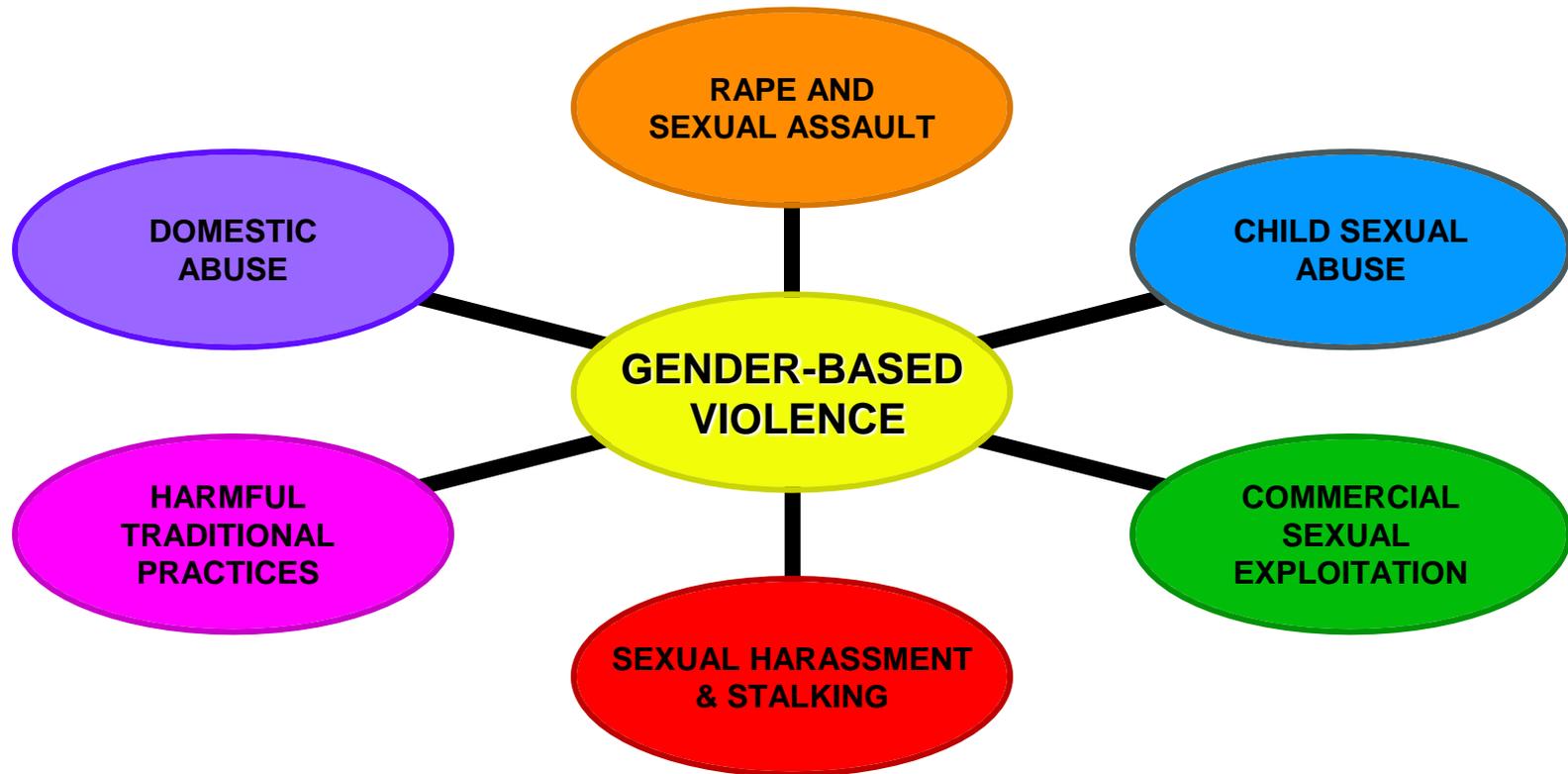




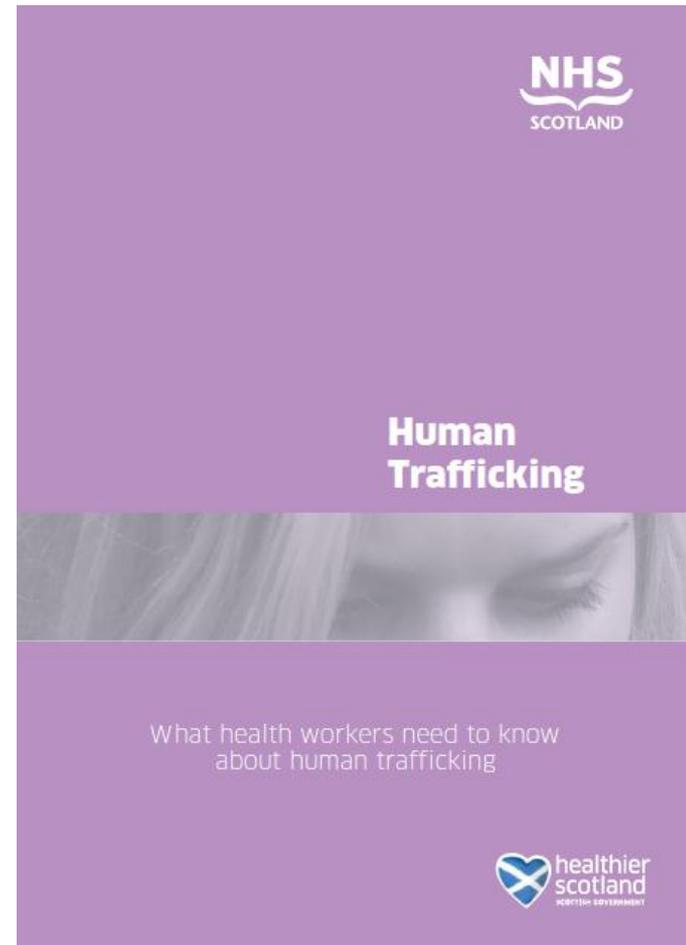
# Identifying and responding to human trafficking - the NHS role

