



UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND  
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

PARI: PREVENTION OF ADOLESCENT RISKS INITIATIVE



Prevention of Adolescent Risk Initiative

**PARI PERIODICAL**

#pursuingmeaningfulwork

January 2020

## January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month

*NO ONE IS  
TRULY FREE  
WHILE  
OTHERS ARE  
OPPRESSED.*



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By Megan Thomas, Communications  
Specialist for NSVRC

(<https://www.nsvrc.org/blogs/january-human-trafficking-awareness-month>)

During the month of January, advocates, organizations, and individuals unite to raise awareness about the issue of human trafficking. While movements like #MeToo have started to bring crimes like sexual harassment and sexual assault out of the shadows, human trafficking largely remains

hidden. Putting an end to human trafficking starts with acknowledging its existence.

Learn the facts about human trafficking by using the resources below so you can help shed light on the issue. By sharing what you learn and speaking up, you can join the movement to put an end to this exploitation.

### *What is human trafficking?*

According to the Department of Homeland Security, human trafficking is

“modern-day slavery and involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act.” Human trafficking is not the same as human smuggling, which involves illegal transportation of a person across a border.

Victims of human trafficking are of all genders, ages, races, countries, socioeconomic statuses, and so on. While human trafficking can happen to anyone, people who are already in vulnerable situations – such as people experiencing homelessness – may be more likely to be targeted.

### *What is sex trafficking?*

The different kinds of human trafficking include sex trafficking, forced labor, and domestic servitude. Sex trafficking victims may be forced, threatened, or manipulated by promises of love or affection to engage in sex acts for money. Any person under the age of 18 involved in a commercial sex act is considered a victim of human trafficking.

### *What can you do to get involved?*

Human trafficking is an issue that touches every community, including cities, suburbs, and rural towns, but there is something each of us can do to help prevent it.

The Department of Homeland Security’s Blue Campaign provides plenty of opportunities for individuals or organizations to raise awareness about human trafficking.

The Blue Campaign’s Tools That Teach are highly visual, easy-to-comprehend resources explaining what human trafficking is and what you can do to stop it. You can download and share posters, videos, and infographics from the Blue Campaign website for free. For more in-depth information, check out their additional resources, including awareness videos, trainings, cards, pamphlets, toolkits, and more.

You can also spread the word by participating in the second-annual #WearBlueDay on Thursday, January 11. Simply take a picture of yourself, your friends, your colleagues, or your family wearing blue and post it online using the hashtags #WearBlueDay and #WeWearBlueBecause. Don’t forget to include a statement about why you are participating.

If you want to ask the experts about how organizations and industries are working to end human trafficking, check out the Facebook Live panel discussion on January 17. And help the month go out on a high note by participating in a Thunderclap on January 31, raising your virtual voice along with countless others to spread the word about human trafficking.

***“No one is free when others are oppressed.”*** As our society becomes much more aware of many oppressive social structures and crimes, we must start to

acknowledge and address human trafficking as well. It may be hard to accept that this crime exists in our communities, but we have to share the knowledge that this is a reality for far too many victims in order to change that reality. Do your part this January: hang up a poster, share a video, snap a picture, and help bring human trafficking out of the shadows.



## Staff Updates



Caroline Harmon-Darrow, School of Social Work PhD Candidate and graduate research assistant with PARI, started on a new research assignment at the start of the 2019 Fall Semester. Caroline worked with the team for over two years to implement and co-train youth focused professionals. Caroline continues to work with the team on publications including her recent first author publication featuring data from a PARI project titled *"We are kind of their parents: Child welfare workers' perspective on sexuality education for foster youth"*

(<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0190740919306644>)



Amelia is leaving the School of Social Work as she has accepted the position of

Director of Research at UMD's SAFE Center. Amelia has been with PARI from the very beginning and has provided a vast wealth of knowledge and compassion to the work of human trafficking prevention. We have no doubt her indomitable spirit will be an asset to the SAFE Center. We wish her all the luck in the world and will miss seeing and working with her!



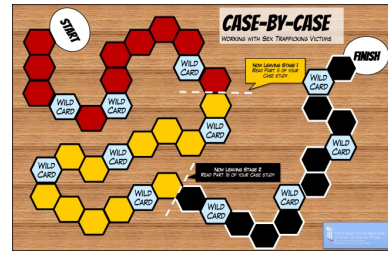
Rochon Steward is celebrating her 10 year anniversary with the University of Maryland School of Social Work. Rochon's work milestone was celebrated at a recognition reception on January 30th, 2020 at the School of Social Work where she received a service pin and certificate. Way to go Rochon!



