

## Community Fact Sheet

### Learn the truth about prostitution and sex trafficking in Illinois:

- Research reveals that the average age of entry into prostitution for women living in Chicago was 16.
- The majority of women in prostitution were sexually abused as children, and many currently experience homelessness, substance abuse, and mental health issues.
- Women in prostitution report sexual assault, physical abuse, and harassment by the men who buy sex from them, their pimps, and even the police.
- 2/3 of all prostitution-related arrests in Chicago are of women.
- Most prostituted women are forced to turn over the money they make to someone else; and if they don't, they fear for their safety.

### Ending sexual harm means ending the demand for paid sex.

- The demand for commercial sex is enormous – whether on the street, in strip clubs, escort services, or massage parlors. This demand fuels a multi-billion dollar global sex industry.
- Recent studies on men buying sex reported that pornography and popular culture influenced their belief that women can be bought, sold, and controlled.
- Buying sex in Illinois is easy. The internet is a hub for the sex trade. Before Craigslist closed its adult services section, it was running an average of 400 ads per day for prostitution in the Chicago area.
- Pimps and the people who buy sex are almost never punished for their involvement in prostitution and trafficking crimes.

### A reason for hope - End Demand Illinois.

- A statewide campaign working with law enforcement to arrest and convict pimps, traffickers, and people who buy sex in order to hold perpetrators accountable.
- Creating a model statewide network of supportive services for victims of prostitution and trafficking that includes housing, counseling, and job training to provide real alternatives to prostitution.
- Raising awareness and building community support for lasting change.
- Organizing survivors of sexual exploitation to speak out and demand legal and policy reforms.

### How you can get involved:

- Sign up to receive updates, learn more and donate to the campaign at [www.enddemandillinois.org](http://www.enddemandillinois.org).