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GBV Programme Manager

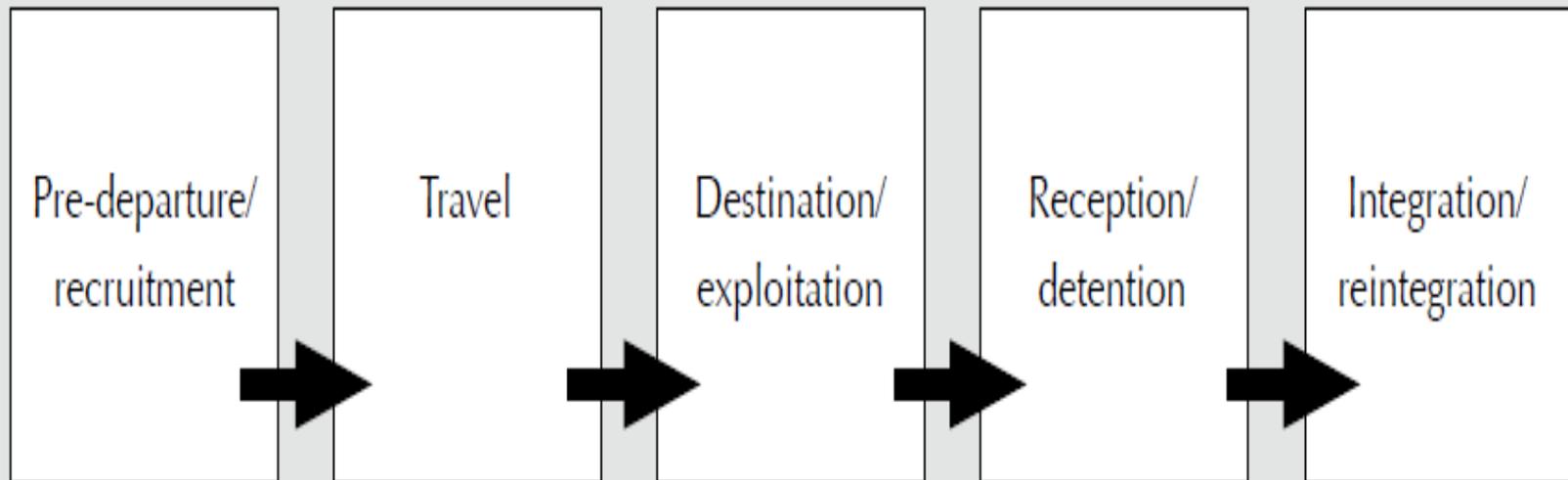
**“Violence that is directed against a woman *because* she is a woman, or violence that affects women *disproportionately*. It includes acts that inflict physical, mental or sexual harm or suffering, threats of such acts, coercion and other deprivations of liberty.” (United Nations)**



# NHS Scotland guidance



# ‘Health in a trafficking context is best viewed as a cycle in which the exposure to harm and opportunities for health occur through a multi-stage process’



Based on the conceptual models and study findings developed in Zimmerman, C., et al., *'The health risks and Consequences of Trafficking in Women and Adolescents: Findings from a European study'*. London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London, 2003

*'Caring for trafficked Persons. Guidance for Health Providers'*. International Organisation for Migration (IOM), UN Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT) and London School of Hygiene and tropical Medicine (2009)

