

# Human Trafficking in North Dakota

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True or False?

# True or False

#1:

**Most Prostitutes  
Are Willing Participants**

# True or False

#2

**Children can be prosecuted for  
prostitution**

# True or False

#3:

**Human Trafficking Is  
Prosecuted Only at Federal Level**

# True or False

#4:

**All Participants Involved in  
Human Trafficking Are Criminals**

# Federal Law

- Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000:

- “severe forms of trafficking in persons” include:

- Human is sold;
    - Using Force, Fraud or Coercion;
    - Or Victim under 18
      - no requirement to prove force, fraud or coercion if victim is a minor

- OR

- Assisting in selling or recruiting to be sold, any human





# Three Elements of Trafficking

## Process

Recruiting

Or

Harboring

Or

Moving

Or

Obtaining

Or

Maintaining a Person

## Means

By force

Or

Fraud

Or

Coercion

## End

For Involuntary  
Servitude

Or

Debt Bondage

Or

Slavery

Or

Sex Trade

# North Dakota Laws

- Uniform Act on Prevention of and Remedies for Human Trafficking (UAPRHT)
  - SB 2107

# Updates to ND law in 2015

- Safe Harbor – decriminalization for minor victims
- Expungement – can file suit to get prostitution convictions removed from record
- Sentencing enhancements –
  - increased penalty for pimping - “A” Misdemeanor to “C” Felony
- Victim ID protection – cannot share beyond criminal case and service providers, limited admissibility of past convictions for prostitution
- Mandated Law Enforcement assistance for international victims
- \$1.25M in funding for services
- Formation of Attorney General’s commission
- Offender Program/“John’s School”

# Stereotypes

- All pimps are male.
- Only girls are involved in CSEC.
- Sexually exploited youth don't leave because they like the commercial sex industry.
- Commercial sex is a victimless crime.

# Stereotypes

- “Taken”
- They choose to enter the sex trade.
- They like to have lots of sex.
- They take advantage of unsuspecting men.
- Sexual exploitation is a chosen field of work.
- They make a lot of money in the commercial sex industry.

# Who is involved in the sale of a human?

- The Trafficker
  - “Romeo Pimp”
  - Family member – sibling, father, mother, male or female
  - “Rescuer”
  - Sack pimping
- Sex Buyer
  - Trick
  - Date
  - “John”
  - Perpetrator
  - Offender
- Victim-Offender/Bottom Bitch
  - Victims now working for and with the trafficker to recruit new victims and enforce rules



# What might it look like?

- 'Prostitution'
- Homelessness/Survival Sex
- Alcohol/Drug Addiction
- Mental Illness
- Poverty



# How glamorous is it??



## PIMPS

No matter the species, you can always spot them.



# Dynamics





# The Pimp Game: *An Instructional Guide*

*by Mickey Royal*

*"You'll start to dress her, think for her, own her. If you and your victim are sexually active, slow it down. After sex, take her shopping for one item. Hair and/or nails is fine. She'll develop a feeling of accomplishment. The shopping after a month will be replaced with cash. The love making turns into raw sex. She'll start to crave the intimacy and be willing to get back into your good graces. After you have broken her spirit, she has no sense of self-value. Now, pimp, put a price tag on the item you have manufactured."*

# Trauma Bonding

- The presence of a perceived threat to one's physical or psychological survival and the belief that the abuser would carry out the threat
- The presence of a perceived small kindness from the abuser to the victim
- Isolation from perspectives other than those of the abuser
- The perceived inability to escape the situation

# Reality

Pimps assume psychological, biological, social, and economic control over the lives of the women they sell

- Trauma Bonding
- chronic terror
- captivity
- Isolation
- starvation,
- sleep deprivation,
- protein deprivation, conditioned physiologic hyperarousal,
- unexpected sexual violence, and
- learned helplessness.

(Harvey Schwartz, Jody Williams, & Melissa Farley, 2007, Pimp Subjugation of Women by Mind Control.

