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Human Trafficking and How Nurses can make a Difference

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Human trafficking is a global issue and nurses can make a difference. According to the International Labour Organization (2017) there were 40 million people in 2016 who were victims of modern slavery. It is also estimated that “88% of trafficking victims access health care during their trafficking situation” (The Polaris Project, 2019). The problem is that clinicians are not thinking about human trafficking and often do not even know what to look for. The goal of this talk is to bring awareness to a global audience about human trafficking, discuss the different types of trafficking, make attendees aware of nursing’s role in human trafficking, signs to look for and who to contact. In this presentation we will also look at anti human trafficking efforts around the globe and our role as nurses. The audience will be introduced to a variety of organizations involved in prevention and recovery and will be given ideas on how to get involved in prevention efforts.

Biography

Alicia Shields is a masters prepared registered nurse who has a passion for anti-human trafficking efforts. She volunteers for anti-human trafficking organizations, is a Certified Anti Human Trafficking Advocate and was appointed by the City of Phoenix Mayor to the Mayors Anti Human Trafficking Task Force. Alicia has spent the last 5 years as a Chief Nursing Officer and is now currently teaching at the University full time. Alicia also has a healthcare and leadership consulting business. More than anything, Alicia loves spending time with her husband and three young children. Even her children are involved in anti-human trafficking efforts and as a family they make bracelets, sell them and donate the money to anti human trafficking organizations.

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