

# Men As Partners in Ending Demand

---

A Toolkit and Resource Guide to End  
Sexual Exploitation



Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation  
2011

# **Table of Contents**

<b>Toolkit Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Why Men Matter</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Introduction to Sexual Exploitation</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Circumstances Where Sexual Exploitation Occurs</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>10 Common Myths</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>End Demand</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Sexual Exploitation and the Media</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Actions and Activism</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Recommended Literature</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Resources</b>	<b>29</b>

## TOOLKIT INTRODUCTION

This toolkit, *Men As Partners in Ending Demand*, is a resource for men created by the Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation (CAASE). We know that many men care strongly about ending sexual exploitation and harm but struggle with how to create change in their everyday lives. This toolkit provides background information on issues surrounding commercial sexual exploitation, debunks popular myths about exploitation, and offers suggestions for advocacy. As men, you are integral in the fight against sexual harm and violence. This toolkit offers valuable knowledge and tangible strategies that you can use to become an activist in your own lives.

This toolkit includes the following resources:

- Information on Sexual Exploitation
  - Why Men are Crucial in Ending Demand
  - Myths about Prostitution
  - Suggested Activism and Advocacy
  - Suggested Literature and Media
  - Supportive Agencies and Organizations

**The Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation (CAASE)** believes in stopping sexual exploitation by directly addressing the culture, institutions, and individuals that perpetrate, profit from, or tacitly support sexual exploitation. Our work includes prevention, policy reform, community engagement, and legal services.

To accomplish our mission, CAASE seeks legal repercussions on behalf of survivors against perpetrators of sexual harm; advocates for policies and legislation that hold sexual exploiters accountable; creates and implements prevention initiatives, including providing safe spaces for survivors to give testimony about their experiences; and develops resources that empower individuals and communities to stand with victims of sexual harm and take action against sexual exploiters.

## WHY MEN MATTER: MEN AS PARTNERS

CAASE believes that the only way to truly eliminate prostitution is to eliminate the demand for paid sex (for more information, see the “End Demand” section later in the toolkit). If nobody wants to purchase women and girls, then pimps and traffickers will have no reason to try to sell them for a profit. As men, you stand at the crux of the movement; as men, you can influence your own behavior and that of your peers, and you can become a powerful advocate in the fight against prostitution.

If we try to combat prostitution by blaming men, we will fail. Men *and* women have contributed to a society that supports the buying and selling of sex. Therefore, both men and women are integral in ending sexual harm. Separated, we may be too weak to create significant change, but together we can begin to shift the way the world views sexual exploitation. Sexual exploitation affects our entire community, so we need to unite in order to eliminate demand. Men are not the problem; they are a vital part of the solution.

### SPOTLIGHT: A CALL TO MEN

A Call To Men is a leading national men's organization that works to prevent domestic and sexual violence and to promote a healthy definition of what it means to be a man. It is committed to maintaining strong partnerships with women's organizations and helps organize communities to raise awareness and get men involved in this effort. Through seminars, workshops, and other educational vehicles, A Call To Men challenges men to reconsider many of the social norms that define masculinity and manhood.

Cofounders Tony Porter and Ted Bunch created A Call To Men based on their belief that preventing domestic and sexual violence is primarily the responsibility of men. Although work to end gender-based violence has been historically viewed predominantly as a “woman’s issue,” A Call To Men believes that it is essential for men to play a primary role in the solution. To do that, well-meaning men—men who, for the most part, don't see themselves as part of the problem—need to get involved.

<http://www.acalltomen.com/>

## INTRODUCTION TO SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

### Entry for Economic Reasons

Some people think that women freely choose to be prostituted and that they prefer selling sex to other job opportunities. Many prostituted individuals, however, enter prostitution out of economic desperation because they have no other means of earning money.<sup>1</sup> These women view prostitution as a survival strategy, and while they are making a choice, this choice must be viewed in context: when prostitution is the only financially viable option for a woman to support herself and her family, is it really a *choice*?<sup>2</sup>

### Entry by Coercion

Pimps and traffickers frequently use intimidation to trick or coerce people into prostitution. Pimps often inflict daily violence and manipulation that is both pervasive and brutal, and to the women being controlled, violence is a constant, unpredictable threat. Some common tactics used by traffickers include social isolation, sensory deprivation/torture, induced exhaustion and physical debilitation, threats to the women and their families, reprieves and indulgences, degradation, capricious rules, disassociation, drugs and forced addiction, and forced pregnancy.<sup>3</sup>

Pimps can act as a powerful barrier to exiting prostitution by manipulating the women and girls they prostitute into dependent relationships. Pimps take away their sense of self-worth and love and, in the process, make them believe that the only person who could take care of them is their pimp. Pimps trick the women and girls to focus on the perceived security and romance they receive from the pimps and to disassociate from the manipulation and violence, making it less likely for them to leave prostitution.<sup>4</sup> Pimps also maintain control through financial means: most if not all profits go directly to the pimp, making it nearly impossible for women to leave prostitution without social support.

### Entry by Force

Individuals that are trafficked against their will are often forced into prostitution. According to the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, a person has been trafficked if

1. he or she is induced to perform labor or a commercial sex act through force, fraud, or coercion, or

---

<sup>1</sup> M.C. Nussbaum, (1998). "Whether From Reason or Prejudice: Taking Money for Bodily Services," *Journal of Legal Studies* 27 (2) (1998): 693-724.

<sup>2</sup> Denise Brennan, *What's Love Got to Do With It?: Transnational Desires and Sex Tourism in the Dominican Republic* (Duke University Press, 2004), 45.

<sup>3</sup> Melissa Farley, *Prostitution and Trafficking in Nevada: Making the Connections*, (Prostitution Research and Education, San Francisco, 2007), 49-58.

<sup>4</sup> C. Williamson and T. Cluse-Tolar, "Pimp-controlled Prostitution Still an Integral Part of Street Life," *Violence Against Women* 8 (9) (2002), 1074-1092.

2. he or she is under age 18 and induced to perform commercial sex, regardless of whether force, fraud, or coercion was present.

Traffickers seek out people who will be vulnerable to influence, people who often lack economic opportunities or suffer from a history of abuse. Immigrants, runaways, and youth are particularly susceptible. Sometimes traffickers coerce their targets with promises of work or stability; sometimes they simply kidnap their victims.<sup>5</sup> Many of the women who are trafficked—domestically and internationally—will find themselves forced into commercial sex, forced to perform countless sexual acts against their will. In one study, 79 percent of women indicated that they were in prostitution due to some measure of force.<sup>6</sup>

## Entry of Children

Commercial sexual exploiters in the US target particularly vulnerable youth, such as runaway and homeless adolescents.<sup>7</sup> Pimps understand the circumstances and tactics necessary to compel an individual into the sex trade, and they physically coerce or emotionally manipulate young people with false promises, verbal or physical abuse, and threats of harm to the victim and his or her family.<sup>8</sup>

Nationally, the average age that women enter the sex trade is 12-14.<sup>9</sup> In Chicago, according to the Center for Impact Research, 35 percent of all women in the sex trade entered before the age of 15.<sup>10</sup> Despite their age, these girls are often treated as criminals by law enforcement and judges, even though federal and state law protects them as victims.<sup>11</sup>

## Outcomes of Entry

Once in prostitution, women and girls can face a life of perpetual physical violence and emotional trauma. Abuse is the rule, not the exception, as they attempt to satisfy pimps' demands and johns' desires. While it is important to note that not all johns abuse the women they purchase, every man that chooses to spend money for sex chooses to contribute to an industry in which other men—pimps or johns—do abuse women. In one international study, 71 percent of the respondents said they'd been sexually assaulted in prostitution, and 62 percent said they had been raped.<sup>12</sup> A Canadian report on prostitution discovered that women who are commercially sexually exploited may have a mortality rate 40 times higher than the national average, due to violence and drugs.<sup>13</sup>

---

<sup>5</sup> The Polaris Project, "The Victims," accessed August 27, 2011, <http://www.polarisproject.org/human-trafficking/overview/the-victims>.

<sup>6</sup> D.M. Hughes, "Demand: The Driving Force of Sex Trafficking," Coalition Commentary, *Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault*, (Spring 2003).

<sup>7</sup> The Polaris Project, "The Victims," accessed August 27, 2011, <http://www.polarisproject.org/human-trafficking/overview/the-victims>.

<sup>8</sup> J. Raphael and J. Ashley, "Domestic Sex Trafficking of Chicago Women and Girls," *Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority* (DePaul University College of Law, 2003).

<sup>9</sup> US Department of Justice, *Domestic Sex Trafficking of Minors* (Washington, DC, 2007).

<sup>10</sup> J. Raphael and D. Shapiro, (2002). *Sisters Speak Out: The Lives and Needs of Prostituted Women in Chicago*, (Center for Impact Research, 2002).

<sup>11</sup> *William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008*, Public Law 110-457, 110th Cong. (December 23, 2008), codified at US Code 18 section 1591.

<sup>12</sup> Melissa Farley et al., "Prostitution and Trafficking in Nine Countries: An Update on Violence and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder," *Journal of Trauma Practice* 2:3/4 (2003): 33-74.

<sup>13</sup> Special Committee on Pornography and Prostitution, *Pornography and Prostitution in Canada* 350 (1985).

