



R.I.G.H.T.S. F.M.

Resource Guide for Service Providers

Part A: SECTION II

Role Playing and Initiating Dialogue

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SOUTH ASIAN WOMEN'S CENTRE

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THE STORY OF STREE

Guideline

The Story of Stree is an interactive play meant to help you discuss ideas around Human Trafficking and Forced Marriage (HT&FM). The play is a tool to assist facilitators and participants in creating dialogue around HT&FM. The play was developed by drawing upon the experiences and stories shared by survivors. The aim of the play is to challenge the commonly understood notions of choice and force, and to illustrate that there are many different forms of force.

The script was written using a minimum number of characters (3 "actors") playing multiple roles. This was done so that facilitators will not be burdened with finding a big cast. However, the play can be adapted for a larger group of actors depending on the facilitators. At the end of each scene, there are 2-3 questions to pose to the audience in order to engage them with the themes in the play.

Scene I

Raj's mom is talking to Raj's aunt/sister in law while having tea

Raj's Aunt: I think it is time that Raj settles down

Raj's Mom: yes, I agree, I need to find him a proper girl. You don't know, Didi, every morning; I wake up, my heart pounding, thinking he is going to bring home some Canadian girl... who will not know our ways.

Raj's Aunt: yes, Bhabi, you are right. These Canadian ways, you never know. You know Mr. Siva, nice man, he gave his daughters everything, a new life in this country and how do they pay him back! Thirty and NOT married, running around with these Canadians friends... that poor man, cannot go anywhere... But you know what, I have this friend back in India, his daughter – beautiful, educated girl- is of marriable age. We should talk to him. Nice man, good family. I know that the family is looking to leave and settle in a safe place. You know they are Rao's. The father owns factories all over.

Raj's Mom: Yes, Didi, I agree. Why don't you call Mr. Rao and give him Raj's details.

QUESTIONS:

1. What are your insights about the play so far?
2. Does this conversation feel "safe"?

Scene II

Stree's home – dinner table conversation

Stree's Mom (SM) (talking to the dad): Sonu, Stree's papa...I received a nice call from Canada today. Mrs. Khanna called to say hi. You know she has a very accomplished nephew; he is working for a bank, very popular she tells me. His bosses love him.

Stree's Dad (SD): a banker?

S M: ohh yes! And she was asking about Stree and she was very impressed with our daughter.

SD: of course our Stree is so lovable we raised her right

Stree: hi Appa hi Amma!!!

HELLO BETA

SM: Listen Stree, we have wonderful news for you. You know Mrs. Khanna

Stree: who??

SM: Mrs. Khanna.....she used to live right across the street for 10 yrs and they went off to Canada.

Stree: ohh yaa, I remember, so what with Mrs. Khanna? Why did she call??

SM: darling.... She just called to say hi and she was telling about how good life is in Canada....her daughters have had such good opportunities there. Her nephew is a banker in Toronto. Poor boy works so hard and has no one to take care of...

Stree: maa why r u feeling so sad for him.

SM: sweetheart what I am trying to say is a nice boy like him deserves a nice girl like you....

Stree: Ammaaaaaa

SD: what's wrong in that Stree; everyone has to get married one day. And Raj is a nice boy from Canada so why not now???

SM: yess!! And Mrs. Khanna was telling me that once you go there you could always sponsor your younger sister and us. It would be so good for your sister and dad... he will stop worrying about you girls, once you are in Canada, you will be safe. And it is not like you will be alone, we will join you later; Mrs. Khanna said that Raj and his family will help... All they are expecting is a bit of monetary help you call us to Canada.

Stree: let me think about it...

PARENTS: don't take too long, we don't want to insult Mrs. Khanna

QUESTIONS:

3. Do you feel that there is coercion in this conversation?
4. How would you define the term force?
 - a. What are the types of force?
 - b. Does it need to be overt?
5. How do you define choice?
6. In this situation do you feel that Stree has a choice?

Scene III

Stree calls her childhood friend Meera to discuss the proposal

Tring tring....tring tring

Meera: hello!

Stree: Hi Meera, Are you free for a minute; I wanna discuss something very important with you.

Meera: yup, tell me...

Stree: well my parents have found this amazing guy settles in Toronto and they want me to get married to him next month.

Meera: WHAT???

