

---

# TAKING A STEP BACK

*A one-day workshop to begin formulating  
a comprehensive action-framework  
to prevent human trafficking*

*Organized by Catholic Relief Services and  
The Center for Civil and Human Rights,  
University of Notre Dame*

*July 11, 2017, CRS Headquarters, Baltimore*



**THE CENTER FOR  
CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

The University of Notre Dame  
Keough School of Global Affairs

## Catholic Relief Services

has been privileged to serve the poor and disadvantaged overseas since 1943. Without regard to race, creed, or nationality, CRS provides emergency relief in the wake of natural and manmade disasters. Through development projects in fields such as education, peace and justice, agriculture, microfinance, health, and HIV and AIDS, CRS works to uphold human dignity and promote better standards of living. CRS also works throughout the United States to expand the knowledge and action of Catholics and others interested in issues of international peace and justice. Our programs and resources respond to the U.S. bishops' call to live in solidarity—as one human family—across borders, over oceans, and through differences in language, culture and economic condition.

## The Center for Civil and Human Rights

was founded in 1973 by the Reverend Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., then-president of Notre Dame and a member of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights from its inception during the Eisenhower Administration until 1973. The Center for Civil and Human Rights is founded on the belief that every human being, created in the image of God, has a dignity entitled to respect and protection. In all of its efforts, the Center stands in solidarity with the oppressed, the afflicted, and the vulnerable and seeks to secure their human rights and the conditions for their flourishing. Through education, the Center aspires to equip human rights lawyers and other students to become champions of human rights in every corner of the world. Through research, the Center aims to raise awareness of particular forms of oppression among activists, officials, scholars, and students in order that they may promote human rights more effectively.



*Panelists from main session at the one-day workshop to begin formulating a comprehensive action-framework to prevent human trafficking on July 11, 2017 at Catholic Relief Services Headquarters in Baltimore, MD. (L to R: Christine Cervenak of The Center for Civil and Human Rights, Dr. Angela Reed, RSM, Dr. Lucy Y. Steinitz of Catholic Relief Services, Julie Short Echalar of the U.S. State Department, J/TIP.*

## Table of Contents

---

4	Foreword
5	Executive Summary
6	Main Session: Introduction to the Optimal Life Course Conditions (OLCCs) Approach
12	Academic Perspectives: Applying a Variety of Disciplinary Lenses to the OLCCs
16	Perspectives from the Field: CRS Experience with Trafficking Prevention
21	Recommendations and the Way Forward
22	For More Information

### *Addenda*

24	Workshop Schedule and Participants
27	Social Media Statistics

## Forward

---

Welcome to our report on the July 11, 2017 event, “Taking a Step Back: A one-day workshop to begin formulating a comprehensive action-framework to prevent human trafficking,” organized by Catholic Relief Services and The Center for Civil and Human Rights, University of Notre Dame. This report includes an Executive Summary, followed by descriptions of the four inter-disciplinary workshop sessions, as well as markers for the way forward.

This report has its origin in a lecture at the University of Notre Dame by Dr. Angela Reed, RSM, in November 2016, in which she presented her research with trafficking survivors and outlined her theoretical framework for identifying vulnerabilities to trafficking. Leadership at Catholic Relief Services were quick to recognize both the opportunity this framework presented for a deeper investigation of their own work on the ground, and also the valuable contributions their experience could make to Dr. Reed’s work. A partnership with The Center for Civil and Human Rights led to the present project.

If you would like to learn more, please consult the final page for more information. Thank you for your interest in this initiative aimed at understanding the root causes of human trafficking and beginning to discern a path to trafficking prevention.

## Executive Summary

---

On July 11, 2017, Catholic Relief Services and The Center for Civil and Human Rights co-convened a gathering of university researchers, CRS global field officers, civil society actors and government partners at CRS headquarters in Baltimore, Maryland. The goals of the meeting were: 1) To share academic research and real-life practices in order to build our understanding of the root causes of human trafficking, and 2) To begin formulating a prevention-and-response framework to combat trafficking worldwide and explore possible contributions from academia.

“Taking a Step Back: A one-day workshop to begin formulating a comprehensive action-framework to prevent human trafficking” brought together the expertise of CRS technical advisors, program managers and policy experts with academic experts from the University of Notre Dame, St. John’s University, and The Catholic University of America. Also included in the discussion were representatives from the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Structured around both small group and roundtable discussion formats, the assembled group queried the role of research, the lessons drawn from site-specific field work, and how best to develop a prevention-based approach to human trafficking.

The workshop’s [keynote address](#) was delivered by Dr. Angela Reed, RSM, a Melbourne Sister of Mercy currently based at the United Nations, who presented her research with trafficking survivors in the Philippines, and a new theoretical framework, the “Optimal Life Course Conditions (OLCC) Approach.” Dr. Reed aims through her human rights-based framework to identify key life conditions that indicate heightened vulnerability to trafficking. The address was made available live to a worldwide audience via Facebook, reaching over 10,000 viewers as of July 19, 2017. Responses were given by Dr. Lucy Y. Steinitz, Senior Technical Advisor for Protection at Catholic Relief Services; Sanjana Das, Technical Advisor to CRS’s Women & Child Protection programs in India; and Julie Short-Echalar, Program Officer in the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons at the U.S. Department of State.

Follow up sessions included a panel on academic perspectives with multidisciplinary lenses with academics from across the United States at higher institutions of learning and Australia, as well as a panel on perspectives from the field with CRS staff from Baltimore, India, Uganda, Cameroon, Ecuador, Lebanon, and Albania. The last session of the day was a small group breakout session where participants contemplated potential partnerships and further research necessary for CRS to formulate a new action framework to prevent human trafficking.

## Main Session:

### Introduction to the Optimal Life Course Conditions (OLCCs) Approach

---

The main session of the workshop centered around the keynote address by Dr. Angela Reed on the Optimal Life Course Conditions Approach, with responses from Lucy Y. Steinitz, the Sr. Technical Adviser for Protection at Catholic Relief Services, Julie Short Echalar, Project Officer at the U.S. State Department in the Office to Monitor and Combat Human Trafficking, and finally, Sanjana Das, Technical Adviser for Women and Child Protection for Catholic Relief Services in India. Dr. Angela Reed, RSM presented the OLCC approach, a preventative framework to reduce vulnerabilities to human trafficking. Invited responses and open discussion followed, focused on deepening our understanding of the OLCC approach and of how it relates to current CRS and other trafficking prevention efforts.