# The Life – Terror Tactics



- **Beating/Slapping/Whipping**
- **Burning** - personal items and items of meaning to foster hopelessness and demoralization or directly burning women and girls using cigarette/cigar butts
- **Tattooing or “branding”**

# The Life - Terror Tactics

- **Sexual assault** - rape or gang rape
- **Confinement** - using torture practices such as confinement to lock girls in closets, trunks of cars, or rooms for indeterminate amounts of time
- **Other torture techniques** - deprivation of food or water, various forms of bondage such as chaining individuals to items or tying them up



# The Life Terror Tactics

- **Re-naming** - nicknames for endearment and to erase former identity
- Cognitive re-programming (i.e.: repeating phrases daily)
- Forced participation in crimes (recruitment of victims, punishing/killing other girls, forced abortion)

# The Life terror tactics

- **Creating dependencies**
- **Removal from familiarity and support structures**
- **Document confiscation** - ID, birth certificate, SS number
- **Forced sexual education** - inducement of viewing pornography to learn to have sex





# Who pays the price?

One study in Boston found that in 2003, 92% of prostitution related arrests were women and only 8% of arrests were men.

And who might  
make such a  
purchase?

#onlybadguysfromoutoftownright?

# Demand

Combined LE efforts-officers posing as someone selling a 14-year-old girl on classified websites, *Backpage*. The week of June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016, in Fargo/Moorhead, police arrested 18 men.

# Average Buyer

- Average Age: 39
- Average Age **When First Bought Sex**: 21  
(Range of 10-52)
- Majority of interviewees had **at least one child**
- 84% identified as heterosexual, 11% as bisexual, and 5% as homosexual
- Education: 79% of interviewees had attended some **college** or obtained a college or graduate school **degree**
- Income: 62% of interviewees made **more than \$40,000/year**
- 62% of interviewees identified as having a **regular sex partner** (girlfriend or wife)



# Why Buy?

46-48% purchased sex in order to participate in sex acts they felt uncomfortable to ask their partner or their partner had refused to perform

43% stated that if the man pays the woman for sex, she should do anything he asks

Interviewees frequently mentioned reenacting pornography with women in prostitution

22% felt guilty and/or shameful the majority of the times they'd purchased sex

87% thought that women freely choose to enter prostitution

80% thought prostitution had a negative impact on communities

# Quotes from the buyers

- “I want to pay someone to do something a normal person wouldn't do. To piss on someone or pay someone to do something degrading who is not my girlfriend.”
- “Anything you can't get from your girlfriend or wife, you can get from a prostitute.”
- “She gave up her rights when she accepted my money”
- “She has no rights because you are paying for a sex act-she gives up the right to say no.”

**76% of interviewees stated that there is nothing wrong with having sex for money, but 85% said that they would not marry a prostitute, and 94% said they would not want their daughter to grow up to be a prostitute.**

# North Dakota Demand

- Buyer stings taking place in ND
- Statewide
  - Minot
  - Bismarck
  - Grand Forks
  - Dickinson
  - Williston
- Demand is thriving in ND communities
- Operations terminate early –
  - Why?

# Who is vulnerable to trafficking?

- Individuals who need love
- Individuals who need income
- Individuals who want romantic relationships
- Individuals who want to better their circumstance

Sound like anyone you know?



# Specific Vulnerabilities:

## homeless and runaway youth

- **12-14** average age of entry into 'prostitution' in the U.S.
- **300,000** - Estimated # of American children who are rented for sex every year within the U.S.
- 1.6 million children run away from home each year in the U.S.
- ***One in three teens will be approached/recruited by a pimp within 48 hours of leaving home and becoming homeless.***

# Understanding Victims-

## Historical trauma and neglect



- Chronic runaways
- 'Throw away' kids
- Minimal parental involvement or protection
  - Effects of neglect on brain development
- History of abuse
- Adolescents in need of money
- Drug/alcohol abuse issues

# Link with abuse

- **Multiple studies estimate that...**

70 to 90 percent of sexually exploited children have a history of child sexual abuse.

