

# Stop Trafficking !

Anti Human Trafficking Newsletter



Awareness

Advocacy

Action

September 2017 Vol. 15 No. 09

This issue highlights how men's growing addiction to pornography is fueling human trafficking.



## U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking Sponsors of 'Stop Trafficking'

- Adorers of the Blood of Christ
- Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
- Benedictine Sisters of Mount St. Scholastica, Atchison, KS
- Cenacle Sisters, N. Amer. Prov.
- Congregation of Notre Dame
- Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes
- Congregation of St. Joseph
- Daughters of Charity, Prov. of Los Altos Hills, CA
- Daughters of Charity, Prov. of St. Louise
- Dominican Sisters of Adrian, MI
- Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose, CA
- Dominican Sisters of Peace
- Dominican Sisters of San Rafael, CA
- Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa, WI
- Dominican Sisters of Springfield, IL
- Felician Sisters
- Franciscan Sisters, Little Falls, MN
- Franciscan Sisters, Rochester MN Human Trafficking Educators' Grp.
- Franciscan Sisters of Peace
- Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration
- Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart
- Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters
- Marianites of Holy Cross
- Maryknoll Sisters
- Medical Mission Sisters
- Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters
- Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary
- Religious Sisters of Charity
- School Sisters of Notre Dame, Shalom North America
- School Sisters of St. Francis, PA
- School Sisters of St. Francis of Christ the King
- Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary, USA Prov.
- Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati, OH
- Sisters of Charity of Halifax
- Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, Houston
- Sisters of Charity, Leavenworth, KS
- Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, KY
- Sisters of Charity of New York
- Sisters of Charity of St. Joan Antida
- Sisters of Christian Charity Mendham, NJ & Wilmette, IL
- Sisters of the Divine Savior
- Sisters of the Good Shepherd
- Sisters of the Holy Cross
- Sisters of the Holy Family, Fremont, CA
- Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary
- Sisters of the Humility of Mary
- Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
- Sisters of Notre Dame, CA Prov.
- Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, USA
- Sisters of the Precious Blood
- Sisters of the Presentation, San Francisco, CA
- Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul, Canada
- Sisters of St. Francis, Clinton, IA
- Sisters of St. Francis of Colorado Springs
- Sisters of St. Francis, Dubuque, IA
- Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God
- Sisters of St. Francis of Redwood City
- Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, Los Angeles
- Sisters of St. Joseph of Chestnut Hill, PA
- Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny, USA & Canada Prov.s
- Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange, CA
- Society of the Holy Child Jesus, Amer. Prov.

## Human Trafficking and the Role of Men



Illustration by Gabriel Campanario/The Seattle Times/July 26, 2017

In the third issue of *Dignity: A Journal on Sexual Exploitation and Violence* the editors present papers and videos from *The Freedom from Exploitation Agenda* briefing, held March 20, 2017 at the U.S. Capitol and hosted by Senator Orrin Hatch.

The briefing was organized by the *National Center on Sexual Exploitation* (NCOSE) to expose modern forms of sexual exploitation, their interconnectivity, and the resulting suffering by victims and violence by perpetrators.

Sex trafficking, sexual assault, child sexual abuse, pornography, and more are issues significantly impacting individuals, families, and communities. This crisis necessitates that the federal government address the full spectrum of sexual harm with effective remedies.

Excerpts from several of the 12 presentations are featured in this issue of 'Stop Trafficking'. See the complete list on pg. 9 as well as the link to access them at their source.

### Who Is Buying Sex?

Researchers at the *Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center* at the Univ. of Minnesota interviewed criminal justice and social service workers, reviewed court cases, gathered print media coverage and analyzed online advertisements in order to answer that question in MN. It is difficult to do research because it is hidden, illegal, highly stigmatized and dangerous. But it is needed to find effective ways to combat sex trafficking.

The research provides backing for what law enforcement know anecdotally, said Drew Evans, superintendent of the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. "We want to make sure there is

Who Buys? cont. pg. 3

### USCSAHT Partner

- Society of the Divine Savior USA



## Awareness

## Washington State Addresses Demand: Large Group of Sex Buyers Arrested

The King County Sheriff's office was able to shut down two sex-trafficking websites, 12 brothels and arrest 30 men (ages in their 20s or 40/50s) and two women after an "unprecedented" Seattle-area 8-month investigation. The brothels were operated out of "high-end, luxury, upscale apartment complexes" in Bellevue. Prosecutor Dan Satterberg said King County is the first jurisdiction in the country to charge "an organized group of sex buyers" with promoting the prostitution of women from South Korea, forced to work 12 hours a day seven days a week and shuttled between major cities to pay off bogus debts.

