

APRIL 2025 LUNCH & LEARN WEBINAR SERIES

Join us **every Friday in April at noon** for a new **Lunch & Learn Webinar Series** on **advanced topics in human trafficking**. Experts from around the country will share critical insights on emerging issues along with strategies and solutions in the fight against trafficking. Geared for advocates, mental health specialists, educators, and other professionals, the sessions are free but require advance registration.

APRIL 4

Invisible Chains: Understanding and Combatting Familial Trafficking of Boys

Judge Robert Lung, 23rd Judicial District of Colorado
Russell G. Wilson, Academic-Researcher-Trainer-Motivational Speaker

APRIL 11

Complex Trauma and Addiction: A Survivor's Story of Childhood Exploitation and Adult Human Trafficking

Maria Tell, *A Courageous Rose*

APRIL 18

Sextortion: A Call To Action

Tim and Tamia Woods, *Do It For James Foundation*
Kathryn Rifenbark, *National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC)*

APRIL 25

Understanding Ritual Abuse and Mind Control

Chelsea Van Essen, *Logos Healing Institute*

April 2025: Fridays, from 12:00 – 1:30 PM (EST)



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



Full session
descriptions and
speaker bios:

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APRIL 2025 LUNCH & LEARN WEBINAR SERIES

SESSION 1: FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 12:00 – 1:30 PM (EST)

Invisible Chains: Understanding and Combatting Familial Trafficking of Boys

This comprehensive training equips professionals with the tools to recognize, respond to, and prevent familial trafficking of boys. Traffickers exploit family ties to control boys for labor or sexual purposes, often using manipulation, coercion, and emotional control. Participants will learn to identify risk factors, behavioral indicators, and the complex power dynamics in family-based trafficking involving boys. With a trauma-informed, survivor-centered approach, the training integrates real-life examples and survivor insights to provide practical strategies to support young male victims and prevent exploitation.



Russell G. Wilson



Russell G. Wilson is an academic, researcher, trainer, motivational speaker, and lover of life. He refuses to be defined by the sexual abuse and trauma he experienced as a child, but rather embraces those experiences as a lens by which to view the world, a place he sees filled with hope, opportunity and possibility. Russell graduated from the University of California, Berkeley in 2016, with a degree in Anthropology and South & Southeast Asian Studies. His first research project in Cambodia looked at the factors of resiliency for male survivors of commercial sexual exploitation, research that continued in Indonesia after graduation. As a National Human Trafficking Training and Assistance Center Human Trafficking Leadership Academy Fellow, Russell worked with a team of anti-trafficking experts from across disciplines to formalize the federal definition of what it means to be "Survivor-Informed" for federally funded programs. Russell's extensive time living and traveling throughout South and Southeast Asia has given him a deep understanding of these cultures as well as knowledge of the systemic mechanisms of human trafficking in these countries. It is through these experiences Russell brings authenticity and passion to his research and his life.



Judge Robert Lung

Judge Robert Lung presents nationally and internationally on human trafficking, childhood trauma and resiliency to diverse audiences including those in the military, health care, education, law enforcement, mental health, faith-based organizations and various judiciaries around the globe. Beginning in 2016, he has served on the Colorado Human Trafficking Council, the National Advisory Council on the Sex Trafficking of Children and Youth, and the U.S. Advisory Council on Human Trafficking. In 2021 he served as an Adjunct Professor at St. Thomas University College of Law and taught Human Rights Lawyering. In 2023 he had the honor of testifying before the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Accountability regarding the passage of federal anti-trafficking laws. He also serves as a consultant with Office for Victims of Crime under the U.S. Department of Justice, the Office on Trafficking in Persons under the U.S. Administration for Children and Families, the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons under the U.S. State Department, the Blue Campaign under the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and NCMEC. In his "free time" he works on writing his first book and he endeavors to keep up with his two adopted sons in hiking and downhill mountain biking.

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SESSION 2: FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 12:00 – 1:30 PM (EST)

Complex Trauma and Addiction: A Survivor's Story of Childhood Exploitation and Adult Human Trafficking

This session will provide in-depth, real-life stories and experiences demonstrating how commercial sexual exploitation in early childhood (CSEC) can normalize abusive relationships and, without critical identification or intervention, often lead to ongoing exploitation in adulthood. Join Maria as she reveals her own journey through the recruitment, grooming, manipulation, and abuse she experienced, her barriers to self-identification, and her powerful testimony about interactions with law enforcement, healthcare workers, and community members who overlooked indicators of her victimization. She will discuss the role of implicit bias on a victim's identification, and how complex-PTSD impacts a victim's disclosure and cooperation with first responders or other helping professionals.