# Child Welfare Connection

- 1 in 6 runaways in 2014 was a likely sex trafficking victim
  - NCMEC
- 68% of these likely victims were in the care of social services or the foster care system when they ran
- Various state analyses have found that between 40-85% of minor CSEC victims had current or prior child welfare involvement

# Clinical findings regarding violence in all types of prostitution

- 65% to 95% of those in prostitution were sexually assaulted as children.
- 70% to 95% were physically assaulted in prostitution
- 60% to 75% were raped in prostitution
- 75% of those in prostitution have been homeless
- 85% to 95% of those in prostitution want to escape it, but have no other options for survival.
- 80% to 90% of those in prostitution experience verbal abuse and social contempt which adversely affect them

# Red Flags

- Unique vocabulary
- Prior convictions for prostitution
- Tattoos
- Connections with other 'prostitutes'

# Physical Indicators of Trauma

- Migraine/tension headaches
- Eye injury/strain
- Unusual infectious diseases
- Gastrointestinal complaint
- Broken teeth
- Scars from cigarette burns
- Unusual tattoos – especially “ownership” tattoos



# Victim Identification



- Victims do not self-identify
- Have been failed by the “system”
- Have been programmed to fear law enforcement and the system
- Often based on half truths



# Victim Identification

- They have most likely been
  - Sexually abused
  - Physically abused
  - Rape victims
  - Self-medicating with substances
- They do NOT identify as a “victim”

# Barriers to leaving The Life

- Denial (individual and community)
  - Trauma bonding/mental illness/addiction
  - Social Contempt
- Lack of familial support
- Lack of education/work history
- Poverty



# Barriers to leaving The Life

- Inadequate access to safe housing
  - Barrier to federal housing assistance for felons
- Distrust of police
- Limited resources for support and healing
  - Need holistic/culturally appropriate treatment for mental health, substance abuse, safety
  - Trauma (multiple layers) and dissociation



# Needs

Home or a safe place

Immediate access to person-centered, trauma-informed services

peer support

Immediate access to drug/alcohol treatment

Long term trauma focused therapy

legal assistance

Job training

# Interacting with victims

- Developing the relationship
- Explore the 'why' of the behavior in relationship to past trauma
- Reflective listening
- Accessing trauma-informed interviewing trainings

# What can we do?

- How might our organization's procedure trigger a trauma response in victims?
- What can we do to minimize this?
  - Trauma informed



# What about you?

- Be honest/aware of attitudes you have about:
  - Sex/commercial sex
  - Drugs
  - Profanity
  - Violence
  - Race
  - LGBTQA community
- Monitor your non-verbal communication
  - Victims are EXPERTS at reading body language (survival)
  - Hyper vigilance
- Be aware that you will likely be tested



# ND Human Trafficking Task Force

- USDOJ funded task force led by **North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigation**, the **US Attorney's Office** for North Dakota, and **CAWS-*the statewide domestic violence/sexual assault coalition***
- Tasked with proactive law enforcement investigations and comprehensive services to victims of human trafficking by service providers
- Navigators



# Multi-Disciplinary Teams; the need for collaboration

- Prosecutors often cannot prove their case without victim testimony
- Requires a different approach than other crimes
  - Contrast with evidence in drug case
- Requires a reframing of stereotypes, both for victim services and law enforcement
- Groups that have very different priorities and philosophies must get to know each other and work together
- LE must work across jurisdictions

# Local MDTs

- Williston
- Minot
- Dickinson
- Bismarck
- Devils Lake
- Jamestown
- Fargo/Moorhead
- Grand Forks/East Grand Forks
- Watford City
- Under Development
  - Dakota Central (Hazen/Beulah)
  - Stanley

# Intensive Case Management

- Youthworks provides youth case management, ages 13-24
- DV providers throughout the state provide adult case management, ages 23 and up
  - AARC
  - RACC
  - YWCA
  - Family Crisis Center
  - DVCC
  - DVRCC

# Navigators

- Western ND
  - Analena Lunde
  - [alunde@youthworksnd.org](mailto:alunde@youthworksnd.org)
  - 701-390-7397
- Central ND
  - Amy Jacobson
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  - 701-595-2112
- Northeast/Southeast Region
  - Anne Lafrinier-Ritchie
  - [alafrinierritchie@youthworksnd.org](mailto:alafrinierritchie@youthworksnd.org)
  - 701-850-6016

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