Women in prostitution also endure exhaustion, frequent viral illness, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), vaginal infections, backaches, depression, eating disorders, cervical cancer, and posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD).<sup>14</sup> In fact, according to academic researcher Melissa Farley, 68 percent of women who are sexually exploited experience posttraumatic stress disorder as a result of the trauma they experience during prostitution.<sup>15</sup>

Youth in prostitution are also affected developmentally: like their older peers, they suffer from posttraumatic stress disorder, sexually transmitted diseases, and drug addiction.<sup>16</sup> These girls often grow distrustful of men and strangers, and their self-esteem deteriorates.<sup>17</sup> If they ever manage to escape, they are at a developmental disadvantage because pimps rarely allow their victims to go to school.<sup>18</sup> They must start a new life with little education, savings, or support from family and friends.

---

<sup>14</sup> Melissa Farley, "Bad for the Body, Bad for the Heart: Prostitution Harms Women Even If Legalized or Decriminalized," *Violence Against Women*, 10(10) (2004): 1087-1125.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

<sup>16</sup> Kritaya Archavanitkul, "Combating the Trafficking in Children and their Exploitation in Prostitution and Other Intolerable Forms of Child Labour in Mekong Basin Countries," *Institute for Population and Social Research* (1998).

<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

## CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OCCURS

Sexual exploitation is commonly assumed to take place in secrecy behind locked doors with victims who are physically restrained or held hostage. While this extreme

scenario certainly does occur, domestic sexual exploitation can be found everywhere around us. From the busy commercial streets of an urban city to massage parlors in the suburbs, from websites like Backpage.com to the Super Bowl each year, sexual exploitation takes many forms. No form of the sex industry is inherently “safe,” however: a woman being sold on an exclusive website can be abused and exploited just as much as a girl being sold from a locked room of an apartment. This section will explain some of the major forms of sexual exploitation in order to highlight the abuse that is manifest in each situation.

### STIGMA

In addition to physical and emotional abuse, prostituted women and girls endure a stigma that can last a lifetime. Even if they succeed in leaving the life, they may still be haunted by their pasts. Rachel Lloyd, the founder of GEMS (Girls Educational & Mentoring Services), still struggles with this stigma. Referring to the time a politician at a White House event made an offensive comment to her, Rachel explains, “Despite all my accomplishments, despite the momentous nature of the event, all this person saw was my past. Nothing I did, no one I met, would erase the fact that in his eyes, I was still a former prostitute.”<sup>19</sup> This stigma affects a woman’s career opportunities, her future relationships, and her self-esteem. It is perhaps the longest-lasting harm caused by sexual exploitation.

purchased outdoors. Usually, these women will have certain locations, or “tracks,” where they walk as they wait for men to pick them up. People of all ages are exploited outdoors, and they may be put on the streets by a pimp who takes a portion or all of their profits.<sup>19</sup>

### ON THE STREETS

**What it is:** Street prostitution refers to people who are found and

<sup>19</sup> J. Raphael and B. Myers-Powell, *From Victims to Victimizers: Interviews with 25 Ex-Pimps in Chicago* (Schiller DuCanto and Fleck Family Law Center, DePaul University College of Law, 2010).

**What it can look like:** This summary of *Listening to Olivia*<sup>20</sup> gives an accurate description of street prostitution:

Olivia's childhood was tainted by alcoholism, and physical abuse, and poverty, and she began drinking when she was nine in order to cope with the stress. Living in a Chicago housing project, Olivia struggled to find work to support her family. Her work as a cocktail server on the south side of Chicago led to more lucrative work at a strip club on Rush Street. When she joined the club, she thought they were actually searching for dancers. She soon realized that dance talent was not what they had in mind.

As she began to strip and endure the harassment and degrading comments from patrons, Olivia relied on alcohol to numb herself against reality. The longer she was there, the more she was pressured to perform beyond just the dance floor. At the age of 18, a new drug addiction pushed Olivia to start turning tricks in the back rooms of the clubs where she danced. As Olivia's drug habit began to spiral out of control, she left the club and began an 18-year career in prostitution on Rush Street. Olivia's drug habit eventually left her homeless, and she became increasingly more dependent on her violent "partner," who was responsible for collecting the money she made in prostitution, providing her shelter, and feeding their drug habits. When Olivia didn't make enough money to support their lifestyle, he often violently abused her. The streets could have been the end for Olivia. Luckily, she was approached by an outreach worker conducting research on women in prostitution. This worker referred her to a substance-abuse program where Olivia began her recovery.

## INDOORS

**What it is:** Indoor prostitution occurs in locations such as massage parlors, strip clubs, brothels, and apartments. In the case of massage parlors and strip clubs, the business may appear to be legitimate while secretly offering men the chance to purchase the women employed there for various sex acts. As with street prostitution, girls and women sold indoors or through business fronts may also be controlled by a pimp, and they will have to pay both the agency and the pimp.<sup>21</sup>

**What it can look like:** Angel's Ladies brothel is an 80-acre "oasis in the desert" near Beatty, Nevada. It claims to feature a massive mineral-springs swimming pool, a hot tub, and private bungalows; truck drivers are invited to use the ample parking, and customers can enjoy a "bonfire [to] roast wieners and marshmallows at night. Listen to the wildlife serenade you and the lady of your choice." In reality, this "oasis" comprises several small, dirty, one-story buildings; the entire complex is enclosed by a chain-link fence.

In Nevada, where prostitution is legal, there are at least 20 large brothels where men can purchase sexual acts and experiences. These brothels, found in sparse, rural areas away from urban centers, more closely resemble trailer-park compounds and grimy motels than glamorous sex resorts. The women, isolated and stigmatized, enjoy little freedom; they have to ask the pimp for permission to leave the compound, and they must bring chaperones with them so that they don't flee. According to one study,

---

<sup>20</sup> Jody Raphael, *Listening to Olivia: Violence, Poverty, and Prostitution* (Boston: Northeastern UP, 2004).

<sup>21</sup> J. Raphael and B. Myers-Powell, *From Victims to Victimizers: Interviews with 25 Ex-Pimps in Chicago* (Schiller DuCanto and Fleck Family Law Center, DePaul University College of Law, 2010).

these women are allowed to keep only 50 percent of the money they suffer for, and the high cost of living in the brothel further imprisons them.<sup>22</sup> Often required to have sex repeatedly throughout the day, most days of the week, these women experience physical strain and emotional stress.<sup>23</sup>

## E-TRADE

**What it is:** Websites like Craigslist and Backpage are often used to post advertisements for people being sold. Men find girls online and arrange to meet at another location such as the house of the john, a hotel room, or the apartment of a woman or her pimp. These websites often have restrictions in place to protect women and children from being exploited, but pimps easily find loopholes in the system.

**What it can look like:** Natalie had already run away from home several times before. She had been raped and held hostage by various pimps during these times, but her last pimp was different. He and another of his girls took pictures of Natalie in a swimsuit and posted them on Backpage.com. Natalie, now 16, reports that “at least 40 guys called in the first 15 to 20 minutes.”<sup>24</sup> For the next four and a half months, Natalie earned \$3,000-\$6,000 for her pimp each week from men who found her ad. Natalie points out that pimps know how to work the system online: girls must lie about their age and create several identities in order to get around a site’s “rules.”<sup>25</sup> Pressuring these websites to close their adult sections is just one of the first steps in the process of eliminating demand.

## SEX TOURISM

**What it is:** Sex tourism describes “the activities of individuals who, whether or not they set out with this intention, use their economic power to attain powers of sexual command over local women, men and/or children while traveling for leisure purpose.”<sup>26</sup> Sex tourism perpetuates the economic dependence of developing countries on the money of First World tourists as tourism is often the most lucrative industry in poorer countries.

**What it can look like:** Meredith Ralston and Edna Keeble write about their five year development project on sex tourism in the Philippines in their book, *Reluctant Bedfellows*. They reflect on an interesting Feminist debate among Westerners about the Third World. An excerpt describes the phenomenon of sex tourism:

Anna is a 22-year-old Filipina woman who has worked in an Angeles City bar for five years. Anna comes from a small fishing community in a northern province, but she works at the bar to provide for her impoverished family : her mother is undernourished and toothless, her niece is hunchbacked, and her sister-in-law is pregnant and exhausted. Anna’s work with sex tourists leaves her broken, assaulted, burned, and traumatized, yet she, like most Filipina girls who serve tourists, still hopes for a man who will marry her and help her escape poverty. Angeles City is known in sex tourism networks as a popular city in which to find young Filipina women for purchase. Visiting

---

<sup>22</sup> Melissa Farley, “Prostitution and Trafficking in Nevada: Making the Connections,” *Prostitution Research and Education* (San Francisco, 2007), 19.

<sup>23</sup> Farley, Melissa, “Prostitution and Trafficking in Nevada: Making the Connections,” *Prostitution Research and Education* (San Francisco, 2007).

<sup>24</sup> Sara J. Green, “Natalie’s Story: Life as a Child Prostitute,” *Seattle Times*, July 23, 2011.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

<sup>26</sup> Julia O’Connell Davidson, *Prostitution, Power, and Freedom*. (The University of Michigan Press: Ann Arbor, 1998), 75.

men use their relative wealth to purchase sex from “exotic” and “suppliant” women. These men don’t see real people but instead racial stereotypes that they can buy for the right price.