The joint operation between Bellevue, WA police and the King County Sheriff's Office led to the seizure of website *TheReviewboard.net* and a sister site called *kgirlodelights.com*, with the 'K' standing for Korea. *TheReviewboard.net*, with an estimated 23,000 members, allowed men to post graphic descriptions of their sexual encounters with prostituted women and share tips to avoid police attention and suspicion from wives and girlfriends. Some likened *TheReviewboard.net* to *Yelp*, only for paid sex.

The 61-year old owner and operator of *TheReviewboard.net*, known as 'Tahoe Ted,' and a group of 50 of his most prolific posters nationwide established themselves as an exclusive, invitation-only group that called itself 'The League.' Members of 'The League' set up the *kgirlodelights.com* site to advertise South Korean women after 'Tahoe Ted' decided to restrict the number of Asian sex workers on his site to avoid police notice. Both websites worked with agencies that moved women from city to city after they arrived in the U.S. and 'bookers' who

made appointments for the women.

The sheriff's office, which has been investigating *TheReviewboard.net* for years, launched an investigation in 2015 after a sex-trafficking victim told authorities she had been brought to the U.S. from South Korea and coerced into prostitution to pay off a family debt. Then in April, a resident of a downtown Bellevue apartment complex contacted police to report suspected prostitution activity. The men "are all ages and body sizes. They visit at all hours of the day," the email said.

Prosecutors would charge 'The League' members not with the misdemeanor crime of patronizing a prostitute, but with promoting prostitution, a felony. This underscored King County's effort to go after the demand side of prostitution.

Richey, the deputy prosecutor, said the relationship between the women performing sex acts and the men paying for them is inherently unequal. The men were typically professionally accomplished, culturally assured, and fully expecting to get their money's worth. The South Korean women, by contrast, were typically young, isolated in a foreign country, traveling with little more than a suitcase full of clothes, maybe overstaying a tourist visa or brought to the U.S. with forged documents. Many communicated with the men through a smartphone translator app — or hand gestures.

He said research internationally has found that more than 70% of prostitutes have been the victim of physical assault — rapes, beatings or armed robberies — and that despite screening clients and checking references, they are vulnerable because they typically work in isolated apartments, alone.

"You never know who is going to walk

in the door," Richey said.

Among the emails seized when the websites were taken down by law enforcement in January 2016 were hundreds of pieces of identification submitted with the customers' first request for a "date." These included photographs of employee badges from Microsoft, Amazon and Boeing, as well as LinkedIn accounts, business letterheads, passports and even family photos. "They're sending their personal information to a criminal enterprise. Wow!" said Tor Kraft, one of the undercover Bellevue police detectives who worked the case.

'Bookers' told the customers that they needed the IDs in case anything happened to the women. But Kraft said what they were really doing was protecting themselves from law enforcement. If someone emailed in a photo of his Microsoft badge, on an email with a Microsoft address, he likely wasn't a cop.

Men were not only writing reviews, but were serving as references for each other to book dates. They were helping to connect prostitution agencies with photographers for advertising pictures and placing those ads with internet escort sites. Using their tech savvy, some were building prostitution websites.

Several of the men were even putting their names on apartment leases and driving the young women who were cycling through Bellevue to and from Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. In other words, they were operating more as pimps than isolated buyers.

At the same time, prosecutor Richey said, there was an explosion in the number of residential brothels on the Eastside. "We were getting tips from neighbors, getting tips from land-

WA Bust cont. pg. 3



## Awareness

### WA Bust *cont. from pg. 2*

lords, people reporting it to Bellevue police. What we were seeing was the whole picture — organized online groups of buyers and the brothels serving them.”

Eventually the detectives on the case had a collective realization that what they were seeing was more than just men hooking up with prostituted women and writing about their experiences. What they were investigating resembled an organized-crime network. And they needed to act.

The target of the investigation would be high-volume users, men who were influential in driving business to the South Korean prostitutes, or who took an organizing role, such as forming The League to publicize the agencies and apartments. The prosecutors believed they had evidence of promoting, through the reviews the men themselves wrote.

