**Indiana State-Trafficking Alliance FAQ**

**Mission:**  Join Indiana Sex-Trafficking Alliance today to eradicate the problem of sex-trafficking.  We are a non-profit group who partners with Law Enforcement, Child Protective Services, and the Julian Center to  provide (1) support groups for victims and families (2) training in detection of human trafficking, (3) victim advocacy through sharing of media and fundraising information, and (4) resources for victims and families.

**Vision:**  The vision of Indiana Sex-Trafficking Alliance is actioned through an advocacy group who meets online monthly and focuses on providing training to support victims and families, fundraising, and resources in an effort to help victims reconnect to their families.  We are committed to collaborating with community organizations and establishing guidelines for detecting, protecting, and preventing sex-trafficking in the future.

**Goals and Objectives:**

The overall goal of our group is to end human trafficking by advocating for victims and spreading awareness as stated in our vision and mission.  Our group will do this by hosting monthly online meetings, providing services to victims and the community, and by educating the community via trainings on human trafficking, warning signs, and preventive measures, etc.

A goal of ISTA is also to hopefully allow more sex trafficking victims to feel safe and comfortable to come forward to ask for help and services to escape their lifestyle by normalizing their experiences.  The hope is this will increase the accuracy of reported statistics, at least within Indiana, of those experiencing sex trafficking.

Another goal is that victims of sex trafficking will at least have the option to choose whether they want help or services or not and if so, know where they can be supported and guided to do so.

**Roles of Group Members**: All group members monitor the ISTA page for appropriate posts and new members ensuring content is aligned with our vision, mission and values as well.

**Structure for Meetings:**The groups monthly meetings would focus on educating the community and promoting our services.  It would be nice to start an online support group for victims. No matter what type of meeting, introductions, group rules, and discussions should be implemented.

Another idea for group meetings is to collaborate with those who work directly with victims such as law enforcement, DCS, victim advocacy services, and social workers.  These meetings would be hosted by ISTA via Zoom or Skype and provide synchronous communication with scheduled days and times each month. Sharing of ideas and concerns for victims without disclosing any identifying information could be a valuable resource for these various agencies to work with each other on to improve services offered and how to handle these difficult situations.

**Online Platform for Meetings:**  For monthly meetings, our platform would be video or audio conferencing, such as Zoom or Skype.  This platform allows speakers and viewers to connect and have discussion. Many people like having visuals, which allows both viewer and speaker to have visuals.  If audio conferencing were available, it may make viewers feel more comfortable in participating and signing on for meetings/trainings; but could still allow the speaker to be on video and provide visuals.  As far as other platforms, social media would be utilized to connect to the community, promote meetings, and spread awareness and advocacy.

**Services Provided:** We provide online monthly meetings for the group to convene and discuss current and past issues on sex trafficking in Indiana.  This is used as a catalyst for conversation and understanding the problem of sex trafficking is pervasive and non-discriminatory as it affects every population.  Members are able to bounce ideas and suggestions off one another for what has and has not worked in the past with sex trafficking victims. Resources are provided for those in need, whether it be family members/friends (loved ones), law enforcement, DCS, or other social workers. Periodic (quarterly) trainings are also provided for the topic of sex trafficking with suggestions from community partners and agencies for what is most pertinent and helpful to them based on what they are dealing with most often.

**Social Media**: Creating a social media presence is important in spreading awareness, advocacy efforts, educating the community, and promoting our group and services.  This would be done by sharing our online meeting events on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, blogs, etc. Visuals are also important in getting online attention; thus, creating flyers, sharing facts/statistics, and other information on an eye-catching visual would be key.

Social media outlets would include the creation of a Facebook page, an Instagram account, and a Twitter handle to reach as many people as possible for access to information and resources to end sex trafficking and help victims reach out as needed in various ways.

**Technology Support**: All group members are equipped to handle minor technology glitches and enhancements but can bring in outside support as needed for any work beyond our capabilities.