
Ending Sexual Exploitation: Engaging Parents and Guardians of High-School- Age Sons to Stop Sexual Harm



Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation

Jamie Johnson

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Introduction

The 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 exploitative acts against people. To accomplish our mission, CAASE seeks legal sanctions for 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.

Ending Sexual Exploitation: Engaging Parents and Guardians of High-School-Age Sons to Stop Sexual Harm is a resource created by the Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation (CAASE) for families, role models (i.e., parents, partners, stepparents, extended family members, etc.), and any other person who is involved in the lives of young men and is passionate about ending sexual exploitation. The toolkit provides background information on issues surrounding sexual exploitation, tips on initiating conversations about the issues, and resources for parents and guardians.

This toolkit includes the following resources:

- activities and practical ideas to help explore the issues surrounding sexual exploitation in a way that is relevant to your family
- activities and advice on engaging your son in the fight against sexual exploitation
- book and blog recommendations to address parenting concerns unique to raising young men
- lists of family-centered organizations working to strengthen family connections and end violence and sexual exploitation

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How Parents and Guardians Can Help

Throughout our lives, we are constantly searching for meaning—a search that often begins as soon as children discover that there is a world outside themselves. As parents, you have the wonderful opportunity to positively influence your son's understanding of himself and the world around him. Remember, it is a very different world out there than when you were growing up. Your son faces new pressures and is exposed to people and material that were not readily available when you were a teenager. Constantly working to be a positive influence in your son's life is a challenge, but by staying informed about what issues your son may be facing and helping him navigate confusing situations, you can make an immeasurable difference in his life and the lives of those around him.

This kit is a tool for you. It provides suggestions about how to tackle challenging conversations within your family but can also be used with extended family and within your neighborhood and community. It is a useful tool for any individual who is passionate about ending sexual harm.

Sexual exploitation, such as prostitution and human trafficking, is a violation of human rights that occurs in neighborhoods all over Chicago and throughout Illinois. As long as people remain unaware of the extent and root cause of sexual exploitation, the violence and harm experienced by victims will continue to grow. Your family can be a vehicle for both raising awareness about this issue and making real change in the lives of those affected by sexual exploitation.

Activist 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.

Co-founders Tony Porter and Ted Bunch created **A Call To Men** based on the belief that preventing domestic and sexual violence is primarily the responsibility of men. Although historically work to end gender-based violence has been 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/>

Information on Sexual Exploitation

For those of us who are in a position to do something to combat human slavery, however small our contribution, neutrality is a sin.

—Inspector General Joseph E. Schmitz,
Department of Defense

The Role of Supply and Demand

Solving the issue of prostitution is complicated. Individuals involved in the sex trade need a variety of social services and other resources to exit the sex trade safely. Unfortunately, instead of viewing these individuals as victims in need of assistance, society tends to label them as criminals. This leads to a criminal justice response that disproportionately targets those selling sex and not the men who are purchasing or the pimps and traffickers who are profiting. In 2008, nearly two-thirds of prostitution-related arrests in Chicago were of the women and children who were being prostituted, while one-third were of customers, and only about 1 percent were pimps.¹ Although ample research informs us that the customers (or "johns"), pimps, and other traffickers are fueling the sex trade and abusing the women and girls in prostitution, the criminal justice and legal systems continue to target and punish the victims. **This one-sided focus fails to address the root cause of prostitution: the**

".prostitution is not a victimless crime. It's a terrible life, and a caring society has a responsibility to help these women."

– Mayor Daley

demand to purchase sex. As long as this demand exists, more vulnerable women and children will be forced, coerced, and manipulated to meet the demand. The equation is simple: eliminate demand, eliminate commercial sexual exploitation.

In Illinois, incarceration rates for felony prostitution (again, just the selling side of the transaction) have increased by nearly 1000 percent since 1995, causing women in prostitution to face further barriers towards rehabilitation since an arrest record makes it more

difficult to secure a job or home. **The approximate cost of incarcerating the women is \$9-million-a-year.** The Johns, on the other hand, receive lesser punishments such as car impoundment, fines, and municipal violations, resulting in very little deterrence. Clearly, this \$9-million-a-year² strategy is not working.

Prostitution will not end unless we end the demand for it. By shifting the community focus from targeting women in the sex trade to eliminating the demand for paid sex, we believe we will see a real reduction in prostitution and the harms associated with it in our communities and in our city.

Prostitution in Chicago

Between 16,000 and 24,000 women and girls are impacted by the sex trade in Chicago every day.³

Many people believe that most people in prostitution are there of their own free will, or choose to do it to earn lots of money. But research conducted both in Chicago and nationwide reveals that a substantial percentage of women in prostitution are homeless, and/or survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, and often start selling sex at a very young age. Many also experience mental health and substance abuse issues that go untreated.

¹ Data compiled by the Mayor's Office on Domestic Violence for the *Innersystems Assessment* and obtained through the Chicago Police Department.

² City of Chicago's estimated cost of arresting, prosecuting and detaining people for prostitution offenses (Sentencing Project 2002), www.sentencingproject.org.

³ C. O'Leary and O. Howard, *The Prostitution of Women and Girls in Metropolitan Chicago: A Preliminary Prevalence Report* (Center for Impact Research, 2001).

Additionally, these individuals often experience extreme physical violence, sexual harm, and psychological trauma. Research on women working as prostitutes in Chicago shows that approximately 90 percent are physically, sexually, and emotionally abused at the hands of pimps and johns. This abuse results in a myriad of health problems, including sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, migraines, memory problems, sleeplessness, severe depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, and eating disorders.