## SPORTING EVENTS

**What it is:** Major sports events cause a large influx of fans to hosting cities, and these fans often celebrate for a week surrounding the game day. These sports events also attract pimps and the girls and women they are exploiting. In Miami last year, police estimated that as many as 10,000 prostituted individuals from outside the area arrived for Super Bowl week.<sup>27</sup>

**What it can look like:** Sporting events, which are already associated with violence and alcohol, also create an increase in sex trafficking as pimps usher women and girls into the host city. During the 2006 World Cup in Germany, brothels braced themselves for the influx of men into the red-light district; local taxi drivers reported men being turned away because the brothels were at full capacity.<sup>28</sup> Some cities constructed “sex huts” in order to protect prostituted women from pimps’ control. While the brothels prepared for the anticipated spike in business, the German police struggled to document the number of women who were being trafficked in Germany. Due to the nature of the European Union, women can be easily shuttled across borders from one country to another; indeed, many sources claim that 90 percent of prostituted women in Germany are foreign-born.<sup>29</sup> The focus surrounding sports events should be the game, not the prospect of buying women before or after.

## WAR AND TIMES OF TURMOIL

**What it is:** Human trafficking and sexual exploitation often occur when individuals are vulnerable, especially in times of economic insecurity or in countries with unreliable infrastructure. This insecurity is always exacerbated when devastating natural disasters occur or when a country is at war. During these times, women are often raped en masse and kept in sexual slavery as expressions of power.<sup>30</sup> The mere presence of a military, whether or not they are fighting, can increase sex trafficking to the area due to the increase in demand.

**What it can look like:** During the recent Kosovo War in 1999, NATO intervened in an attempt to stop the violence and maintain peace. Kosovo didn’t have a sex industry before NATO’s military intervention in 1999, yet by 2003, there were about 200 places in Kosovo that exploited trafficked women.<sup>31</sup> Sex trafficking increased due to a sudden demand from the military men occupying the territory; a new military culture that permitted violence and the development of criminal organizations; and the perilous instability of the economy, putting myriad women in vulnerable conditions.<sup>32</sup> As soldiers moved into Kosovo to “keep the peace,” brothels sprang up to provide women to meet the demand, and trafficking into Kosovo from neighboring countries grew. Sex trafficking thrives where war leaves communities

---

<sup>27</sup> Amy Sullivan, “Cracking Down on the Super Bowl Sex Trade,” *Time Magazine*, February 6, 2011.

<sup>28</sup> Jurgen M. Wohlfarth, “Les Villes Face a la Prostitution,” Municipality of Saarbruck, Germany, (Madrid, June 17, 2004).

<sup>29</sup> Ibid.

<sup>30</sup> R.C. Carpenter, “War’s Impact on Children Born of Rape and Sexual Exploitation: Physical, Economic and Psychosocial Dimensions,” accessed August 29, 2011, from <http://people.umass.edu/charli/childrenbornofwar/Carpenter-WP.pdf>.

<sup>31</sup> S.T. Godec, “Between Rhetoric and Reality: Exploring the Impact of Military Humanitarian Intervention Upon Sexual Violence—Post-conflict Sex Trafficking in Kosovo,” *International Review of the Red Cross* 92 (877) (March 2010): 245. doi:10.1017/S1816383110000159.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid.

impoverished and the only authority rests with the military; these factors foster the ideal climate for forced prostitution.

## 10 MYTHS ABOUT THE COMMERCIAL SEX INDUSTRY

Because it is shrouded in secrecy, the sex trade conjures many myths and misconceptions in people's minds. You may see these myths in news reports, hear them expressed by friends, or hold some of these beliefs yourself. This section debunks some common myths, which will lead to a more informed and effective fight against sexual exploitation.

### 1. MYTH: Legalizing prostitution would make the sex trade safer for everyone.

**REALITY:** Studies of countries where prostitution is legal have proven this to be completely false; in fact, legalization increases the illegal sectors and associated risks<sup>33</sup> and severely increases trafficking of women and children into the country due to the increased demand.<sup>34,35,36</sup> Harm continues after legalization because many of the dangers associated with the sex trade—physical violence, rape, STDs, psychological effects such as PTSD and depression—are not caused by the illegality of prostitution, but rather have been found to be *inherent to the sex trade, legal or not*.<sup>37</sup> Women in the sex trade themselves are aware that legalization is not the answer: a study from the Netherlands (where prostitution is legal) found that only 3 percent of women in the sex trade thought legalization was a good idea.<sup>38</sup>

### 2. MYTH: Prostitutes are usually independent escorts who enjoy their work and are much safer and better paid than other women.

**REALITY:** Media coverage that focuses on scandals between public officials and “high-priced escorts” has distorted our view of the sex industry. While these cases get the most attention, the vast majority of the sex industry is not nearly as glamorous. For example, a study from Chicago found that women in the escort sector face nearly identical rates of rape as those who work on the streets.<sup>39</sup> Additionally, like all sectors of the sex trade, the women in escort prostitution may

<sup>33</sup> Shared Hope International, *DEMAND: A Comparative Examination of Sex Tourism and Trafficking in Jamaica, Japan, The Netherlands, and the United States* (July 2007), accessed July 22, 2009, <http://www.sharedhope.org/files/DEMAND.pdf>.

<sup>34</sup> A. Shubert, “Sex Trafficking: Countries Take Different Approaches to Same Problem,” April 2011, accessed at <http://www.cnn.com/2011/WORLD/europe/03/30/cfp.denmark.sweden.sex.trafficking/index.html?iref=allsearch>.

<sup>35</sup> M. Van Manen, “Prostitution Need Not Always Be With Us,” *Vancouver Sun*, October 7, 2006.

<sup>36</sup> Shared Hope International, *DEMAND: A Comparative Examination of Sex Tourism and Trafficking in Jamaica, Japan, The Netherlands, and the United States* (July 2007), accessed July 22, 2009, <http://www.sharedhope.org/files/DEMAND.pdf>.

<sup>37</sup> Melissa Farley, “Bad for the Body, Bad for the Heart: Prostitution Harms Women Even If Legalized or Decriminalized,” *Violence Against Women*, 10(10) (2004): 1087-1125.

<sup>38</sup> Shared Hope International, *DEMAND: A Comparative Examination of Sex Tourism and Trafficking in Jamaica, Japan, The Netherlands, and the United States* (July 2007), accessed July 22, 2009, <http://www.sharedhope.org/files/DEMAND.pdf>.

<sup>39</sup> J. Raphael and D. Shapiro, (2002). *Sisters Speak Out: The Lives and Needs of Prostituted Women in Chicago* (Center for Impact Research, 2002).

have to pay a large proportion of any money they make to someone else, such as an escort agency, pimp, or both. In the study mentioned above, 50 percent of women working as escorts had to give a cut to someone else, and 76.9 percent of those women reported facing harm at the hands of a pimp if they failed to pay the proper cut.<sup>40</sup> No section of the sex trade is safe from violence and exploitation.

**3. MYTH: Prostitution is acceptable as a rite of passage for boys to become men; my uncle/father/older brother took me to my first prostitute when I was younger. It's a tradition.**

**REALITY:** Prostitution is perpetuated when men are led to believe that it is normal to have sex with a prostituted woman. According to a study conducted by CAASE about johns in Chicago, 29 percent of the men interviewed had sex for the first time with a prostituted individual.<sup>41</sup> Of the men who first purchased sex while with others, 17 percent did so with a male relative.<sup>42</sup> Prostitution is not a rite of passage; it's an industry that harms women and normalizes abuse. Teaching young men that women can be purchased corrupts their ideas of how women should be treated and the nature of sex. A key step in the fight to end demand is to abolish the perception that prostitution is ordinary or a part of tradition. If you still want your son/nephew/little brother to experience a rite of passage, there are other activities that you can engage in that will teach him more positive ideas of what it means to "be a man." You can teach him how to drive stick shift, how to throw a football, how to fix a car, how to shave. You can take him camping or go-carting or to a bar on his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. There are a thousand ways that you can teach a boy "to be a man" without buying a woman.

**4. MYTH: Strip clubs don't cause as much harm as prostitution does because the women are only paid to dance instead of having sex, and they aren't controlled by pimps.**

**REALITY:** While the women in strip clubs are only paid to dance *in theory*, the reality is usually that men attempt to get much more from the dancers. Women in strip clubs report that they are constantly propositioned for prostitution since the men assume that they're "up for anything" because of the nature of strip clubs.<sup>43</sup> Dancers also endure constant physical and emotional abuse because some men believe they've paid to treat the women however they'd like.<sup>44</sup> Strip clubs are often the first step on a woman's path to prostitution as pimps attempt to enlist dancers to have sex for money as well.<sup>45</sup> Women report feeling pressured to have sex with the club patrons in order to garner higher tips. Strip clubs are environments in which women are treated as commodities instead of people, and these clubs foster the idea that men don't need to treat women with respect in order to satisfy their sexual desires.

**5. MYTH: Pornography is harmless entertainment made by people who just really like sex, and anyone opposed to it is anti-sex.**

**REALITY:** It is precisely because pornography is intended to entertain that you can't safely assume that the actors are simply hypersexual and doing what they love, just as you don't believe everything you see on TV or in movies. It's acting. And while intended to entertain, pornography is by no means harmless: it has direct ties to trafficking, child sexual exploitation, and prostitution. Many traffickers also record

---

<sup>40</sup> Ibid.