Members of ‘The League,’ who used anonymous names, would regularly meet at local pubs or restaurants. Many times “their discussions were so graphic that patrons sitting at tables nearby would get up and leave or move to another table,” an undercover detective, who infiltrated the group, wrote in charging documents.

In many instances, police identified ‘League’ members by following them to their vehicles and running their license plate numbers. Several of the meetings were also secretly recorded by police. “Many of the members made comments that indicated they were aware these girls were more than likely trafficked and had little choice in choosing to work as prostitutes,” said police. The men paid an estimated \$300 per encounter with



dozens, if not hundreds, of women.

When law-enforcement officials announced the prostitution bust, they displayed a photo of a woman, her eyes blacked out to protect her identity. By taking such photos, brothel owner Donald Mueller kept track of the prostitutes who cycled in and out of his Bellevue apartments. He was a longtime sex buyer who previously had made his living off illegal marijuana grows, but moved into prostitution when the drug was legalized.

Urquhart, of the Sheriff’s Office, said the investigation into *The Reveiw-board.net* and ‘The League’ is “unprecedented in size and scope” in the region. Twelve South Korean women were rescued from the brothels and will be eligible for visas to remain in the U.S. “These women are true victims, make no mistake about it,” said Urquhart.

### Who Buys? *cont. from pg. 1*

no safe place for (traffickers) to operate in the state of Minnesota,” Evans said. Minnesota law enforcement has more than doubled the number of investigations compared to 2016. “More can be done to interrupt demand,” he said. “We all need to work collectively to change our culture and make sure we’re educating boys and men that it is not OK to buy sex.”

### Who purchases sex?

Data confirm that sex buyers are predominantly middle-aged, white, married men from across Minnesota. Men of color and women purchase sex in

much lower numbers. They come from a wide variety of employment sectors: businessmen, doctors, lawyers, dentists, judges, professors, police officers, correctional officers, pastors, executives, truck drivers, manual laborers, farmers and sailors.

Another recent study estimated 14% of men in the U.S. report having paid for sex, 1% in the past year. So in Minnesota, about 26,000 men may have purchased sex in the past year. It is likely law enforcement has identified less than 1% of these people.

### Where do sex buyers purchase ?

Sex buyers typically do not purchase sex in their hometowns. Data suggests most travel 30-60 miles. Some travel much farther to purchase sex with minors. Travel protects anonymity and privacy, helps the buyer hide the behavior from their family and law enforcement and gives them variety and convenience.

Most purchases were linked to the workday, meaning men buy sex while driving to and from work and on lunch breaks. Business trips and vacations such as hunting, fishing and overnight bachelor parties were also places sex was purchased.

### How do men purchase sex?

Most sex buyers use the internet to find what they’re looking for. The study identified 37 sites where advertisements for sex are posted. *Backpage.com* is a key site, and social media is increasingly being used to buy sex with minors. A subset of buyers use the deep web to find child pornography and to buy sex with very young children. Street-based and word-of-mouth prostitution were less common ways men bought sex.

### What do sex buyers want?

There is no single profile of what sex buyers seek, but most seek quick, anonymous sex with no emotional connection. The average transaction takes a half-hour. “Most buyers are looking for young adults, but many are willing to purchase sex from a minor, if offered,” Martin said. Types of acts sought include oral sex, vaginal penetration, anal sex, acts found in

Who Buys? *cont. pg. 4*



## Awareness

### Who Buys? *cont. from pg. 3*

pornography — the so-called “*porn-star experience*” — and some so-called fetish acts. Some men offer to pay more for sex without a condom. Some want to pay to be violent.

Researchers found that some sex buyers will seek acts that humiliate and harm the provider/victim, such as derogatory language, defecation and urination, rough sex, physical assault, sexual assault, rape and in rare cases, murder. “*This research shows the commercial sex industry is not just about a desire to purchase sex, but about a desire in some men to cause harm. Men use payment as a means to cause that harm,*” said Lauren Ryan of *Safe Harbor and No Wrong Door* for the Minnesota Department of Health.

Researchers also found a trend of racialized sexual violence among some buyers, who seek a trafficked person of color to re-enact slavery or colonization. Transgender women and gay men are sometimes sought specifically to harm them due to transphobia and homophobia, according to the study. Researchers found a pricing hierarchy based on age and race.

