



Prostitution “The World’s Oldest Oppression”



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Founder and Chief
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Living in Freedom Together

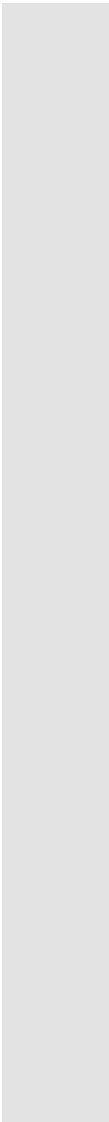
Empowering and Elevating Survivors

Mission and Vision

- MISSION: LIFT IS A SURVIVOR-LED ORGANIZATION WHICH PROVIDES RESOURCES, ADVOCACY, AND SUPPORT TO EMPOWER INDIVIDUALS TO EXIT AND RECOVER FROM THE IMPACTS OF COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION. LIFT ALSO AIMS TO PROMOTE COMMUNITY AWARENESS OF COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION THROUGH TARGETED OUTREACH AND EDUCATION. OUR MISSION IS TO END PROSTITUTION THROUGH IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EQUALITY MODEL.
- VISION: LIFT ENVISIONS A COMMUNITY WHEREIN VICTIMS WHO WERE FOR SO LONG SHUNNED ARE NOW EMBRACED WITH DIGNITY, CHOICES, AND INCLUSION. LIFT ALSO ENVISIONS A WORLD WITHOUT THE MARKET FOR VULNERABLE INDIVIDUALS BEING SOLD FOR SEX.



Survivor Support Services

- Drop In Center
 - Access to medical and mental health services
 - Clothing
 - Food
 - Narcan
 - Harm reduction resources
 - HIV/STI Testing
 - Support Groups
 - Reentry Support
 - Court Advocacy
 - Mentorship
 - Intensive Case Management
 - Educational Programs
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Jana's Place

- Our treatment model is unique as it does not treat SUD or MHD in a vacuum. Instead our approach is holistic and comprehensive with survivor-led programming and participant-centered recovery plans.
- Additionally, *Jana's Place* assists participants in achieving long-term recovery through programming that works to reduce several barriers that participants may face after their time at Jana's Place. Barriers to gainful employment, housing, and health care are addressed by providing job-skills training, professional and life-skills development, and onsite medical care facilities.
- *Jana's Place* is where survivors will begin to heal, feel empowered to participate in their recovery, and build the social connections and support systems critical to long-term recovery.

HARBOR

- HARBOR (Healthcare, Advocacy, Room, Board, Outreach, Rehousing) is a collaborative initiative that unites multiple community partners to create and support a day program and a 15-bed overnight shelter for women experiencing homelessness, commercial sexual exploitation, substance/opioid use disorder, and/or mental health disorders.

Youth Outreach and Advocacy Services (YOAS)

- The YOAS team provides mentorship and support services for youth who have a history of or who are at-risk for CSE. CSE is a pattern of exploitation and violence, which can have a serious impact on wellbeing. The peer mentors, who are also survivors are here to help strategize what is needed to increase safety, health, and wellbeing, whether at risk, in the 'life,' or fully exited. They are here to answer questions about life, mental health, relationships, and identity.

Education and Outreach

- Survivor Led Trainings
 - Law Enforcement
 - Medical Providers
 - Educational Institutions
 - Hotels
 - Social Service Agencies
 - Schools
 - Criminal Justice Systems
 - Correctional Staff



Sex Buyer Education and CATI (Creating Alternatives to Incarceration) Program



Co-Facilitate the State's First
Sex Buyer Education
Program



Educate Buyers and
Community on the Harms of
Prostitution



Operates a diversion
program in partnership with
the District Attorney's Office.

Policy Initiatives

Reduce Stigma

Promotion of the Equality
Model

End Demand Campaigns

What is the Equality Model?