Prostitution Facts	
Prostitution is an act of violence which is intrinsically traumatizing.	
Average Age Entering Prostitution	13.5
reported a history of sexual abuse in childhood	85%
reported a history of incest	70%
Percentage That Said Porn Taught Them What Was Expected Of Them	52%
said porn was used to illustrate client demands	80%
said pimps regularly exposed them to porn	30%
Rough Percentage Of Prostitutes Who Were Victims Of Rape	75%
prostituted women who had pimps	90%
prostituted women raped by pimps	85%
Prostituted Women Were Raped 16 Times Yearly By Pimps	
Of 475 Women, Men And Transgender People In Prostitution From 5 Countries (South Africa, Thailand, Turkey, USA, Zambia):	
raped in prostitution	62%
physically assaulted	73%
currently or formerly homeless	72%
Wanted To Escape Prostitution Immediately	92%
Girls And Women In Prostitution Have A Mortality Rate 40 Times Higher Than The National Average	
women in escort prostitution that have attempted suicide	75%
completed suicides of prostituted women of all completed suicides reported by hospitals	15%
Ingredients: Excerpted from the Prostitution Fact Sheet, compiled by Melissa Farley, at the Prostitution Research & Education site, prostitutionresearch.com.	
MR © 2010 Melissa Farley (farley.com)	

The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

The overwhelming majority of individuals engaged in prostitution have a history of physical and/or sexual abuse, with estimates ranging from 65 to 90 percent.⁴ **Incest has long been considered a form of “boot camp” for prostitution because it teaches its victims to expect and accept abuse, even from the people who claim to love and care for them most.** It also teaches young people how to disassociate their bodies from their minds, and as many women in the sex trade have expressed, being able to disassociate is necessary to survive the trauma of prostitution.

Commercial sexual exploiters in the U.S., commonly referred to as pimps, target particularly vulnerable youth, such as runaway and homeless adolescents (one out of every three teens on the street will be lured toward prostitution within 48 hours of leaving home⁵), and are constantly searching for younger victims, which often bring higher profits. Pimps understand the circumstances and

tactics necessary to compel an individual into the sex trade, and seek out the most vulnerable women and girls to physically coerce or emotionally manipulate through false promises, verbal/physical abuse, and threats of harm to the victim and her family.⁶

“He promised me everything and better. Clothes, cars, house, himself. I was just looking for someone to love and love me.”
—prostitution survivor

⁴ M. Farley et al., “Prostitution and Trafficking in Nine Countries: An Update on Violence and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder” in M. Farley, ed., *Prostitution, Trafficking, and Traumatic Stress* (New York: Haworth, 2003), 33-74.

⁵ National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, www.missingkids.com.

⁶ J. Raphael and J. Ashley, *Domestic Sex Trafficking of Chicago Women and Girls* (Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, DePaul University College of Law, 2003).

Prostitution is not the oldest profession, but the oldest form of oppression.

— US Department of State, Bureau of Public Affairs,
“The Link between Prostitution and Sex Trafficking”

Nationally,
the

average age females enter the sex trade is 12-14.⁷ In Chicago, according to the Center for Impact Research, 35 percent of all women in the sex trade entered before the age of 15.⁸ The effects are devastating for these children. Youth in prostitution are seriously affected developmentally, suffering from lack of sleep, malnutrition, loss of appetite and concentration, addiction to drugs, sexually transmitted diseases, and a feeling of intense isolation. Additionally, they are often treated as criminals by law enforcement and judges, even though federal law states that any child under the age of 18 who has performed a commercial sex act is a victim of a severe form of human trafficking.

⁹

What is Human Trafficking?

Victims of human trafficking are people forced, coerced, or deceived into labor or commercial sex. Labor trafficking is widespread in a variety of work situations that include small-scale businesses like restaurants and cleaning services and domestic workers held in homes, as well as large-scale operations such as farms, factories, sweatshops, and the supply chains of major multinational corporations. Sex trafficking occurs in all sectors of the sex industry, including street prostitution, online escort services, strip clubs, pornography, brothels, and the use of children for commercial sex. Some “mail order brides” become victims of both labor (domestic work) and sex trafficking. Under international law, any child involved in commercial sex is considered a trafficking victim, even if no force or coercion occurs.

In the U.S., a person is a victim of sex trafficking if s/he is being exploited to engage in commercial sex. A person is a victim of an *severe form* of sex trafficking if:

- S/he is being forced, coerced, or tricked to either work or engage in sex for money, and s/he believes s/he would experience serious harm if s/he tried to leave the situation.

OR

- S/he is under 18 and is having sex for money. (It isn't necessary to prove force or coercion for minors; the law recognizes that children cannot meaningfully consent to sex).

It's important to remember that:

⁷ U.S. Department of Justice. (2007). *Domestic Sex Trafficking of Minors*. Washington, DC.

⁸ Raphael, J. & Shapiro, D. (2002). *Sisters Speak Out: The Lives and Needs of Prostituted Women in Chicago*. Center for Impact Research.

⁹ *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.

- Anyone can be a victim of human trafficking, including U.S. Citizens, foreign nationals, men, women, adults, and children.
- Trafficking is not smuggling or forced movement. While transportation or movement may be involved in human trafficking, trafficking is simply forced/coerced labor; it doesn't require transportation or movement across borders.
- Trafficking does not require physical abuse, force, or restraint. Often, traffickers use psychological manipulation/abuse, deception, threats of harm, or debt manipulation to control their victims.

Prostitution vs. Human Trafficking: Similarities and Differences

When we think of a woman in prostitution compared to a victim of sex trafficking, different images come to mind. We tend to blame women in prostitution for their involvement in the sex trade, but view victims of sex trafficking as innocent. Indeed, our response to victims of sex trafficking is almost uniformly sympathetic, while our response to women in prostitution is usually arrest, incarceration, and blame for "getting themselves in that situation". So what is the real difference between sex trafficking, and prostitution?