Shannon Senefeld, Catholic Relief Services, Senior Vice President of Overseas Operations, opened the session with a few remarks about the importance of the workshop and our call in global solidarity to eradicate human trafficking. She spoke to the development of the workshop and offered her gratitude to the organizers for putting it together. Dr. Senefeld commented, “What drew many of us here today is to speak out for those who cannot speak for themselves.” She also highlighted that trafficking is a hidden problem that not many know about but “meetings like this can shed light and our combined actions and voices can bring light to human trafficking.”

#### *Keynote Address: Dr. Angela Reed, RSM*

Dr. Angela Reed opened the keynote address by discussing her own research with female survivors of sex trafficking in the Philippines, including the narrative of a young woman named Cathy who is a survivor of trafficking and is at risk for re-exploitation. Dr. Reed’s research on sex trafficking highlighted its complexities, including an interlocking web of root causes. Dr. Reed asserts that human trafficking is not an isolated social phenomena and that cannot be separated from other stressors facing vulnerable girls and women. Based on her research, Dr. Reed highlighted the importance of listening to the voices of survivors who tell their own stories and thus, can shed light on the realities of human trafficking. Dr. Reed commented that these narratives do not often match the sometimes sensationalized depictions used by anti-trafficking advocates or the media. As advocates, Dr. Reed urged that we challenge the dominant narrative of human trafficking being a randomized occurrence.

Dr. Reed’s research demonstrated that human trafficking exploits vulnerability, preying on those who have experienced cumulative disadvantage over the life course, including but not

limited to poverty, discrimination and past abuse. Dr. Reed’s slides, below, examine adverse experiences which lead to the vulnerability of those at risk to trafficking. Consequently, anti-trafficking strategies must be firmly grounded in human rights principles that address these root causes of trafficking. Dr. Reed further argues that the combination of these fundamental factors must be addressed to decrease vulnerability to human trafficking (that is, to help prevent its occurrence).

How can this be done? Dr. Reed explained that this is what led her to develop the Optimal Life Course Conditions (OLCC) approach. The OLCC’s seek to influence both personal circumstances of the person, while also influencing the social, cultural, economic and political environment within the context of that person’s life (family, community, the larger environment). She further divides these into three significant life stages: childhood, adolescence and adulthood. Dr. Reed explained that each of these stages presents 13 different challenges, events, transitions and turning points. She argues that “the Optimal Life Course Conditions offer a long term, preventative strategy for addressing vulnerability to human trafficking and a comprehensive prevention oriented approach is critical to achieving real progress in reducing and ultimately ending human trafficking.” Dr. Reed plans to publish her OLCC approach in the near future.

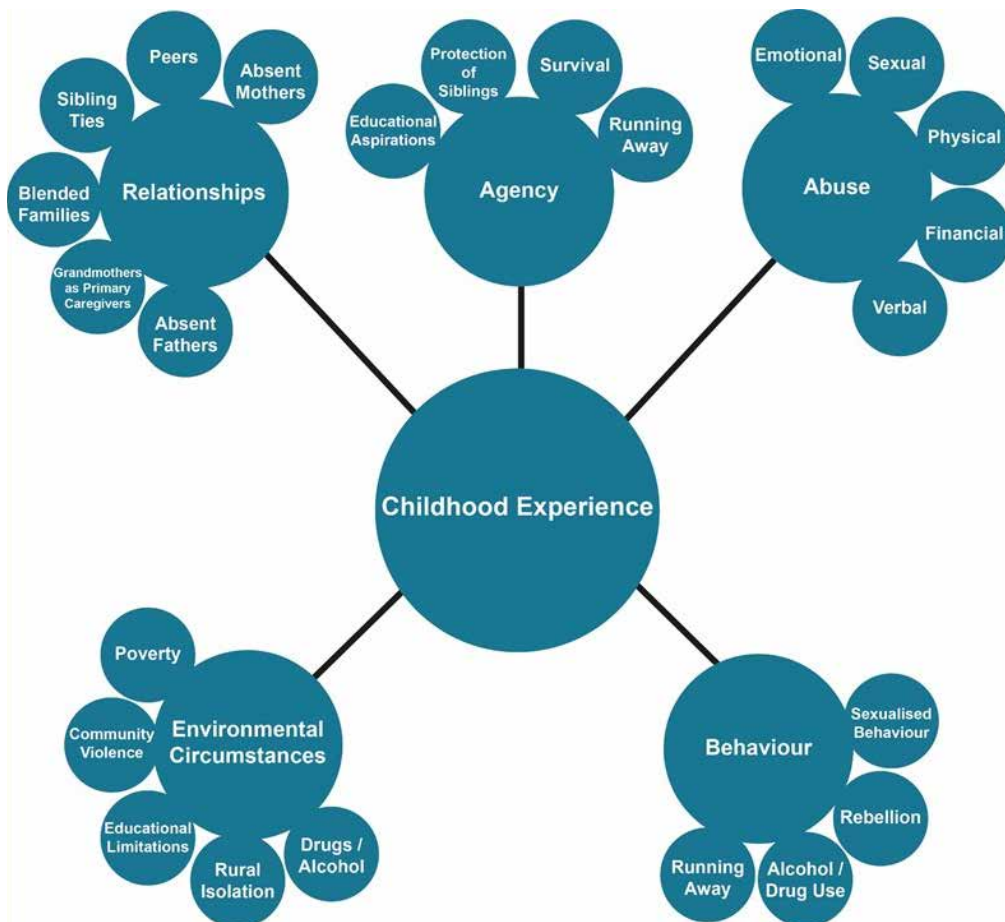


Figure 1 Reed: Thematic vulnerabilities in Childhood



Figure 2 Reed: Thematic issues in Trafficking

*Response: Dr. Lucy Y. Steinitz*

Dr. Lucy Y. Steinitz offered a response to the OLCC approach, explaining how it can be integrated into CRS’s global efforts to prevent human trafficking. Over the past few years, CRS has engaged in approximately 145 projects to counter human trafficking worldwide, utilizing a 4 P approach – Prevention, Protection, Prosecution and Partnership. CRS’ efforts to combat human trafficking were recently documented in their new digital marketing video entitled “A Crime against Humanity.” Dr. Steinitz explained that at CRS strategies are built on the concepts of [Catholic Social Teaching](#), as well as with an integral human development approach which has many similarities to the OLCC approach described by Dr. Reed. CRS mainstreams protection and integrates these approaches into all of its programming, wherever possible around the globe. Dr. Steinitz explained that CRS’ agency programming targets the poorest of the poor, which may not necessarily mean just economic poverty but also the poor of spirit, i.e. childhood abuse survivors or other survivors of trauma. (See her “8 Factors that



Shape Vulnerability to Human Trafficking,” below. This fits well within the OLCC approach of looking at the life course.

