

Commercial Sexually Exploited Children in the Juvenile Justice System: Victims or Perpetrators

Presented by:

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3 GROUND RULES



- Be conscientious of sensitive content
- If stories are shared, maintain confidentiality
- Respect of various opinions

OBJECTIVES

- Learn the definition and prevalence of CSEC
- Develop an understanding of CSEC as related to criminal activity vs. victimization
- Develop an understanding of Complex Trauma and the prevalence in victims of CSEC
- Learn the importance of proper CSEC Assessment
- Explore treatment options for victims of CSEC
- Learn how Los Angeles County Court/Star Court are managing detention, placement and special services for CSEC youth

BRIEF HISTORY

- Thousands of years of victimization
- 1902 International Agreement for the Suppression of the White Slave Traffic
- 1910 Mann Act - forbids transportation of person across state or intl lines for prostitution and other immoral purposes
- 2000 TVPA - seminal piece of legislation

DEFINITION: SEX TRAFFICKING

- The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000 defines "sex trafficking" as the "recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for a commercial sex act."
- Act, means, purpose
 - Steps such as recruiting, enticing, harboring
 - By force, fraud or coercion
 - For purposes of exploitation

DEFINITION: CSEC

- "Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children"
- OJJDP definition
 - CSEC involves crimes of a sexual nature committed against juvenile victims for financial or other economic reasons

CSEC INCLUDES...

- Street prostitution
- Pornography
- Stripping
- Escort services
- Erotic/nude massage
- Phone sex lines
- Private parties
- Gang-based prostitution
- Interfamilial pimping
- Forms of Internet-based exploitation



CSEC



CSEC IN THE UNITED STATES

- The National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Thrownaway (NISMA) Children estimate that 1.6 million children run away from home each year in the U.S.
- One in three teens will be recruited by a pimp within 48 hours of leaving home and becoming homeless.



CSEC IN THE UNITED STATES

- At least 100,000 to 300,000 youth are at risk and/or are commercial sexual exploitation annually in the U.S.

(Estes and Wiener, 2001)

- The average age of entry into the commercial sex industry in the U.S. is 12 years old

(US Department of Justice, Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section)



NATIONAL STATISTICS

- ◉ Human trafficking \$9.8 billion industry
- ◉ Can earn \$650,000 per year by exploiting as few as four children
- ◉ In one NY study, 85% of CSEC victims experienced contact with the child welfare system
- ◉ 162,000 homeless youth estimated to be victims of CSEC in the US

MYTHS & FACTS

- ◉ Children can consent to sex
- ◉ Children choose to be prostitutes
- ◉ What may look like consent is control by fraud, pressure, coercion
- ◉ Victims of trickery and pimp control

PROTECTED INNOCENCE CHALLENGE

- ◉ Criminalization of CSEC
- ◉ Criminal provisions addressing demand (buyers)
- ◉ Criminal provisions for traffickers (pimps)
- ◉ Criminal provisions for facilitators (hotels, transport, websites)
- ◉ Protective provisions for the child victim
- ◉ Criminal justice tools for investigation and prosecution

BIG FAT "F"

- TOTAL POSSIBLE 10 102.5 A
- Louisiana 9.5 87 B
- Washington 9.5 82 B
- Alaska 9 70 C
- Missouri 8.5 82 B
- New York 7.5 62 D
- Alabama 7 69.5 D
- Arizona 7 74 C
- Illinois 7 82.5 B
- Massachusetts 7 74.5 C
- Oklahoma 7 70 C
- Rhode Island 7 68 D
- Tennessee 7 79.5 C
- Texas 7 86.5 B
- Wisconsin 7 75 C
- D.C. 6.5 57.5 F
- Minnesota 6.5 79.5 C
- Nevada 6.5 60 D
- North Dakota 6.5 57 F
- South Dakota 6.5 55.5 F
- Arkansas 6 57.5 F
- Mississippi 6 66 D
- Montana 6 56 F
- South Carolina 6 65.5 D
- Utah 6 60.5 D
- Florida 5.5 80.5 B
- Iowa 5.5 69 D
- Kansas 5.5 51.5 F
- Kentucky 5.5 68 D
- Maryland 5.5 64 D
- Michigan 5.5 47 F
- Vermont 5.5 64 D
- Delaware 5 63 D
- Hawaii 5 43.5 F
- Colorado 4.5 67.5 D
- Connecticut 4.5 56.5 F
- Georgia 4.5 80 B
- New Mexico 4.5 56 F
- New Jersey 4 67 D
- Ohio 4 72.5 C
- Oregon 4 63.5 D
- Pennsylvania 4 58 F
- Idaho 3.5 55.5 F
- Nebraska 3.5 61 D
- Virginia 3.5 46.5 F
- Indiana 3 70.5 C
- North Carolina 3 63 D
- West Virginia 3 59.5 F
- New Hampshire 2.5 52 F
- Wyoming 2.5 32.5 F
- California 2 43.5 F
- Maine 2 45.5 F