This study is a beginning. “*We are all interested in going further upstream,*” Ryan said. “*Part of a public health model is that we must reach the demand. We need to find better ways to dissuade buyers: education, awareness and changing the cultural norms that it is not acceptable in our society to purchase another human being for sex. All of us must commit to a future where girls and women are safe and valued.*” (<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation-now/2017/08/04/whos-buying-sex-married-white-men-minn-study-says/539121001/>)

## The Role of Demand

Shamere McKenzie, herself a survivor of sexual exploitation, spoke at the *Freedom from Sexploitation* briefing to address the interplay of soliciting prostitution and fueling sex trafficking. Men who pay to purchase sex fuel the demand for both prostitution and sex trafficking. Many may argue that those who engage in prostitution do so out of choice, while those who are sexually trafficked are in prostitution through force, fraud, or coercion. The fact is engaging in the sex trade is a matter of survival. Buying sex exploits human beings and is the driving factor that promotes the existence of both prostitution and sex trafficking.

McKenzie, now CEO of *Sun Gate Foundation*, a non-profit assisting survivors of sex trafficking, highlighted ten ways to address the role of demand in prostitution and sex trafficking.

- We must begin to change the mindset of our culture and understand the realities of those who engage in prostitution and who are sexually trafficked. The lack of economic opportunity, lack of education, poverty, race, class, gender, and inequality are among the reasons why people engage in prostitution and are trafficked. These issues must be addressed if we are to successfully combat demand.
- We must change the mindset of our culture to become more sympathetic to those who are engaged in commercial sex and less sympathetic to the men who purchase sex. The men who purchase sex get a slap on the wrist as their lives are considered to be more valuable than those who are engaging in commercial sex. He is the CEO, the senator, a family man, he has children. If anyone should find out he purchases sex it will impact his career and his family. Meanwhile, the prostituted or trafficked individual is seen as someone who is neurotic and not deserving of assistance.
- We must understand that language matters. The men who purchase sex should not be called names like “buyers” and “johns” which hide their misogynistic acts. Those terms normalize their behavior. We must begin to call them by their true names: “rapists,” “pedophiles,” “abusers,” and such, sending the message that their behavior is neither normal nor acceptable.
- Enforce existing laws.
- Follow the recommendations of the reports and studies conducted on the subject of demand. In a 2008 Chicago study, “Deconstructing the Demand for Prostitution,” 113 men who purchased sex were interviewed. When asked what would deter them from purchasing sex, 87% reported that their name being listed in the local paper, 82% their photo and name published on the Internet, 79% a letter sent to their family reporting that they were arrested for soliciting or engaging in prostitution, 70% their car impounded, and 68% a fine larger than \$1,000. There are lessons to learn from each report and study conducted.
- There should be a significant shift in the criminal justice response.
- Learn from existing models that are effective in other countries.
- Recognize that the psychological trauma endured by prostituted individuals and sex trafficking survivors has lasting impacts.
- A comprehensive model must be implemented. The issue of demand cannot be fought single-handedly. Parents and schools should teach about the harms of prostitution and sex trafficking. In addition, employers should implement and enforce strict policies prohibiting the purchase of commercial sex acts.
- Make a conscious effort in all your work to recognize that survivors of prostitution and sex trafficking are human beings.

To read the full explanations given by McKenzie for the role of demand in sex trafficking and prostitution, go to:

<http://digitalcommons.uri.edu/dignity/vol2/iss3/5>



## Awareness

5

## Sex Addiction and the Internet

As many as 12 million Americans suffer from sex addiction, according to the *American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy*. A growing number of sex-addiction therapists argue it is a highly treatable disease that affects the brain in ways similar to drug or alcohol addiction, etching in neural pathways a powerful drive for pleasure and an increasingly compromised ability to exert control.

These therapists say that the explosion of online pornography and internet sites for escorts and hookups has meant that men who would never have considered picking up a prostitute can now make a date for sex with ease and anonymity on their cellphone or computer.

*"When you give people immediate access to highly stimulating, highly pleasurable content or experiences, the likelihood that addiction will appear goes up,"* said Rob Weiss, a California-based sex-addiction therapist and the author of *"Always Turned On: Sex Addiction in the Digital Age."*

Weiss divides sexual activity into three categories: *casual, at-risk and addictive*. Addicted users compulsively seek non-intimate sexual encounters or experiences regardless of the consequences, often as an escape from their own problems. They are unable to quit and typically lead a double life, telling lies, keeping secrets and justifying the behavior to themselves.

