

Annette Emery, LCSW  
Laurie Cook Heffron, LMSW  
Detective Deek Moore

CTAAFSC 2012



# Human Trafficking: Black Girls Are Still Enslaved

---

# We hope you will,...

- understand the basic elements of human trafficking
- be better able to identify trafficked children and human trafficking situations
- identify risk factors that increase vulnerabilities for children and youth to become victims of sex trafficking
- understand the concept of normalized sexual harm and its impact on the desensitization of American youth, and notably African American children and youth
- have tangible steps and actions you can take to mitigate risks of children and youth in your communities becoming exploited by predatory traffickers.
- learn ways you can become involved in the anti-trafficking movement locally.

# What is Human Trafficking?

## *Modern-Day Slavery*

- Using force, fraud, or coercion to take advantage of another person for monetary gain
- CSEC = commercial sexual exploitation of children
- Children involved in prostitution are VICTIMS of human trafficking



Between 100,000  
and 300,000 children  
in the United States  
are trafficked for sex  
each year

# Scope

- Sex trafficking victims are overwhelmingly female (94 percent)
- About 13 percent of confirmed sex trafficking victims are 25 or older
- Four-fifths of victims in confirmed sex trafficking cases are identified as U.S. citizens (83 percent)
- Sex trafficking victims are more likely to be African American (40 percent) or white (26 percent)
- Most of the confirmed suspects are male (81%), while 19% are female.
- More than half (62 percent) of confirmed sex trafficking suspects are African American.

- U.S. Department of Justice

# Normalized Sexual Harm

Linking Sexuality with Violence, Disrespect,  
Sexual Objectification and Consumerism

Normalization is defined as the process by which  
an idea, concept, or behavior becomes an  
accepted part of societal culture.

It's "just the way it is" or "it is what it is"

# Reasons for Concern

- Earlier onset of puberty (9-10 girls, 11 boys)
- Later brain development (not fully developed until early 20's)
- The overwhelming volume of sexually toxic messages that normalize sexual harm & exploitation with little access to alternative healthy sexual images or information
- Lack of community/societal barriers to a steady stream of sexually exploitative messages.

# Examples

- Ads that hypersexualize images of young children and youth (Calvin Klein)
- Clothing: Pimpfants for infants, Pimp/Ho Halloween Costumes, padded bras and g-strings and thongs marketed to little girls.
- Dolls: Bling, Bling Pregnant Barbie, Bratz
- Games: Grand Theft Auto – demonstrates violent or exploitative use of sex
- Music- Degrading sexual lyrics with references to females as ho's and bitches, and glamorizing the "pimp/ho" lifestyle.



You know it's hard out here for a pimp  
When he tryin to get this money for the rent  
For the Cadillacs and gas money spent  
Because a whole lot of bitches talkin s---

In my eyes I done seen some crazy thangs in the streets  
Gotta couple hoes workin on the changes for me  
But I gotta keep my game tight like Kobe on game night  
Like takin from a girl don't know no better,  
I know that ain't right

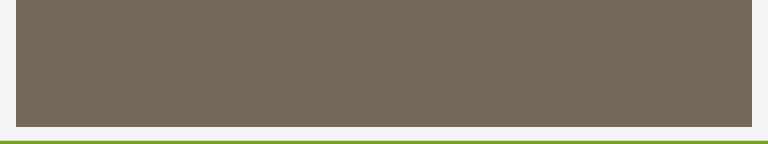
Wait I got a snow bunny, and a black girl too  
You pay the right price and they'll both do you



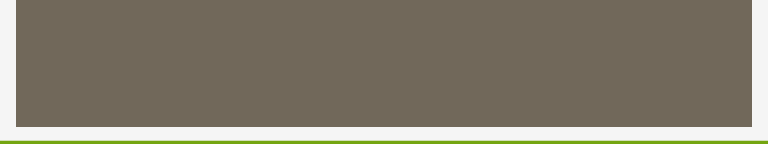
It's Hard Out Here for A Pimp  
Three 6 Mafia

# Risk Factors & Vulnerabilities

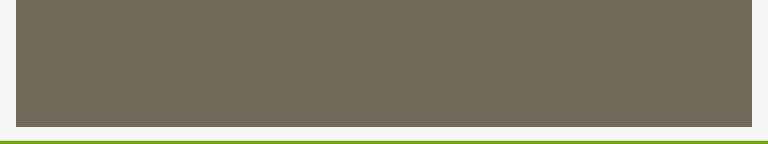
- Age
- Poverty (inadequate food, clothing, and shelter)
- Early childhood sexual abuse
- Homelessness or runaway/throwaway
- Inadequate supervision or care
- Loss of parent/caregiver
- Learning disabilities
- Family and/or community history of exploitation
- Exposure to domestic violence in the home
- Sexual identity issues
- Lack of support systems
- Substance abuse
- Survival sex
- Online solicitation



“I would look for girls who needed sh—who would do whatever to come out of the messed up homes and escape from their f---ed-up parents. I pulled these girls. Women who had been abused by some sucker and wanted better treatment and nice things.”



“ I helped girls no one else would. I picked up throwaways and runaways and dressed them up and taught them how to survive.”