The William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 defines "severe forms of trafficking in persons" as the following:

1) sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion or in which the person induced to perform such an act is under 18, or

2) the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.¹⁰

Sex trafficking is one form of human trafficking, which includes both exploitation for commercial sex (sex trafficking), and exploitation for other labor (labor trafficking). Pimps use similar tactics to other sex traffickers, including violence, threats of harm, and dishonest recruitment tactics.

"We're talking about money here. Millions of dollars and these people don't think about these women as human beings. They think of them as dollars and cents. Chicago, Houston, St. Paul, Minnesota—these crimes are happening in every community in America, big and small."

—Marcie Forman, Director of Investigations for Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Even though an adult in prostitution who entered the sex trade entirely of her or his own volition and

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood . . . Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

—United Nations, articles 1 and 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)

¹⁰ Ibid.

does not have a third-party involved is not legally considered a victim of trafficking, it is important to move *beyond* legal definitions to understand the human rights violations experienced by both trafficked and non-trafficked individuals in prostitution.

The sexual and physical violence and psychological harm inherent in prostitution erodes an individual's human dignity, concept of self-worth, and even basic health. This is because prostitution inhibits an individual's ability to live a life free from violence and harm. For example, a study by the Center for Impact Research confirmed that prostituted women in Chicago face a wide array of violence, including physical and sexual assault, as well as high rates of psychological trauma, homelessness, drug addiction, and chronic health problems.¹¹ The trauma of prostitution creates a startling fact: according to an FBI estimate, a woman's average life expectancy is only seven years after the date of entry into prostitution. **Girls and women in the sex industry also have a mortality rate 40 times higher than the national average¹².**

Further, when we compare the life circumstances that precede entry into prostitution and sex trafficking, and assess the overall devastation of sex trade involvement, the line between prostitution and trafficking becomes even more blurred. Regardless of whether or not an individual is involved in prostitution as a result of human trafficking or because of limited life opportunities or past abuse, the reality is that the sex trade is incredibly harmful, dangerous and demeaning. It is important to move past legal definitions to understand that prostitution harms everyone involved.

“We’ve created a legal dichotomy in America in which the federal government views prostituted children as victims, yet most states treat them as criminals. If state laws treated child prostitution more like human trafficking, then state social service agencies would play a more important role in helping this vulnerable population.”

Olivia's Story...

Olivia grew up on the south side of Chicago, and to the outside world her childhood seemed like that of any other girl. She would spend time with her friends, create adventures around the neighborhood, and spend hours at a time escaping into worlds of play and creativity. Yet by the age of 16, Olivia had already began her descent into the world of strip clubs, prostitution, and drug addiction.

Olivia was raised by her mother and father, parents who might have seemed loving and caring to the outside world. Yet in the home, both were struggling with alcohol addiction. Olivia's father was physically abusive to her mother on a regular basis. With alcohol always present in her house, Olivia became accustomed to a lifestyle of drinking at a very early age. She began to use alcohol when she was only nine years old in order to block out her parents' fights and the abuse in her family. Much of their childhood, Olivia and her siblings were left to care for themselves.

As Olivia got older, her father had health problems which eventually progressed to the point where he could no longer work and support their family. When her father became seriously ill, the family moved into a housing project. At twelve years of age, money was scarce for Olivia's family and Olivia began to earn extra money by helping a family friend, or “uncle”, with groceries. Soon this

¹¹ Raphael and Shapiro, *Sisters Speak Out*.

¹² Melissa Farley, *The Prostitution Fact Sheet*, prostitutionresearch.com.

“uncle” became sexually abusive and would reinforce the abuse with money given to Olivia and her sister.

Desperate to escape an abusive family and the hardships of life in the projects, Olivia left her home, following her older sister to Job Corps. Though she was only sixteen, Olivia gravitated towards an older crowd in the program, drinking and partying much of the time. Despite her substance use, in ten months she completed Job Corps with a G.E.D. and a nursing certificate.

Life could have taken a positive turn at this point; Olivia was finally free from an abusive home and the addictions of her parents. But finding work was hard. When finding a job proved challenging, an older friend helped Olivia secure a job as a barmaid on the south side of Chicago. Not long after being hired at the bar, Olivia moved on to more lucrative work through employment at a strip club on Rush Street. When she joined the club, she thought they were actually searching for dancers. It didn't take her long before she realized that authentic dance talent was not what they were searching for. As she began to strip and endure the harassment and degrading comments from patrons, Olivia turned again to using alcohol to cope and numb herself against this reality that had become her life.

“You kind of desensitize yourself to what is really happening, and you are using more and more alcohol.”

Olivia craved attention when she worked on Rush Street, and would do almost anything to gain the interest of adult patrons—the type of attention that she never got from her parents. While working at the strip club, Olivia began to see that there was more going on than just dancing: “I was very naïve, I had been to dancing school. I thought I was this great dancer...It doesn't take long to see what's going on in the club”. The longer she was there, the more she was pressured to perform beyond just the dance floor.

At 17, Olivia walked in on her friend injecting drugs. “I do this because I hurt so bad inside” her friend told her. Always searching for new ways to numb her pain, she injected. Olivia will always remember the intense sense of relief and freedom she felt the first time she injected drugs. She spent the next 18 years chasing that first high. Once Olivia began using heroin, she started turning tricks in the back rooms of the clubs where she was working to support her habit. According to Olivia, when using drugs, she no longer cared about the abuse of “johns” or the verbal cruelty that had become a daily reality within the club's walls. As Olivia's drug habit began to spiral out of control and the tracks on her arms became harder to conceal, she left the club and began an 18 year involvement in prostitution on Rush Street in downtown Chicago. Olivia's drug habit eventually left her homeless, and she became increasingly more dependent on her violent “partner”. This “partner” was responsible for collecting the money she made in prostitution, providing shelter, and supporting their collective drug habits. When Olivia didn't make enough money to support their lifestyle, he often violently abused her.

