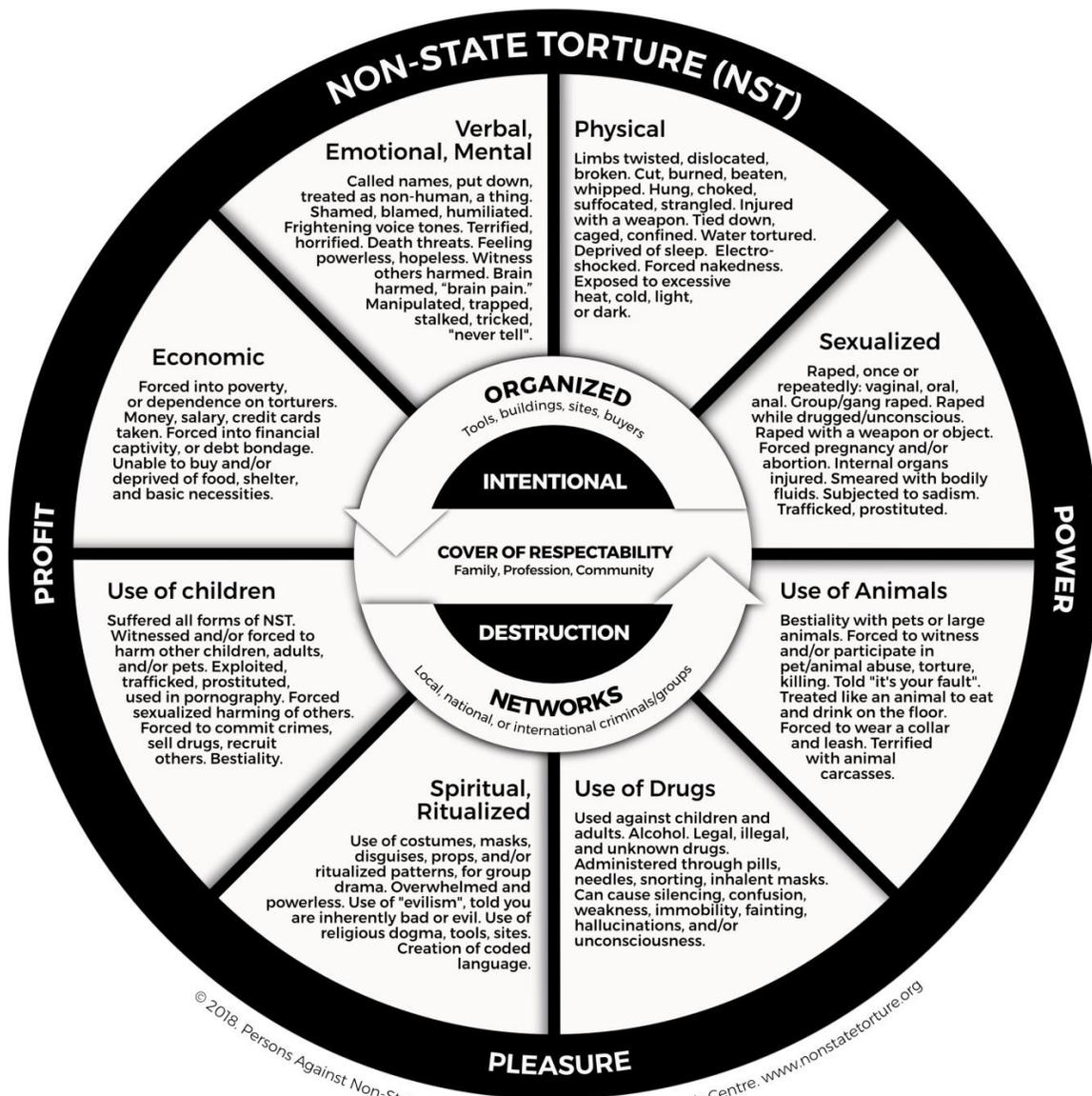


# THE NON-STATE TORTURE (NST) WHEEL

## A FACT SHEET

Jeanne Sarson, BScN, MEd, RN & Linda MacDonald, BN, MEd, RN, © 2018



## THE NON-STATE TORTURE (NST) WHEEL: A FACT SHEET

When private individuals or groups such as a parent, relative, partner, friend, guardian, human trafficker, pimp, buyer, pornographer, or others known or unknown commit acts of non-State torture (NST) they are called non-State actors. The torture they commit is called non-State torture because it is inflicted in private domestic places. This is why the wheel is called the **Non-State Torture Wheel**. A child can be born into a NST perpetrating family, an adult may develop a relationship with a person who perpetrates acts of NST, girls or women prostituted can be NST victimized, and pornographers inflict NST when producing torture crime scene pornographic images for instance.

**Understanding the NST Wheel:** The outer black ring names non-State torturers' expressions of **power**, **pleasure**, and **profit**. Profit can occur when the women or girls they torture are trafficked and prostituted. The inner black half-circles name the **intentional destruction** inflicted by non-State torturers who use power and have pleasure committing acts described in the **NST Wheel's eight segments**. Torturing can destroy a woman's or girls' sense of personhood, leaving them feeling like a non-person. Individuals and groups can / do inflict NST; it can be repetitive and ritualized. **Naming cover of respectability** means non-State torturers do not announce to their community that they are torturers. Instead, they can hold highly respectful community positions with social, professional, and political power, be volunteers in different sites such as in churches or if a parent they may volunteer in their child's school exerting control over their child not to tell on 'the family'. Non-State torturers come from any walk of life, from any social status, and live in many forms of communities.

Non-State torturers can be connected to other individuals, groups, or rings who also perpetrate NST. Therefore, some non-State torturers have **organized networks** with local, national, or international connections that facilitate trafficking of women and girls.

**The United Nations (UN) and human rights:** The [UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#), article 5 says, "no one shall be subjected to torture". The [UN Committee against Torture](#) asks countries to recognize NST as a crime in national laws. The [UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime](#) describes an organized group as three or more persons who perpetrate serious crimes punishable by four plus years of imprisonment. It also has a [Protocol](#) specifically calling on countries to prevent, suppress, protect, and punish human traffickers of women and girls. Women and girls are predominately trafficked into sexualized exploitation—for prostitution and for pornographic victimizations. Non-State torture is a human rights crime.

**Non-State torturers tell those they torture that it is their fault—this is never true!**

**Non-State torture victimization is never an act of punishment—it is always a violent crime of torture and a violation of human rights!**