



In honor of Black History Month, Bella Hounakey facilitates a discussion among panelists Evelyn Chumbow, James Dold, Kwami Adoboe-Herrera, and Moninda Marube during Framework's Honoring Black Voices in the Anti-trafficking Movement event on February 28, 2022.

Using your voice in a predominately White space



Does nationality impact identification and services?



What composes the white imagination? Is a person of color someone who can help you or do you only see them as someone in need?

Strength-based approach for Black survivors



Strength-based approach has 4 principles: empathy, authenticity, shared value, and support.

➤ Tokenization

Survivors should be able to choose when to tell their stories and feel comfortable in the space instead of being pushed into conferences to speak as the only Black person present.

➤ There is diversity within the Black Community

The diversity of experiences and perspectives that comes from being biracial or a foreign national needs to be acknowledged as well.

➤ America's history of slavery & its continued effects

There is both over- and under-policing of Black communities--making people more vulnerable to trafficking. Government agencies tend to focus on foreign nationals versus potential domestic victims of labor trafficking. Child soldiers are a part of human trafficking in America in the context of young people being recruited into gangs. This points to the failure of the anti-trafficking movement to identify these kids, which is linked to their race and nationality.

➤ Human trafficking does not discriminate

The purpose of identifying someone as a victim of trafficking is to assure that the proper services are being offered and there is an opportunity for justice and healing. However, the issue now is that we assume we know everything about a person based on their identity (read: label). Government agencies, policymakers, and service providers need to go beyond the category you put people in to understand each person as an individual human with unique preferences and needs. One group is not more of a priority than the other.

➤ Building trust

Put the checklist away and take the time to build trust. We can share the context of what it means to be a human. Service providers might not have a solution for the survivor's problem, but they have tools to help survivors navigate toward a solution.

➤ Culture

Having knowledge about the culture and historical context of the person you are servicing is important. Do some homework. The effort is appreciated.

➤ Mental health

Mental health services are not normalized in all cultures but can be helpful for survivors if done correctly. The anti-trafficking movement is in a position to be a bridge to this resource.

How do



want to be remembered in this movement?

- As a modern-day slavery freedom fighter like Harriet Tubman. As a survivor from Africa who wasn't afraid to speak her truth to help other victims and help survivors to get jobs. *-Evelyn Chumbow*
- I want to leave a legacy for my kids to know their father is a fighter that did everything in his power to make this world a better place. *-Kwami Adoboe-Herrera*
- As a human who shed light on the issue of human trafficking in the professional sporting industry. *-Moninda Marube*
- As someone who took the worst thing that happened to them and transformed it into hope and light for other people. *-James Dold*

Q&A

Q. What part of the legal, social, or political system do you feel failed you the most?

A. The foster care system in terms of the environment we were placed in. Also, the legal system does not assist survivors in understanding their rights and obtaining restitution as ordered by the court. The legal system also failed us regarding the statutes of limitations on the crimes committed against survivors. The education system failed in that it could have identified us earlier. There were also failures in housing and service provisions.

Q. How can we teach about labor trafficking in schools and what children should know so they do not fall into the trap of being labor trafficked?

A. Laws have been passed in some states for educators to be trained in identifying some key indicators. Teaching young people about healthy relationships, and what a child predator may look like. Also educating their parents and communities in general. Engagement to self-identify requires education. Describe the situations that are not normal, so that they don't get normalized in culture. Communities must also be engaged and must look out for one another, but the primary responsibility still lies with the parents since traffickers capitalize on lack of affection.

Q. What service that you received benefited you the most?

A. Therapy and mental health services helped understand what happened and why.

To learn more about Framework or to request training, technical assistance, or individualized support on labor trafficking, visit us on our website.

www.frameworkta.org