Stree: I know this is very soon, but think about it Meera.....life in Canada...so much fun...freedom....possibilities...I can go out whenever I want...not have to worry.....I can cut my hair the way I want it...I can wear short skirts...I can finally have a career...I can have Canadian food...I can meet different people...

Meera: break...break...break.....

Stree: so seriously think about it, life would be so good in Canada and I get to its not that I don't have any skills. I have my MBA. I should be able to find a job easily. Don't you think so??

Meera: I am not too sure, my cousin was married in Vancouver last year and she is having a hard time settling there. Think twice before you decide on this...

Stree: But that's Vancouver, Raj is in Toronto and he works in a popular bank, so he can help me settle. In a way it will be good for my parents, if I agree to this alliance. I

know they are worried about me and my sister's future. After my marriage I can sponsor my parents and sister.

Meera: hmm, make sure you are doing this for you and not them...

Stree: Of course, I am doing it for me... I mean really Meera, I know that I am getting old and if I turn this down where will that leave me?

Meera: Come on Stree, things are changing now and you are an independent settled woman.

Stree: My dad, he is getting old, I know it would be a peace of mind for him to have all of us settle somewhere safe and sound. I can't really say no, with no reason...he is a good guy. I know my parents would be worried about what the community would say about me and where would I be without my family's support? This is the best choice for me, but still I need your support in deciding if I am doing the right thing

Meera: I think you have already decided

Stree: It makes sense, Meera. Doesn't it make sense? I need you to tell me that.....

Meera: FINE..... It does

QUESTIONS:

7. What does Stree's conversation with Meera tell you?
8. Looking back on the conversation, what do you think Stree's choices are?

Scene IV

Stree has been in Canada for a few months and come to realize that not everything is as she was promised. In one of her safer moments, Stree is able to type an email to Meera, her childhood friend in India.

"Dear Meera,

I don't know who else to turn to, you are the one who knows me best. I should have listened to you months ago when we were discussing Raj. (pause)

Things are not the same that I expected them to be. I am more dependent on his family than before. The day I landed in Toronto, my husband took away my papers and certificates. Whenever I ask for them he gets angry and would storm out of the house. Then, his parents would come in and ask if I don't trust them? They are constantly asking me is this how my parents raised their daughter, not to trust her in-laws, who think of her as their own child? I feel so bad then, they have brought me to this country, but ... I think that he doesn't want me to leave the house and be an independent woman. I feel so depressed and lonely because they don't let me socialize and talk to anyone outside the family.

Whenever I call my parents, you know what, they just talk about moving to Canada and I can't even explain my situation to them. My in-laws are always listening on the other phone. I am not sure what Raj and his parents tell my family when they talk... One time, my dad actually asked me why I am being difficult with them. Once, I asked Raj's parents about sponsoring my family, they got upset and asked if I no longer wanted help sponsoring my parents... I got so scared. Coming to Canada is what my family is looking forward to. My sister and mom always talk about the

amazing things to see and do here. I feel I gave up my freedom for my family's safe passage. I FEEL SO USED. (sobs)

Even if I wanted to leave I have no money. All my jewellery and money I brought with me was taken from me by Raj's parents. They make me work the whole day, I am nothing more than a servant here, but no... a servant is better, at least they get paid. But really leaving is nothing but a dream, because of my family honour.

QUESTIONS:

9. If you were Meera, what advice would you give to Stree?
10. List the ways that Raj's family is controlling Stree?
11. How would you write the ending to Stree's story?
12. Where in your neighbourhood would Stree be able to go to get help?

The last question is a good way to judge the audience's knowledge of services and supports in the community

INDICATORS WORKSHEET

The worksheet below will help you identify and screen clients. Through this exercise, you should be able to develop a set of questions and self-tests to help with case management and assist you in determining the needs of victims of FMHT.

INDICATORS	FMHT YES	NO
Have the client's travel and identity documents been taken?		
Is the client in a situation of forced servitude?		
Was the client promised a better life in Canada and now is forced to engage in some other job to earn money?		
Is the client prohibited from saving or transferring their earnings?		
Does the client report a dowry or any exchange of favours during the marriage?		
Does the client show signs of depression?		
Has the client been harmed or deprived of food, water, sleep, medical care or other life necessities?		
Has the client been forced to perform sexual acts?		
Has the client's freedom of movement been taken away?		
Has the client's ability to contact family or friends been restricted?		
Has the client been threatened with deportation or law enforcement action?		