Prostitution transformed Olivia into a shell of the woman she had once been. “I was so tired. I was so totally abused. I was in such bad shape. I felt nothing. I cared about nothing. I was a walking zombie.”

The streets could have been the end for Olivia, just as it was the end for many of her friends in prostitution. Luckily, when she got to the point where the only solution was contemplating her own death, Olivia was approached on the street by an outreach worker who had been doing research on women in prostitution.

“I had become so comfortable with the idea that this is how I was going to die, that I just wanted it to happen and get it over with, because it was so painful.”

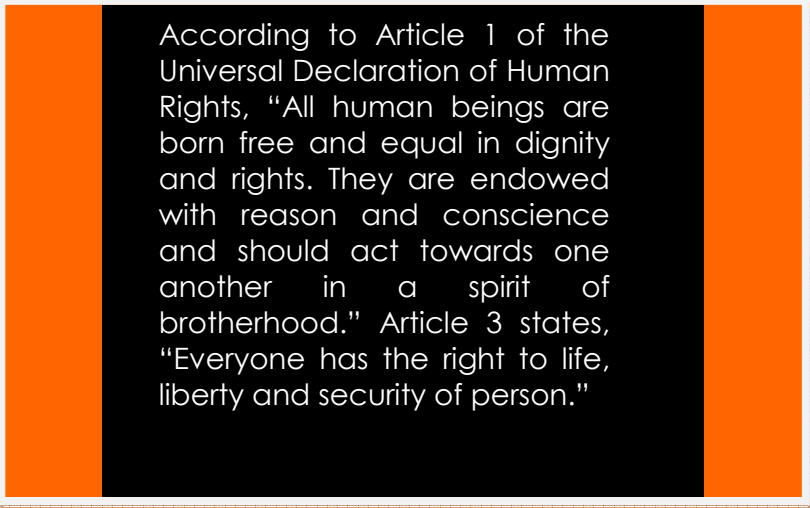
To her own surprise, the next morning Olivia went to meet with the researcher who then referred her to a substance abuse program for her drug addiction. Although it was difficult, Olivia resisted the urge to use and began her journey to recovery.

Olivia's childhood was unstable and she experienced incest, rape, domestic violence, alcohol abuse, and drugs, all of which pushed her towards a life of stripping, prostitution, and alcohol and drug

addiction. Thankfully, with resilience and determination, Olivia lives to share her story and to help others overcome similar issues.

Talking with Your Son About Sexual Exploitation

This section suggests activities and advice to help you talk to your son about sexual exploitation. The activities and information focus on the pressures your son may face to engage in sexually exploitative acts or sexual activities that make him uncomfortable. Also provided are conversation ideas to cultivate an open dialogue with your son about sexual exploitation, as well as resources for your family to learn more about the issue. The goal of this toolkit is to provide the information and guidance necessary to have an informed, proactive, and manageable conversation with your son about a difficult topic.



According to Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood." Article 3 states, "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person."

Understanding Social Pressures

Everyday your son is confronted with messages from the media and peers that convey an expectation to have sex. Sex is used to sell everything from toothpaste to Burger King to deodorant and is often used as a status symbol and a way of demonstrating masculinity. During a time when your son is working to define himself as an individual, the pressure to use sex as a means of establishing his role as a “man” may lead him into sexually exploitative relationships.

Social pressure refers to the influence exerted by an individual, group, or other entity to encourage a person to change his or her attitudes, values, or behavior in order to conform to group norms. It is a method of changing and controlling the behavior of other people, both on the personal level (i.e., among acquaintances, friends, and family) and also on the societal level (through messages received via advertising and popular media).

This is your son’s sexual reality, by the numbers:

- Nearly half (46 percent) of all teens between the age 15 and 19 have had sex at least once.
- By age 15, 13 percent of teens have had sex; by the time they reach age 19, that number jumps to 70 percent.
- A study conducted by the American Public Health Association (APHA) found that one of the biggest reasons that teenagers engage in sexual activity is because they think their peers are also having sex. Many of the teens that were sexually active reported that most or nearly all of the other teenagers in their grade had had sex, even though this wasn’t the case in reality.
- Teenagers that watch sexual content in the media are more likely to overestimate the amount of sex their friends and acquaintances are having. They are also more likely to feel permissive of sexual activity and having multiple partners.

Proactive Parenting Tool: Real-Life Experiences of Service

Provide your son with a variety of experiences serving others. Spend time with your son volunteering in a women’s shelter, building houses with Habitat for Humanity, or running in a race benefiting a domestic violence shelter (make sure he knows the cause he is running for!). These events could even be combined with rite-of-passage activities with your son.

Many of the movies marketed toward your son feature adult actors portraying young teens in sexualized relationships (i.e., *American Pie*, *Juno*, *Sex Drive*). Even if sex is not explicitly shown, it is implied. Additionally, many songs that are popular with today’s youth promote casual sex as a normal part of having a good time and “being a man” (i.e., “Poker Face,” “Tik Tok,” “P.I.M.P.,” “Hotel Room Service,” “Good Girls Go Bad”). The more your son is inundated with these messages about sex, the more likely they are to become part of his social script. It is up to you to present counter messages and to question and refute those that are presented by the media.

Listening to Your Son

Research shows that parental involvement is key in protecting young men from engaging in unsafe or problematic sexual activity. But the topic of sex is highly charged, especially when talking with your son about *his* sexual activity. It is important that you emotionally neutralize the situation when discussing your son's sexual activity so you can process what is being said. If you find yourself feeling offended or defensive, try to remember what peer pressure was like when you were his age and how time has significantly changed attitudes about sex. Really listen. Remember that this discussion is ultimately about the well-being of your son.