“ Girls who ran away from home or were put out by their parents. Ladies who were pretty but were on welfare, drop outs, you know you can smell desperation. If she is hungry, she will go.”

# Language Matters

## Child Prostitute/Teen Prostitute

A young person who has made a conscious and poor choice to enter the commercial sex industry

Provides no context for the "choices" made

Used as an insult/derogatory term

Wrongly equated with a "profession" or work

Punishable- youth deserve consequences of sexual violence, social isolation, incarceration, etc.

Denies social responsibility and accountability to address as an issue

## CSEC – Sexually-Exploited Child

A child not developmentally, legally, or socially able to make the "choice" to have sex for money or to become involved in the commercial sex industry

Indicates that multiple factors impact how and why children are involved

A young person who has been sexually used, coerced, manipulated, and violently controlled for another person's profit

Defines what has happened to a child, rather than labels who the child is

A young person victimized by multiple systems of oppression

Calls for social responsibility and accountability to address as an issue

# Types of Commercial Sexual Exploitation

- Crack Prostitution
- Juvenile Pimping
- Street Prostitution
- Gang Related
- Computer assisted
- Placement related
- Family prostitution
- Adult prostitution
- Male prostitution
- connection
- Brothel based prostitution
- Call Operation
- Sexually oriented businesses (strip clubs, exotic dancing)
- Cab Operation

# Ways Children are Sexually Exploited

- Childhood sexual abuse
- Child sexual abuse images (child pornography)
- Prostituted children
- Technology facilitated sex crimes against children
- Sex trafficking and sex tourism



# Recruiting Ground for Pimps

- SCHOOLS
- TAXI DRIVERS
- MALLS
- HOTEL WORKERS
- PARKS
- ADULT ENTERTAINMENT OWNERS
- BUS STOPS/PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION
- INTERNET
- MOVIE THEATER
- MAGAZINES
- CHILDREN'S SHELTERS
- CHURCHES

# General Indicators

- Multiple reports of running away
- Unexplained absences from school
- Disconnection from family or other caregivers
- Loss of interest in age appropriate activities
- Sudden changes in behavior
- New clothes or accessories with no explanation
- Large amounts of money with no explanation as to how obtained
- Receiving phone calls from older males
- Involvement with a male who is older, controlling
- Multiple pagers and/or cell phones
- Excessive Internet activity
- Sexual activity
- History of multiple STDs and/or pregnancies
- Police reports of child located in areas known for prostitution

# Physical Indicators

- A change in physical appearance
- Injuries from beatings or weapons;
- Brands or scarring indicating ownership (such as tattoos) without explanation;
- Exhaustion
- Indications of drug or alcohol use; and
- Emotional instability.

# Identifying Victims is Difficult

- Physically/psychologically controlled by pimps
- Victim's distrust of service providers and law enforcement
- Frequently moved from place to place
- Technology helps disguise the real age of the victim
- Trained by pimps to tell lies and false stories

# How Traffickers Control Victims

- Psychological abuses
- Beatings, burnings, sexual abuse, and starvation
- Isolation
- Threats against the victim's family members
- Drug/alcohol dependency
- Debt

# Consequences of CSEC

- Cycles of violence (Intimate Partner Violence)
- Juvenile justice system
- Health consequences
- Depression and suicide
- Substance abuse
- STD/HIV/AIDS
- Unplanned pregnancy
- Cognitive and developmental delays
- Psychological Disorders - PTSD, Conduct Disorders, Borderline

# Community Responses

- Law enforcement
  - Investigation – proactive and reactive
  - Prosecution
  - Prevention – John School
- Victim services
- Community response



# **YOUR ROLE AND COMMITMENT MATTER**

**Commit to 1-3 actions you  
will take**



# What We Can Do

- Efforts must address both supply and demand
- Requires social change
- Educate potential victims- we need innovative, creative approaches to help educate all children, those especially vulnerable populations.
- Raise the perceptions of the community about the harm that is caused
- Improve parental supervision
- Stay up to date on state and federal legislation
- Join local community efforts to end human trafficking



ALLIES exists to be a network and platform for activism that sustains local community involvement in the anti-trafficking movement.

Please join us as we work to end human trafficking  
in Austin  
and make a tangible difference  
in the lives of those who have been rescued.

Become an Ally TODAY ...

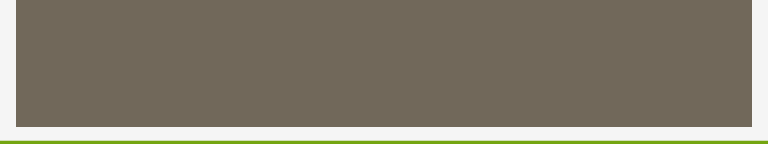
ALLIES: [www.alliesagainstslavery.org](http://www.alliesagainstslavery.org)

CTCAHT: [www.ctcaht.org](http://www.ctcaht.org)



National  
Human Trafficking  
Hotline

**1-888-3737-888**



I am the woman  
offering two flowers

whose roots  
are twin

Justice and Hope  
Hope and Justice

Let us begin.

- Excerpted from *Remember* by Alice Walker