That said, Dr. Steinitz critiqued the OLCC approach, pointing out that it does not address the factor of triggers – that is, those actions, events, lures or transitions that change a vulnerable situation into a trafficked one. This becomes important because one way to reduce trafficking is to “go after” the triggers – thus making it more difficult for those who are at-risk to fall into the proverbial “jaws of a snake.” She also highlighted that in programming, it is critical to target those who are most vulnerable, because otherwise you end up spreading the prevention efforts too thinly across a wide population, and that accomplishes nothing. Due to limited resources, CRS and other agencies must focus their programming on specific communities or sub-groups who are most vulnerable, and that makes a broad-based OLCC approach difficult to implement in practice. She ended her response by emphasizing the importance of workshops like this, where different perspectives can be brought together to begin to identify better and smarter ways forward to counter trafficking.

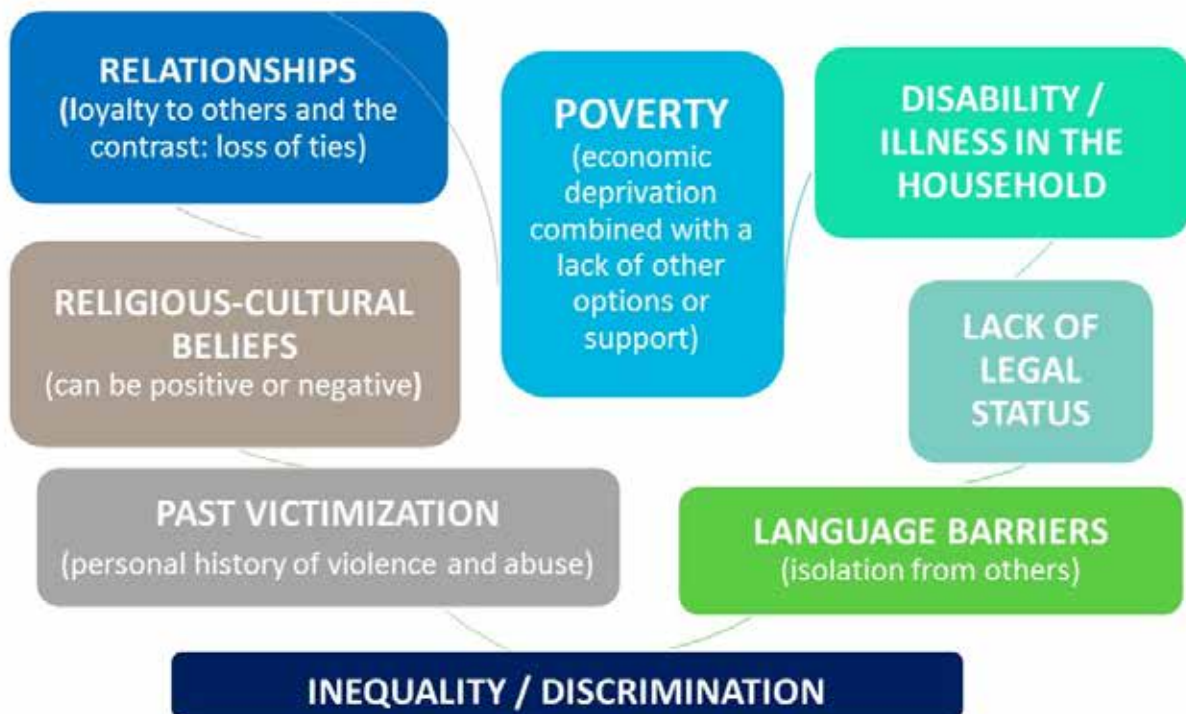


Figure 3 Steinitz: Factors that shape human trafficking

*Response: Julie Short Echalar*

Julie Short Echalar presented a response to Dr. Reed’s keynote address with a perspective grounded in her work at the U.S. State Department, Office to Combat and Monitor Trafficking in Persons (J/TIP). Ms. Echalar gave an overview of J/TIP’s counter trafficking work and its utilization of the ‘3-P paradigm’ in addressing human trafficking—Prevention, prosecution, and protection. J/TIP funds approximately \$30 million annually to combat human trafficking, supporting NGOs such as Catholic Relief Services, UN agencies, and in some cases, the private sector. Ms. Echalar remarked that she wholeheartedly agrees with Dr. Reed that the way trafficking in persons has been problematized and depicted has traditionally not taken into account the life course of victims. Ms. Echalar highlighted that trafficking prevention has been under-explored and also underfunded by stakeholders. But donors can’t do it all. She recommended a heavier allocation of resources toward prevention efforts by the international donor community, including promoting ownership in addressing trafficking by national and district-level governments.

Ms. Echalar critiqued Dr. Reed’s OLCC approach by saying that the OLCCs cannot be experienced without the creation of policy and legal frameworks by governments that codify the protection of their citizens. While J/TIP utilizes a 3-P approach, Ms. Echalar ended her remarks by highlighting the fourth “P” CRS utilizes in its programming – partnership. Ms. Echalar explained that governments must work in partnership with NGOs, survivors, community members, religious leaders and the private sector to study vulnerable populations and develop targeted strategies to prevent and address factors that drive human trafficking. Ms. Echalar reiterated Dr. Reed’s point on the importance of the voice of the survivor – she advised the use of survivor stories as tools to enrich the ways in which trafficking in persons is addressed.

*Response: Sanjana Das*

Sanjana Das, the final panelist, joined remotely from CRS/India. Ms. Das presented CRS’ counter trafficking projects in India that focus on prevention, recovery and rehabilitation of survivors with an emphasis on the reintegration of survivors into their home communities or to another community for independent living. She described a case of a young woman who survived trafficking and is at risk of re-exploitation in India. With this case in mind, Ms. Das presented how this woman would respond to the OLCC approach, especially within the context of her dignity being at stake. Listening to survivors’ stories is critical. Ms. Das explained the importance of understanding the survivor’s embodied experience of rape and violence, and how the intersections of the politics of patriarchy and politics of belonging interplay in the affirmation of a woman’s self-determination. It takes an integrated approach

combined with the ethics of care to restore her dignity. In Ms. Das' doctoral research, she is trying to understand the conceptual components of embodied dignity within the context of human trafficking – the social economic dimensions of dignity in the embodied experience of those who have been or are vulnerable to being trafficked and in looking at the ways notions of trafficking reconfigure notions of dignity.

## Academic Perspectives: Applying a Variety of Disciplinary Lenses to the OLCCs

---

The panel on academic perspectives consisted of scholars and researchers from the University of Notre Dame, MacKillop Family Services, The Catholic University of America, and St. John's University. The panelists sought to share their insights on the OLCC approach, rooted in their specific disciplinary perspectives, to look at strengths, weaknesses, promising innovations and challenges of the approach.