*"The people I work with get lost in the pursuit of sex,"* he said. *"They lose their wives, their kids, their jobs and they keep doing it. They return to the same behavior again and again, expecting a dazzling new experience. But over time, it isn't that dazzling*

*a new experience. It isn't fun to be caught in a prostitution sting."*

Stefanie Carnes, president of the *International Institute for Trauma and Addiction Professionals (IITAP)*, which trains and certifies addiction therapists, said the past few years have



seen a surge in research on neuroscience and sex addiction. In one study, she said, the brain



scans of sex addicts exposed to stimuli such as pornography mirrored the brain scans of cocaine addicts when shown a

line of cocaine.

Carnes said a very primitive part of the brain is triggered by basic drives, including mating and food. The area, known as the reward pathway, is activated with the anticipation of pleasure and accompanied by a release of dopamine, which creates an intense high.

But over time, she said, the brain reduces the number of dopamine receptors, which makes it harder to experience pleasure. That accounts for the familiar pattern of addicts seeking more frequent or novel experiences and engaging in increasingly risky behavior to attain the same high.

At the same time, Carnes said, the brain's frontal lobes, which are responsible for judgment, decision making and impulse control, get sluggish and less effective.

*"This is what we mean when we say the brain is hijacked by addic-*

*tion,"* she said. *"The reptilian part of the brain seeking these pleasurable responses is highly activated and the critical thinking part of the brain is not. And that's how you start having people make really bad decisions."*

In King County, men convicted of soliciting or promoting prostitution are sent to a 10-week class on sexual exploitation that seeks to hold them accountable for the harm caused by the sex trade. Topics include how men are socialized toward women and sex, the relationship between power and violence against women and mutuality in relationships.

Peter Qualliotine, who teaches the class and co-founded the Seattle-based *Organization for Prostitution Survivors*, said the class is not treatment. It encourages self-reflection and critical analysis about the men's decision to buy sex. Patronizing prostitutes is part of a continuum of *"toxic masculinity,"* behavior that includes sexual harassment, domestic violence and rape.

Bill Lennon, a Bellevue, WA sex-addiction counselor, sees 13 groups of eight men weekly, all seeking help for compulsive sexual behavior. Such behavior can range from obsessively viewing pornography to answering Craigslist ads for minors selling themselves at cheap motels. None of the men are there voluntarily. Instead, they got busted in a police sting, or were caught by their wives or their employers and forced to confront their conduct. And most, Lennon insists, are nice guys. *"These are doctors, lawyers, pastors, professional athletes, your neighbor. Sex is an equal-opportunity addiction."*

Many of his clients are educated professionals who have never talked about their compulsive sexual activity with anyone before seeking treatment. Some tell him that online encounters or prostitutes are less trouble than real relationships; that they can be scheduled into busy and stressful work lives.

*"It's a lot more work to be in a relationship that's mutually, sexually satisfying,"* he said. *"It's so much easier to use the internet."* (<http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/eastside/Internet-has-put-a-spotlight-on-sex-addiction/>)



## Advocacy

### Growing Up with Porn: The Societal, Developmental Impact of Porn on Children

Dr. Gail Dines founded *Culture Reframed* (<http://www.culturereframed.org/>), the first health promotion effort to recognize and address pornography as the public health crisis of the digital age. Dr. Dines is chair of the Sociology and Women's Studies Dept. at Wheelock College in Boston.

What follows are excerpts from her presentation during the *Freedom from Exploitation* briefing.

Our culture is in the midst of a massive social experiment that is having a seismic impact on the sexual templates, behaviors, emotional wellbeing, and attitudes of youth. Never before have we brought up a generation of boys who are a click away from viewing free hardcore mainstream pornography or girls who are growing up in this pornified culture. The domestication of the Internet, which began around the year 2000, made pornography affordable, accessible, and anonymous, the three key factors to increase demand and consumption.

Studies show that nearly 49% of college males first encounter pornography before age 13. The most respected and cited study on mainstream pornography content found that 90% of scenes contained at least one aggressive act if both physical and verbal aggression were combined.

Thus, mainstream, online, free pornography is serving as the major form of sex education by which young people are learning about:

- the content and dynamics of sexual interactions;
- how gender is mapped onto sexual relationships;
- what constitutes sexual consent (or lack of);
- the normalization of gendered violence; and,

- sexual scripts that shape femininity and masculinity.