Maria Tell

Maria Tell is a Fort Collins native and a graduate of The University of Colorado Denver with a bachelor's in criminal justice. She is working on completing her master's in criminal justice. She continually supports undercover sex trafficking operations with The Department of Homeland Security and local law enforcement, and conducts trainings and presentations throughout the state of Colorado for various entities, organizations and professionals. Maria is a survivor of human trafficking, satanic ritual abuse (SRA) and commercial sexual exploitation (CSE). Maria also has personal lived experience regarding the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC), specifically familial trafficking. She felt compelled to join the anti-trafficking movement in 2021 after escaping her trafficker in 2020 and later founded A Courageous Rose in 2023, a faith-based, anti-trafficking organization that walks alongside trafficking victims and survivors, helping them to reclaim their power and rebuild their lives.



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SESSION 3: FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 12:00 – 1:30 PM (EST)

Sextortion: A Call To Action

Sextortion has been increasing at an alarming rate, often with misunderstood motives, delayed responses, and fatal consequences in the lives of child victims. This session will provide the perspectives of surviving caregivers whose lives have been forever impacted by the emergence of this crime. These caregivers have turned their tragedy into advocacy efforts to change the landscape of how we view online crimes and our responses. Tim and Tamia Woods, along with The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, will discuss the challenges of sextortion cases, law enforcement and tech responses, all in an effort to honor their child's experience and enhance the capacity of professionals to identify and respond to sextortion cases.



Tamia and Timothy Woods



On November 19, 2022 **Tamia and Timothy Woods** lost their only child. James Timothy Woods was an innocent 17-year-old high school student that fell victim to cybercrime and lost his life in the process. In a short period of time since James' passing, The Woods started a foundation in his name with the focus of informing and teaching anyone who would listen about this relatively new evil that is attacking our youth today. To date they have already engaged in over 250 activities to help spread awareness on sextortion including three documentaries with one on HULU, multiple news interviews including CBS Evening News, Dr. Phil Primetime and ABC News Nightline. They were on the front page of USA Today and have spoken at middle and high schools and a variety of other venues. They have teamed up with 13 states and seven countries to date to raise awareness as well. Their Do It for James Foundation created a Sextortion Tip Card to help children and trustworthy adults navigate through tough times if they are ever in the same or similar predicament as James. They have also sponsored track and cross-country students in Ohio and Tennessee and also the Streetsboro Bowling Team. Have had two annual walk/run days of fun with the ability to give away \$22,500 in scholarships. Timothy and Tamia have received many awards and recognitions since the formation of their foundation in honor of James, and are honored to be consultants for National Center of Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC).



Kathryn Rifenburg

Kathryn Rifenburg is the Director for CyberTipline, Public Reports, in the Exploited Children Division (ECD) at the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC), where she has worked for over 14 years. Kathryn is responsible for overseeing day-to-day operations of NCMEC's CyberTipline, the reporting mechanism within the U.S. for suspected online child sexual exploitation, with a concentration on its response to reports received from members of the public. In addition, she manages NCMEC's programs to notify companies of hosted Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM), to reduce revictimization of survivors. Kathryn helped spearhead NCMEC's efforts to improve resources for the reporting of child sexual abuse material and continues that work today by liaising with law enforcement, victim service providers, and child serving professionals.



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SESSION 4: FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 12:00 – 1:30 PM (EST)

Understanding Ritual Abuse and Mind Control

This session explores the unique nature of ritual abuse and mind control, highlighting how these forms of exploitation differ from other types of human trafficking in both their essence and the pathways to healing. Participants will gain an understanding of the distinct dynamics and complexities of ritual abuse, including its psychological, spiritual, and relational impacts on survivors. The session will also examine the overlapping areas between ritual abuse and human trafficking, emphasizing the importance of increasing awareness within the anti-trafficking field. Attendees will learn key considerations and strategies for supporting survivors of ritual abuse, fostering deeper understanding and more effective approaches to healing for this population. This presentation is essential for professionals and advocates seeking to expand their knowledge and skills in addressing the specialized needs of survivors.



Chelsea Van Essen

Chelsea Van Essen is a passionate social justice advocate, lifelong adventurer, and trauma-focused therapist with nearly a decade of clinical experience. As the Co-Founder and Clinical Director of the Logos Healing Institute, Chelsea integrates her extensive training in trauma-informed modalities with her expertise in attachment, interpersonal neurobiology, and experiential therapy. Chelsea has worked extensively with survivors of human trafficking, satanic ritual abuse, and complex trauma, including those impacted by disorganized attachment and dissociation. She has led wilderness therapy programs and multi-day intensives that uniquely blend nature-based experiences with clinical techniques, fostering deep healing. In addition, Chelsea supervises and trains clinicians, sharing her expertise to advance the field of trauma recovery.



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