### *Dr. Laura Miller-Graff*

Dr. Laura Miller-Graff drew upon her research in Psychology and Peace studies by analyzing the approach with both a life course perspective and multi-systemic prevention perspective. Dr. Miller-Graff presented the life course perspective in terms of understanding history of victimization and developmentally relevant prevention efforts, which is a major strength of this model. She articulated, in similar fashion to the OLCC approach, the understanding that individuals are likely to have complex and repeated histories of victimizations which broaden the scope of our efforts and help identify how to begin prevention work in early development. In addressing the multi-systemic prevention perspective, Dr. Miller-Graff highlighted the inclusion of multiple social ecological levels and systems throughout developmental epochs in the OLCC framework, which is consistent with contemporary theoretical work and literature. The multi-systemic prevention perspective provides a clear foundation for linking how efforts in different domains relate to one another, similarly to the OLCC approach, which links life events and life course trajectory.

Dr. Miller-Graff presented challenges and opportunities for attendees. She stated that a more explicit integration of social ecological theory might produce some additional refinement/parsimonious organization into core areas/axes for prevention across developmental epochs. Dr. Miller-Graff brought up the point, which Lucy Y. Steinitz had also articulated in her earlier remarks to the OLCC approach, that metatheories are difficult to work with in the theory of practice because it can become difficult to identify where to best direct efforts or where prevention may have the most impact. Dr. Miller-Graff suggested research grounded in resilience theory, along with careful monitoring and evaluation of initial prevention efforts which will likely provide important insights into the particularly important areas of this model.

*Dr. Robyn Miller*

Dr. Robyn Miller based her intervention on her research and work as a clinician in Australia. She remarked that the OLCC approach fits well with what she has learned and observed from working in child protection, where she worked with children and young people with experiences of violence and found they were more vulnerable to future exploitation. In her work at MacKillop Family Services, the agency has developed a project that adopts a public health approach to prevention with a particular focus on secondary prevention. The interventions developed for this project target risk factors and strengthen protective factors associated with domestic and family violence, harmful sexual behavior and child sexual exploitation in out-of-home care settings. This approach has similar targets and objectives to the OLCC approach and could perhaps be consulted upon for trafficking prevention efforts. Her slide outlining her approach is below (see page 14).

*Dr. Maryann Cusimano Love*

Dr. Maryann Cusimano Love framed her response in her research with conflict and displaced populations. Dr. Cusimano Love presented on the connection between human trafficking and conflict displacement. She shared that human trafficking is worse in warzones and displacement settings because all of the OLCC conditions become strained and worse which impacts life course trajectory. She conjectured climate change will be a new factor influencing human trafficking in years to come. Dr. Cusimano Love drew parallels between the OLCC preventative approach with work on inclusive security and just peace. She also addressed the need for, but challenge of, moving from a reactive approach to a preventative, strategic peacebuilding approach inclusive of the voices of trafficked women. In closing, Dr. Cusimano Love found the OLCC approach to be sound in theory, yet still challenging to institutionalize prevention.

*Dr. Meghan Clark*

Dr. Meghan Clark analyzed the OLCC approach through a Catholic Social Teaching lens, looking at the convergence and divergence between the two. Dr. Clark began by looking at the causes of human trafficking, with the first being the rejection of another's humanity but also "other causes" – the most common of these "other causes" being poverty, underdevelopment and exclusion, especially when those factors are combined with a lack of access to education or scarce employment opportunities. Dr. Clark saw similarities between Catholic Social Teaching and the OLCC approach because they both begin with an assumption of basic human rights and dignity. Dr. Clark delved into the multifaceted understanding of justice in the Catholic social tradition and looked at what it could contribute to the discussion of the OLCC approach.