<sup>41</sup> R. Durchslag and S. Goswami, *Deconstructing the Demand for Prostitution: Preliminary Insights from Interviews with Chicago Men Who Purchase Sex* (Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation, 2008).

<sup>42</sup> Ibid.

<sup>43</sup> B. Barton, *Stripped: Inside the Lives of Exotic Dancers* (New York: New York University Press, 2006).

<sup>44</sup> Ibid.

<sup>45</sup> Ibid.

videos of the women and children they exploit to sell as pornography and increase profits.<sup>46</sup> As an industry with annual revenue of more than \$97 billion as of 2006,<sup>47</sup> there is plenty of incentive for traffickers to further exploit women and children through pornography. Pornography is also notorious for depicting violent and aggressive men doing whatever they want to women without limits who enjoy anything and everything the men do to them—dangerous images for young people to view when they are developing their own ideas about how sexual relationships should work and what kinds of behaviors are “sexy.” Additionally, a nine-country investigation found that 47 percent of prostituted women were upset by johns attempting to coerce them into doing things the johns had seen in pornography.<sup>48</sup> Moreover, trafficked children may be shown pornography as “training videos” for how to please the men who pay for sex with them,<sup>49</sup> men old enough to be their fathers and grandfathers. Pornography is harmful to the women and children in it, and the ideas it encourages make it harmful to women and children everywhere. Being critical of pornography and refusing to consume it means being against sexual exploitation, not against sex.

**6. MYTH: With careful behavior such as using condoms, prostitution poses no real risks to individual johns or to the health of society in general.**

**REALITY:** Johns actually face a number of risks when they decide to purchase sex. Police are arresting more and more johns, and they can face class-A misdemeanor or even felony charges, resulting in prison sentences. If a john is arrested in Illinois, his car will be impounded, and he will have to pay a \$1,000 fee. Some towns, including Chicago, have created public websites where they post the names and photos of johns who are arrested. Deciding to purchase sex is not an act without personal repercussions. In addition to legal risks, a john faces health risks when he chooses to buy a woman. Johns can infect prostituted women if they coerce the woman to forego the use of a condom, and this woman could then unknowingly infect another john later. Furthermore, there are several serious STDs that can be transmitted through external contact and oral sex, activities that many people engage in without a condom. Gonorrhea, genital warts, crabs, and HPV are just a few of the STDs that can be contracted through unprotected sexual contact. Prostitution endangers the men and women involved, as well as the health of broader society.

**7. MYTH: Only certain kinds of men who can’t attract a steady girlfriend buy women. I definitely don’t know any men who purchase women.**

**REALITY:** Study after study shows that men who purchase sex come from all walks of life and are all around us: they are our brothers, fathers, uncles, and friends; they are doctors, teachers, lawyers, and bus drivers; they are of all races, classes, ages, and marital statuses.<sup>50</sup> The majority also already have a regular sex partner.<sup>51</sup> It is easier to pretend that only “certain kinds” of people purchase sex, but we must face the reality that *we all know men who have contributed to the sex trade*. This is why “men as

---

<sup>46</sup> D. E. H. Russell, “The Damaging Effects of Exposure to Child Pornography” in D. E. Guinn, ed., *Pornography: Driving the Demand in International Sex Trafficking* (Captive Daughters Media, 2007), 179-199.

<sup>47</sup> “Internet Filter Review,” *Internet Pornography Statistics*, <http://internet-filter-review.toptenreviews.com/internet-pornography-statistics.html>.

<sup>48</sup> Melissa Farley et al., “Prostitution and Trafficking in Nine Countries: An Update on Violence and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder,” *Journal of Trauma Practice* 2:3/4 (2003), accessed August 12, 2011, [http://www.prostitutionresearch.com/prostitution\\_research/000116.html](http://www.prostitutionresearch.com/prostitution_research/000116.html).

<sup>49</sup> *R. v. Sharpe*, 1 SCR 45, para. 91 (2001), [http://www.cyber-rights.org/reports/sharpe\\_decision.htm](http://www.cyber-rights.org/reports/sharpe_decision.htm).

<sup>50</sup> R. Durchslag and S. Goswami, *Deconstructing the Demand for Prostitution: Preliminary Insights from Interviews with Chicago Men Who Purchase Sex* (Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation, 2008).

<sup>51</sup> *Ibid.*

partners” is an essential aspect of ending commercial sexual exploitation: only when men stop seeking out women and children to purchase will the exploitation end, and often the brothers, fathers, uncles, and friends of johns are the people with the most power to inform and change the behavior of those men.

**8. MYTH: It’s easy to identify when a girl is underage, and most prostituted individuals are women over 18 anyway.**

**REALITY:** The sex industry contains vastly more youth than we’d like to believe: the majority of those in the sex trade start before age 18, and the average age of entry in the US is just 12-14 years old.<sup>52</sup> The fact that girls are recruited so young into the industry implies that there is significant demand for underage girls; pimps would not use them if they didn’t bring in profit. Some men may intentionally seek younger girls, others may not care, and others may ask for only of-age girls but be misinformed by online ads or fake IDs that pimps give the girls.<sup>53</sup> These girls may also be coerced by pimps to lie about their situation and age, making it even more difficult to identify trafficking victims. While a woman over 18 may appear to be working willingly, studies show that, statistically, she is very likely to have been trafficked as a young girl. Even if a girl grows up within the sex trade, she doesn’t grow out of the exploitation that got her into the sex trade and trapped her there.

**9. MYTH: Most women in prostitution are choosing to sell their bodies, or if they’re forced to be there, it’s because of bad choices they made in the past.**

**REALITY:** The majority of prostituted victims enter prostitution between the ages of 12-14, and legally these minors cannot consent to selling their bodies.<sup>54</sup> According to one Chicago study of 222 survivors, 87 percent of the women who entered prostitution at a young age had someone suggest it to them.<sup>55</sup> Some girls are forced into prostitution by pimps, and while others choose to enter prostitution, you must consider these choices in context: these girls—through no fault of their own—grow up in unstable, low-income homes, and they often suffer abuse from relatives.<sup>56</sup> Prostitution may seem like the only viable solution for these girls. Once they enter into the sex industry, they are often trapped by continuing economic dependency or a controlling pimp. These girls often enter the life so early that they can’t legally be responsible for their actions, and they become dependent on their pimps emotionally and financially. Even if a woman wants to flee her pimp, she fears the violent repercussions she’ll face if she does.<sup>57</sup> These “choices” must be viewed within the reality that these girls and women experience if we are to truly understand them.

**10. MYTH: I’m against sexual exploitation, but there’s still nothing wrong with two consenting adults trading sex for money.**

---

<sup>52</sup> US Department of Justice, *Domestic Sex Trafficking of Minors* (Washington, DC, 2007).

<sup>53</sup> Shared Hope International, *DEMAND: A Comparative Examination of Sex Tourism and Trafficking in Jamaica, Japan, The Netherlands, and the United States* (July 2007), accessed August 2, 2011, <http://www.sharedhope.org/Portals/0/Documents/DEMAND.pdf>.

<sup>54</sup> US Department of Justice, Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, *Domestic Sex Trafficking of Minors* (November 2007), accessed July 22, 2009, <http://www.usdoj.gov/criminal/ceos/prostitution.htm>.

<sup>55</sup> J. Raphael and D. Shapiro, (2002). *Sisters Speak Out: The Lives and Needs of Prostituted Women in Chicago*, (Center for Impact Research, 2002).

<sup>56</sup> Ibid.

<sup>57</sup> Ibid.

**REALITY:** We hope by now it is obvious how difficult it is to separate these two categories and, in fact, that it's often a distinction without a difference. It can be nearly impossible to tell from an outsider's perspective why someone is involved in the sex trade in the first place, but studies show it is likely that she is not there solely by choice. Even if identification of "voluntary prostitution" was simple and accurate, *any* money that goes into the sex trade directly supports an industry that systematically and frequently exploits girls and women who do not want to be there. Only when demand for all facets of the sex industry is eliminated will we be able to help those being exploited. Until then, abuse will always be able to hide behind an illusion of "choice" that rarely actually exists.

## END DEMAND

Individuals involved in the sex trade need a variety of social services and other resources to exit safely. Instead of viewing these individuals as victims, society tends to label them as criminals. Although ample research informs us that the johns, pimps, and other traffickers are fueling the sex trade, the criminal-justice and legal systems continue to target and punish the victims.

In 2008, nearly 67 percent of prostitution-related arrests in Chicago were of prostituted people, 34 percent were of customers, and only 1 percent were of pimps.<sup>58</sup> This biased focus fails to address the root cause of prostitution: the demand. As long as the demand exists, vulnerable women and children will be manipulated, coerced, and forced to prostitute. By shifting the focus from targeting women in the sex trade to eliminating the demand for paid sex, CAASE believes we will see a real reduction in prostitution and the harms associated with it.

In order to eliminate demand, we must shift the public's perceptions of prostitution through education, advocate for new policies that criminalize the consumers instead of the victims, and provide services to help women and girls begin the lives that they deserve to live.

### **The Demand System: Johns, Pimps and Traffickers, and the Government**

There are three different components to the demand side of the sex trade. The first component of demand is the johns, or purchasers of sex. They constitute the demand for sexual acts from women, men, transgendered individuals, and children. Purchasing sex is often an act of asserting power and control. Buying another person shows a lack of respect because it puts a price on a person's self-worth.