The Equality Model

- Repeal laws calling for the arrests and incarceration of people in prostitution (i.e. decriminalize people in prostitution).
- Provide comprehensive trauma-informed social services (e.g., legal, social, clinical, medical, economic empowerment) to people in prostitution, including options should they wish to exit the sex trade.
- Reduce the demand for prostitution by penalizing sex buyers. This shrinks the sex trade and prevents more vulnerable people from being pulled into harm's way.
- Continue to criminalize pimps and traffickers, brothel owners and illicit massage parlor owners.
- Commit to an extensive community education campaign to raise awareness about the lifelong physical harm and psychological trauma people in prostitution experience at the hands of sex buyers. This increases social accountability for the discriminatory practice of sex buying and contributes to reducing demand for prostitution. It also promotes gender equality, strengthens empathy for survivors

EQUALITY MODEL VS. FULL DECRIM

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

EQUALITY MODEL

Reduce demand by holding sex buyers accountable

Continue to prosecute pimps, traffickers, & brothel owners

Decrease sex trafficking

Increase resources available to people in prostitution

Provide exit strategies + services, including housing, for those who wish to leave the sex trade

Decriminalize people in prostitution

Repeal Loitering Statute

Expand Vacatur Relief

Reduce stigma of people in prostitution

FULL DECRIM

Repeal laws that criminalize pimping people over 17

Legitimize sex buying

Increase demand and human trafficking

Make illicit brothels bonafide businesses

Increase sex tourism

Wipe traffickers' records clean

Why we seek to End the Demand for Commercial Sex?

Men who buy sex create the “demand” that fuels the illegal sex trade. Without buyers, prostitution (and by extension sex trafficking) would cease to exist.

Factors Influencing Demand

- **Acceptance of Violence Towards Individuals in the Commercial Sex Industry**
- A Canadian commission found that “prostituted women are 40 times more likely to be murdered than their non-prostituted counterpart.”
- **No Perceived Consequences**
- In 2004, Chicago Police Arrested 3,204 women and 950 Johns.
- “Last year, Chicago Police arrested 950 prostitution customers, that comes to less than 3 a day in the entire city, so you tell me if that sounds like a commitment to addressing demand for prostitution. They could make 20 or more arrests here a day.”
- **Internet Pornography**
- 25% of search engine requests are for pornography related requests
- Much prostitution activity takes place online today. You can order a vulnerable person for sex online as easily as you order a pizza.

Factors Influencing Demand

Dehumanization of those in the Sex Trade

- “I picked prostitutes because I hate prostitutes and did not want to pay them for sex. I also picked prostitutes as victims because they were easy to pick up, without being noticed. I knew that they would not be reported missing right away, and might never be reported missing. I picked prostitutes because I thought I could kill as many of them as I wanted without getting caught.”
- Of Gary Ridgway's 48 victims, 27 of those victims were between the ages of 15-18 years old. The Green River Killer was therefore one of the largest child serial killers in the US ever, and the largest known killer of victims of commercial sexual exploitation, yet the fact that many of his victims were children is never talked about because they were viewed as “prostitutes”

[https://www.youtube.com
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Ag&feature=emb_title](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=13&v=TnWRx-3s-Ag&feature=emb_title)

Discussion Questions?

- Why do you think our society doesn't address demand more?
- Why don't we arrest buyers more often?

Prostitution

- **Prostitution** is not only **discrimination**, exploitation and abuse by an individual man or men, but also a structure reflecting and **maintaining inequality** between men and women, north and south, white and non-white. **Prostitution** is the sexualization of power **based on gender**, class, and **ethnicity** and negatively impacts society's view of **women**.

Prostitution Is

- sexual harassment
- Rape
- battering
- verbal abuse
- domestic violence
- a racist practice
- a violation of human rights
- childhood sexual abuse
- a consequence of male domination of women
- a means of maintaining male domination of women

Systems of Prostitution Include

Street prostitution

Pornography

Stripping

Erotic/nude massage

Escort services

Phone sex lines

Private parties

Gang and organized crime based exploitation

Familial pimping

Forms of internet based exploitation

Sex Trafficking

Sex Trafficking Is.....