Communicate, communicate, communicate! Start by telling your son that you are always there to talk about anything, that you are a resource for him and want to help him solve problems and figure out confusing situations. Explain to him that it is against the values of your family to pressure others into doing something they do not want to do, disrespect women, purchase sexual services, or trade sex for goods. To put the topic in context, you can help your son understand the cultural factors that may make him feel that buying sex is normal or “cool” or something that “real men” do. Remember to try to be relaxed when talking about these issues. If you seem comfortable addressing the subject, then your son will be more likely to share in a way that is honest and vulnerable.

Teach your son that it's OK to say no and to leave the situation. Tell your son that if someone does something or asks him to do something that makes him feel uncomfortable, he should tell that person that he is uncomfortable. Emphasize to him that if the person doesn't listen, doesn't stop, or continues to make him feel uncomfortable in any way, he should tell someone—a parent, teacher, or trusted adult. Teach your son that if he is feeling frustrated, jealous, angry, or aggressive in a certain context, he has several options to diffuse the situation (i.e., he can take a break to gain perspective, take a deep breath, talk with you, go for a run, etc.). Help your son develop alternate skills for dealing with his feelings. Role-playing can be a great teaching tool for this. Act out situations with your son that might cause him to feel angry or frustrated in real life. While role-playing, help him express new attitudes and behaviors to help him deal with these feelings.

Be a hands-on parent. Talk to your son about the media. Many TV shows (for example, *CSI* and *Law and Order*) show sexual violence of different kinds and may glorify pimping and prostitution. Taking it a step further, some video games (for example, *Grand Theft Auto*) encourage the user to engage in sexual violence and sexual exploitation. If your son watches a lot of television or plays video games, watch or play with him. Use examples from these shows and games to strike up conversations about gender roles and how the media normalizes the idea that women are objects or continually available sexual beings. Use these opportunities to have a frank discussion with your son about how these portrayals are dangerous and can normalize sexual exploitation. Also, don't hesitate to simply turn off violent and sexually exploitative TV, music, and video games.

In addition to knowing your son's media habits, get to know his friends and his sexual partner(s). Monitor his activities. One of the most important things that parents can do for their sons is to be involved.

Know the other adults your son might talk to. Young men sometimes feel that they cannot talk to their parents about issues that they think are embarrassing or might upset their parents. As such, they often choose to confide in and ask for advice from other adults. It is important that you know the other trusted adults in your son's life to know where he might turn for help when he is not asking you.

Be available. Let your son know that he can come to you if he has questions or if someone is talking to him or acting in a way that makes him feel uncomfortable. Be sure to continually reinforce that you are always there for him. In addition to being available to talk to your son, teach and reinforce positive behaviors. Teach empathy and provide opportunities for cooperation. Reinforce kind, compassionate behavior. Ways to do this include letting your son care for a pet or enrolling your son in meaningful activities that cultivate his talents and interests while also fostering cooperation and friendship.

Seek professional help, if needed. Sometimes a situation calls for more than parental intervention. Boys that engage in sexually exploitative behaviors are made, not born. If left unchecked, these behaviors can lead to serious life-altering consequences. If your son has adopted such behaviors, you can help him turn things around by connecting him, as well as your family, with supportive mental health services. For a list of such services in the Chicago area, see the list of counseling references at the end of this toolkit.

Cultivating Equality in Relationships

As a parent, you are the most influential person in your son's life (even though it may not feel that way all the time). It is important that you communicate values and beliefs that will help your son build healthy relationships free from violence and exploitation. The difference you can make will last a lifetime!

Proactive Parenting Tool: Good Communication

Make communication a high priority. Make sure your son knows what your expectations are with regard to respectful treatment of women. Engage your son in conversations rather than lectures. When sons feel like they have contributed to the development of "rules," they are more likely to follow them.

Learn about the issues. Educate yourself about what healthy and equal relationships are and how to build respect so you can share that knowledge with your son. Show him that being in relationships where people are treated as equals feels great. Keep yourself up to date on who your son spends his time with and what trends he is following. Knowing where your son is directing his attention will help you be an informed and supportive influence in your son's life.

For ideas on how to talk to your son about healthy relationships, check out:

- <http://lmerlobooth.typepad.com/straighttalk/2010/01/what-do-healthy-relationships-look-like.html>
- <http://lmerlobooth.typepad.com/straighttalk/2010/01/what-parents-need-to-teach-their-teens-about-relationships-a-guest-post.html>

It's never too early. Talk to your son about healthy relationships before he starts dating. Help him understand the harm that comes from stereotypes about “real men” and “real women” and instead share with him ideas about the positive attributes we all share. Teach your son that every human being is valuable and deserves acceptance.

Keep communicating. The more often you bring up issues related to healthy sexual relationships, the more comfortable your son will be talking with you. Use the time spent in the car, after school, at dinner, and before bed to discuss the attitudes and behaviors that lead to healthy equal relationships. Discuss what your son sees on TV, on the Internet, and in movies and help him process the messages that the popular media often conveys about the roles of men and women.

Create the space. Make an open and safe place for your son to talk about relationships. Always listen to what he says and answer his questions. Talk *with* him instead of talking *at* him. Ask questions like, “What kind of person would make a good girlfriend or boyfriend?” and “How do you show someone you like them?” Listen patiently, ask questions, and let him share his ideas.

Set an example. Show your son that a healthy relationship helps both partners feel supported and heard. Show him how conflicts with friends and family can be solved through respectful discussion. Parents can feel stressed out and like they have reached their “limit.” Children's constant needs can overwhelm them. Even the most loving parents can make a mistake and lash out at their son with words or actions. But parents must learn to listen to their sons and respond in helpful ways. Treat your son with respect so he will learn to respect others. Do not call him names, put him down, or hit him. It won't help him understand what he has done that is problematic and will just make things worse. Any abuse hurts and can teach boys that using physical force is an acceptable way to respond to challenging situations.