# Key influences on health

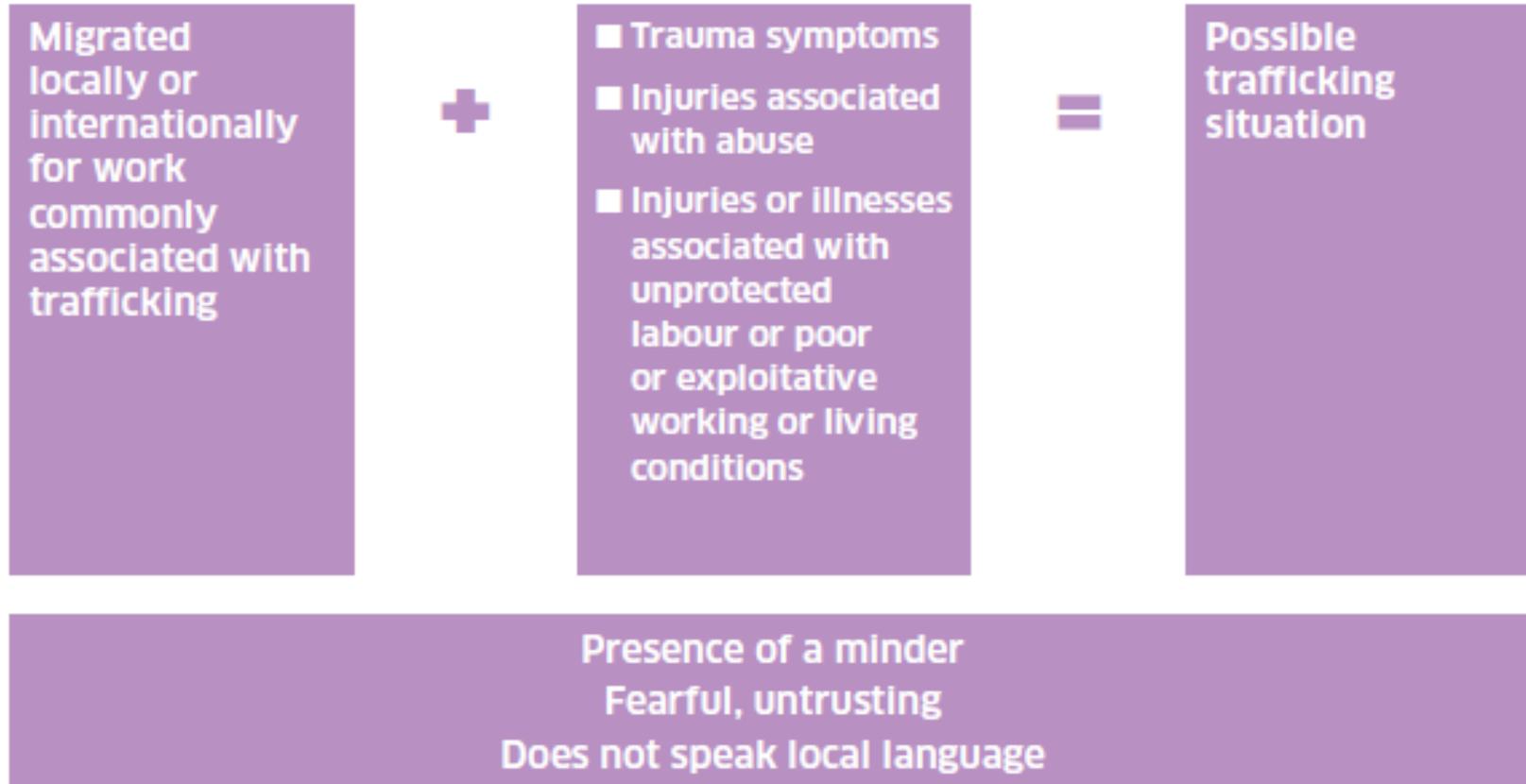
- Exposure to infectious diseases
- Repetitive physical, sexual and/or psychological abuse
- Chronic deprivation – e.g. food, sleep, shelter
- Occupational hazards –e.g. poor ventilation, sanitation, exposure to chemicals, bacterial /airborne contaminants; dangerous machinery, lack of protective equipment etc
- Pre-existing health condition

# Sexual exploitation

- 60% of women had been physically and/or sexually abused in their country of origin
- 26% had been abused by more than one perpetrator
- 12% had experienced forced or coerced sexual activity before the age of 15.
- 63% had more than **10 concurrent** health problems
- 56% had symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
- 95% were depressed
- 38% had suicidal thoughts
- High levels of anxiety and hostility, chronic pain and headaches

Zimmerman, C et al. (2006) ' *Stolen Smiles: The physical and psychological health consequences of women and adolescents trafficked in Europe.*

# Identifying trafficking



# Role of the health worker

- Being aware of the possibility of human trafficking
- Recognising signs and symptoms
- Broaching the subject sensitively
- Listening and making time
- Checking current safety position
- Provision of medical and nursing care
- Giving information and referring on to other services
- Documenting and recording information accurately
- Sharing information where appropriate

# Multi-agency role

- Share information /intelligence
- Support victim to report
- Assist in understanding the complexity of health needs and how these may inhibit disclosure or ability to engage with services
- Aid the process by identifying and treating common responses to trauma and enduring abuse
- Enhancing safety and recovery

**‘The health provider who encounters a trafficked person or other exploited individual has a unique opportunity to provide essential medical care & vital referral options that may be an individual’s first step towards recovery & safety’**

*Caring for trafficked Persons. Guidance for Health Providers’.* International Organisation for Migration (IOM), UN Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT) and London School of Hygiene and tropical Medicine (2009)

Human Trafficking guidance available at:

[www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/details.asp?PublicationID=4735](http://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/details.asp?PublicationID=4735)

Gender-based violence resources:

[www.gbv.scot.hs.uk](http://www.gbv.scot.hs.uk)

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