# LOOK WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO



## Research Staff Sharon Henry and Amelia Rubenstein Featured in Webinar on Designing Human Trafficking Trainings



Sharon Henry, MS and Amelia Rubenstein, MSW, LCSW-C, with the Prevention of Adolescent Risks Initiative (PARI) at the Ruth Young Center, were featured presenters in a webinar held by RTI International on Wednesday October 16, 2019.

Ms. Henry and Ms. Rubenstein presented recommendations and lessons learned from creating a variety of training and e-learning products aimed at educating law enforcement, prosecutors, juvenile justice and child welfare professionals, and mental health providers on identifying and responding to victim of child labor and sex trafficking.



## Check Out Our New eLearning Unit

Working with Patients Experiencing Human Trafficking, an interactive online training for medical professional is available on PARI's webpage

(<https://www.ssw.umaryland.edu/pa-ri/resources/elearning-units/working-with-patients-experiencing-human-trafficking/>).

To access all of PARI's free educational tools including a variety of online trainings, Public Service Announcements, fact sheets, environmental scans, and all materials from our annual Child Trafficking Conferences, please visit <https://www.ssw.umaryland.edu/pa-ri/resources/>.

Thanks Sharon Henry and our partners at Healthy Teen Network for making these resources engaging and effective!

## PARI Funding

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) FY 16 Improving Outcomes grant was [\*extended for another year until 9/30/2020\*](#). This extension will allow PARI to finish out law enforcement trainings, develop new online trainings for judicial professionals, and continue development of multidisciplinary teams for human trafficking across the state.

PARI was also the recipient of [\*new OVC FY 19 funding for the Improving Outcomes for Child and Youth Victims of Human Trafficking grant\*](#). The goals of this \$1.178M grant include:

- Improving responses for child and youth victims of trafficking with a focus on coordination at the statewide level to create effective change across systems
- Identify the state's greatest barriers to locating and assisting child and youth victims of sex and labor trafficking and investigating and prosecuting these trafficking cases, as well as proposing a program to systematically address those barriers



## Healthy Teen Network Conference Wrap Up

The 40th annual national Healthy Teen Network conference was held in New Orleans, LA from 10/28/19-10/30/19. The focus of the 2019 conference was to start a sexual health revolution as on noted the conference website:

*"Shame, fear, and stigma in sexual health education, programs, policies, and services won't magically disappear. It's going to take a revolution!"*



At the conference, PARI's own Rochon Steward presented a poster titled "Operationalizing Recruitment Efforts for System Involved Youth and their Providers for Successful Outcomes for 'U Choose: PREP Program for Out-of-Home Youth'" with co-author Tonya Johnson from Baltimore City Health Department. The poster outlined the U Choose: PREP Model used with out-of-home youth. This model is composed of two components (1) youth training component using Power through Choices/Making Proud Choices, an evidence-based prevention model; and (2) adult component which is a one day adolescent reproductive training for youth providers such as foster parents and DHS/DJS professionals. The poster talked about preliminary data from an intervention study in 2018 with a mainly African American (85%) population consisting of mostly males (61%) ranging in ages from 14-21. The study found

that the overall mean score for attitudes about condoms decreased at follow up indicating more negative attitudes ( $p < .001$ ). However, the overall mean score for beliefs about condoms increased suggesting that youths' attitudes were better at follow-up ( $p = .1$ ). The main take away from the poster was the transient nature of the population which as lack of retention was a major limitation and may have impacted results with only 20% of the sample captured for follow-up ( $n = 65$ ).

At the conference the PARI team also had an exhibit table highlighting demos for the e-learning units and an example of the youth engagement game used in the child welfare trainings through CSTVI.



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## Thoughts from our Director

Happy New Year and thank you for being a part of our network to prevent adolescent risk behaviors. We here at PARI are looking forward to the future in 2020 and beyond. Over the past year, we have worked tirelessly with many of you to insure that we support children and youth throughout the state of Maryland and the mid-Atlantic region. We are looking to share some of our work nationally as well as expand internationally.

January is Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Month. It is a time to pledge our solidarity with victims of human trafficking and raise awareness about, and work to end, this insidious crime. During this month, we will be participating in events and disseminating information about human trafficking both in person and on social media. We invite you to participate by supporting our events in person and signal boosting online. Follow and use the hashtag #EndChildTraffickingMD so that we

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can all work together to be a unified voice to combat trafficking.

