THE 13th AMENDMENT
AND THE HISTORY OF THE TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION ACT

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The 13th Amendment had major but variable impacts throughout U.S. history. The abolition of slavery and involuntary servitude worked as a swift sword of Emancipation; as a set of loopholes to be exploited; as an avenue toward other approaches to abuse; and as a remembered guarantee of rights, rediscovered every generation. This talk examines modern anti-trafficking efforts by addressing the ongoing relevance of the Thirteenth Amendment within anti-slavery activism, examining it not simply as a rhetorical device but as a driver of law and policy that places survivors' voices front and center.

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