

Statement of Concern

- Whereas, human trafficking is a worldwide human rights violation that involves the use of force, fraud, deception, harboring, transferring and/or coercion to exploit other human beings to participate in some type of labor including slavery, sexual activity or harvesting of organs (3, 7, 8, 10, 14). Globalization and migration of people contributes to the complexity of human trafficking (8, 14).
- Whereas, victims of human trafficking are of all genders, ages, races, religions, socio-economic backgrounds, and locations in the world (2, 4, 11). “In 2016, the International Labor Organization announced that there were approximately 40.3 million victims of human trafficking worldwide, with 4.8 million enslaved for sexual exploitation and 15.4 million in forced marriages” (13, p. 183).
- Whereas, National Human Trafficking Hotline reports these percentages; 91% Sex, 14% both Sex and Labor, 11% Labor and 4% Non-Specified, for the types of Human Trafficking in America (3).
- Whereas, New Jersey is a main corridor state in the northeast of the United States of America thereby facilitating enticement and transporting victims of human trafficking (9).
- Whereas there are multiple risk factors that contribute to both children and adults to fall victim of human trafficking (3, 4, 10, 13).
- Whereas, 87% of trafficking victims are not recognized as victims during their encounter with healthcare provider. Victims have difficulty speaking openly of their entrapment to the healthcare providers (12).
- Whereas, human trafficking could be caused by substance abuse or be a cause of substance abuse among the perpetrators and victims of human trafficking (6).
- Whereas, victims of human trafficking are identified to have mental health issues resulting in substance or alcohol abuse as a coping mechanism for sexual exploitation or forced labor (5).
- Whereas, the New Jersey State Nurses Association stands in full opposition to all aspects of human trafficking.
- Whereas, the American Nurses Association passed a similar resolution at its 2016 Membership Assembly (2).

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Resolutions

- Resolved that the New Jersey State Nurses Association (NJSNA) stands united as a profession to provide comprehensive emergent and long-term nursing interventions to all victims of human trafficking. (1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 12, 13).
- Resolved that the NJSNA will promote continuing education for all nurses in identification and provision of nursing interventions in the care of victims of human trafficking (1, 2, 6, 12, 13).
- Resolved that the NJSNA will partner and collaborate with law enforcement, forensic investigators, medical, psychological, rehabilitation, social work disciplines and the State Department of Health for providing a continuum health care to all to victims of human trafficking (3, 4, 5, 6, 11).
- Fiscal impact to NJSNA: Incorporate health care issues related to human trafficking into NJSNA lobbying and marketing budget.

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