Practice makes perfect. Your son can learn how to deal with potentially difficult situations before they happen. What will your son do if he feels pressure to engage in sexual activity that makes him feel uncomfortable? What will your son do if he feels pushed to control or disrespect girls? Come up with realistic examples with your son and work with him to figure out how he can respond in case these situations do occur.

Proactive Parenting Tool: Monitoring Your Son

Boys need their parents to keep track of them, hold them accountable, and correct them when necessary. Let your son know you are watching him and will not stand by and watch him hurt himself or others. Actively pay attention to what he does with his free time, how he engages others, and what trends he is following.

Watch out! Look for the warning signs that your son is being abusive in a relationship. Get to know whom he is dating by inviting the person to your home. Pay attention to how your son and his partner interact. Watch for controlling or mean behavior, criticism, or jealousy. Pay attention to your son's overall behavior as well. Some boys in unhealthy relationships get angry easily and are unpredictable or moody.

Know what to do. If you think your son might be in an abusive relationship, don't be afraid to talk to him about it. Tell him you are worried and that you are there to help him. Ask how he feels about his relationship and listen without judgment. Focus on your son's feelings and create an action plan to address the problematic situation.

Why Men Should Care About Prostitution

It is overwhelmingly men who purchase sex. The vast majority of all sexual services are purchased by males. Even when men are purchased for sex, other men are most often the perpetrators.

Men ARE purchased for sex. Men are also sexually victimized. Studies show that a staggering 10 to 20 percent of all males are sexually violated at some point in their lives. Men are not immune to the epidemic of sexual violence, and men purchased for sex suffer both the violence and stigma inherent in the sex trade. Male survivors are often blamed for their own victimization and respond by remaining silent and suffering alone.

Purchasing sex harms men. When sex is turned into a commodity that can be purchased, it can easily lose its meaning and positive associations. Men who purchase sex often describe negative feelings after doing so, such as feeling guilty, ashamed, lonely, and regretful. Others have said that once they purchased sex, they were never able to relate to a woman in the same way again.

Men can stop the majority of sexual exploitation. Purchasing sex is a choice some men make to commoditize sex for power and control. To stop men from purchasing sex, men must be empowered to make different choices and to hold each other accountable. All men can play a vital role in this process by challenging attitudes that support purchasing sex and raising awareness about the damage caused to all involved in these transactions. Every time a man's voice joins those of women in speaking out against sexual exploitation, the world becomes safer for us all.

Prostitution is a human-rights violation. Human trafficking is the world's third largest criminal enterprise, after drugs and weapons trafficking, and is the fastest growing of all. The International Labor Organization of the United Nations estimates that there are 12.3 million adults and children in forced labor or commercial sexual servitude worldwide at any given time, with 1.39 million victims trafficked into the sex trade each year. Trafficking victims face violence and psychological devastation in almost unimaginable ways. Until we declare that human trafficking and sexual exploitation are human-rights violations, millions of people will continue to suffer.

Resources

Must-Read Books

Books on Raising Boys

Best Things Fathers Do

Author: Will Glennon

Following his popular book, *The Collected Wisdom of Fathers*, Will Glennon combines the insights culled from interviews with fathers, research, and his own personal experience as a dad into *Best Things Fathers Do*. The book is both helpful and inspiring and is perfect for all fathers, new and old. Fathering is a full-time job. The age-old notion that fathering extends only to the occasional pick-up game of catch or fishing trip is certainly a thing of the past. Fathers are more involved than ever with the daily care, teaching, and rearing of their children. In *Best Things Fathers Do*, Glennon not only celebrates fatherhood but gives dads the tools to build close, powerful, emotional bonds with their children.

Raising Cain: Protecting the Emotional Life of Boys

Author: Dan Kindlon, Ph.D., and Michael Thompson, Ph.D.

Two of the country's leading child psychologists share insights gained from more than thirty-five years of combined experience working with boys and their families. They reveal a nation of boys who are hurting—sad, afraid, angry, and silent. Kindlon and Thompson set out to answer one basic and crucial question: What do boys need that they're not getting? The authors illuminate the forces that threaten our boys, teaching them to believe that "cool" equals macho strength and stoicism. Cutting through outdated theories of "mother blame," "boy biology," and "testosterone," the authors shed light on the destructive emotional training boys receive—thus revealing and challenging their emotional miseducation.

Real Boys: Rescuing Our Sons from the Myths of Boyhood

Author: William Pollack

Based on William Pollack's more than two decades of groundbreaking research at Harvard Medical School, *Real Boys* explores this generation's "silent crisis": why so many boys are sad, lonely, and confused although they may appear tough, cheerful, and confident. Pollack challenges conventional expectations about manhood and masculinity that encourage parents to treat boys as little men, raising them through a toughening process that drives their true emotions underground. Only when we understand what boys are really like, says Pollack, can parents and teachers help them develop more self-confidence and the emotional savvy they need to deal with issues such as depression, violence, drugs and alcohol, sexuality, and love.

So Sexy So Soon: The New Sexualized Childhood and What Parents Can Do to Protect Their Kids

Author: Diane Levin, Ph.D., and Jean Kilbourne, Ed.D.

This is an invaluable and practical guide for parents who are fed up, confused, and even scared by what their kids—or their kids' friends—do and say. The authors, internationally recognized experts in early childhood development and the impact of the media on children and teens, understand that saying no to commercial culture—TV, movies, toys, Internet access, and video games—isn't a realistic or viable option for

most families. Instead, they offer parents essential age-appropriate strategies to counter the assault of the cultural forces that encourage early sexualization.

