



ECPAT-USA IS A POLICY ORGANIZATION THAT WORKS AT A CRITICAL NEXUS BETWEEN NATIONAL POLICY MAKERS, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, COMMUNITY LEADERS AND CASE WORKERS TO SHARE INFORMATION, BEST PRACTICES AND EFFECTIVE POLICIES THAT PROTECT CHILDREN'S RIGHTS.

Take a Stand Against Child Sex Trafficking in America

Activist Toolkit



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Table of Contents

	Time
▪ Instructions	N/A
▪ Background Materials for Facilitator	N/A
▪ Activity: Human Trafficking & Prostitution Pre-Test	5 Minutes
▪ Video Clip: Playground Trailer	15-20 Minutes
▪ Video Clip: Very Young Girls Opening	20-25 Minutes
▪ Handout: The Importance of Terminology	15-20 Minutes
▪ Activity: At-Risk Youth	10-15 Minutes
▪ Activity: Best Case Scenario of Exploitation	5-10 Minutes
▪ Activity: Rape Statistics	5-10 Minutes
▪ Discussion: Teenage Prostitution	15 Minutes
Total Time: 90-120 Minutes	

Instructions

- You should read this toolkit in full before utilizing it, becoming familiar with the subject matter and looking up anything you don't fully understand.
- The purpose of this toolkit is to raise awareness on the issues of commercial sexual exploitation of children. This toolkit is designed to be used by group leaders, teachers, the clergy, or community organizers and can be best utilized in the form of a presentations or workshop. If it is well received you may use the alternate toolkit, Take a Stand Against Child Sex Tourism, or if you've already used that you could offer to form an Anti-Trafficking Club with the listeners.
- According to the U.S Department of Justice, 12-17 is the age group that American youths, particularly young girls, are most vulnerable to be recruited by pimps, and face commercial sexual exploitation, but the information within this toolkit can be informative to college students and other adults.
- Make enough photocopies of pages 8, 11 and 12 to handout to everyone participating. If you're going to show the videos, you'll need access to a computer and speakers. You'll also need a blackboard or white board to write on for several of the activities.
- For the presentation, begin with the child sex trafficking and prostitution pre-test by handing out copies for the participants to fill out. After five minutes collect the pretest and show the first video clip. You should review both video clips before deciding if you feel comfortable with displaying them to the audience, they are not graphic but the second video contains explicit language. You can still use this toolkit even if you do not show one or both of the videos.
- When the presentation is over, we would appreciate it if you could please total up the results of the pretest and send it to mmayer@ecpatusa.org, along with the state the activity was performed in and the age group it was given to.
- A lesson plan format of this toolkit for use by teachers can be found at <http://ecpatusa.org/take-action/spread-the-word/>

Background Materials

Confronting Misconceptions (1/5)

- This is something you, the facilitator, should read ahead of time, to prepare yourself for answering any questions participants might have during the discussion.

Human Trafficking Doesn't Happen Here in the US, it only happens in other places such as Cambodia and Thailand (FALSE)

- Trafficking happens to U.S. citizens in every U.S. state, in all social classes and amongst every race. No one is immune from it. A trafficking victim does not need to be transported between states or brought in from another country to be a victim of sex trafficking; they may simply be forced into prostitution and exploited by pimps or madams.

Prostitution is a Victimless Crime (FALSE)

- It's difficult to imagine being coerced into prostitution, and it is easy to say, 'if I was in that position, I would just say no,' but such a statement ignores that 300,000 American children are at risk of being sexually exploited.¹ Problems in the home such as physical abuse, domestic violence, drug use, serious mental illness, and sexual abuse all contribute to a child being at-risk. Unable to trust their parents to take care of them, they may turn to an outsider for support, love, and affection. Pimps know how to be manipulative and take advantage of children with vulnerable psyches.
- While not all sexually exploited teenagers have pimps, that does not mean they got into it to make a lot of money for themselves. One study found that 48% of runaway youths in Los Angeles exchanged sex for food or shelter.² That's hardly living the easy life.