# Breaking the cycle

Promoting safe and respectful relationships for children & young people in care

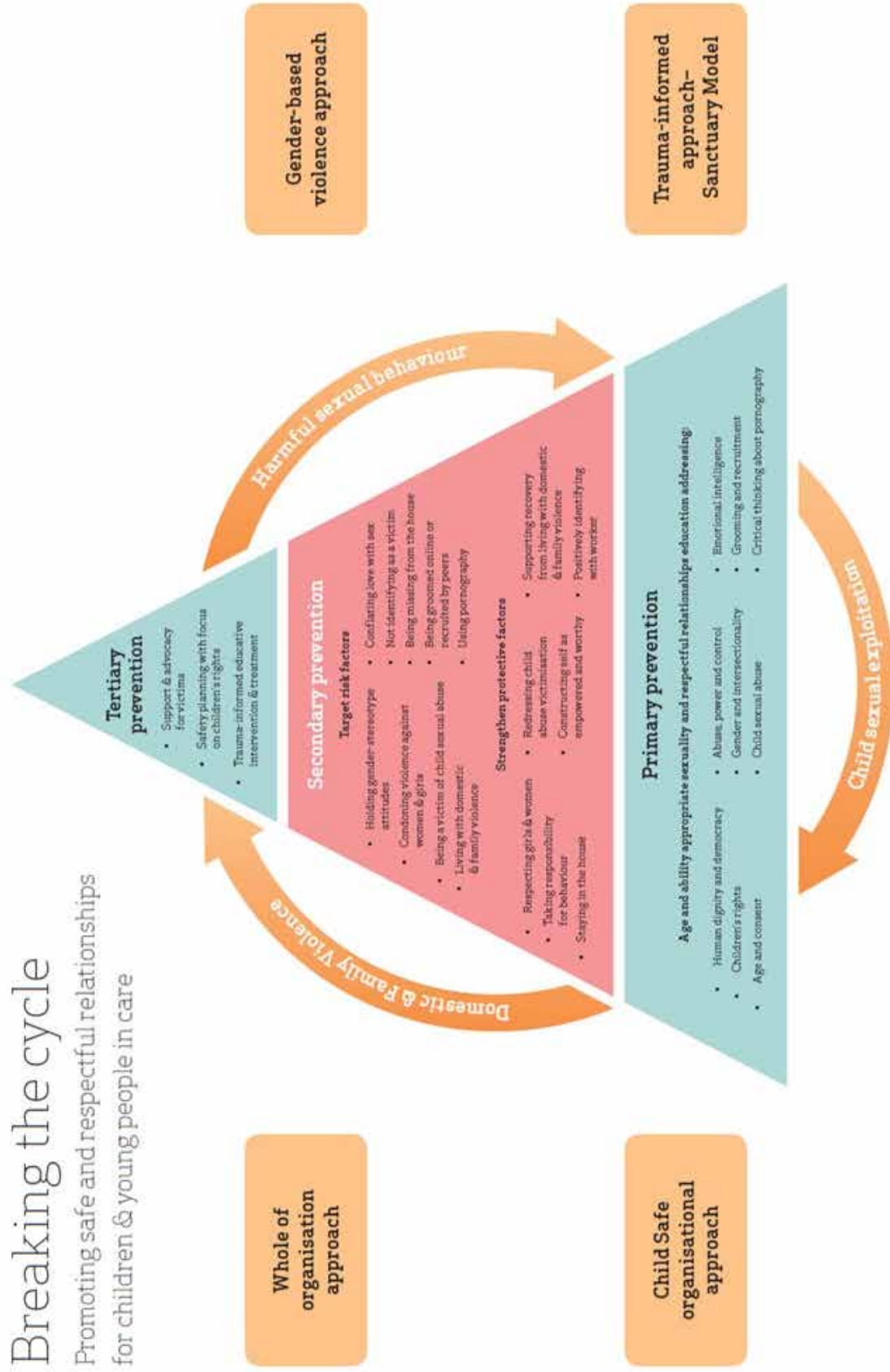


Figure 4 Miller: Promoting safe and respectable relationships

She reported the U.S. Catholic Bishops have reframed social justice as “justice as participation.” Dr. Clark argues that this creates a framework for justice as participation, which identifies the greatest injustice as excluding others in society. Dr. Clark sees this framework in line with the OLCC approach but also recognizes that it can help expand the broader ethical framework within which the OLCC approach operates. In looking at what might be missing from the OLCC approach, Dr. Clark recommended integrating intergenerational justice – with the aspiration that it could help frame this across time and space. To close her remarks, Dr. Clark made the poignant claim that the OLCC approach challenges Catholic Social Teaching because the OLCC approach addresses injustices where Catholic Social Teaching may have contributed or perpetuated to these views or societal standards, such as perceptions of women’s role within society.

### *Christine Cervenak*

Christine Cervenak was the last to share her remarks on the academic perspectives panel. Ms. Cervenak framed her response from two perspectives: Human Rights and the Human Development and Capabilities Approach. In applying the human rights perspective, Ms. Cervenak observed that the OLCCs and Human Rights approaches both agree that prevention needs to be the highest priority when it comes to human trafficking – with trafficking not only causing human rights violations but also a consequence of weak human rights. Ms. Cervenak shared that Dr. Reed worked with a graduate of the Center for Civil and Human Rights, Ryan Quan, to map core human rights onto the OLCC approach. His report identified a list of a dozen or so core human rights triggered by the OLCC approach and mapped the rights to the three clusters of the approach. Ms. Cervenak indicated that this mapping is essentially a human rights advocacy agenda for trafficking prevention utilizing the OLCC approach.

She believes that there would be strong traction for the OLCC approach among international human rights actors to strengthen current trafficking legislation and protocols. However, one challenge came to light from mapping human rights on the OLCC approach. The challenge is that not all OLCCs lend themselves to human rights norms. This led Ms. Cervenak to analyze the approach from the Human Development and Capabilities Approach (HDCA). The HDCA is a theory of social justice which enhances the human rights approach by connecting human rights and human dignity, asking what people are actually able to do and be. Ms. Cervenak found that the HDCA complements the human rights framework by responding to the concrete complexities of human life and human striving (which perhaps could address concerns over implementation of metatheories in practice). In closing, Ms. Cervenak proposed that utilizing the HDCA would “open the door to those who work on this approach to engage with the OLCCs.”

## Perspectives from the Field: CRS Experience with Trafficking Prevention

---

The panel on perspectives from the field consisted of CRS field staff who carry out CRS programming and education initiatives in the Western Balkans, Ecuador, India, Africa, and within the U.S. Catholic Church community domestically. Staff members were able to join in person, while two called in to share their experiences. The panelists shared their expertise and experience to enrich the discussion of a new or expanded CRS action-framework to prevent human trafficking.

### *Karen Janes Ungar*

Karen Janes Ungar presented her field perspective on anti-trafficking work in which CRS is currently involved in the Western Balkans. CRS' strategy in Southeast Europe has been to build the capacity of Caritas, civil society and local governments in Albania, Kosovo, Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina (B-H). In the Balkan region, CRS has conducted trainings on trafficking and improved coordination between key actors involved in counter-trafficking efforts. Ms. Janes highlighted that in evaluating effectiveness of projects, it depends on the willingness and availability of government officials. She has found in her experience that when there is active involvement of community support organizations, there has been better and more sustainable connection between the government and the community service organization sector. This is important in ensuring the sustainability of a project to counter trafficking when CRS ends their project period.

Ms. Janes has found challenges that exist in CRS' counter trafficking work. CRS' Integral Human Development Framework addresses the holistic approach to development and empowerment, but CRS counter-trafficking projects may focus on one or a few aspects of trafficking prevention. Ms. Janes explained that RFAs are often donor-driven and often focus on post- trafficking stages (protection, persecution). She recommends that CRS design a holistic strategy that is appropriate for each country. While counter-trafficking projects are designed specific to the context of each country, root causes may be somewhat universal. In formulating a new framework, Ms. Janes recommended that the elements of trafficking prevention be integrated with gender strategies and protection mainstreaming.



- J-TIP funded SUSTAIN Project, CRS trained teachers in 97% of BH's 291 secondary schools on trafficking prevention and trained social workers in 82% of the country's 125 social work centers to provide assistance to victims. (2008-2011)
- Caritas BiH has conducted trainings for youth, at risk youth, Roma NGO staff (train the trainers) about red flags and risks of trafficking.
- CRS in partnership with Caritas Albania implemented a 2 year project to improve collaboration among government and civil society stakeholders to strengthen government capacities to identify and refer victims of trafficking (VoT) and to conduct victim-centered (2014-2016)
- The project improved the coordination of key actors involved in counter-trafficking efforts in Albania and increasing the capacity of law enforcement and social service personnel to identify, screen, interview and refer VoT in accordance with Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)
- Cash based programming is gaining ground as a development strategy. If we can leverage this for economic empowerment programs for women could decrease vulnerabilities.

*Figure 5 Janes: Bright spots that might inform prevention initiatives*

### *Paola Moreno*

Paola Moreno provided her perspective on CRS programming in South America to combat trafficking, specifically on the borders of Colombia and Ecuador and Ecuador and Peru. Ms. Moreno explained in the wake of armed conflict in Colombia, on Ecuadorian territory, there are extractive industries which have intensified trafficking on Ecuador's northern and southern border areas. Ms. Moreno presented triggering factors for human trafficking that came from 205 interviews which were conducted as part of CRS' counter-trafficking work (this slide can be seen below, page 18). As in Dr. Reed's research, most survivors experienced intra-familial childhood abuse. Ms. Moreno made concrete recommendations on how CRS can improve protection efforts. First, she highlighted design and implementation policies, plans and programs to tackle the structural factors and rights violations that trigger trafficking, and the different forms of exploitation. Second, she addressed combating and changing values around forms of trafficking which have become normalized and the cultural practices, deemed acceptable, which give rise to trafficking.