The second component of demand is the pimps, traffickers, and sex-industry executives who ensure the supply of people. This group profits by marketing individuals as a commodity, essentially dehumanizing them. They frame prostitution as just another profitable economic market—a result of capitalism, industrialization, globalization, and liberalization. This framework minimizes the harms of sexual exploitation by lifting the blame from the individuals who profit from selling others and placing it on someone or something else. The goal becomes capitalizing on the commodity (the people whose bodies are being bought) with as little cost to themselves as possible in order to maximize profit. The concern then is not the individuals whose bodies are sold but the profit that can be made by doing so.

The third component of demand is the governments or ruling systems that tolerate or legalize the sex industry. The sex trade provides a lucrative tax base, and it can provide millions of dollars for corrupt officials. Exploiters use their power and wealth to manipulate laws and policies. These three components work together to dehumanize the people caught in the sex trade, reinforcing the concept that people

---

<sup>58</sup> Data compiled by the Mayor's Office on Domestic Violence for the *Innersystems Assessment* and obtained through the Chicago Police Department.

are commodities that can be bought and sold for the right price. Ending demand involves targeting each component through tactics like policy implementation, education, and law enforcement.

## SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND THE MEDIA

The way we consume media shapes our culture; the information we choose to absorb influences how we all think and act. Therefore, if we want to change how our culture views gender, masculinity, and violence, we have to pay attention to the media we enjoy. The next time you watch TV or listen to the radio, stop to think about the message that is being sent; if it is a violent one, consider whether or not you want to support it. We can effect change in our day-to-day lives. Start small by simply choosing not to listen to or watch a song or show that glorifies violence, and you can build from there. Below we offer a more specific look at sexual exploitation and gender violence in the media and other suggestions of how you can address it.

### Movies

Perhaps the most famous—or infamous—movie about the sex trade is *Pretty Woman*, a 1990 “romantic comedy” about a prostituted woman and a john falling in love. This hugely successful film could be enjoyed only by a society that is both unaware of just how unromantic and unfunny the sex industry really is and ignorant about the rates of rape, violence, abuse, and disease prostituted women suffer. Other movies enjoying huge success but full of inaccuracies regarding the sex trade are *Hustle & Flow* (2005) and *The Hangover* and *The Hangover Part II* (2009, 2011). People often dismiss this glamorization of exploitation and abuse by saying these are “just movies,” but for young adults and teens, it may be their only exposure to these topics, leading to dangerous misconceptions. Continued support for these movies also says to moviemakers that it’s okay to keep portraying women in this way.

The movie industry in general tends to treat female characters as simply eye candy and romantic interest for the male lead or as one-dimensional stereotypes that add humor or advance plot. Calling out these inaccuracies and sexism is important, especially if seeing a movie with a young man, such as a younger brother or cousin, who is just starting to understand sex and gender. You can still talk about what you enjoyed in the movie while also bringing up scenes that were concerning or words used frequently to demean women, for example. If a movie is particularly offensive, encourage your friends not to support it by not paying to see it.

### Music

A credit card is slid through a woman’s buttocks in Nelly’s “Tip Drill” video; Snoop Dogg arrives at the MTV Awards with two half-dressed women on leashes; Three 6 Mafia proclaims “Gotta keep my hustle tight, makin’ change off these women, yeah” in “It’s Hard Out Here for a Pimp” (and gets an Oscar for it); the Rolling Stones rock out in “Brown Sugar” about black slave girls who “taste so good” being raped. The music industry is saturated with glamorized and unrealistic lyrics and videos

describing the sex trade, gender relations, and the interactions between sex and power. T.D. Sharpley-Whiting discusses the “intensely transactional nature of hip-hop gender dynamics<sup>59</sup>” in *Pimps Up, Ho’s Down*, but the abusive use of power and commoditization of female sexuality is not restricted to just the hip-hop genre. Many mainstream music videos from all genres seem to be selling women’s bodies more than the songs themselves.

It’s hard to completely avoid hearing sexist music, but it’s easy to call it out when you do hear it, and it’s even easier to choose which songs and artists you support with your money. If your friend puts on a song glamorizing pimps as macho men, ask if he’s ever listened to all the lyrics, and if he has heard anything about the violence and coercion pimps employ in prostitution. If you’re choosing what to buy on iTunes, look into an artist or their lyrics before buying a song. If a song romanticizing abusive treatment of women is used by a company or rewarded with recognition, write a letter that highlights the harms of sexual exploitation.

## Video Games

Video games have received their fair share of criticism over the past three decades, but they undeniably remain an influential part of young men’s lives. Video games follow the same patterns as movies, TV shows, and music: there may be violent, misogynistic, and aggressive games, but there are also entertaining and positive ones.

*Grand Theft Auto III* and *IV* have received the most negative publicity concerning their portrayal of prostituted women: in the game, you, as the protagonist, can drive slowly by women on the street as a way to proposition them. The sex act itself isn’t shown, but your character gains health and loses money. Afterward, you are encouraged to kill the prostitute in order to take your money back. One article mentions that in the early stages of the game, “the prostitutes are large black ladies. As you progress through the game they get skinnier and whiter.”<sup>60</sup> This game promotes several negative ideas about women and sexual exploitation: that it is acceptable to approach women on the street for sex, that prostitution is good for a john’s health, that the woman’s race is connected to her monetary worth, and that prostitutes aren’t “real people” since they can be killed without hesitation or repercussions.

If you play video games, be critical of the violence in which you partake. Violence has always been popular in video games, but you do have options. There are games that don’t involve sexual or racial violence and stereotyping; some great examples are the games *Portal* and *Portal 2*, which are addictive, interactive puzzle games for PlayStation. Sports video games like the Madden series and the FIFA series are also great alternatives to violent video games.

## TV Shows

There are a lot of TV shows thriving today that glorify sexual exploitation in both subtle and blatant ways. Shows like *Cathouse* or *Secret Diary of a Call Girl* overtly glamorize brothels and prostitution, depicting all the women as lustful, happy, and there by choice. Shows like *Game of Thrones* or *Spartacus: Blood and Sand* feature brothels regularly; these shows take place outside of our era and our world, thus normalizing the sex trade while safely distancing it from us. They send the message that the

---

<sup>59</sup> T.D. Sharpley-Whiting, *Pimps Up, Ho’s Down* (New York: New York University Press, 2007).

<sup>60</sup> “How to pick up hookers in GTA 4,” Angry Web, accessed August 29, 2011, <http://angryweb.net/2008/06/04/how-to-pick-up-hookers-in-gta-4/>.

prostitution is okay because it's happening in another place or time. There are also new shows, like *The Client List* or *The Playboy Club*, that misrepresent the realities of the sex trade.

If you choose to watch shows like these, do so with an analytic eye: how are men and women depicted? How does the show hide harm or romanticize exploitation? Are there any positive messages about men and women? Many shows will highlight the money, the supposed freedom, and the expensive lifestyle that prostituted women enjoy, but in reality *prostitution is exploitation incarnate*—few women keep the money they make, and pimps control their lives so that they have no freedom at all. Keep these realities in mind the next time you flip past one of these shows. It's easy to ignore the negative portrayals of women in order to enjoy the show, but a tougher task is to question the shows, question the networks that think that it's okay to film a "documentary" in a brothel, question the viewers that can take a show like *The Playboy Club* as serious drama. You can help shift how men and women are represented in the media, and television is an easy place to start.

## ACTIONS AND ACTIVISM

### Daily Actions

You have the power to change your own actions every day in order to fight sexual exploitation, and as a man, you have a unique influence over your peers and the choices that they make regarding women. As a consumer, you can also choose to support only businesses that help instead of harm women. Below are some actions you can take that will contribute to the fight against exploitation.

**Language:** One of the easiest and most powerful ways that you can fight sexual exploitation is to become aware of the language you use regarding prostitution. The words we use are intimately connected to the way we think about the world. To change our vocabulary is to take the first step toward changing our culture. You should stop using words like “pimp,” “whore,” or “ho” as these terms, used casually, normalize the sex trade and disguise its harmful facets. Instead of calling women in the sex trade “prostitutes,” “hookers,” “sex workers,” or “escorts,” use terms like “prostituted woman” or “victim of commercial sexual exploitation.” Urge your family and friends to change their language as well, explaining why certain words are harmful and misleading.

**Speak Up:** If you hear your friends, family, or coworkers make sexist or degrading jokes, you should challenge them. Prostitution won’t end until our culture stops accepting it, and your silence contributes as much to the “rape culture” as your peers’ misogynistic jokes. You don’t have to chastise them or be rude: you can easily explain that the joke or comment is more harmful than humorous and that they should reconsider telling it to others.

**Boycott:** Avoid businesses that contribute to sexual exploitation, such as travel companies that foster sex tourism, websites like Backpage.com, or newspapers that feature adult sections. If people ask you why you are refusing to give a company your business, explain that you refuse to support sexual exploitation, even indirectly. Companies change their practices when their consumers complain loudly enough, and you hold the power to effect that change.

**Support:** On the other hand, there are a lot of businesses that are working to produce goods that aren’t associated with violence or injustice. Many corporations have been refusing to support the sex-trade industry, and you can help by supporting them in turn. Some examples of such companies can be found at <http://www.fairtradeusa.org>.

**Report:** If you suspect that a business in your community is actively involved in sexual exploitation, you should call the local police or contact the National Human Trafficking Resource Center to report suspected human trafficking at 888-3737 ext. 888.