¹ Richard Estes and Neil Weiner, "The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in the Us, Canada, and Mexico), University of Pennsylvania, 2002

² Kipke MD, O'Connor S, Palmer R, Mackenzie RG, "Street Youth in Los Angeles. Profile of a Group at High Risk for Human Immunodeficiency Virus Infection" Los Angeles, Division of Adolescent Medicine, 1996

Background Materials

Confronting Misconceptions (2/5)

Most Teenage Prostitutes are Just Bad Kids, Not Victims (FALSE)

- This is a view many people have, but these children are almost always coerced or forced into it. Even if they did choose it willingly, if they're under 18 they are not old enough to be making that kind of decision. They are still children and need to be protected by the government, the community at large, their friends, and their family. Safe Harbor legislation is one way in which state governments are taking an active role in the protection of children. In some ways it mirrors the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, which is federal legislation aimed at treating the victims of child sexual exploitation as victims and not as criminals. The reason why Safe Harbor legislation is needed is because the TVPA is only utilized when the FBI are involved. Since local police officers are the ones most likely to encounter sexually exploited youth, it is important they be given the tools to save these children. As of August, 2011 Connecticut, Illinois, Minnesota, New York, Washington, and Vermont have all passed such legislation.

Safe Harbor Act

- Background: Unlike any other sexual assault victims, commercially sexually exploited children are frequently arrested for causing their own victimization.
- Prosecuting and incarcerating a child for prostitution re-traumatizes him or her and leads to increased recidivism rates.
- State human trafficking laws do not adequately protect children.
 - Judges often elect to prosecute them for breaking pandering laws instead of protecting them under human trafficking laws,
 - Law enforcement are under pressure to have high conviction rates, prostitution cases are quick while trafficking cases take more time and money to investigate and have lower conviction rates.
- What can Safe Harbor do?
 - Protect and prevent any person under the age of 18 from being charged, prosecuted, or incarcerated for prostitution.
 - Refer exploited children to special services and shelters that will support their recovery.

Require the training of law enforcement, judges and first responders to recognize the signs of human sex trafficking.

Background Materials

Confronting Misconceptions (3/5)

Teenage Prostitution is a form of Sexual Exploitation (TRUE)

- In the US, the age of consent ranges from 16-18 state to state. So an adult having sex with anyone 15 or under is likely to be committing statutory rape (state laws vary on penalties and exceptions). Even if it's with someone who is 16 or 17, one has to realize that they likely have a pimp who will take most of the money they are paid, or if they don't have a pimp are doing it because they are so desperate for money. There are better ways to improve these children's lives than paying them for sex.

Child Abuse and Prostitution are Two Separate Issues (FALSE)

- Many people who are arrested for prostitution suffered sexual abuse growing up as a child.³ Being abused as a child isn't a prerequisite for sexual exploitation, but the severe impact that abuse has on a person can lead them to be at greater risk for exploitation. Traffickers exploit the vulnerability of sexually abused children; from their point of view it's easier to recruit them into prostitution. A sexually abused child may not associate sex with love, may not view adults in their life as protectors, and may have very low self-esteem.

Most Prostitutes Make a Lot of Money (FALSE)

- As we've already stated, those involved in the sex trade are seldom allowed to control the money they make, and are forced to hand it over to their pimps or madams. This is true even for those paid hundreds or even thousands of dollars an hour. In one episode of the HBO series Cat House it breaks down the house fees. The house takes half of the money up front, and the prostitutes must pay for required supplies that they must purchase from the house, such as lubricant, soap, and condoms. In this particular episode, Bianca left with \$132 of the \$400 the man paid.⁴ The approximately 30 legal brothels in Nevada generate \$50 million in a typical year, so yes, a lot of money is involved, but the victims of commercial sexual exploitation do not get much of it as most people think.⁵

³ Widom, Cathy Spatz, "Victims of Childhood Sexual Abuse", National Criminal Justice Reference Center, 1995

⁴ Cathouse, Season One, Episode Two, "Bianca Prepped for Take Off"

⁵ Prostitution: Economy Hit's Nevada's Brothels, <http://www.newsweek.com/2008/06/15/feeling-the-pinch.html>

Background Materials

Confronting Misconceptions (4/5)

Teenagers in Prostitution Can Stop Whenever They Want (FALSE)

- Teenagers engaged in prostitution face a variety of hurdles when trying to leave. Their pimps use coercion and manipulation to keep them in a mental prison. The child likely ran away from home, dropped out of school, and broke other laws while with the pimp. They are afraid of the police and feel like they can't return home out of guilt and shame. Many pimps brand all their victims with the same tattoo in the same place so they see themselves as belonging to him. When they do overcome these feelings and try to leave, their pimp may track them down and beat them into submission. One shelter in San Francisco found that 82% of the prostituted individuals seeking services had been physically assaulted.⁶ It is very difficult to know how accurate this number is for sexually exploited people everywhere because they typically do not report assaults to the police, they either fear retaliation by pimps or believe the police will ignore or arrest them.⁷ Even Ashley Dupree, the girl at the center of the Elliot Spitzer scandal, made claims of being raped while working and how she had to cope with the emotional trauma of having sex with men she found unattractive.

