



VERSION 1  
MARCH 30, 2015

# MILITARISM AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

BY: AF3IRM

[www.af3irm.org](http://www.af3irm.org)



# OUTLINE

## **AF<sup>3</sup>IRM TRAINING OUTLINE**

### **Target Audience:**

- Staff of NAPIESV/-identified API organizations
- Future trainers

### **Overall NAPIESV/ AF<sup>3</sup>IRM Curriculum Goals:**

#### 1. Political Framing/Analysis

- a. Connection to oppression
- b. Connection to Violence (intimate, commercial, state)
- c. Connection to Movements
- d. Connection to historical trauma

#### 2. Practical Uses/Skills

#### 3. Application of Framework

- a. Accountability/Justice
- b. Healing
- c. Prevention

### **AF<sup>3</sup>IRM Curriculum Goals:**

1. Participants will gain a basic understanding of human trafficking (labor, sex, women and children trafficking).
2. Participants will gain a basic understanding of militarism.
3. Participants will be familiar with historical trauma and ways it affects the experience of API women in the current context.

### **AF<sup>3</sup>IRM Training Overview:**

- Part of NAPIESV 1-day introduction session
- Three hour session
- Focuses on militarism, trafficking, transnationalism
- 1-2 AF<sup>3</sup>IRM or AF<sup>3</sup>IRM-trained facilitators
- Materials: giant post-its, markers, projector, laptop

# AGENDA

## **TRAINING DAY AGENDA**

1:00 pm: Introductions

- Name, organization
- What do you want to learn about militarism and trafficking?

1:30pm: Group Activity: *Prostitute vs. Prostituted*

1:45pm: Overview of Militarism & Trafficking

2:15 pm: Group Activity : *Google "Asian Women" and discuss the search results*

2:30pm: Break

2:45pm: Pornography and Prostitution

- Global economy, class, poverty
- Racist Imagery
- Diverse experiences with prostitution
  - Survival Sex
  - LGBT populations
  - Transnational women

3:30pm: Global Perspectives

- Institutional Causes of trafficking
- Militarism's connection to VAW
- Discuss history of sexual exploitation of women of color

4:00 pm: Group Activity: *Get Organized Activity*

4:45pm: De-brief and Next Steps

5:00pm: End

## OVERVIEW OF TRAFFICKING

## Overview of Trafficking

### Background/Key information:

- Sex trafficking is a symptom and result of our patriarchal society, representing the quintessential violation of women's autonomy and human rights. Sex trafficking of women and children is a global human rights issue, as it is at its core a reflection of the misogynist belief that women are the property of men, existing primarily for their service and desire.
- The uneven distribution of wealth and economic disparities around the world as well as within a gendered economy has always been among the main generators of sex trafficking, prostitution, and violence against women.
- Sex trafficking is a reflection of gendered racism. Because women from Asia are often perceived as more passive and subservient, men from the United States have developed a preference for women and girls from countries such as the Philippines. Racist and sexist stereotypes fuel the demand in the U.S. for Asian mail-order brides.
- Ramifications of racism and racist imagery on women of color, including the hypersexualized images of Asian women in particular, when repeated often enough, are taken as truth and used as justification for violence against women.
- Poverty and vulnerability, armed conflicts and militarism, lack of education and human right violations are among the root causes of human trafficking, including both sex and labor trafficking.

### Institutional Causes

#### Inequality

- The uneven distribution of wealth and economic disparities around the world as well as within a gendered economy has always been among the main generators of sex trafficking, prostitution, and violence against women.
- Global capitalism makes it more profitable to sell women's bodies than to employ them in other forms of labor.
- So long as there are gender inequities in work, education and social opportunities, "choice" does not even enter the equation regarding the sex trade.
- The sex trade is the nodal point where class, race and gender oppression come together, to create the worst possible exploitation. Its large-scale use of Filipinas comes from an aberrant cultural development, artificially induced by global forces, which compel the transfer of the family's economic survival from a traditionally male responsibility. This transfer impacts not only women but men as well, infantilizing them by making them dependent. This, in turn, exacerbates gender tension.

#### Poverty

- Unemployment and poverty influence both supply and demand, whereby desperate women easily become vulnerable to false promises of economic security.
- So long as powerful nations oppress poor nations, there is no such thing as "choice."

#### War and Sex Trafficking

- Sexual slavery and sex trafficking are strongly connected to war rapes and forced prostitution.
- Sex trafficking and prostitution are common consequences of the presence of US military troops
- The most large-scale example of the connections between war and sex trafficking is the case of Japanese “comfort women.”