Research from the *American Psychological Association* informs us that girls who internalize the messages of the hypersexualized pop culture tend to have more depression, anxiety, lower self-esteem, eating disorders, and risky sexual behavior. Moreover, girls are more at risk for rape, battery, and being trafficked in a society where pornography is normalized. While girls are not the major consumers of porn, they suffer the consequences because they engage in sexual relationships with boys and men who have had their sexual templates shaped by mainstream online violent porn.

A gender-based lens also demands that we understand boys as victims of this predatory industry. Boys who are exposed to mainstream online violent pornography are increasingly being traumatized by the cruel images that assault them when they put porn into a Google search. Research shows that an adolescent brain is primed for novelty and risk taking, and the pornography industry has hijacked this developmental stage by targeting boys as potential consumers. Studies reveal that, the more young people are exposed to porn, the harder it is for them to form intimate relationships as they move through adolescence into adulthood.

A multidisciplinary team of experts and scholars at *Culture Reframed* help to build the public's capacity to deal with pervasive sexually violent online pornography. As the first international organization dedicated to addressing the harms of pornography from a public health perspective, they are developing cutting-edge educational programs for parents and health

professionals that promote awareness, resilience, and healthy development.

Many parents are unaware of the degree of brutality and dehumanization that is common in today's mainstream pornography. They have no idea that pornography is so accessible, and they do not know how to approach their children about this topic.

Similarly, health professionals play a major role in risk prevention. In June 2016, the *American College of Pediatrics* urged "professionals to communicate the risks of pornography use to patients and their families and to offer resources both to protect children from viewing pornography and to treat individuals suffering from its negative effects." However, health providers have been left unprepared and ill-equipped to deal with this mounting crisis.

The *Parents' Program* will consist of two key components: 1) providing parents with the knowledge and skills needed to talk effectively with their children and other parents/caregivers about pornography and healthy sexuality, and 2) facilitating online and face-to-face connections between parents/caregivers seeking information and support.

The *Health Professionals' Program* seeks to educate and increase awareness among health professionals, thereby enabling them to recognize problems related to pornography consumption—especially in children and adolescents—and referring them to appropriate networks for care.

(<http://digitalcommons.uri.edu/dignity/vol2/iss3/3/>)



## Advocacy

### Policy and Legislative Recommendations to Curb Sexual Exploitation

During the *Freedom from Exploitation* Briefing (referenced on pg. 1) Dawn Hawkins of the NCOSE proposed a partial list of policies that would help curb this growing abuse. For a full listing of her recommendations, explanations, and updates, go to <http://digitalcommons.uri.edu/dignity/vol2/iss3/12/>

- Amend Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act (CDA) of 1996 to allow prosecution of those who facilitate illegal commercial sex acts via the Internet.

While the overarching purpose of the CDA was to protect children from exposure to Internet pornography, section 230 of the Act was written to protect Internet companies from being held responsible for content generated by third-party users. The Supreme Court overturned the CDA with the exception of Section 230. Ironically, courts have recently interpreted section 230 of the CDA as shielding sex trafficking and prostitution websites, such as *Backpage.com* from criminal and civil liabilities in cases involving the facilitation of sex trafficking via the Internet.

As a result, sex trafficking is flourishing on the Internet, and those profiting from the sexual exploitation of countless individuals have repeatedly escaped justice.

- Instruct the U.S. Attorney General to vigorously enforce current federal obscenity laws, 18 U.S.C. § 1460 to 18 U.S.C. § 1470.

The government can curb the demand for prostitution, sex trafficking, child sex abuse, and sexual violence by demanding the Attorney General enforce these existing federal laws, which prohibit distribution of hard-

core pornography on the Internet, on cable/satellite TV, on hotel/motel TV, in retail shops, and by common carrier.

- Direct the U.S. Surgeon General and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to fund research into the public health harms of pornography, and launch comprehensive efforts to abate these problems.
- The DOJ, under the provisions of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, should prosecute those who “solicit or patronize” victims of human trafficking for the purpose of commercial sex acts. As the 2013 Trafficking in Persons Report observed, “If there were no demand for commercial sex, sex trafficking would not exist in the form it does today. This reality underscores the need for continued strong efforts to enact policies that prohibit paying for sex.” DOJ should also work with its federally funded anti-trafficking task forces to ensure the investigation, arrest, and prosecution of persons who purchase sexual acts, as part of a concerted effort to combat the demand for sex trafficking.

