

# Biographies

## Mel Alvar

Mel Alvar (she/they) is a community advocate, public health educator, and human trafficking subject matter expert from Duluth, Minnesota. They are a 2023 Class 8 Fellow and 2024 Technical Assistance Project Award recipient of the Human Trafficking Leadership Academy (HTLA) with the National Human Trafficking Training and Technical Assistance Center and the Office of Trafficking in Persons. With 20 years of experience, Mel has been actively involved in strengths-based advocacy, positive youth development, harm reduction, gender-based violence prevention, and outreach efforts in the Twin Ports area comprising Duluth, Minnesota, and Superior, Wisconsin.



Passionate about improving equity and outcomes, Mel strives to lower barriers in all communities and systems that individuals impacted by violence encounter on their healing journey. Beyond their advocacy work, Mel is a parent, jewelry artist, business owner of Traveling Beads by Melissa, podcaster on "Parent Chat," and a CrossFit athlete in recovery. Drawing from personal experiences of intimate partner trauma and exploitation, Mel brings a unique perspective to their work and endeavors to create a more inclusive and supportive environment for those with lived experience.

# Biographies

## Monica Miller



LSW/Survivor Advocate

CHUSE-Creating Hope & Unity for Survivors of Exploitation

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Monica Miller is a Subject Matter Expert with lived experience, advocate, and LSW. She was trafficked in rural and metro cities in Minnesota as a youth. She has endured many other types of abuse and trauma throughout her life. Monica uses her story to raise awareness and educate that human trafficking and exploitation exist in all communities. Monica promotes that we must view victims as people and treat them accordingly.

She also owns her own craft business, M&M Creations, which she has started to help her to be able to support herself and her family while doing advocacy work.

## Ronny Marty

Honorable Ronny Marty is a Certified Public Accountant, hospitality manager, CEO of Marty Professional Cleaning Services in Florida, USA. Independent anti-human trafficking consultant. Former member of ISTAC International Survivor of Trafficking Advisory Council, former member of the US Advisory Council on Human Trafficking that served for two terms. He has worked and provided recommendations to federal and state agencies, private sector, and NGOs on how to combat Trafficking in Persons.



# Biographies

## **Bukola Oriola**

Former Member, U.S. Advisory Council on Human Trafficking  
Executive Director, The Enitan Story

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Bukola Oriola is an international public speaker, author, mentor, advocate, entrepreneur, and former member of the U.S. Advisory Council on Human Trafficking. She recently completed a two-year term as a member of the International Survivors of Human Trafficking Advisory Council (ISTAC), appointed by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR). Oriola is also an award-winning journalist and a survivor of labor trafficking.



She is the founder and Executive Director of The Enitan Story, a MN-based nonprofit with a mission to advocate for victims and empower survivors of human trafficking and domestic violence. Oriola has dedicated her life to helping others by sharing her story and offering practical solutions to service providers, clinics, community members, and law enforcement on how to help victims of human trafficking. Oriola is a consultant for the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) and the U.S. Department of State.

She is the CEO of Bukola Oriola Group, LLC, formerly known as Bukola Braiding & Beauty Supply, LLC. She's an entrepreneur who uses her skills to help others become entrepreneurs through book publishing and small business creation.