

**Acknowledging the Trauma & the Use of Art with Survivors of Sex Trafficking**

**August 13, 2021 | 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM EDT**



**Presenter:** Cynthia Wilson, PhD, MA, ATR-BC

**Presenter Biography:** Cynthia Wilson Phd, MA, ATR-BC has been an art therapist for over 15 years with a PhD in Art Therapy, Masters in Marriage and Family Therapy, and is registered and board certified as an art therapist with the American Art Therapy Association. In private practice, Cynthia works with clients of all ages, in the home and hospital or via video or telehealth. Areas of interest include destigmatization, collaborative care, attunement, communication, trauma and dissociation. She is a clinical art therapy supervisor, author, speaker and works clinically with children, adults, groups and families.

Cynthia served for 6 years on the board of the Northern California Art Therapy Association as Regional Rep, Phd Liaison, President-Elect and President, and is the 2021 ISST-D Vicarious Trauma SIG co-chair. She has volunteered for over a decade with hospice organizations, with schools for emotional development and school trauma processing, and in the community on art therapy, grief and loss, cancer care, dementia care, dissociation, and trauma.

A goal of Cynthia's is to educate and expose the sex trafficking trade and its dissociative symptoms to other health professional in order to expand the resources of support, care and hope for all clients in need. Art-based interaction has become her means of finding a way to increase the mind/body connection of the client for increased self-awareness, processing and communication about needs to health professionals.

**Presenter:** Mary K. Kometiani, MA, ATR-BC, LPCC MA

**Presenter Biography:** Mary K. Kometiani, MA, ATR-BC, LPCC, is a registered board-certified art therapist, licensed professional clinical counselor, lecturer, and author in art therapy. After graduating from Miami University with a BS in Art Education, Mary received a MA in Art Therapy and Counseling from Ursuline College. Mary has over a decade of experience providing art therapy for survivors of sex trafficking, homeless families victimized by domestic violence, inpatient and outpatient pediatric medical patients and their families, and families of hospice patients and the bereaved. She is the owner and art therapist of Art Therapy Heals, LLC, collaborating with community organizations and educating the public about art therapy and its benefits. Mary is a leader in Ohio art therapy; since 2011 she has continuously served on the Buckeye Art Therapy Association board including as President for two terms. She has also been a committee member for the American Art Therapy Association for the past three years. In addition to having worked as an adjunct faculty member, Mary has delivered numerous creative workshops and presentations at local colleges and regional, national, and international conferences. She has authored several articles and book chapters in addition to editing Art Therapy Treatment with Sex Trafficking Survivors: Facilitating Empowerment, Recovery, and Hope..



**Presenter:** Serena Coleman, MA, ATR-BC, PhD Candidate

**Presenter Biography:** Serena considers herself a lifelong learner with the primary focus of her higher education in art therapy. She maintains registration and board certification as an art therapist. Serena continues to work towards unfolding the complexities of human trafficking through research, collaborations, and trainings. She first became involved in the anti-trafficking movement in 2009 and has worked and volunteered within different residential programs in California. Her therapy work has ranged from school-based counseling to clinical pain management. She loves spending time with her family and challenges herself to be creative every day. Serena's areas of interests include social justice, youth empowerment, women's issues, and community art.

**Content Level:** Beginning/Introductory

**Potential to Distress:** Yes

**Abstract:** This panel will initially discuss the definitions and terms used in sex trafficking and provide professional examples of working with different populations of individuals who have been sex trafficked. Each presenter in this panel has a different experience and perspective of working with survivors in different professional capacities. History with this population that will be explored. The dissociative aspects of trauma from sex trafficking and the different types of trauma that can be experienced will be explained. Participants will leave this webinar with a knowledge of a foundational aspect of working with individuals who have been sex trafficked and have resources for further research and support.

### **Objectives**

Upon Completion of this webinar, participants will be able to:

- List a minimum of three (3) signs and indicators of sex trafficking
- Identify a minimum of three (3) resources that are available to help providers who work with individuals who have been sex trafficked
- Participants will be able to define the practice of art therapy and describe the professional requirements for art therapists
- Define Relational Trauma and identify a minimum of three (3) of its impacts
- Identify three (3) ways in which therapists can broaden and expand our understanding of trauma when working with clients to provide holistic, collaborative, and comprehensive care

### **Can't Make it?**

If your schedule won't allow for you to attend, the webinar will be recorded and made available for purchase approximately two weeks after the live event. The recordings cost is \$25 for ISSTD members and \$45 for non-members. The webinar recording can be accessed on the CE-Credit.com website or in ISSTDWorld for ISSTD members. Exam fees for Continuing Education credits start at an additional \$10.46.

### **References**

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Miller-Perrin, C., & Wurtele, S.K. (2017). Sex trafficking and the commercial sexual exploitation of children. *Women & Therapy, 40*(1-2) 123-151. doi:10.1080/02703149.2016.1210963

Rafferty, Y. (2017). Mental health services as a vital component of psychosocial recovery for victims of child trafficking or commercial sexual exploitation. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry, 88*(3), 249-260. doi:dx.doi.org/10.1037.ort0000268

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### **Continuing Education**

**This presentation is not approved for ASWB ACE continuing education credit**

### **APA**

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