- Direct the Departments of Justice, State, and Health and Human Services, as well as USAID to provide guidance to U.S. states and foreign governments advising against the decriminalization of prostitution and against the normalization of prostitution as “sex work.”

Multilateral organizations such as the UN Women and UNAIDS, as well as organizations like Amnesty International and the Open Society Foundation, are pushing for the full decriminalization of prostitution in the U.S. and abroad. Full decriminalization of

prostitution transforms pimps and sex traffickers into “business entrepreneurs,” and institutes a de facto right for men to buy women, men, and children for sex. Such laws do not protect the human rights of persons in prostitution, but guarantee that their dehumanization and exploitation will continue.

- Require that training programs informing military personnel about the harms of pornography be incorporated in anti-sexual assault trainings across all Department of Defense agencies.
- In furtherance of the Department of Defense’s “2015 Combating Trafficking in Persons (CTIP) Instruction 2200.1,” institute a rule making strip clubs off-limits to all U.S. military personnel worldwide.
- Pass H.R. 466 “Sex Trafficking Demand Reduction Act”; H.R. 680 “Eliminating Pornography from Agencies Act”; S.534 “Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse Act of 2017.”

To promote these bills, find out more details on each at:

<https://www.congress.gov/>

Then contact your legislators and encourage them to support anti-trafficking legislation.

Go to:

<https://www.congress.gov/members?q={%22congress%22:%22115%22}>

If you have suggestions for policies, please contact the *National Center on Sexual Exploitation* at:

[public@ncose.com](mailto:public@ncose.com)



## Advocacy

### Canada: Buying Sex is a Crime

Buying sex, or attempting to buy sex, is illegal in Canada.

In 2014, Canada passed the *Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act*, which declared that the purchase or attempted purchase of sex was illegal – wherever and whenever it occurs. This shift is

significant, because the demand for paid sex is what funnels women into prostitution and fuels sex trafficking.

The preamble of the bill recognized that prostitution is inherently dangerous and exploitive, that objectification of the human body and commodification of sexuality causes social harm, and that prostitution violates human dignity and equality between the sexes. It also recognizes coercive elements like poverty, addiction, colonization, mental illness and racialization as a few key contributing factors to individuals entering prostitution or being vulnerable to exploitation.

Ending exploitation means turning the focus away from those who are prostituted and exploited and onto the demand for paid sex, which is the root cause of sexual exploitation and human trafficking.

This approach has been proven effective in countries such as Norway, Sweden and Iceland, and has been adopted in recent years by several other countries.



It is critical that the Canadian government maintain and encourage enforcement of the current laws in order to ensure that Canada has a real chance of being a global leader in ending this type of exploitation.

Our federal government has stated its commitment to working towards gender equality in Parliament and in the day-to-day reality of average Canadians. They have committed to addressing violence against women and girls.

Upholding the *Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act* is a vital step toward achieving that equality and creating real safety for all peoples.

The *Buying Sex is a Crime* billboard campaign is endorsed by a wide cross-section of groups from across Canada that advocate for an end to sexual exploitation in Canada.

(<http://churchforvancouver.ca/buying-sex-is-a-crime-national-campaign-urges-government-action/>)

## Resources

### CULTURE REFRAMED

To learn more about healthy sex versus porn sex, the harms of pornography, how our culture is becoming more sexual, and how to get help for yourself and children visit the *Culture Reframed* library for a range of resources (books, videos, websites, professional journal articles) on these topics.

Go to: <http://www.culturereframed.org/learning-resources/>



The two primary Internet dangers today are children's free and easy access to all types of pornography, and sexual predators' easy and anonymous access to children.

Enough-Is-Enough (EIE) has a three-pronged, preventative approach to create and sustain a safe, entertaining, and informative Internet environment:

1. Raise public awareness of the threat of illegal pornography and sexual predation on the Internet in order to empower and equip parents and other child caregivers to implement safety measures.
2. Encourage the technology industry to implement viable technological solutions and family-friendly corporate policy to reduce this threat.
3. Promote legal solutions by calling for aggressive enforcement of existing laws and enactment of new laws to stop the sexual exploitation and victimization of children using the Internet.