Pimps Provide Protection to Prostitutes and Keep Them Safe (FALSE)

- Pimps put pressure on girls and women to make money for the pimps. It's a business model, not a family. Their chief concern is that they meet quotas, making a certain amount of money every day or week. They will beat or rape these victims if they feel they are not working hard enough or holding back money. One study of incarcerated prostitutes found that women with pimps experienced higher levels of client violence, worked in more dangerous areas, took more risks because of pressure to earn a certain amount of money, started prostituting themselves at a younger age, and used illegal drugs at a younger age.⁸

⁶ Melissa Farley and Howard Barkan, "Prostitution, Violence Against Women, and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder", The Haworth Press, 1998

⁷ Church, S., M. Henderson, M. Barnard, and G. Hart "Violence by Clients Towards Female Prostitutes in Different Work Settings: Questionnaire Survey." British Medical Journal 322(7285):524-525

⁸ Norton-Hawk, M. "A Comparison of Pimp and Non-Pimp Controlled Women", Violence Against Women, 10(2),189-194, 2004

Background Materials

Confronting Misconceptions (5/5)

Prostitution Prevents Rape (FALSE)

- Sex is not a cathartic experience for those who commit forcible rape. Rape is not about sex at all, it is about power and control. It is a physical assault, not a sexual experience. If there was a correlation, if prostitution did prevent rape, Nevada would likely not have a higher incidence rate of rape than its bordering states.

Children Play a Major Role in the Sex Trade (TRUE)

- Since 2003, the FBI, in conjunction with other government agencies and local law enforcement, have rescued more than 1,200 children from prostitution, and over convicted over 600 pimps, madams, and their associates.⁹

Human Trafficking is the Second Largest Criminal Industry Today (TRUE)

- According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Human Trafficking is tied for second place with Arms Dealing and is fast growing.¹⁰

⁹ Innocence Lost Initiative, http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/investigate/vc_majorthefts/cac/innocencelost

¹⁰ About Human Trafficking, <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking/about/index.html>

Activity: Pre-Test

5 Minutes

- Please read the following statements and check your responses in the appropriate boxes.

		True	False	Unsure
1	Human trafficking doesn't happen in the US, it only happens in poor countries			
2	Prostitution is a victimless crime			
3	Most prostitutes make a lot of money			
4	Most teenage prostitutes are just bad kids, not victims			
5	Teenage Prostitution is a form of sexual exploitation			
6	Suffering from sexual abuse while growing up and being a prostitute are two separate issues			
7	Teenagers in prostitution can stop whenever they want			
8	Pimps provide protection to prostitutes and keep them safe			
9	Prostitution prevents rape			
10	Children play a major role in the sex trade			
11	Human trafficking is the 2 nd largest criminal industry today after drug dealing			

Playground Film Trailer

Video

- This five minute video displays excerpts from a documentary produced by Libby Spears. It sheds light on the problem of commercial sexual exploitation of children in America, that it is not something that only happens overseas or only in poor, urban areas. The video clip is available at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tQ05nDgpNgE>
- If possible, load the video before you show it, in case there is an advertisement embedded in the player. Once the credits begin to roll you may stop the video and begin the discussion.

Discussion Questions

- The film talks about how child prostitution is a big problem in the US. What does this film make you think about those who purchase sex?
- At the beginning of the film young women talk about being frightened when they first became victims of sexual exploitation. Did it sound like they chose to become prostitutes and had cold feet? Or did it sound like they were forced?
- Do you think a child has to be bound and gagged to be forced to have sex? Could threats and scare tactics be enough to coerce them into doing something they don't want to do?
- Which is a better term for the children they talk about in the film; child prostitute or child victim of commercial sexual exploitation? What are the benefits and drawbacks of each of those terms?