**Pornography:** Many men and women will invariably view pornography at some point in their lives. Instead of trying to force them to abstain, encourage your peers and

the young adults in your life to maintain an open dialogue about pornography and help them approach pornography with an educated point of view.

**Strip Clubs:** Strip clubs perpetuate the notion that women's bodies can be purchased for the right price; you should refrain from visiting these clubs and urge your peers to do the same. Club owners will close clubs that garner little profit, and pimps will lose interest in lurking where there's scarce traffic.

**Bachelor Parties:** Bachelor parties can still be memorable without stripping or prostitution. You can celebrate your own wedding or your friend's by doing a range of other activities: you can go hunting, fishing, or paint-balling; you can play poker; or you could do a whiskey-tasting.<sup>61</sup> Do something that the groom loves as a daylong activity or take a trip together someplace new.

## Volunteer

If you want to do more, you can volunteer your time and energy with an organization that fights sexual exploitation. Areas of need are medical care, translation, job placement, housing, legal services, and mentoring. You can also help by organizing a clothing, blanket, and/or food drive. Below are some organizations with whom you can partner and some individual ideas for volunteering.

**Men Can Stop Rape** is an organization that seeks to mobilize men to use their strengths to create a culture free from violence, especially men's violence against women, through sustained initiatives that generate positive, measurable outcomes in populations throughout the world. Visit their website at <http://www.mencanstoprape.org/>.

**A Call to Men** is an organization that wants to shift social norms that define manhood in our culture in order to galvanize a national movement of men committed to ending violence and discrimination against women and girls. Visit their website at <http://www.acalltomen.com/>.

**Men Stopping Violence** is an organization that works locally, nationally, and internationally to dismantle belief systems, social structures, and institutional practices that oppress women and children and that dehumanize men themselves. Visit their website at <http://www.menstoppingviolence.org/>.

**MensWork** is an organization whose goal is "educating, engaging and mobilizing men to end all forms of sexual and domestic violence." They are a unique organization in two main ways: they focus on engaging men and boys, and they are focused exclusively on prevention. They do not provide counseling or other kinds of services. They work to *prevent* sexual and domestic violence. Visit their website at <http://mensworkinc.com/>.

**The White Ribbon Campaign** is a campaign whose goal is ending violence against women in all its forms by educating young people, raising public awareness about the issue, and working in partnership with women's organizations, the corporate sector, the media, and other partners to create a future with no violence against women. Visit their website at <http://www.whiteribbon.ca/>.

**Volunteer:** You can also work at organizations that help at-risk women obtain housing and jobs that pay a living wage, like Women Employed ([www.womenemployed.org](http://www.womenemployed.org)) or Deborah's Place ([www.deborahsplace.org](http://www.deborahsplace.org)).

---

<sup>61</sup> The Plunge. *20 (Stripper-Free) Bachelor Party Ideas*. Retrieved August 29, 2011, from <http://www.theplunge.com/toolbox/bachelorparty/article/toolbox/17-bachelorparty/132-bachelor-party-ideas->

**Mentor:** You can have a powerful, positive influence over a young boy as his mentor. Participate in programs such as Mentors in Violence Prevention, which mentors young men and educates them to be part of the solution in regard to sexual harassment and the abuse of girls and women ([www.jacksonkatz.com/mvp](http://www.jacksonkatz.com/mvp)). You can also find a young man in your own life over whom you have a positive influence.

## Advocate

Another crucial step in the fight against sexual exploitation is advocating for policy and legal changes, as well as for the implementation of prevention programs aimed at young men. This work takes place further from the day-to-day reality that women and girls face on the street, but it is central to eliminating exploitation. Below are some fields of influence within which you can advocate for change.

**Law Enforcement:** Urge your local police department to implement mechanisms that keep prostituted women and girls safe from their pimps and provide them with alternatives to arrest, detention, and incarceration.

**Legislation:** Support legislation aimed at ending sexual exploitation and expanding options for prostituted individuals. Join the listserv of the Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation at [www.caase.org](http://www.caase.org) to stay informed.

**Schools:** Encourage schools to provide a curriculum that helps young men understand the messages they receive about masculinity from the culture around them; connect these messages to the normalization of gender-based violence. Contact CAASE for a curriculum that's designed for young men at [info@caase.org](mailto:info@caase.org).

**Local Representatives:** Form contacts with your local elected officials and help your representatives understand how important ending sexual exploitation is in their community. Most political leaders allot one day per week to meet with their constituents. You should schedule a meeting to introduce yourself and to offer your recommendations.

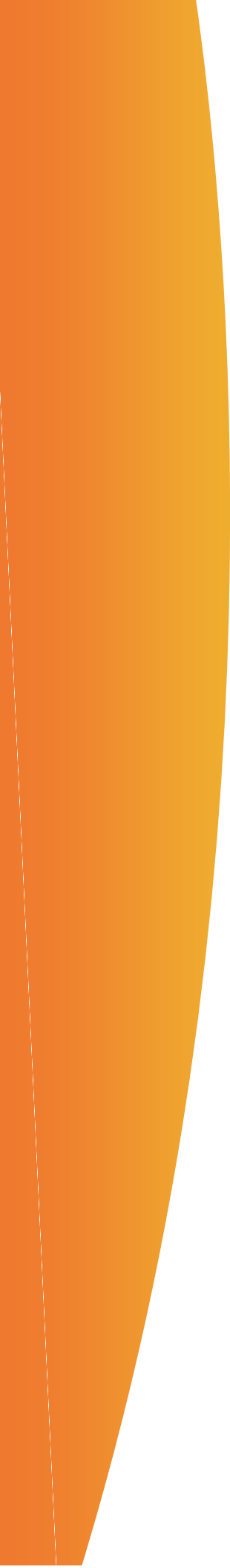
## Inform

Finally, the *most important* way you can fight sexual exploitation is through education—of others and of yourself. Information is our most powerful tool; the more people know about sexual exploitation, the sooner our culture will begin to reject sexual violence and abuse. Below are some ways that you can keep yourself informed, as well as ways to teach others.

**Educate Yourself:** There is a myriad of ways that you can learn more about this issue: read books, articles, and blogs; watch films and documentaries; and listen to speakers on the topic. Find a host of resources at [http://www.caase.org/resources\\_films.aspx](http://www.caase.org/resources_films.aspx).

**Stay Current:** Change is occurring constantly in the anti-sexual-exploitation movement, and it is imperative that you remain up to date. We recommend creating Google Alerts for terms like “prostitution” and “sexual exploitation” so that you are aware of the latest news on prostitution.

**Community Engagement:** If you hold a leadership position in a group—a church, a sports team, a nonprofit—suggest that your group host a screening of a documentary about prostitution. If you have



influence within a community, you have a great chance to educate people about and rally them to fight against sexual exploitation.

**Sporting Events:** As you learned earlier, prostitution and trafficking increase at major sporting events like the Super Bowl and the Olympics. If you have the opportunity to attend one of these events, create flyers with facts about prostitution and suggestions of alternate postgame celebratory events.

**Social Networking:** A convenient way to educate others and to pique your peers' interest is through networking sites like Facebook or Twitter. If you find an interesting article on prostitution, post it on Facebook or retweet something written about sexual exploitation on Twitter. These sites are easy, approachable ways to inform your community about sexual exploitation.

## Recommended Literature

### Books that Focus on Masculinity

#### ***Breaking Out of the “Man Box”: Ending Violence Against Women***

Author: Anthony Porter

Anthony Porter’s *Breaking Out of the Man Box* radically challenges the socialization of men by examining the social norms, culture, and traditional images of manhood that have created an environment that supports, tolerates, and often encourages men’s violence against women. A Call to Men is an organization that gives presentations and provides training to challenge antiquated or offensive ideas about women. The group’s founders, Tony Porter and Ted Bunch, provide concrete solutions and practical approaches for ending men’s violence against women. Insight is given into the construct of sexism, challenging the privileges and entitlements given to men. This book is an excellent educational tool or gift for any man. It is unique in its ability to be affirming and respectful of women’s experiences while expressing genuine care and hope for men.

#### ***Deconstructing Tyrone***

Authors: Natalie Hopkinson and Natalie Y. Moore (Cleis Press Inc, 2006)

The journalists deconstruct black masculinity as seen through the lens of media, stereotypes, and black women. They touch on a variety of perspectives, from “baby-daddies” to black men in the office.

#### ***Guyland***

Author: Michael Kimmel (Harper Collins, 2008)

Professor of Sociology, SUNY—Stony Brook, Michael Kimmel discusses the appearance of extended boyhood. Kimmel interviewed boys and men aged 16 to 26 to understand the rules and restrictions these men are facing in this new stage of development.

#### ***Getting Off***

Author: Robert Jensen (South End Press, 2007)

Journalist and professor Robert Jensen critiques the relationship between masculinity and pornography and explores how pornography relates to constructs of manhood and contributes to the issues of violence against women.

#### ***Misframing Men***

Author: Michael Kimmel (Rutgers University Press, 2010)

Professor Michael Kimmel, author of *Guyland*, provides a collection of his work that addresses the debate surrounding the issue of masculinity. Kimmel argue this debate has been largely misconstrued by the media and pushes the boundaries of what it means to be a man or masculine.