The *Enough-Is-Enough* website provides many excellent resources on a variety of topics:

- Internet Dangers 101 Resources
- Helpful Parents Guides
- Internet Safety Rules 'N' Tools
- Texting Acronyms
- Technology Tools & Solutions
- Filtering/Monitoring/Accountability

Resources cont. pg. 9





Action

Toll-Free 24/7 Hotline  
National Human Trafficking  
Resource Center  
1.888.3737.888  
Text 'Help' at: BeFree  
(233733)

## Things You Can Do

### Read More

What follows is the list of presentations in the *Dignity Magazine* covering 'Freedom from Sexploitation' topics:

- Introduction to Dignity Special Issue: Freedom from Sexploitation by Lisa L. Thompson and Donna M. Hughes
- It Can't Wait: Exposing the Connections Between Forms of Sexual Exploitation by Dawn Hawkins
- Growing Up With Porn: The Developmental and Societal Impact of Pornography on Children by Gail Dines
- Twisting Masculinity: Harms of Pornography to Young Boys and Men by Gabe Deem
- Two Questions, The Same Answer: The Role of Demand in Prostitution and Sex Trafficking by Shamere McKenzie
- The Public Health Harms of Pornography: The Brain, Erectile Dysfunction, and Sexual Violence by John D. Foubert
- Today's Porn: Not A Constitutional Right; Not A Human Right by Patrick Trueman
- The Global Supply Chain of Sexual Exploitation and the Necessity of Combating the Demand for Commercial Sex by Lisa L. Thompson
- Inextricably Bound: Strip Clubs, Prostitution, and Sex Trafficking by Dan O'Bryant
- Why We Must Oppose The Full Decriminalization of Prostitution by Taina Bien-Aime
- Amend The Communications Decency Act To Protect Victims of Sexual Exploitation by Samantha Vardaman
- The Freedom From Sexploitation Agenda: Policy And Legislative Recommendations To Curb Sexual Exploitation by Dawn Hawkins

To access them go to: <http://digitalcommons.uri.edu/dignity/>

### Learn More

Stanford University offers a set of free self-paced online courses for the general public and those interested in the restaurant and hotel industries.

Entitled 'Human Trafficking Awareness' these courses are found at:  
<https://lagunita.stanford.edu/>

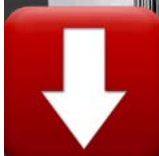


### Share More

Although names have been changed, *#SexSells* follows the true story of two people whose lives started normally, but who were pulled into both sides of the supply and demand of human trafficking.

When thirteen year-old Lauren is kidnapped into a world of prostitution, and when an everyman named Jeremy transforms into a serial sex-buyer, their stories interweave in unforeseen ways as they both search for freedom. *#SexSells - Lauren's Story* can be bought for \$19.95 and downloaded at:

<https://www.sexsellsfilm.com/>



**Informative Web Sites:**  
(Each contains information related to human trafficking)

***Dignity: A Journal on Sexual Exploitation and Violence***

Vol. 2, Iss. 3 [2017]

<http://digitalcommons.uri.edu/dignity/vol2/iss3/12>

***Freedom from Sexploitation Videos***

<http://endsexualexploitation.org/freedomagenda/>

### Get Involved

The *Nexus Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery Working Group* spent three years collecting information from 120+ organizations working against human trafficking.

Download the Nexus

**#EndSlaveryNow**

resource at the following link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/oB3KaLcP6Bz6gZU45dVVDOElPcXc/view>

### Resources *cont. from pg. 8*

- Parental Controls
- Mobile/ Wireless
- Safe Search Engines
- Kid Friendly Search Engines
- Cybercrime Reporting / Hotlines / Amber Alerts
- Family Watchdog®
- Sex Offender Registry
- Recovery, Survivor & Victims Resources
- Advocacy / Laws / Enforcement
- Partner Resources
- Great Sites for Kids

Go to: [http://enough.org/resource\\_center](http://enough.org/resource_center)

**Stop Trafficking!** is dedicated exclusively to fostering an exchange of information among USCSAHT members and organizations, collaborating to eliminate all forms of human trafficking.

To access back issues of *Stop Trafficking!*, go to: <http://www.stopenslavement.org/>

To contribute information, please contact: [jeansds@stopenslavement.org](mailto:jeansds@stopenslavement.org)

Editing and Layout: *Jean Schafer, SDS*