After the Discussion

- Anyone interested in finding out more about the full documentary can go to <http://www.playgroundproject.com/>

Very Young Girls Opening Video

- Young Girls is a documentary produced by Rachel Lloyd and David Schisgall. It explains how teenagers as young as 12 and 13 are recruited into prostitution by men in their late twenties and early thirties. Shaneiqua, the girl speaking in the video, is also the girl that Anthony and Chris Griffith recruit into becoming a prostitute at the age of 12
- This clip contains explicit language, review it yourself to make sure you are comfortable with showing it before you play it in front of an audience.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=myzVv2rsY-o>
- If possible, load the video before you show it, in case there is an advertisement embedded in the player. Play it for nine minutes, stop it after the scene where you see multiple men going into the same room over the course of one night.

Discussion Questions

- The two brothers video taped themselves being pimps because they thought they could get a reality TV show. What would make them think their law breaking would be overlooked by channels like MTV or VH1?
- Why would Shaneiqua be willing to become a prostitute to make her boyfriend happy? What must she be lacking at home and in life?
- Do you feel sympathetic towards Shaneiqua? Why or why not?

After the Discussion

- Anyone interested in finding out more about the full documentary can watch it on youtube, to find out more about the production they can go to
<http://www.gems-girls.org/veryyounggirls.html>

The Importance of Terminology

Handout (1/2)

Pimp, Panderer, or Trafficker

- State laws vary in the language they use
 - Pimp and Panderer are interchangeable terms
 - The general definition includes one or more of the following:
 - i. Recruits and trains a prostitute
 - ii. Provides a prostitute to a customer
 - iii. Finds a customer for a prostitute
 - iv. Transports a prostitute to a customer
 - v. Maintains facilities for use by a prostitute
 - vi. Shares in the earnings of a prostitute
- Federal law provides a strict definition of a Human Trafficker
 - *Traffickers are those who recruit, harbor, and transport human beings solely for the purpose of exploiting their labor or their bodies.*
- How close are the definitions of a Human Trafficker and a Pimp?
- What makes them different?

Prostitute or Victim of Sexual Exploitation

- Federal law defines a victim of Sex Trafficking as:
 - *A person who is induced to perform a commercial sex act through the use of Force, Fraud and Coercion*
 - Or
 - *A person under age of 18 who is induced to perform a commercial sex*
- From the videos we saw earlier, what methods were used to recruit and retain the prostituted children? Explain.

Smuggling vs. Trafficking

- Human Smuggling and Human Trafficking are two separate terms
 - They are not interchangeable
- Smuggling involves the transportation of a willing person; after they are successfully smuggled they are free to go
- Trafficking involves the exploitation of someone who is underage or an unwilling adult. They are not free to go.

The Importance of Terminology

Handout (2/2)

Pedophile vs. Situational Abuser

- Most people who buy children for sex are not pedophiles
 - A pedophile seeks out prepubescent children
 - A situational abuser seeks out attractive, young people
 - These young people may be adults and/or teenagers
- Should the penalties be different for an adult having sex with a child that is 12 vs. an adult having sex with a child that is 15? Explain.

What is a “John”?

- A ‘John’ is someone who has purchased sex from another person
 - Likely believes the other person is a willing participant
- The term ‘trick’ is interchangeable with John
 - ‘Turning tricks’ means servicing Johns
- The term Solicitor is also interchangeable with John
 - Some people prefer the term Exploiter
- While the name John is male, a John can be male or female,
 - A John may be a heterosexual or a homosexual
- What motivates a John to buy sex?

What is Survival Sex?

- Survival Sex is considered a form of prostitution
- Survival Sex is the exchange of sex for:
 - Food
 - Shelter
 - Clothing
- Survival sex can also cover sex exchanged for drugs or cash
- It is done from desperation, homelessness, and/or addiction
- Survival sex is most typically conducted by runaway youths
- Many boys engage in survival sex,
- Most are not homosexual but have sex with adult men
- The act itself tears at their sexual identity
- What can be done to protect runaways from engaging in survival sex?

At-Risk Youth

Activity (10-15 minutes)

DO NOT READ THIS PORTION ALOUD

There are many reasons why children might be angry or upset with their parents, make sure to distinguish between answers that are normal and healthy parental concerns and answers that are a true violation of parental trust. Write down healthy concerns on one side and true violations on another side of a board, if able, and when the participants have finished compare the two different lists. Example violations are listed below, and you can try and lead the participants to guess these if they are struggling.

Physical Abuse

Sexual Abuse

Alcoholism

Domestic Violence

Intolerance of Sexual Orientation

Serious Drug Abuse

Serious Mental Illness

What is an At-Risk Youth?