#### ***The Johns: Sex for Sale and the Men Who Buy It***

Author: Victor Malarek (Arcade Press, 2009)

The journalist and author of *The Natashas* (see below) writes another exposé on the sex industry, its customers, and the women who are trafficked from around the world into sexual slavery to meet the demand for paid sex.

#### ***The Macho Paradox***

Author: Jackson Katz (Sourcebooks, Inc, 2006)

In this book, Katz speaks to all men, who, he argues, have a role to play in preventing male violence against women. His basic assertion is that rape, battering, and sexual abuse and harassment are so widespread that they must be viewed not as issues relevant to only troubled individuals but rather as a social problem rooted in our culture.

### ***Paying for Pleasure***

Author: Teela Sanders (Willan Publishing, 2008)

Senior Lecturer in the Sociology of Crime, Teela Sanders uses empirical data from men who buy sex, debunking many of the myths about the relationship of prostitute and john and the nature of human sexuality.

## **Books that Focus on Sexual Exploitation**

### ***A Crime So Monstrous: Face-to-Face with Modern-Day Slavery***

Author: E. Benjamin Skinner (Free Press, 2008)

Journalist E. Benjamin Skinner gives several accounts of current slaves and traffickers but emphasizes slavery victims in Haiti, Sudan, Romania, and India. Their stories and conditions are recorded and analyzed.

### ***A Piece of Cake***

Author: Cupcake Brown (Crown Publishers, 2006)

Cupcake's story encompasses foster care, child abuse, rape, drug dealing and addiction, alcoholism, gang activity, prostitution, and homelessness. In this original narrative, she describes overcoming these obstacles with the help of friends and strangers.

### ***Bodies and Souls***

Author: Isabel Vincent (HarperCollins Publishers, 2005)

The story of Jewish women victimized into the sex trade from the late 1860s to the beginning of the Second World War is told through academic studies and biographical accounts. In South America, South Africa, India, and New York, these women, shunned by the Jewish community, formed their own Jewish order spreading love and acceptance.

### ***Caught in the Web: Inside the Police Hunt to Rescue Children from Online Predators***

Author: Julian Sher (Da Capo Press, 2007)

Julian Sher reports the story of police officers, prosecutors, and high-tech analysts worldwide who, using undercover work and computer forensics, are combatting child abuse on the Internet and fighting to protect the young victims. Tales from FBI headquarters, the Department of Homeland Security's Cyber Crimes Center, Microsoft and AOL headquarters, court confessions, interviews, and rescue accounts describe efforts to make the web safer for children and show the victories as well as the harm experienced by the victims and the investigators who dedicate their lives to finding them.

### ***The Natashas***

Author: Victor Malarek (Arcade Publishing, 2004)

The trend of Eastern European girls being forced into the sex trade is examined—how they get there, what happens, how they survive—as well as its impact on globalization.

### ***Not for Sale: Feminists Resisting Prostitution and Pornography***

Editors: Christine Stark and Rebecca Whisnant (Spinifex Press, 2004)

This collection of essays connects feminist perspectives on the sex industry with radical critiques of racism, poverty, militarism, and unbridled corporate capitalism and shows how the harms of prostitution and pornography are amplified by the contemporary technologies of mass communication.

***Not for Sale: The Return of the Global Slave Trade and How We Can Fight It***

Author: David Batstone (HarperCollins Publishers, 2007)

Journalist, professor, and editor David Batstone profiles the new generation of abolitionists who are leading the struggle to end modern-day slavery.

***Ordeal***

Author: Linda Lovelace (Citadel Press, 2006)

Linda Lovelace became a household name in 1972 when *Deep Throat* became the first pornographic movie ever to cross over to mainstream audiences. Despite being the face that launched the film's phenomenal success, behind the scenes Linda was suffering unspeakable torture and abuse at the hands of her husband, Chuck Traynor. A harrowing tale of the pursuit of happiness and the will to survive amid years of horrific abuse, *Ordeal* reveals the dark reality behind *Deep Throat* and its star's tragic, yet ultimately triumphant, life.

***Prostitution, Trafficking, and Traumatic Stress***

Editor: Melissa Farley (Haworth Maltreatment & Trauma Press, 2003)

This book analyzes all aspects of the sex industry, from impoverished Mexican prostituted women to those trafficked around the world, and highlights the various forms of harm they face.

***Sold***

Author: Patricia McCormick (Hyperion, 2006)

*Sold* is the fictional story of 13-year-old Lakshmi, a Nepalese girl sold into prostitution and held against her will in an Indian brothel as a means to secure money for her family. This book is suitable for young adults.

***Stop the Traffik***

Author: Steve Chalke (Lion Hudson, 2009)

This book contains real-life stories, photographs, and practical action points divided into six sections—Stop: The Right to Freedom; Look: Trafficking is on Your Doorstep; Think: Attitudes and Awareness; Buy: The Power of the Consumer; Act: Join the Movement; and Start: Resources to Get You Started.

**Recommended Films**

***Call and Response***

This movie is a first-of-its-kind feature documentary film that reveals the world's 27 million dirtiest secrets: there are more slaves today than ever before in human history. The film goes deep undercover where slavery is thriving, from the child brothels of Cambodia to the slave brick kilns of rural India, to reveal that in 2007 slave traders made more money than Google, Nike, and Starbucks combined. (89 min.)

***Demand***

This documentary exposes the men who buy commercial sex, the vulnerable women and children sold as commodities, and the facilitators of the trade within the marketplace of exploitation. (45 min.)

***Hip-Hop: Beyond Beats and Rhymes***

This film provides a riveting examination of manhood, sexism, and homophobia in hip-hop culture. Director Byron Hurt, former star college quarterback, longtime hip-hop fan, and gender-violence-prevention educator, conceived the documentary as a "loving critique" of a number of disturbing trends in the world of rap music. He pays tribute to hip-hop while challenging the rap-music industry to take responsibility for glamorizing destructive, deeply conservative stereotypes of manhood. (61 min.)

***Holly***

An American stolen-artifacts dealer comes across a 12-year-old Vietnamese girl sold by her family into prostitution. The film focuses on his attempt to bring the girl to safety and raise awareness about child trafficking. (114 min.)

***Lilya 4-Ever***

At 16 in the former Soviet Union, Lilya is left by her mother and tricked into prostitution. The film describes the horror Lilya's life soon becomes. (109 min.)

***Not for Sale***

This documentary investigates the 27 million individuals ensnared in the modern-day slave trade. Undercover footage covers trafficking operations and what today's abolitionists are doing to fight the rampant terrors of human trafficking in the US and abroad. (85 min.)

***Price of Pleasure***

Going beyond the liberal-versus-conservative debate so common in our culture, this film provides a holistic understanding of pornography and debunks common myths about the genre. (55 min.)

***Svetlana's Journey***

Based on a true story, this drama describes the experience of a young Bulgarian girl sold by her adopted parents to a pimp for only 10,000 euros. (40 min.)

***Trade***

This film tells the story of a girl from Mexico City abducted into modern-day slavery and the brother that goes on a quest to rescue her. (119 min.)

***Very Young Girls***

This film follows 13- and 14-year-old girls in New York and addresses the mistreatment and abuse that they endure as prostituted young women. Rachel Lloyd, a survivor herself, runs GEMS, a recovery center dedicated to supporting young girls as they exit the sex trade. (84 min.)

## Resources

### Direct Services/Outreach

#### Anne's House

This is the first long-term residential trauma program in Illinois for young women and girls who have been victims of sex trafficking or sexual exploitation. The group home is run by the Salvation Army's PROMISE (Partnership to Rescue Our Minors From Sexual Exploitation) and offers group and individual therapy, life-skills training, support for academic and vocational goals, social and recreational activities, and spiritual guidance. Women and girls ages 12 to 25 are welcome. For additional information, go to <http://www.sapromise.org/anne.htm>.

#### Dream Catcher Foundation

A survivor-driven agency, the Dream Catcher Foundation provides health services, counseling, referrals to transitional-housing and addiction-treatment facilities, employment placement, and educational support for young women ages 12 to 25 who have survived the sex trade. For additional information, go to <http://dianetye.com/dreamcatcherfoundation/index1.html> or call 773-936-9898.

#### Footprints

This organization offers rehabilitative services to girls and women traumatized in the sex trade, including facilitating entry to substance-abuse and HIV-prevention programs for women arrested for prostitution in Cook County. For additional information, go to [www.cchc-online.org](http://www.cchc-online.org) or call 773-533-5600.

#### Illinois Department of Human Services—Illinois Rescue and Restore Campaign

Illinois joined the US Department of Health and Human Services and other law-enforcement, social-service, health-care, and advocacy organizations across the state to fight labor and sex trafficking in Illinois. For additional information, go to [www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=313322](http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=313322). To report suspected cases of trafficking, find victim resources (including crisis intervention and urgent and nonurgent referrals), and request comprehensive antitrafficking resources or technical assistance, call the **24-hour hotline at 888-3737-888**.

#### Night Ministry

The Night Ministry connects with Chicago's vulnerable youth and adults through street outreach, providing basic health-care supplies and referrals to housing and other supportive services. With its mobile health bus, the organization can offer services at the moment of need; additionally, it offers shelter and other resources to homeless youths. For additional information, go to <http://www.thenightministry.org/> or call 773-784-9000.