Talking to Your Kids About Sex: Turning "the Talk" into a Conversation for Life

Author: Laura Berman

Discover how and when to teach your kids all they need to know about sexual health. Renowned therapist and educator Dr. Laura Berman gives you tools to open up the lines of communication and make the talk a unique bonding experience for parent and child. Learn how to establish and share your family values about sex in every conversation and how to help your child develop a healthy, confident body image and self-esteem. Preparing your son for a healthy sexual future is one of the best gifts you can give him. Provide all the crucial information your child needs from infancy through the late teen years with Dr. Berman's resourceful, reassuring, and age-appropriate guide.

Teenage Boys: Surviving and Enjoying These Extraordinary Years

Author: Bill Beausay

A teenage boy's world is a dynamic, unpredictable place. That is why stringent parenting "techniques" do not always bring about the results we expect. Though we know parents' ability to survive the teenage years is crucial to their child's healthy development, it is often hard them to know the best way to make it through this difficult time. Consequently, they are often overwhelmed by the challenge. In this user-friendly guide, Bill Beausay offers six fresh principles that can help parents overcome fears about raising a son while powerfully shaping the man inside their teenage boy.

Books on Gender Expectations

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.

Dude, You're a Fag: Masculinity and Sexuality in High School

Author: C. J. Pascoe

High school and the difficult terrain of sexuality and gender identity are brilliantly explored in this smart, incisive ethnography. Based on 18 months of fieldwork in a racially diverse, working-class high school, *Dude, You're a Fag* sheds new light on masculinity both as a field of meaning and as a set of social practices. C. J. Pascoe's unorthodox approach analyzes masculinity as not only a gendered process but also a

sexual one. She demonstrates how the "specter of the fag" becomes a disciplinary mechanism for regulating heterosexual as well as homosexual boys and how the "fag discourse" is as much tied to gender as it is to sexuality.

Real Boys' Voices: Boys Speak Out About Drugs, Sex, Violence, Bullying, Sports, School, Parents and So Much More

Author: William Pollack

To gather information for this book, Pollack traveled across the country, speaking to boys of all socioeconomic backgrounds and races, to find out about the pressures, pleasures, expectations, and attitudes of growing up male in America. He found boys hungry for connection, longing to be themselves, and yearning for change. They are filled with fear, confusion, and anxiety about coming of age but, unlike girls, feel intense pressure to keep their emotions bottled up inside.

The Macho Paradox

Author: Jackson Katz

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, sexual abuse, and harassment are so widespread that they must be viewed not as issues relevant to only the troubled individuals involved but rather as an overarching social problem rooted in our culture.

Books on Sexual Exploitation

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

Author: E. Benjamin Skinner

Journalist E. Benjamin Skinner gives several accounts of current slaves and traffickers, focusing on slavery victims in Haiti, Sudan, Romania, and India. Their stories and conditions, as well as the abolition of slavery, are recorded and analyzed.

Not for Sale: Feminists Resisting Prostitution and Pornography

Author: Catherine MacKinnon and Elizabeth Long

The essays collected in this anthology connect feminist perspectives on the sex industry to radical critiques of racism, poverty, militarism, and unbridled corporate capitalism and show how the harms of prostitution and pornography are amplified by the contemporary technologies of mass communication. Bringing together research, testimony, and theories by more than 30 activists from different countries and generations, including a number of courageous industry survivors, *Not for Sale* is both a vital contribution to ongoing debates and a call to action and resistance.

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

Author: David Batstone

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

The Sacred Bath: An American Teen's Story of Modern-Day Slavery

Author: Theresa Flores

Theresa Flores tells her story of being trafficked and enslaved while living in an upper-middle-class suburb of Detroit Michigan. Starting when she was 15, she was drugged,

raped, and tortured for two long years. During this time, she was kept in bondage and forced to pay back an impossible debt, all the while living at home, attempting to keep her family safe, and attending school during the day alongside one of her abusers. She would be called into "service" late each night, while her unknowing family slept. Involuntarily involved in a large criminal ring, Ms. Flores endured more as a child than most adults will face their entire lives. In *The Sacred Bath*, Flores discusses how she healed the wounds of slavery, offers advice to parents and professionals to prevent this from happening to others, and provides educational information on human trafficking in modern-day America.

Must-See Films

Bangkok Girl

This film tells the story of 19-year-old Pla and her experience trying to avoid prostitution while working in a bar in Thailand since the age of 13. The film shows how, with time, she will inevitably be forced into the trade. (42 min)

Call+Response

CALL+RESPONSE is a first-of-its-kind feature documentary that reveals the world's 27 million dirtiest secrets: there are more slaves today than ever before in human history. CALL+RESPONSE goes deep undercover where slavery is thriving, from the child brothels of Cambodia to the slave brick kilns of rural India, and reveals 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

Sparking dialogue on hip-hop and its declarations on gender, *HIP-HOP: Beyond Beats and Rhymes* provides thoughtful insight from intelligent, divergent voices including rap artists, industry executives, rap fans, and social critics from inside and outside the hip-hop generation.

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 tells the story of 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)

Tough Guise: Violence, Media, and the Crisis in Masculinity

This video identifies several cultural developments in the last 30 years that are partly responsible for the current levels of date rape, domestic violence, and school shootings. *The Wizard of Oz* is cited as a metaphor for how men wear a mask that is a disguise for toughness—a tough guise. This is a great movie for examining masculinity and gender roles.

Turning a Corner

This documentary tells the stories of those affected by the sex trade in Chicago and examines their efforts to implement policy reforms necessary to alleviate the harm experienced by those in prostitution. (60 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 that is dedicated to supporting these girls as they exit the sex trade. (84 min)

Multimedia for Parents

Empowering Parents

This blog offers advice to parents on a variety of issues, including how to teach kids everything from such basics as manners and hygiene to the weightier topics of accountability and responsibility. For additional information, go to <http://www.empoweringparents.com/index.php>.

