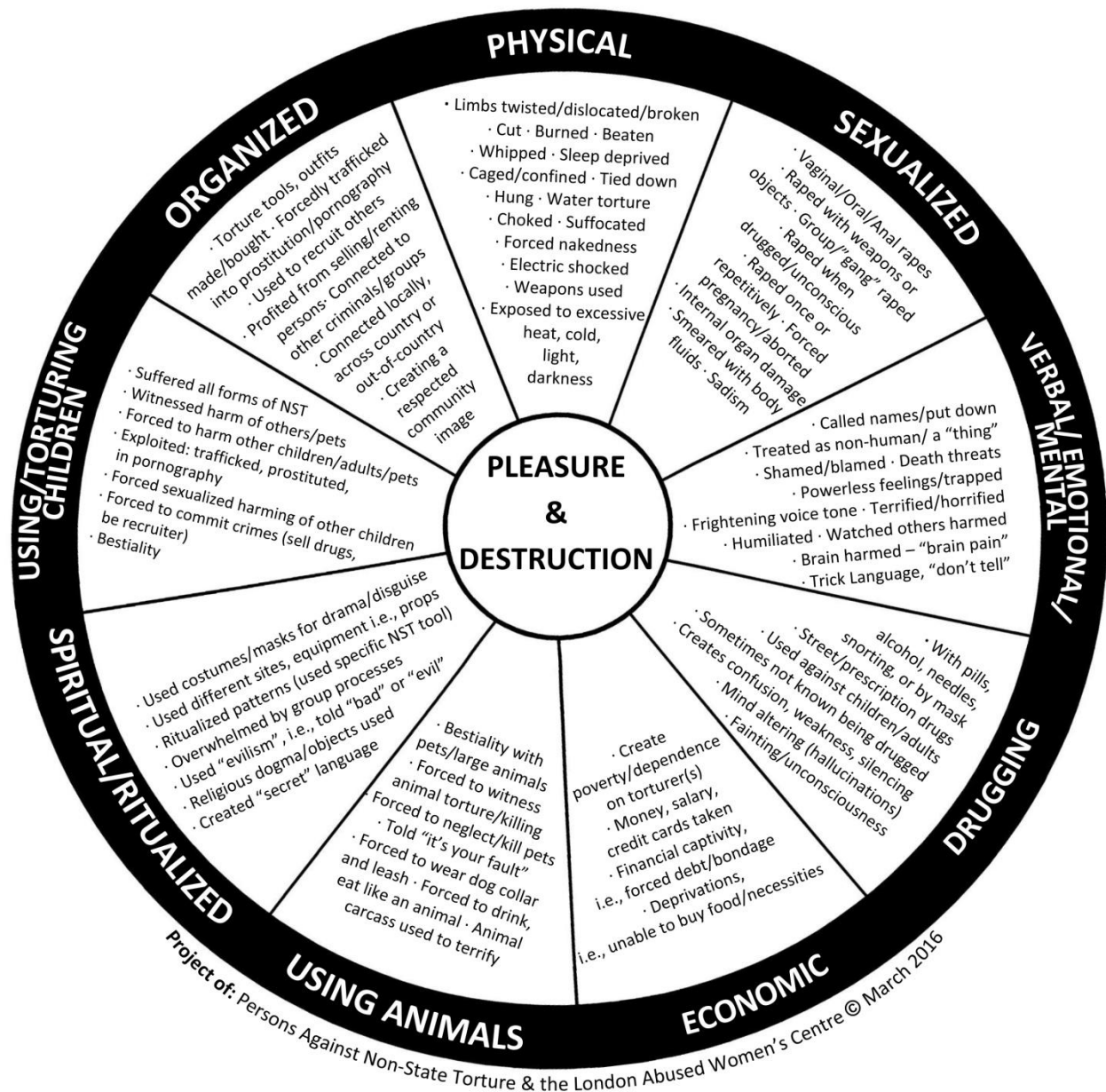


# THE NON-STATE TORTURE (NST) WHEEL

## A FACT SHEET



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## A Fact Sheet

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When a private individual or group such as a parent, relative, partner, friend, guardian, human trafficker, pimp, john/punter, pornographer, or others known or unknown commit acts of non-State torture they are called non-State actors. The torture they commit is called non-State torture (NST) as it is inflicted in private or domestic places.

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/women prostituted may be NST victimized, and pornographers inflict NST when producing 'torture porn' for instance. Perpetrators of NST can be organized and connected to others who inflict NST and other crimes such as family based non-State torture and human trafficking operators who traffic their girl child or a woman who is tortured, trafficked and prostituted by a partner and friends. Such human rights crimes operate not only locally but can also have regional, national, and international connections to like-minded others.

The non-State tortures listed in the NST wheel are examples and some, most, or all may apply. In addition, non-State torturers may inflict other forms of torture that they derive pleasure from. For example, some people so tortured have explained that the torturer(s) compounded the physical torture pain by beating the soles of their feet; this is often known as falanga in the State torture literature. Acts of non-State torture can also be inflicted in a repetitive manner which becomes ritualized. Non-State torture can be inflicted against any person—child or adult.

**THE UNITED NATIONS (UN) & HUMAN RIGHTS.** The [UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#), article 5 says, "no one shall be subjected to torture". The [UN Committee against Torture](#) continues to ask countries to recognize non-State torture as a crime in their national laws. The [UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime](#) describes a organized group as three or more persons who perpetrate serious crimes that are punishable by four or more years of imprisonment. It also has a [Protocol](#) that specifically addresses the need for countries to prevent, suppress, protect, and to punish human traffickers of women and girls. Women and girls are predominately trafficked into sexualized exploitation or prostituted.

**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 and a violation of human rights!**