

Leanne McCallum

**Task Force Coordinator
Greater New Orleans Human Trafficking Task Force**



Unaccompanied minors: Human Trafficking Identification and Response in Disaster Contexts

Leanne McCallum
Task Force Coordinator, GNOHTTF



U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMAN TRAFFICKING DEFINITION

LEGAL DEFINITION

Sex trafficking is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purposes of a commercial sex act, in which the commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age (22 USC § 7102).

Labor trafficking is 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, (22 USC § 7102).

WHAT DOES FORCE, FRAUD, OR COERCION LOOK LIKE?

- lack of mobility
- debt bondage
- document confiscation
- recruitment fraud
- lack of payment
- physical/sexual abuse
- threats of violence or retribution
- long hours without reprieve
- inability to walk away

VULNERABILITIES DURING DISASTERS

- Homelessness and displacement
- Basic needs like food, water, shelter
- Isolation
- Loss of jobs, lack of ways to make money
- Trauma
- Lack of protection from law enforcement and labor rights
- Suspension of some labor protection
- Limited interaction with mandated reporters, safe figures in child's life
- Cultural factors (Example: child marriage)

VULNERABLE CHILDREN POST-DISASTER

- Children without parental care including orphans, unaccompanied and separated children – children living on their own, in foster families or in institutions
- Mentally and physically disabled children and those with other ‘special needs
- Children from marginalized groups, such as those from minority ethnic, tribal and religious communities

S, Delaney, *“Protecting Children from Exploitation and Sexual Violence in Disaster and Emergency Situations”*, ECPAT, 2006.

LESSONS FROM HUMANITARIAN RESPONSES TO DISASTERS

Examples

- 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami
- 2010 Haiti Earthquake
- 2013 Typhoon Haiyan (Philippines)
- 2015 Nepal earthquake

Common themes

- Displacement and movement of people
- False promises, offering to take care of people's' needs after disaster
- Damage to homes, livelihoods, economics causing vulnerability
- Vulnerabilities from prior to the storm (statelessness, poverty) become worse post-storm
- False adoptions