

# Overview: 10 ACTION STEPS

## Building + Sustaining Collaborations to Support Trafficking Survivors of Domestic Violence + Sexual Assault *For Advocacy Programs*

### **(1) ASSESS + BUILD CAPACITY**

Assess your agency's internal preparedness and build the capacity of staff to support survivors at the intersections of human trafficking (HT), domestic violence (DV), and sexual assault (SA). Start by establishing an internal working group, updating forms and policies, and incorporating survivor-centered strategies.

### **(2) IDENTIFY NEEDS + MAP RESOURCES**

Identify the needs of survivors in your community and determine which services and supports are available to them. Use existing tools to think through which organizations and professionals can address these needs.

### **(3) BUILD RELATIONSHIPS WITH ALLIES**

Build connections to increase survivors' access to services and resources they need the most. This includes partners like law enforcement, legal service providers, health care providers, and survivors.

### **(4) JOIN OR CREATE A TEAM**

Find or initiate a multidisciplinary team to support survivors. Identify core leaders, establish shared goals, write a mission statement, and clarify team member roles and responsibilities.

### **(5) DEVELOP + MODIFY PROTOCOLS**

Clarify the process for supporting and referring survivors with partners on your team and draft MOUs. Create a system to help partners coordinate that protects survivor confidentiality. Reflect on collaborative work to improve coordination and service provision; update protocols.

### **(6) ASSESSMENT + SUPPORT**

Increase your collaborative's capacity to meet the needs of survivors and encourage each partner to adopt the best approaches for their setting, including trauma-informed practices, assessment for human trafficking, and providing universal education.

### **(7) EXPAND + IMPROVE SERVICES**

Identify your strengths and areas for growth in meeting survivors' needs and develop strategies to address gaps. This can include cross-training and working with unique partners outside of your collaborative.

### **(8) DOCUMENT + EVALUATE**

Gather data to inform your service provision to meet the needs of survivors and to demonstrate the collaborative impact of your work for your community and for funders. Practice ongoing evaluation to enhance service provision.

### **(9) SUSTAIN YOUR EFFORTS**

Institutionalize new policies and protocols and train new employees and collaborative partners. Provide ongoing training, revisit collaborative goals, and evaluate your progress. Consider new opportunities for funding and expansion. Celebrate your progress.

### **(10) ENGAGEMENT + AWARENESS**

Get the word out to other providers and community members to help increase awareness of trafficking and improve access to health, safety, and legal supports.

**The Futures Without Violence Building Collaborative Responses Project provides training and technical assistance to advocates, law enforcement, legal professionals, and others as they build collaborative responses to trafficked victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Learn more about how we can support you on our website below or contact Mónica Arenas at [marenas@futureswithoutviolence.org](mailto:marenas@futureswithoutviolence.org). <https://www.futureswithoutviolence.org>**