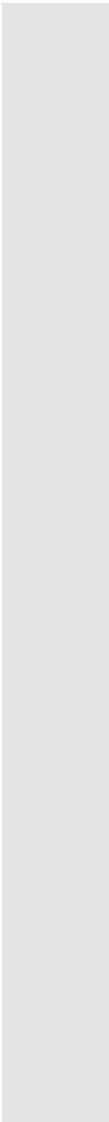
- The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for a commercial sex act in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not reached the age of 18.

Impact of Prostitution on Society

- **Prostitution contributes to the objectification of women:** Just because someone pays does not erase the qualifications of what we consider sexual violence, domestic violence, and rape. However, people who pay for sex tend to think that what they do is acceptable.



Impact on the Individual

- Involvement in prostitution is harmful to women in and of itself. Harm is the result of the adverse impact of emotional, physical, financial and sexual abuse on women involved in prostitution combined with the impact of engagement in the repeated, unwanted sex and sexualized activity demanded by men who exploit women through prostitution.
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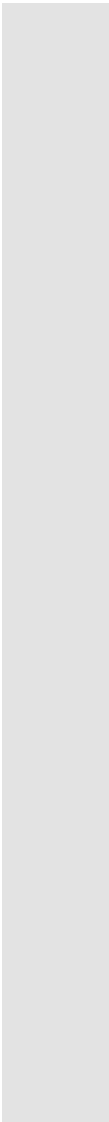


Risk Factors

- Individual:
Events in, or characteristics of, an individual's life.
- Environmental:
Come from an individual's neighborhood or community
- Social:
The foundation set up in our culture that makes CSE possible or ways in which our society promotes or perpetuates sexual exploitation


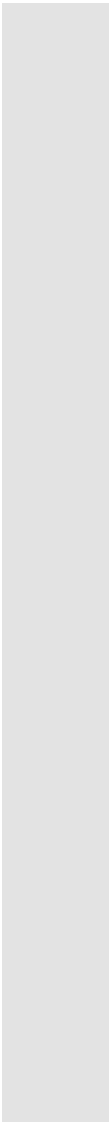


Individual

- Sexual Abuse/Physical Abuse/Neglect
 - Runaway/"Throwaway"/Homeless
 - Identification as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and/or Questioning
 - Mental Health Issues
 - Unaddressed trauma
 - Developmental/Learning disabilities
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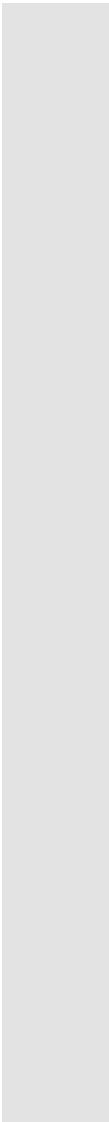


Environmental

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- Adult sex industry
 - Substance use disorder
 - Transient male population
 - Poverty
 - Violence
 - Street induced culture/economy
 - Proximity to borders
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Social

- Racism
 - Sexism & Misogyny
 - Sexualization of girls and young women
 - Sexualization of boys
 - Acceptance of violence against women and minority groups
 - Access to technology
 - Glorification of pimp culture
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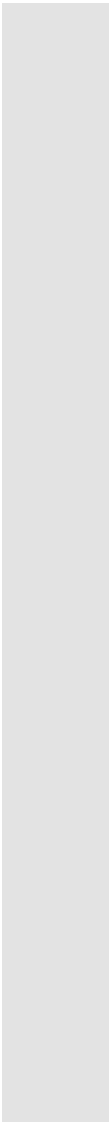
Impact of the Sex Trade on Survivors

Physical Impacts of CSE on Survivors

- Continuous physical abuse
- Rape and gang-rape
- STI'S
- HIV and AIDS
- Pregnancy (wanted and unwanted)
- Tattoos and/or physical branding
- Substance Use disorder, cutting, self mutilation
- Suicide or death