Has the client or client's family been threatened with physical harm or societal shaming if the client attempts to escape or report her/their circumstances?		
Was the client coerced into getting married?		
Is the client unable to give any details about their working conditions and/or pay?		
Does the client need to ask permission before they are able to do anything and/or exhibit a high level of fear when they are not able to check in with their husband or his family?		
Does the client display signs of verbal, physical and/or emotional abuse?		
Has the client's access to their money been taken away?		

SCENARIOS

As Service Providers and front line staff, you will be the first point of contact for survivors of FMHT. Thus, it is crucial that you are able to assess the needs of clients and refer them to appropriate services. Using the scenarios below, determine the best referral and action plan for each survivor. Each scenario illustrates an example of Human Trafficking, Forced Marriage, or Forced Marriage AND Human Trafficking. It is important as service providers to be able to distinguish between the indicators of FM and HT.

Scenario 1

Sonu is an 18 year old Sri Lankan girl from Toronto, whose family arrived as refugees. She has just graduated from high school, and as a gift her parents have taken her to visit her family in Sri Lanka. While there, her father announces that he has arranged her marriage to their long time neighbour and friend's son, Raj. Sonu has met Raj on previous visits, and though he seems like a nice person, she is not sure she wants to marry at this point in her life. Her father tells her that the wedding date has already been set and invitations have been sent. If Sonu does not get married, she will be causing embarrassment to her family, and ruining their reputation. Sonu's mother tells her that it is her duty as the daughter of their family, and if she does not do this, then she obviously does not want to be their daughter.

1. Is this an example of Human Trafficking? Forced Marriage? Forced Marriage and Human Trafficking?
2. What are the indicators in Sonu's situation?
3. How would you assist Sonu?

Scenario 2

Geetha is from a poor family in Asia and has been desperately seeking to find a way to support her mother, father, and siblings. Although she is only 14 years old, Geetha has stopped attending school and works at one of the local stores. One day, a distant aunt calls on the family and says she is able to help them and give Geetha a better life as a housemaid abroad, where she will be able to make enough money to support the family. Geetha's family agrees, and after the aunt provides them with some money to help cover the loss of Geetha's wages, she takes Geetha. The trip is done under the cover of night, and through many different ports and locations.

Geetha is told to make sure that she does not talk to anyone and is threatened with a beating if she does. Eventually, Geetha is brought to a house, where she is told that she has to work off the debt incurred on her behalf as a prostitute before she can earn her own money. Geetha is told that she has to service 5-6 clients a day and is severely beaten if she does not. Geetha would like to escape but she has no idea where she is and is always under surveillance. Geetha has also been told that if she runs away, her family will learn about what she has been doing and/or that they will take her younger sisters and brothers in her place.

1. Is this an example of Human Trafficking? Forced Marriage? Forced Marriage and Human Trafficking?
2. What are the indicators in Geetha's situation?
3. How would you assist Geetha?

Scenario 3

Chandra is 21 and from a rural community in India. She was married to a prominent business (restaurant) owner in Canada named Jamu when she was 17. The marriage was arranged through a friend of their families. Chandra was never asked if she wanted to marry or if she wanted to marry Jamu. Her parents saw Jamu as a way out of their situation in India, and agreed to the marriage. Chandra has left behind an aging father and mother as well as a 16 year old sister, all of whom hope to join her in Canada soon. She arrived in Canada when she was 20, through sponsorship from her husband. Chandra was brought directly to her in-laws place once she landed, where her husband and the family took her documents and jewelry for "safekeeping". In the past year, Chandra has not been allowed to leave the house, except to go to work at the family-run restaurant. She is not paid any wages, as the money is the "family's wealth" and what little she makes in tips is taken from her under the justification that it is needed to pay for the sponsorship requirements to bring her family to Canada. Chandra is not allowed to talk to anyone outside of the house and does not leave the house, unless accompanied by her husband or his mother. Chandra has gotten your phone number from a flyer at the South Asian Supermarket and called you in a rare moment during which she is alone. She does not know anything about where she is and fears asking for help because her husband and his family are well known and liked members of the community.

1. Is this an example of Human Trafficking? Forced Marriage? Forced Marriage and Human Trafficking
2. What are the indicators in Chandra's situation?
3. What would be your next steps for Chandra?
4. What documentation or identifiers would she need to make note of / track?



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