Inquiring about Human Trafficking in the Health Care Setting: Sample Questions

In addition to remaining calm, non-judgmental, and culturally-sensitive, consider the following to frame questioning: Who on the health care team should be asking? For what purpose? How will information be recorded and shared? In addition, each provider, practice, or system should create and maintain an easy to access list of colleagues and community-based providers who can be called upon as trauma-informed resources.

✓ What kind of work do you do?
✓ Can you tell me a bit about your work?
✓ How many hours per day (week) do you work?
✓ How did you get your job?
✓ How much are you paid and how do you get paid for the work you do?
✓ Are you getting paid the amount agreed upon?
✓ Has the kind of work you do changed since you first got your job?
✓ Can you describe your working and living conditions?
✓ Do you get regular time off?
✓ When did you last have a day off (or a vacation?)
✓ Can you come and go as you please when you are not at work?
✓ Do you have to ask permission to sleep, eat, or use the bathroom?
✓ Are there locks on the doors or windows where you work or sleep to prevent you or others from leaving?
✓ Can you quit your job if you want to?
✓ Have you been threatened with harm if you try to leave?
✓ Have you been told you will be deported or turned in to the authorities if you try to leave?
✓ Have you been physically harmed or in fear of being harmed by your employer or an associate?
✓ Do you have control over your passport or other identification documents? Has anyone ever tried to take these away from you?
✓ Has anyone threatened or harmed your family or others close to you?
✓ Have you ever been forced to perform sex acts to obtain food, shelter, drugs, money, or time off?
✓ Have you been asked to (or forced to) perform sex acts for work, or to pay off a debt for yourself, a family member, a partner or an employer?
✓ Are you afraid to talk about what is happening?
✓ Would you like to get help? What kind of help do you think you might want or need?
✓ What other things would you like to talk about?