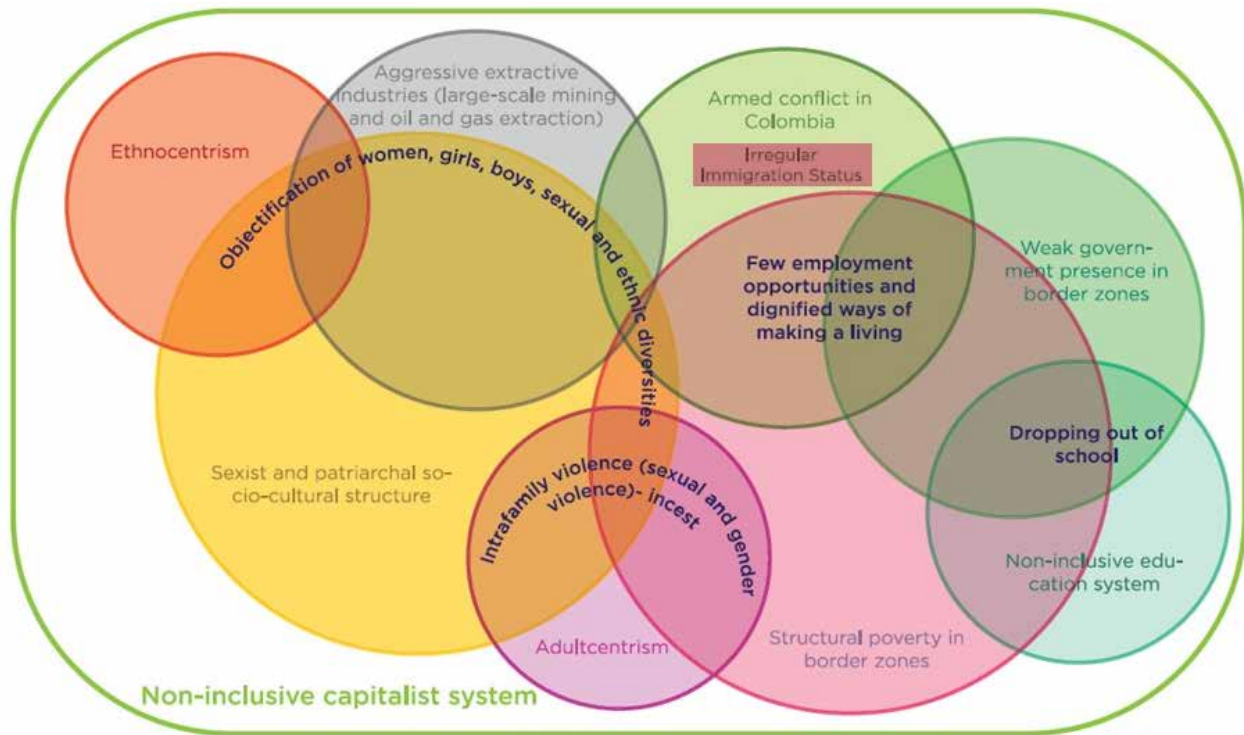


Figure 6 Moreno: Triggering factors for human trafficking

### Sanjana Das

Sanjana Das delivered insight and perspectives from CRS India’s work to combat trafficking. She highlighted two regions CRS is currently working in to combat human trafficking, Bihar and Orissa. Both regions are categorized as primary source states by UNODC with high levels of poverty and natural disasters. Ms. Das explained that CRS’ current work includes the reintegration of sex trafficking survivors in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. CRS has partnered with a local non-profit, Prajwala, to help rehabilitate survivors and reintegrate them into both states. Ms. Das presented two learning questions about push factors influencing trafficking: 1). Sending young women and children to work, and 2). Child marriage. Ms. Das posed sub-questions looking at what factors could be changed to stop these harmful practices and prevent trafficking. She closed her remarks by presenting bright spots from CRS India which may inform prevention initiatives. Ms. Das highlighted strengthening child protection committees at various levels, working in partnership with schools and governments, through school-focused interventions and livelihood support initiatives. These efforts have been successful in the field for CRS India.

### Jean Baptiste Talla

Jean Baptiste Talla grounded his perspective on CRS programming in Africa. He provided direct insights from his field experiences around key challenges CRS faces in combating trafficking

on the continent. First, Mr. Talla addressed sociocultural challenges. Mr. Talla spoke to harmful cultural beliefs and practices, as well as the notion of a culture of silence and avoidance of human rights violations, which allows trafficking to flourish. Some of these sociocultural challenges are channels to the manifestations of human trafficking, including child soldiers and child marriage, along with ignorance on human rights. Second, Mr. Talla presented on key economic challenges. He highlighted high levels of poverty and mismanagement of resources which have created push factors towards trafficking. Third, Mr. Talla discussed political challenges. Mr. Talla pointed out that most African countries have endorsed international and regional regulations, which have been translated into national plans of action to combat human trafficking, but there are weaknesses in implementing legal provisions.

Mr. Talla also observed that prosecutions of traffickers are not successful due to weak criminal justice systems. However, despite these challenges, Mr. Talla sees potential strategic paths to successful protection from human trafficking. He has seen increased concerted efforts in enforcing and monitoring endorsed regulations that defend life and human dignity. These efforts could fight the above mentioned conditions that create the groundwork for human trafficking. Secondly, Mr. Talla recommended expanding the CRS protection policy in targeting partners and beneficiaries to fight human trafficking. In closing, Mr. Talla recommended systematically integrating improvement of household living conditions in CRS protection projects to decrease poverty and unemployment.