BIG FAT "F"



STATE WITH HIGHEST SCORE



STATE WITH HIGHEST SCORE



STATE WITH THE HIGHEST SCORE



OTHER JURISDICTIONAL APPROACHES

- ◉ Connecticut
 - DCFS lead
- ◉ Oregon
 - 3rd party exploitation within child welfare
- ◉ Florida Human
 - trafficking triggers specialized response
- ◉ Minnesota - No Wrong Door
 - Includes decriminalization provision
- ◉ Washington

CALIFORNIA STATE EFFORTS

- ◉ California Child Welfare Council chaired by Secretary of H&HS and appointee of Chief Justice
- ◉ Will recommend:
 - Prevalence and assessment
 - Prevention and Training
 - Specialized Services
 - Multi-System Data & Coordination

CALIFORNIA IMPROVEMENTS

- ◉ After 6 months therapy at West Coast Children's Clinic
 - 50% of youth have sleep improvement
 - 29% improved ability to manage medical issues
 - 51% improve school behavior
 - 30 % improve school attendance
 - 29% improve school achievement

PROPOSITION 35

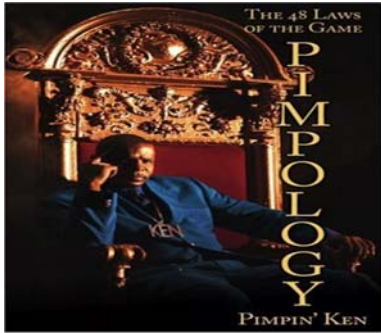
- ◉ Increased punishments and fines for those convicted of human trafficking
- ◉ Sex offender registration
- ◉ Evidentiary provision

NEW CALIFORNIA LAWS

- ◉ SB1133 - Expand list of assets subject to forfeiture
- ◉ AB2466 - Allow courts to “seize and freeze” assets during prosecution
- ◉ SB1193 - Certain businesses must post notices advertising telephone tip lines

VIDEO: VERY YOUNG GIRLS

RULES OF THE GAME



48 PIMPOLOGY LAWS

1. Purse First, Ass Last
2. Prey on the Weak
3. When Pimpin' Begins, Friendship Ends
4. Get You A Bottom Bitch
5. Turn Ho Ends into Dividends
6. Get in a Ho's Head
7. A Ho Without Instruction Is Headed for Self- Destruction
8. Play One Ho Against the Next
9. Turn a Tramp into a Champ

...PSYCHOLOGICAL MANIPULATION

"Most hoes have low self-esteem for a reason. A pimp looks for that weakness, and if it isn't on the surface, he brings that motherfucker out of them. It doesn't matter to a pimp what hoes' weaknesses are, so long as they have them. Then he uses those weaknesses to his advantage."

Pimpin' Ken Ivy, pg. 22

TAXI CAB CONFESSIONS OF A PIMP

PIMP TACTICS



"Dear Bottom
 ...Jail is not a place for you.
 Way too much money out
 here.
 ... I got this little female
 yellow under my wing now.
 Whatever. She's starting to
 get on my nerves. I might
 let you beat her up when
 you get fresh out.
 ...You need to be worrying
 about coming home to me.
 Remember when I took you
 out to eat. We gone do
 that every weekend when
 you get home. I been
 getting clothes and shoes for
 you and everything. You my
 ride or die girl. Remember
 that...."
 ...LOVE,

Body Found Burning in South L.A. Street Was That of Teen Girl

There has been no official identification in the case of the female body found burning in a South Los Angeles Street, but the victim's mother says authorities told her the body was that of her 17-year-old daughter.