#### STOP IT

STOP IT fights human trafficking by rescuing victims, protecting survivors, and prosecuting traffickers and exploiters. They are committed to teaching the community to recognize and identify possible victims of trafficking. Call the STOP IT

24-hour hotline at 877-606-3158 to report a suspected case of human trafficking, including commercial sexual exploitation of children, sex trafficking, and labor trafficking. For additional information, call 773-275-6233 ext. 3029.

## **Advocacy**

### **Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation**

CAASE is committed to building a global community free from sexual exploitation. We know that all forms of sexual exploitation, including sexual assault and the commercial sex trade, are detrimental to a healthy society and undermine the dignity of all people. CAASE believes in stopping sexual exploitation by directly addressing the culture, institutions, and individuals that perpetrate, profit from, or tacitly support sexually exploitive acts against people. To accomplish our mission, CAASE seeks legal repercussions on behalf of survivors against perpetrators of sexual harm, advocates for policies and legislation that hold sexual exploiters accountable, creates and implements prevention initiatives, and develops resources that empower individuals and communities to take action against sexual exploiters. For additional information, go to [www.caase.org](http://www.caase.org) or call 773-244-2230.

### **Partnership to Rescue Our Minors from Sexual Exploitation**

PROMISE is a Chicago faith-based organization working to end the sexual exploitation of minors. Its mission is to address, in a holistic manner, the commercial sexual exploitation of youth under 18 in the Chicago area by focusing on prevention, intervention, outreach, and service provision. For additional information, go to [www.sapromise.org](http://www.sapromise.org) or call 312-286-2011.

### **Prostitution Alternatives Round Table**

Prostitution Alternatives Round Table (PART) is a network of governmental and private nonprofit organizations and prostitution survivors dedicated to addressing the many issues surrounding prostitution and homelessness in Chicago. PART is a project of the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless and is led by an active Steering Committee and a Committee of Survivors of Prostitution. For additional information, go to [www.chicagohomeless.org](http://www.chicagohomeless.org) or call 312-435-4548.

### **Traffick Free**

Traffick Free is an organization dedicated to raising awareness about human trafficking by conducting presentations for churches, schools, and groups. They also serve as a liaison with the community, linking community members with antitrafficking service providers for training, educational, and volunteer opportunities. For additional information, go to [www.traffickfree.org](http://www.traffickfree.org).

### **Voices and Faces Project**

The Voices and Faces Project is a national documentary project created to give voices and faces to survivors of sexual violence, offering a sense of solidarity to those who have lived through rape and abuse while raising awareness of how this human-rights and public-health issue impacts victims, families, and communities. For additional information, go to <http://www.voicesandfaces.org>.

### **Captive Daughters**

Captive Daughters is the first antitrafficking group established in California. They focus solely on ending the sexual bondage of women and children. Captive Daughters emphasizes the role of demand and works to educate the public about the dynamics of demand in order to develop the legal and political policies necessary to control and end this horrific practice. For additional information, go to <http://www.captivedaughters.org>.

### **Coalition Against Trafficking in Women**

The Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW) is creating real and lasting changes around the world by launching and supporting antitrafficking projects in areas that few programs address: the links between prostitution and trafficking, challenging the demand that promotes sex trafficking, and protecting victimized women and children by working to curb legal acceptance and tolerance of the sex industry. For additional information, go to <http://www.catwinternational.org>.

### **CounterQuo**

CounterQuo seeks to develop a blueprint for challenging the way that our culture responds to sexual violence and a system of accountability for those who will be charged with executing such a plan. Their goal is to foster new alliances and information sharing between antiviolence leaders from the worlds of advocacy, law, media, public health, and academia. They provide resources that will enable people to enact both legal and cultural change. For additional information, go to <http://www.counterquo.org/home.html>.

### **Free the Slaves**

Free the Slaves believes that all people have the right to freedom from all forms of slavery and the opportunity to realize their full potential. The group is committed to supporting sustainable solutions that don't hurt those they're trying to help and bases its strategies on accurate research. They are committed to building a diverse movement and to seeking guidance from local and regional antislavery programs around the world. For additional information, go to <http://www.freetheslaves.net>.

### **Girls Education Mentoring Services**

The mission of Girls Educational and Mentoring Services (GEMS) is to empower young women ages 12 to 21 who have experienced commercial sexual exploitation and domestic trafficking to leave the commercial sex industry and develop to their full potential. GEMS is committed to ending commercial sexual exploitation and domestic trafficking of children by changing individual lives, transforming public perception, and revolutionizing the systems and policies that affect sexually exploited youth. For additional information, go to <http://www.gems-girls.org/>.

### **Global Centurion**

Global Centurion takes a three-pronged approach to combating demand, including research and development; education, awareness, and advocacy on demand-related issues; and operations. Global Centurion is conducting an international case-law research project to document the case law on sex trafficking, labor trafficking, child sex tourism, the commercial sexual exploitation of children, and other related issues. In addition, Global Centurion is speaking out about child sex slavery and the need for a demand-focused approach at community centers, faith-based organizations, universities and colleges, and other venues. Finally, Global Centurion is building a network of citizen groups, faith-based organizations, law-enforcement officials, policy makers, and others committed to a proactive approach to stopping human trafficking in all its forms. For additional information, go to <http://globalcenturion.org/>.

### **Initiative Against Sex Trafficking**

Initiative Against Sex Trafficking (IAST) seeks to create and equip a new abolition movement for the eradication of sexual trafficking, the protection of survivors, and the prosecution of traffickers and exploiters. The resources on their website seek to both educate people about sex trafficking and provide ways for people to help. For additional information, go to <http://www.iast.net/>.

**Love 146**

Love 146 realizes that in order to end child sex slavery and exploitation, prevention work is essential. They are continually examining the most effective and diversified ways to prevent children from becoming victims of slavery, rape, and exploitation. The Love146 model of aftercare strives to be holistic and, as such, subscribes to the biopsychosocial model of treatment and care. For additional information, go to <http://love146.org/>.

**Men Can Stop Rape**

Men Can Stop Rape (MCSR) is an international organization that mobilizes men to use their strength to create cultures free from violence, especially men's violence against women. Since its inception in 1997, MCSR has led the call to redefine masculinity and male strength as part of preventing men's violence against women. MCSR provides agencies, schools, and organizations with direct services for youth, public-service messaging, and leadership training. For additional information, go to <http://www.mencanstoprape.org>.

**National Center for Missing and Exploited Children**

The mission of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) is to prevent child abduction and sexual exploitation; help find missing children; and assist victims of child abduction and sexual exploitation, their families, and the professionals who serve them. For additional information, go to [http://www.missingkids.com/missingkids/servlet/PublicHomeServlet?LanguageCountry=en\\_US](http://www.missingkids.com/missingkids/servlet/PublicHomeServlet?LanguageCountry=en_US).

**National Immigrant Justice Center**

The National Immigrant Justice Center ensures human-rights protections and access to justice for immigrants, refugees, and asylum-seekers through direct legal services, policy reform, impact litigation, and public education. For additional information, go to <http://www.immigrantjustice.org>.

**National Runaway Switchboard**

The mission of the National Runaway Switchboard is to keep America's runaway and at-risk youth safe and off the streets. Their 24-hour crisis line has experienced frontline team members ready to help. Their services are anonymous, confidential, and free. For additional information, go to <http://www.1800runaway.org/> or call 800-RUNAWAY.

**Not for Sale: End Human Trafficking**

Not For Sale is a campaign of students, artists, entrepreneurs, people of faith, athletes, law-enforcement officers, politicians, social workers, skilled professionals, and other justice-seekers united to fight the global slave trade and end human trafficking. The campaign aims to recruit, educate, and mobilize an international grassroots social movement that effectively combats human trafficking and slavery through "smart activism." It deploys innovative solutions to teach people how to re-abolish slavery—in their own backyards and across the globe. For additional information, go to <http://www.notforsalecampaign.org/>.

**Polaris Project**

Polaris Project's comprehensive approach to combating human trafficking includes conducting direct outreach and victim identification; providing social services and transitional housing to victims; operating the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC), which serves as the central national hotline on human trafficking; advocating for stronger state and federal antitrafficking legislation; and engaging community members in local and national grassroots efforts. For additional information, go to <http://www.polarisproject.org/>.

**Prostitution Research and Education**

Prostitution Research and Education (PRE) conducts research on prostitution, pornography, and trafficking and offers education and consultation to researchers, survivors, the public, and policy makers. PRE's goal is to abolish the institution of prostitution while at the same time advocating for alternatives to trafficking and prostitution, including mental and physical health-care services for women in prostitution. For additional information, go to <http://www.prostitutionresearch.com/>.

**Shared Hope International**

Shared Hope International's prevention programs examine the conditions that allow women and children to be bought and sold and documents the marketplaces of victimization around the world. They work to enhance awareness of modern-day sexual slavery and build international alliances to combat sex trafficking. Shared Hope International's rescue programs are integrated into the work of local restoration centers to successfully remove women and children from sexual exploitation. Restoration programs are developed and operated by local partners, addressing both the immediate and long-term needs of each victim. Restoration services include residential facilities, health-care services, education, job training, and economic development programs. For additional information, go to <http://www.sharedhope.org/index.asp>.

**Soroptimist**

Soroptimist is an international volunteer organization comprised of professional women working to improve the lives of women throughout the world through raising public awareness, fundraising, programming, and membership. For additional information, go to <http://www.soroptimist.org/>.