

## **Safe Horizon Partners on Guide to Identifying Human Trafficking Victims**

Safe Horizon has announced a partnership with the New York City Mayor's Office Survivors of Human Exploitation Working Group and the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation (HHC) to provide an introductory guide to health care providers on how one can identify possible victims of trafficking and appropriately respond to the victims they may encounter.

Safe Horizon, the nation's leading victim assistance organization, prepared the guide, *Recognizing Human Trafficking: Guidelines for Health Care Providers*, in collaboration with the Mayor's Office Working Group, empanelled by Deputy Mayor Robles-Román and led by Deputy Counsel Norma Abbene, the citywide director of anti-human trafficking efforts. The guide will be made available on the [Mayor's Office anti-trafficking website](#) and on [Safe Horizon's website](#) as a free, downloadable document that any medical professional can access beginning today.

Developed with the health professional in mind, the purpose of the training material is to highlight several trafficking indicators in which medical professionals can identify and respond to in their day-to-day practices while seeing patients. Intended to be used as an introduction for medical professionals, it is recommended that the materials are used with an anti-trafficking service provider, like Safe Horizon, to facilitate trainings that address the specialized needs of their staff.

"Traffickers thrive on the fact that this is a crisis that largely remains hidden from the public eye," said Deputy Mayor Carol Robles-Román. "The best way we can fight this growing threat to human rights is for those who are in positions to work with potential victims—medical clinics, churches, employers—to learn how to recognize the signs and know how to help them. We are grateful for the work being done on behalf of victims of crime and abuse at Safe Horizon and for the partnership with the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation to get the information into the hands of medical professionals."

"Developing a public health response to this issue is a critical step to ensure that survivors are identified and receive proper care and support in New York City," said Alan D. Aviles, President and Chief Executive Officer at the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation (HHC). "Hospitals and emergency rooms are among the few places that human trafficking victims may be allowed to go, so it is crucial to have frontline medical professionals trained to understand and identify the signs of abuse. Through this new initiative, we will distribute the training material this month to our 11 hospital emergency department teams throughout New York City."

Liz Roberts, Chief Program Officer at Safe Horizon said, "We are grateful to the Mayor's Office Survivors of Human Exploitation Working Group for all it has done to build awareness regarding the issue of human trafficking in New York City. We hope that the visibility of the Let's Call an End to Human Trafficking website will encourage people to learn more about modern-day slavery and find out how they can help victims to escape and heal."

Established in 2001, Safe Horizon's Anti-Trafficking Program has grown into the largest direct service provider to human trafficking victims on the East Coast. Through the Anti-Trafficking

Program, Safe Horizon assists women, men, and children who have experienced labor and sex trafficking. Since its founding, the Anti-Trafficking Program has helped more than 500 people within and outside the New York metropolitan area from more than 60 countries.