Detectives from the Los Angeles Police Department's 77th Division reportedly paid a visit to the home of Selamawit Wright, in search of the parents of the teenaged Terrey, according to City News Service. Wright was not home at the time, so she went later to the station, where she says officers showed her a photo of Terrey, and that her daughter had been found burning in the street.

Wright says her daughter was going to visit a friend the night of her death. She was described as being close to her mother and five siblings, adding Terrey was:

"a very caring person who was a magnet to people. She made a good impression. She spoke of love and carrying, although she was struggling with her identity — just like all teenagers do. [Terrey] was outgoing and you couldn't find a picture of her where she wasn't smiling. She wouldn't kill a fly. It's a very big puzzle."



Terrey Wright (Photo via Terrey Wright Reed in Paradise on Facebook)

STUDIES INDICATE THAT...

70 to 90% of sexually exploited children have a history of child sexual abuse



PATHWAYS TO ENTRY

- Parents selling children
- Violence & force
- Kidnapping
- Seduction & coercion
- False advertising for modeling, acting, or dancing
- Peer recruitment
- Internet enticement through chat rooms or profile-sharing sites



CRITTENTON STATISTICS

Residential Treatment - 249 total clients assessed

- 53% DCFS involvement prior to placement
- 100% Juvenile Justice involvement
- At intake, 9% self identified as "prostitutes"
- Clinical Assessment, after intake, identified an additional 13%

WHAT THE VICTIMS ARE REPORTING...

- Pay for sexual acts ranged from \$40 to \$300
i.e. \$40 for oral sex and \$300 for everything
- 57% feared leaving their pimp
- 59% were threatened to keep them from running away
- 38% reported being beat by their pimp to make them stay with him
- 30% reported that their pimp had made threats toward their family

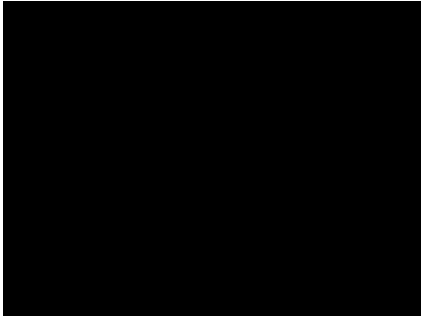
CSEC CULTURE OR CSEC TRAUMA

- Lie about your age
- Stripped of identification
(i.e. change of name, hair color)
- Constant moving
- Raped
- Meet a nightly quota
- Beaten for not meeting quota
- Give up money earned
- Threats against them and their family
- No contact with the outside world
- No eye contact with men other than the pimp

CULTURE OR TRAUMA

- Calling a man, who is not your father & abuses you
"daddy"
- Punished and beaten when someone else breaks
the pimps "rules"
- Compete for attention from the pimp with other
girls
- Sex with strangers every night
- STD's
- Multiple arrested
- Trade sex with a police officer in exchange for not
getting arrested
- Beat up by a group of 5 pimps for looking one in
the eye