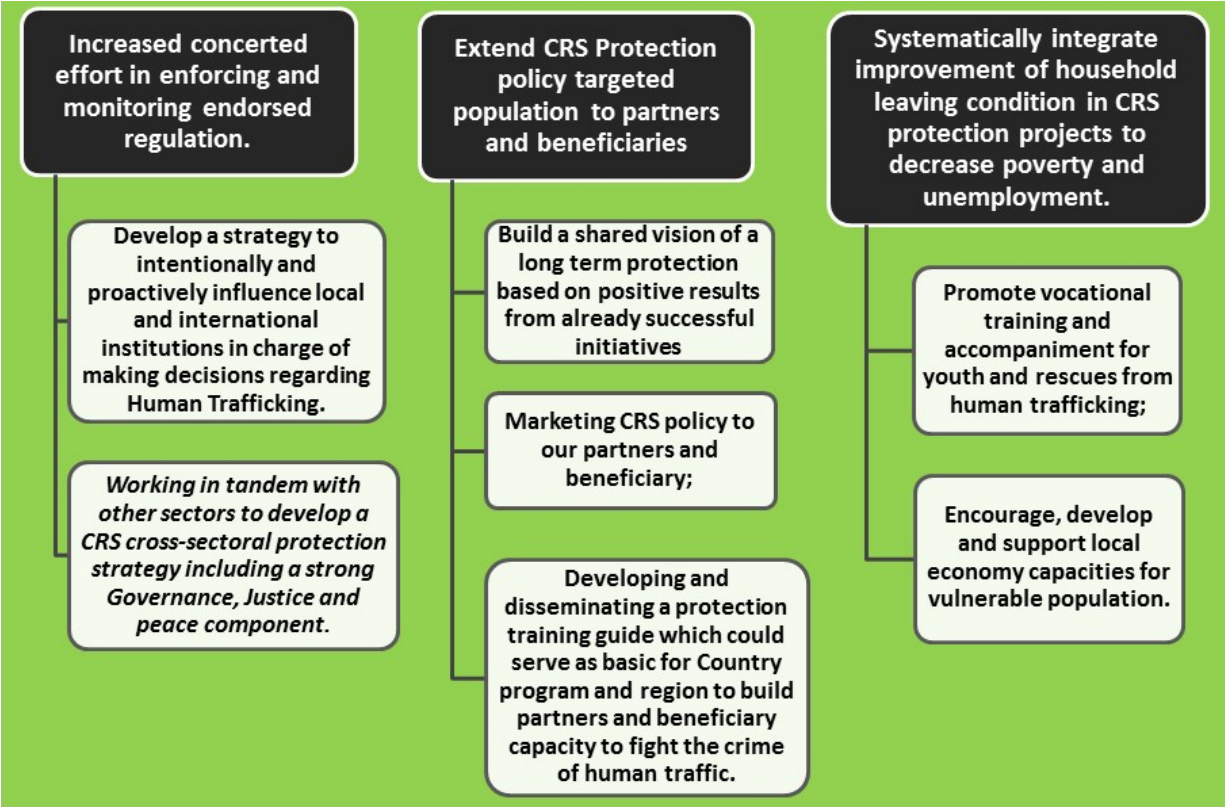


Figure 7 Talla: Potential strategic paths to increase CRS contribution to protection from human trafficking in Africa

## *Kim Lamberty*

Kim Lamberty provided the U.S. Catholic Church-based field perspective on human trafficking. As the Director of University and Mission Engagement, Dr. Lamberty is directly involved in connecting CRS' work and mission with CRS supporters in the United States. She drew upon her experience working in Haiti and explored CRS' connection to the international church community, which could influence CRS' role in combating human trafficking. Many countries CRS works in are tied to the Catholic Church, which gives CRS the ability to influence work on the ground across NGOs and governmental actors. On the U.S. side, Dr. Lamberty explained how she mobilizes CRS supporters through various CRS initiatives. For example, Dr. Lamberty leads advocacy efforts of university groups. Last year, these advocacy efforts led to over 7,000 letters being sent to members of congress by young people across the United States.

Dr. Lamberty also discussed her work in leading the [Faculty Learning Commons](#) initiative which creates a space for CRS program work to be highlighted, as well as educational materials on focus areas for the public. Dr. Lamberty is currently working with workshop organizers, Dr. Steinitz and Ms. Cervenak, to develop Faculty Learning Commons on human trafficking to be launched in fall 2018. Dr. Lamberty closed by asking the group how CRS might engage the U.S. Catholic Church community on the issue of trafficking, providing a bridge to the small group breakout session which followed.

## Recommendations and the Way Forward

---

The last session of the day was entitled “Brainstorming Session: Implications for Academia and Practice.” In small, diverse groups, participants were asked to generate ideas on provided questions, and also identify additional questions (and responses if possible) that should be considered in defining and implementing trafficking prevention initiatives. David Leege and Maureen Herman of Catholic Relief Services and Tom Purekal and Maura Policelli of the University of Notre Dame served as facilitators for the small groups. Participants’ discussion focused on potential partnerships and further research questions needed for CRS to develop a new trafficking prevention framework for its programming. The guiding questions for the groups were as follows: If CRS were to develop a new trafficking prevention framework, what partnerships might emerge around this initiative? What additional information or research is needed? What might different partners contribute to define, implement, and assess this framework over time?

All groups echoed the importance of a broad-based, comprehensive approach to preventing human trafficking that targets interventions to those who are deemed most vulnerable. But of course, no one agency can do this alone. The points below constitute a list of combined responses across all four groups.

1) Ideas for potential partnerships which arose from the small groups included religious networks, government donors, UN agencies, and universities. With workshop participation from academics, CRS staff (US and field based), NGOs and key governmental actors, there was a wide range of answers to address a range of areas of expertise from moral theology to those who provide direct services on the ground with survivors. The groups discussed who might be of consultation, who may be an ally and who may already have resources that would assist in the formulation of a new framework for CRS.

2) The groups discussed what additional information may be needed to better develop a prevention framework. The responses to this prompt led to questions of the conceptualization of prevention and how to best adapt prevention methods for local, singular contexts when creating a global framework. Several participants also speculated how to utilize big data either at the CRS level or from other organizations to better inform programming.

3) Participants considered what different partners could potentially contribute. Participants contemplated and proposed utilizing partnerships to gather existing frameworks, while also expanding resources, credibility and relationships with key actors and target communities. One participant highlighted the importance of partners with different backgrounds, as it is important to have both theoretical and applied research.

## For more information

---

This workshop was developed with two goals – first, to share academic research and real-life practices in order to build our understanding of the root causes of human trafficking and secondly, to begin formulating a prevention-and-response framework to combat trafficking worldwide and explore possible contributions from academia. With more than thirty participants from all over the world, from places such as Baltimore, Washington DC, India, Uganda, Cameroon, Ecuador, Lebanon, and Albania, the workshop began an important dialogue for CRS and other key counter trafficking actors in addressing prevention work. Catholic Relief Services will take discussions which arose from the workshop and begin the process of formulating a new comprehensive framework to prevent human trafficking for its programming.

Gratitude was extended by participants to Lucy Y. Steinitz of Catholic Relief Services and to Christine Cervenak of the Center for Civil and Human Rights at the University of Notre Dame for their initiative in bringing together a diverse group of participants to dialogue about a paradigm of trafficking not often explored. In turn, these Dr. Steinitz and Ms. Cervenak extended their thanks to the leadership of their respective organizations, as well as to the participants and presenters of the workshop who engaged in meaningful dialogue, which they hope will continue to energize the everyone present in combating human trafficking. Finally, special thanks (and a small presentation) was made to Elizabeth (Liz) Barry, CRS summer intern, whose hours of work and administrative attention to detail ensured that everything went forward without a hitch.

