

Dr. Cathy Miller - Story

Almost 20 years ago, while working as a trauma nurse in San Antonio, Texas, a nine-year-old girl was brought into the emergency room to Cathy Miler, RN. The young girl had been held in a trafficker's trunk and sold in migrant camps for. By this point, the girl was emaciated, severely traumatized, and had contractures of extremities. This child forever changed the course of Cathy's life, education, career, and service. After this encounter, Cathy began searching for research and training on what she had seen. However, Cathy quickly learned that there was none – it was not called “human trafficking” back then. Cathy realized that healthcare providers were woefully unprepared to care for victims of human trafficking.

Cathy since devoted her Master's thesis, PhD dissertation, and ten years of international, interdisciplinary research, service and unwavering advocacy to this work. She has identified and disseminated best practices in human trafficking education and prevention, improving the mental and physical health outcomes of victims. She further mentors victims both nationally and internationally. She additionally completed international post-doctorates in gender-based violence and complex trauma in London and Israel. Dr. Miller, in turn, has provided others with interdisciplinary training and given presentations in Hong Kong, China, London, and Israel. She is currently an Associate Professor at the University of Texas at Tyler and a Research Professor at Texas A&M University Corpus Christie. Most recently, Cathy served as the Director of Research and Scholarship for the Global Strategic Operatives for the Eradication of Human Trafficking.