Emotional and Spiritual Impacts of CSE on Survivors

- Anger and rage
 - Deep emotional pain and grieving
 - Feeling of humiliation and shame
 - Stigma of exploitation
 - Self blame and hatred
 - Loss of sexual desire
 - Hopelessness
 - Lack of belief in humanity or a higher power
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Psychological Impacts of CSE on Survivors

- Disruption of healthy psychological development
- Post traumatic Stress Disorder
- Self injurious and suicidal behavior
- Dissociative Disorder
- Anxiety
- Paranoia
- Explosive outburst
- Hyper-sexualization

- Isolation from peer group
- Disconnection from community
- Isolation (real and perceived) from society
- Homelessness
- Incarceration or criminal record
- Trust issues or difficulty maintaining relationships
- Educational Deprivation
- Lack of life skills


Social Impacts of CSE on Survivors



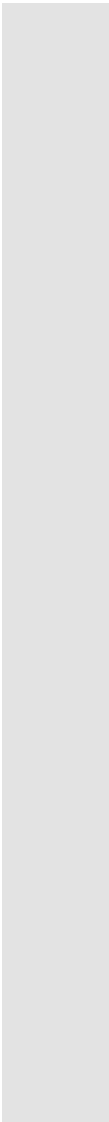
Engagement Strategies

Engaging Survivors of CSE

- Do meet a sexually exploited victim where they are, on their terms, and try to meet the needs they present.
- Do recognize the various symptoms of trauma exhibited and coping mechanisms used by CSE individuals that may not be those ones typically associated with victims
- Do be nonjudgmental when listening to victims
- Do keep them comfortable and talking
- Do improve a systematic response to CSE victims by creating inter-agency relationships to comprehensively meet victims' needs.



Engaging Survivors of CSE

- Don't expect a victim to recognize their situation as exploitive, or to present themselves as a victim in need of immediate service or intervention.
 - Don't use strategies that switch between treating individual as a victim and as offender
 - Don't react verbally or physically in a way that communicated disgust or disdain.
 - Don't dispute facts or comment on their motivation. This is likely to stop the flow of information.
 - Don't assume the sole responsibility for meeting the myriad of needs of victims of CSE
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Key Points

- Be aware of your actions when working with victims of CSE
- Set a non judgmental and empathetic tone.
- Treat the individuals as a victim of trauma and abuse.

Creating Comprehensive Holistic Exit Plans

[https://thelifestory.org/
the-long-exit](https://thelifestory.org/the-long-exit)

What Women Say are the Most Challenging Barriers to Exiting

- Substance use disorder (SUD)
- Chronic homelessness
- Inadequate education/job skills
- Lack of positive social support
- Lack of knowledge about available resources
- Former convictions of prostitution and drugs
- Lack of trauma-informed and appropriate programs that address all factors simultaneously

What is needed to Exit out of the Life?

- Being able to respond to crisis events, easy access to safe emergency/shelter, financial support and basic needs.
- Holistic interventions, long term one to one supports addressing the multiplicity of issues, legal, health etc.
- Education and training, matching skills and interests to education and employment opportunities.
- Working through experiences, dealing with new relationships and new life roles.
- **Exiting is a Process Not an Event!!!!**

A Comprehensive and Coordinated Response

A continual Focus on

- (1) Safety
- (2) Trauma-informed Service Delivery

Meet Immediate Needs

- Crisis Intervention
- Immediate Access to safety
- Shelter/Detox
- Emergency Medical Care
- Food/Clothing

Meet Ongoing Needs

- Health and Wellness
- Longer term Recovery services
- Transitional Housing
- Legal Advocacy
- Life Skills
- Creating new support systems

Long Term Needs

- Education
- Self Sufficiency
- Employment
- Long Term Housing
- New Life role

Questions?

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