- A minor who is unable to trust his/her parents
- What are reasons that a child might not be able to trust their own parents?
- Which answers are the minor problems and which are the major problems that can't be excused?

How Do Pimps Identify At-Risk Youth

- Pimps approach minors who don't have many friends
 - They flatter them with praise, tell them they're attractive
 - They impress them with wealth, buying them expensive gifts
 - They seduce them, pretending to be a loving boyfriend
- Their tactics don't work on everyone, but some will fall for it
 - These kinds of pimps are usually in their 20s-30s
 - They target middle-school and high school kids
 - Students usually can't support themselves
 - At-Risk Youth are just looking for acceptance

Best Case Scenario

Activity (5-10 minutes)

The Mathematics of Legal Prostitution

- A john comes into a Nevada Brothel and pays \$400 for an hour with a prostitute.¹¹

Write \$400 on the board

- What do you think is the brothel's share of the money?

The correct answer is 50%
Write -\$200

- Do you think the prostitute gets to keep the whole \$200 remaining

The correct answer is No.

- The prostitute has to pay for the supplies as well as for cleaning the room, the shower, fresh towels, changing the bed sheets, and other fees.

Write -\$68
Write Total \$132

- Don't forget about Federal income tax

Write -10%-35% income Tax

- Depending on how much she earns in a year, how her pay is calculated, how good of an accountant she uses, if any, she could owe anywhere between \$20-140 dollars on this single transaction. In most cases, pimps will take all the money and no taxes are filed. The pimps will spend a small amount of it on the prostitute, buying her clothes and food, paying her rent and phone bill, but only if she meets daily or weekly quotas. What's life like without a brothel or pimp? One study found that of 409 runaway youths in Los Angeles, 43% had engaged in survival sex.¹² Trading sexual favors for food or shelter is hardly the easy life.

¹¹ Cathouse, Season One, Episode Two, "Bianca Prepped for Take Off"

¹² "Street Youth in Los Angeles. Profile of a Group at High Risk for Human Immunodeficiency Virus Infection"
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/7735403>

Rape Statistics

Activity (5-10 minutes)

The Numbers

- The rape index is the number of rapes per 100,000 people living in an area.

Write the following on opposite sides of the board

Arizona	23.6
California	28.7
Idaho	30.5
Nevada	32.0
Oregon	32.5
Utah	35.7
USA	38.6

- Ask the participants which numbers should go with which state, or should be for our country's average. Start by asking where should 23.6 go, then erase the number and write it in next to their guess. When all numbers have been assigned, write in the correct numbers next to their guesses.¹³

Arizona: 32.0
California: 23.6
Idaho: 35.7
Nevada: 38.6
Oregon: 30.5
Utah: 32.5
USA: 28.7

- Compare Nevada, the only state to have legalized prostitution, to its neighboring states, which all have a lower incidence rate. I am not saying that prostitution is responsible for a higher than average index number, only that if the argument of 'prostitution prevents rape' was true, then we should expect a lower rate in Nevada. Rape is not about sex, it is about a sick person seeking power over another.

¹³ Uniform Crime Reporting Statistics, <http://www.ucrdatatool.gov/>, 2009

Teenage Prostitution

Discussion (5-10 minutes)

Why Don't They Just Leave Their Pimps

- It's all a mind game played by the pimp
 - The victims who work for him want to please him
 - They want to earn gifts from him
 - They see their value through his eyes due to low-self esteem
 - They want to make money for him to increase his prestige
 - When a victim leaves, the pimp must get her back
 - Otherwise he'll look weak to his peers
 - He'll lose credibility with the other victims
 - They may want to leave too if there are no repercussions
 - He must make her regret leaving him
 - He'll beat her, rape her, and humiliate her
 - He wants her to beg for forgiveness
 - The victims have nowhere else to go
 - They likely dropped out of school and ran away from home
 - They fear former friends finding out what they've done
 - The victims fear the police
 - Prostitution is a crime, talking to police could lead to arrest
 - They may have committed other crimes while with the pimp
 - They may have taken drugs at his insistence
 - They fear no one will believe them or help them.

Wrap Up Questions

- What did you think about prostitution before today?
- How do you think American society views pimps and prostitutes? How are they portrayed in movies and TV shows?
- What did you think about prostitutes and pimps now?
- Do you still think it's okay to call a victim of sexual exploitation a prostitute?