violence

Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence (MCEDV)

- **Hope and Justice Project**
Aroostook
- **Partners for Peace (P4P)**
Penobscot and Piscataquis
- **Family Violence Project**
Kennebec and Somerset
- **Next Step Domestic Violence Project**
Hancock and Washington
- **Safe Voices**
Androscoggin, Franklin, Oxford
- **New Hope for Women**
Knox, Lincoln, Sagadahoc, Waldo
- **Through These Doors (TTD)**
Cumberland
- **Immigrant Resource Center of Maine**
Culturally-specific services



Tribal SA and DV Services

Wabanaki Women's Coalition (WWC)

- **Micmac Domestic & Sexual Violence Advocacy Center**
- **Maliseet Domestic & Sexual Violence Advocacy Center**
- **Indian Township Passamaquoddy Domestic & Sexual Violence Advocacy Center**
- **Passamaquoddy Peaceful Relations Domestic & Sexual Violence Advocacy Center**
- **Penobscot Nation Domestic & Sexual Violence Advocacy Center**

Our Work



INTENSIVE CASE MANAGEMENT

- Comprehensive services and safety planning to survivors of both sex/labor
- Trafficked and exploited minor services



HEALING CENTER

- Drop-in Safe space offering programming
- Survivor leadership opportunities



HOUSING PROGRAMS

- Rapid Rehousing Program
- Transitional Housing Program
- Post-placement supportive services



TRAINING & EDUCATION

- Customized trainings, protocol development, awareness events, & more



LABOR TRAFFICKING PROGRAM

- Outreach and services for victims of labor trafficking and exploitation



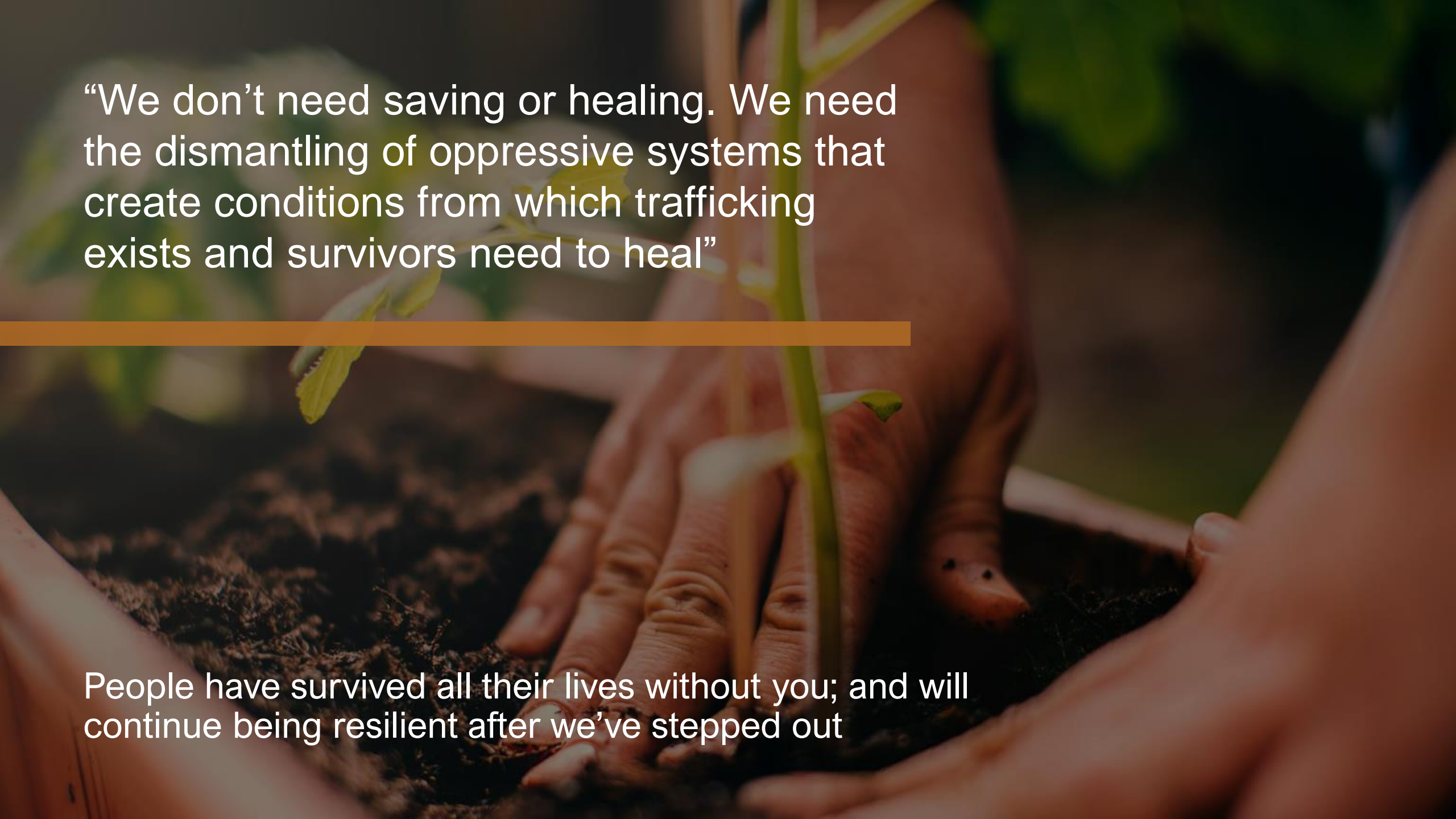
OUTREACH & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Street-based, community centers, correctional facilities, farms, and more
- Multidisciplinary teams
- Local/National policy and advocacy work

Changes in Maine

Decriminalization

- In October 2023, Maine decriminalized selling sex – the first state in the United States to pass a partial decriminalization bill
- This means, an individual cannot be prosecuted for "engaging in prostitution" (the language in our former statute.
- Buying sex remains illegal



“We don’t need saving or healing. We need the dismantling of oppressive systems that create conditions from which trafficking exists and survivors need to heal”

People have survived all their lives without you; and will continue being resilient after we’ve stepped out

Referral Process



Anti-Trafficking Services

Call, text, or email us with all relevant information you can share:

- Observations, indicators
- Relationship or affiliation with individual who may be perpetrating the abuse/violence/exploitation
- Safety Consideration

Referral Pathways:

Call / Text / WhatsApp: 207-415-8554 or 207-523-9123

Email: healingcenter@preblestreet.org

Referral Form QR Code



**National Human
Trafficking Hotline:**

1-888-373-7888

Thank You



Anti-Trafficking Services

Office: 207-775-0026

Text / WhatsApp: 207-415-8554

Email: ATS@preblestreet.org

Healing Center: 55 Portland Street, Portland

Website: preblestreet.org/anti-trafficking-services

Connect with us!

Develop organization-specific Assessment Tools and protocols

Schedule recurring trainings/refreshers for new staff

Request specialized trainings:



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1-888-373-7888