Please find the linked event website hosted by the Center for Civil and Human Rights which includes the video of the workshop, as well as additional resources, including the resource packet on human trafficking which was developed for this workshop: <https://humanrights.nd.edu/research/areas-of-research/human-trafficking/taking-a-step-back/>

If you would like to learn more about the work CRS does to combat human trafficking please visit <https://www.crs.org/get-involved/learn/slavery-and-human-trafficking>. To learn more about the Center for Civil and Human Rights please visit <http://humanrights.nd.edu>

## Addenda

## WORKSHOP AGENDA

8:00 – 8:30

Coffee and Registration  
Slide show (Trafficking in Peru)

8:30 – 9:00

Welcome and Introductions  
Short video on CRS' anti-trafficking work  
Lucy Steinitz, (CRS) and Christine Cervenak, (CCHR)

9:00 – 10:30

### **Main Session: Introduction to the Optimal Life Course Conditions (OLCCs) Approach**

*What is the OLCC Approach, and how does it relate to efforts underway to prevent human trafficking?*

*Dr. Angela Reed will present the OLCC approach, a preventative framework to reduce vulnerabilities to human trafficking. Invited responses and open discussion will follow, focused on deepening our understanding of the OLCC approach and of how it relates to current CRS and other trafficking prevention efforts.*

Welcome, Shannon Senefeld (CRS), (3 min)  
Introduction, Christine Cervenak, (CCHR), (5 min)  
Opening lecture, Dr. Angela Reed, (45 min)  
Response – CRS/Protection, Lucy Y. Steinitz (CRS), (5 min)  
Response – U.S. Department of State, Julie Short Echalar,  
*Office of Trafficking in Persons*, (5 min)  
Response – From the field, Sanjana Das from India via SKYPE (CRS), (5 min)  
Discussion and Q&A facilitated by Christine Cervenak (CCHR), (20 min)  
Closing, Shannon Senefeld (1 min)

10:30 – 11:00

Tea Break

11:00 – 12:15

### **Academic Perspectives: Applying a Variety of Disciplinary Lenses to the OLCCs**

*What insights emerge from interrogating the OLCC Approach through various academic lenses?  
As a theoretical framework, what are its strengths, weaknesses, promising innovations and*



*potential challenges?*

*Invited scholar/discussants will share their insights on the OLCC Approach, rooted in their specific disciplinary perspectives. Dr. Reed will have the opportunity to respond to these comments in dialogue with the discussants, then opening a conversation for all workshop participants.*

Welcome, Christine Cervenak (CCHR), (3 min)

Discussants (6 min each):

Dr. Laura Miller-Graff (*Psychology and Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame*)

Dr. Robyn Miller (*Social Work, Psychology and Family Therapy, MacKillop Family Services*)

Dr. Maryann Cusimano Love (*International Relations, conflict and displacement, The Catholic University of America*)

Dr. Meghan Clark (*Theology and Catholic Social Tradition, St. John's University*)

Christine Cervenak (*Human Development and Capabilities Approach, University of Notre Dame, CCHR*)

Response to discussants' comments: Dr. Angela Reed (Keynote Speaker), (15 min)

Discussion and Q&A, facilitated by Christine Cervenak (CCHR), (15 min)

Final remarks: Dr. Angela Reed, (5 min)

12:15 – 1:15

Lunch

1:15 – 2:45

### **Perspectives from the Field: CRS Experience with Trafficking Prevention**

*What are the challenges facing CRS in its trafficking prevention work? What are the bright spots that might inform prevention initiatives? What are the benefits and drawbacks of CRS formulating a new or updated trafficking prevention framework? If a new framework were to be developed, what might be the best process, key features, and strategy for advancement and integration into CRS operations?*

*During this session, selected CRS staff will bring their expertise and experience into the discussion of a new or expanded CRS action-framework to prevent human trafficking.*

Introduction by Aaron Chassy (CRS), moderator and introduction, (5 min)

Discussants (7 min each):

Karen Janes (CRS), *Western Balkans*

Paola Morena (CRS), *Ecuador/SAZ (CRS-SKYPE)*

Laura Groggel (CRS), *Central Africa Region (CRS-SKYPE)*

Sanjana Das (CRS), *India*

Jean Baptiste Talla (CRS), *Africa*

Kim Lamberty (CRS), *US Ops/University engagement*

Response, Dr. Angela Reed, (10 min)

Discussion and Q&A, facilitated by Aaron Chassy (CRS), (30 min)

2:45 – 3:15

Tea Break

3:15 – 4:30

### **Brainstorming Session: Implications for Academia and Practice**

*If CRS were to develop a new trafficking prevention framework, what partnerships might emerge around this initiative? What additional information or research is needed? What might different partners contribute to define, implement, and assess this framework over time?*

*In small, diverse groups, participants will be asked to generate ideas on these questions, and also identify additional questions (and responses if possible) that should be considered in defining and implementing trafficking prevention initiatives.*

Moderated by Chris Cervenak & Lucy Steinitz (CCHR and CRS)

Small group discussion (four groups, 45 min). Facilitators: Tom Purekal (UND), Maura Policelli (UND), David Leege (CRS), Maureen Herman (CRS)

Feedback to workshop, (3 min for each group's feedback)

Plenary discussion, (15 min)

Conclusion, (5 minutes)

4:30 – 5:00

Final Words and Thanks: Lucy Steinitz and Chris Cervenak (CRS and CCHR)

## Analytics of Facebook Live Stream of Morning Session

People reached on Facebook: 39,480

Live viewers: 109

Total Video Views: 10,718

Total video shares: 131

Total comments on the video: 78

Total “likes” on the video: 360

We reached out to the following organizations and networks and had a wide representation from many of these groups for the live stream.

- CRS worldwide
- USCCB
- Polaris
- Caritas Internationalis
- United Way Worldwide, Policy Coalition Against Human Trafficking
- The Human Trafficking Academy, St. Thomas University School of Law
- Faculty from the University of Dubuque
- The School Sisters of Notre Dame in Missouri
- The Blackburn Center in Greensburg, PA
- The Hospital Sisters of St. Francis in Illinois
- The North Central Kansas Community Network
- Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word in Houston, TX
- Dignity of Health Foundation
- TriState Coalition against Human Trafficking in Iowa
- Religious sisters in Australia and Canada
- Sisters of Mercy West Midwest Community
- Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters
- Daughters of Charity