Fathers.com: National Center for Fathering

Every child needs a dad or father figure he or she can count on. The research is clear: children thrive when they have an involved male role model—someone who loves them, knows them, guides them, and helps them achieve their goals. The National Center for Fathering works to inspire and equip men to be the involved fathers, grandfathers, and father figures who can meet their children's needs. The site also offers *Today's Father*, a daily three-minute podcast that provides fathering tips and encouragement and challenges dads to “keep up the good work.” For additional information, go to <http://www.fathers.com/>.

Sex...with Mom and Dad

In each half-hour episode, *Loveline's* sex and relationship expert Dr. Drew Pinsky will help a teen and his or her parents work through problems about sex, dating, and relationships. Examples of scenarios include a dad who is worried that his daughter uses her sexuality to get attention; a son who is concerned that ever since he came out of the closet, his parents haven't acted the same toward him; and a mom who is afraid that her son's “ladies' man” attitude means that sex, and the girls he sleeps with, mean nothing to him. For additional information, go to <http://www.mtv.com/shows/sexwithmomanddad/series.jhtml>.

Low-Cost Counseling Services

Between Friends

Between Friends is a nonprofit agency dedicated to breaking the cycle of domestic violence and abuse by providing education, support, counseling, and advocacy services. Between Friends works with individuals, families, and communities to create awareness about domestic violence and abuse and to reduce its prevalence and impact. Comprehensive programs and services include counseling for victims and their children, court advocacy, and prevention and education efforts, including healthcare education and an extensive teen-dating violence-prevention program, REACH (Relationship Education: A Choice for Hope). Call their toll-free crisis line at 800-603-HELP or, for more general information, their main phone at 773-274-5232.

Center for Contextual Change

This group of highly trained psychotherapists specializes in trauma, domestic and family violence, sexual abuse, addiction, self-injurious behavior, and serious emotional and behavioral disorders. Fees may be as low as \$30 per visit to receive counseling with an intern (who is supervised by a senior staff member). Call 847-676-4447 ext. 304 to schedule an intake or to speak to an operator.

Community Counseling Centers of Chicago

This group offers quality comprehensive counseling services, including low-cost counseling (\$8 and up, depending on income). There is a waiting list for people without insurance. For more information, call 773-769-0205.

Metropolitan Family Services

This organization provides support to individuals and families challenged with personal, phase-of-life, and transitional issues; supports parents in acquiring skills that promote the healthy growth and development of children; and provides services to address violence in homes and schools to keep individuals and families safe. For more information, go to contactus@metrofamily.org or call 312-986-4000.

Mujeres Latinas en Acción

Mujeres Latinas en Acción empowers Latinas by providing services that reflect their values and culture and by being an advocate on issues that make a difference in their lives, including issues related to domestic violence, sexual assault, and parental support. For more information, call 773-890-7676.

Chicago-Based Organizations: Direct Services/Outreach

Dreamcatcher Foundation

A survivor-driven agency, the Dreamcatcher Foundation provides health services, counseling, referrals to transitional-housing and addiction-treatment facilities, employment placement, and educational support for young women between the ages 12 and 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 the facilitation of substance-abuse and HIV-prevention programs for women arrested for prostitution in Cook County. For additional information, go to www.cchc-online.org or call 773-533-5600.

Illinois Department of Human Services—Illinois Rescue and Restore Campaign

The state of Illinois has partnered with the federal government to combat labor and sex trafficking in Illinois. Under former Governor Rod Blagojevich, Illinois joined the US Department of Health and Human Services and other law-enforcement, social-service, healthcare, and advocacy organizations across the state to fight what the governor termed a modern-day form of slavery. For additional information, go to

<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 888-373-7888.

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 help keep America's runaway and at-risk youth safe and off the streets. Experienced team members stand ready to help at the 24-hour crisis line. Their services are anonymous, confidential, and free. For additional information, go to <http://www.1800runaway.org/> or call 800-RUNAWAY.

Night Ministry

The Night Ministry connects with Chicago's vulnerable youth and adults through street outreach, youth shelter and supportive services, and a mobile health outreach bus. They provide basic resources, free healthcare, and housing and supportive services for youth, as well as referrals to other agencies for additional needs. 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 the commercial sexual exploitation of children, sex trafficking, and labor trafficking. For additional information, call 773-275-6233 ext. 3029.

Young Women's Empowerment Project

The Young Women's Empowerment Project is a community-based youth-led project founded in 2001 by a radical-feminist and harm-reduction-based collective of women and girls involved in the sex trade or street economy and their allies. It was created by women and girls who believe that all girls are priceless, creative, and smart and can be empowered and leaders in their communities. YWEP offers nonjudgmental support, harm-reduction information, and resources to girls ages 12 to 23 who are involved in the sex trade or street economy. For additional information, go to <http://www.youarepriceless.org/>.

Chicago-Based Organizations: Advocacy

Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation

CAASE is committed to building a global community free from sexual exploitation. CAASE believes 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 works to stop sexual exploitation by directly addressing the culture, institutions, and individuals that perpetrate, profit from, or tacitly support sexually exploitative acts against people. To accomplish its mission, CAASE seeks legal sanctions 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 or call 773-244-2230.

Partnership to Rescue Our Minors from Sexual Exploitation

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

Prostitution Alternatives Round Table (Chicago Coalition for the Homeless)

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 Committee of Survivors of Prostitution. For additional information, go to <http://www.chicagohomeless.org> or call 312-435-4548.

Soroptimist

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

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 trafficking service-providers for training and educational and volunteer opportunities. For additional information, go to <http://www.traffickfree.org>.