## **Combatting Trafficking**

### Rescue and Restore Approach

- Goal is to increase the identification of victims of human trafficking
- Focus on giving victims resources and services
- Campaign activities target people who might encounter victims in order to educate them to recognize potential trafficking victims
  - Educate law enforcement, social service agencies, health care providers

### Legal Approach

- Prevention is rooted in comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation
- Heavy law-enforcement emphasis
- Deter trafficking through prosecution of traffickers
- Prevention is encouraged through criminalization of trafficking activities, sanctions, and discouraging demand

### Human Rights and Gendered Perspective Approach

- Recognizes trafficking as a form of gender-based violence
- Responsibility and an obligation to oppose and destroy the structures which create labor export, the sex trade and the mail-order bride business.
- Educate regarding the impact of large-scale natural disasters outside the US on the increased likelihood of trafficking activity
- The emancipation of women and girls is an important part of combating trafficking. A gender perspective should be applied when developing and implementing prevention, advocacy, and awareness measures.
- The elimination of all forms of discrimination on grounds of sex, gender, ethnicity, immigration or class, is key to ending trafficking

## **Militarism and Violence Against Women**

- Militarism is the use of organized violence to assert the will, philosophy, and agenda of one group over another.
- This includes physical, emotional, sexual, economic, and state violence.

### **Violence as a weapon of war**

- The vast majority of war casualties are among civilians, mostly women and children.
- Women face sexual violence, which is deployed systematically to achieve military or political objectives.

### **Post Conflict and Times of Peace**

- Even after conflict has ended, the impacts of gender violence persist, including unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections and stigmatization.
- Widespread sexual violence continues or even increases in the aftermath of conflict, as a consequence of insecurity and impunity.
- After the war, violence against women becomes embedded in communities and cultures.
- In Iraq, US occupation triggered a surge in violence against women.
- Kidnappings, honor killings, and rape are up sharply since the U.S. occupation. Lack of security and availability of weapons has contributed to an increase in domestic violence.
- Afghanistan girls' schools are being fire bombed. Kidnapping, robbery, and rape by the army and police are so prevalent that women stay home to stay safe.
- Hundreds of women have gone to Iraq, Afghanistan and other Middle Eastern countries as domestic workers and/or nannies and face violence at the hands of their employers.
- Speaking at the Nobel Women's Initiative in Belfast, renowned journalist and activist Hania Moheeb spoke of the night she was attacked in a mass sexual assault in Cairo on Friday 25th January 2013. She was one of nineteen women assaulted in protests that night by seemingly coordinated groups of men.

### **Militarism and a Culture of Aggression and Imperialism**

- There are parallels between a culture of militarism and a culture of violence against women.
- The argument that the state is complicit in sexual assaults in Tahrir Square has long been held by many activists involved in the 2011 revolution, given the coordinated, quasi-militarised nature of mass assaults, the sluggish response of Morsi's government and police powers to intervene or combat the epidemic levels of sexual harassment and assault, and the fact that women fearing for their personal safety is a convenient way to curtail levels of protest.
- Men's violence against women always increases during military actions, both within the military and in the civilian population, both from sexual violence as a weapon of war and gender violence as a consequence of our culture of aggression.
- The United States currently has approximately 1,400,000 active duty military personnel on military bases in 16 countries around the world. Many U.S. military personnel have

been charged with acts of sexual violence toward local women. More than 70 members of the US Military deal with unwanted sexual contact, sexual assault and rape every day. That's three every hour.

- More than 85,000 veterans sought treatment last year in connection with military sexual trauma, according to an article by the Associated Press
- Sex trafficking and prostitution are common consequences of the presence of US military troops

# ACTIVITY

## **GET ORGANIZED ACTIVITY**

### **Goals of this section:**

1. Share common experiences in combatting (or lack of) trafficking and militarism within service provider scope
2. Identify practices that can be implemented
3. Situate this in larger power map

**Discussion** – break into small, mixed groups with butcher paper. Assign a note-taker and facilitator.

Answer the following questions:

- a. How can or how does your organization proactively work against trafficking and militarism?
- b. Keeping in mind the different approaches to combating trafficking, share ideas about:
  - i. How can they be integrated into current programs?
  - ii. How can they be integrated into direct services and education?
- c. How can we partner with other organizations who focus on combating trafficking and militarism?

**Strategizing** – all participants return to the larger group. Facilitator will have a power map (blank) on the wall.

- a. Discuss findings – name 1-2 things per group of shared experiences.
- b. Facilitator will ask leading questions and a note-taker will fill out power map:
  - a. Who are perpetrators in your respective communities? Individuals and institutions?
  - b. What means do they use to either traffic individuals or militarize our communities?
  - c. What are strategies we can implement to fight trafficking and militarism?

\*\*\*Facilitator will sum-up power map and strategies. Power map will be visual representation of the organizations' and providers' commitment to combat trafficking and militarism.

This project was supported by Grant No. 2011-TA-AX-K062 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women