POLARIS PROJECT: PIMP WATCH



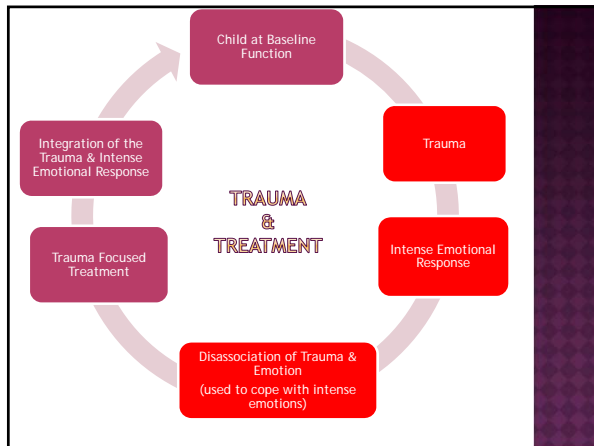
RECOGNIZING COMPLEX TRAUMA

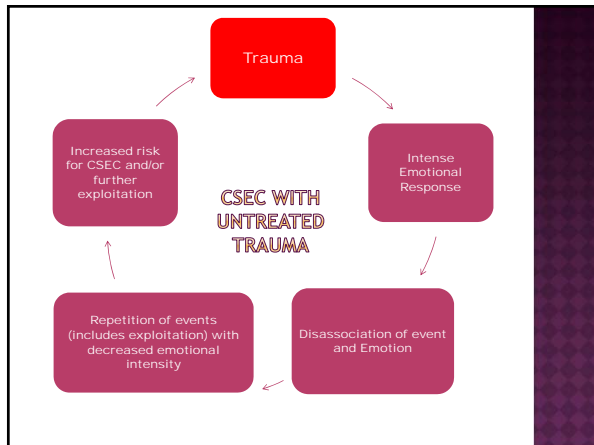
Developmental Trauma Disorder

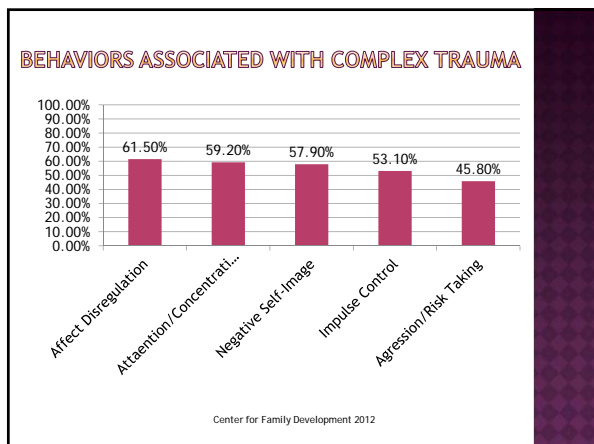
- Clinical construct
- Chronic early maltreatment
- Occurs within a caregiving relationship
- Recurrent Traumas
- PTSD narrow slice of behavior

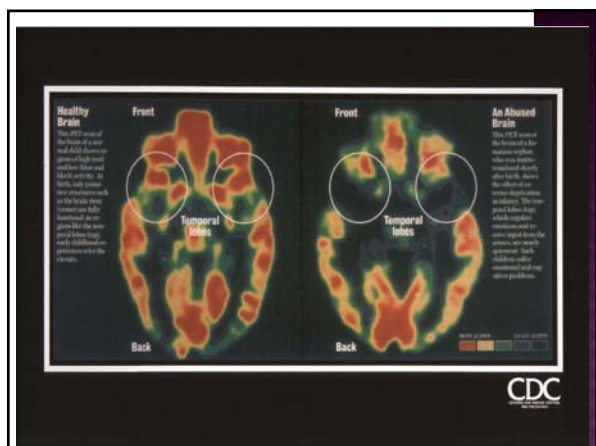
DOMAINS OF IMPAIRMENT

- Attachment
- Biology
- Mood Regulation
- Cognition
- Self concept









ASSESSMENTS

- HUMAN TRAFFICKING ADDENDUM - USED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
- CANS
- UCLA PTSD INDEX
- SHARED HOPE DMST TOOL
- DMH INITIAL ASSESSMENT
 - Digging deeper than question/ answer

CSEC IDENTIFICATION: ASSESSMENT

- Pre-Placement Assessment
- Clinical Assessment
- CSEC Debriefings
- STAR COURT: Succeed Through Achievement and Resilience

IMPORTANCE OF ASSESSMENT

DON'T react verbally/physically in a way that communicates disgust or disdain.

DO be nonjudgmental when listening to a sexually exploited child.

DON'T use strategies/vocabulary that switch intermittently between treating the child as an offender, then as a victim.

IMPORTANCE OF ASSESSMENT

DO recognize the various symptoms of trauma exhibited, and coping mechanisms used, by a CSEC victim that may not be those one typically associates with victims.

DON'T assume sole responsibility for meeting the myriad and complex needs of a CSEC victim.

DO improve a systemic response to CSEC by creating inter-agency relationships to comprehensively meet victims' needs.

DO'S AND DON'TS WHEN ASSESSING

DON'T dispute facts or comment on a child's motivation. This is likely to stop the flow of information.

DO keep the child talking and make him or her feel comfortable.

DON'T expect a child to recognize their situation as exploitative, or to present themselves as a victim in need of immediate intervention or rescuing.

DO meet a sexually exploited child where they are and on their terms, and try to meet the needs they present.

EFFECTIVE SERVICE DELIVERY

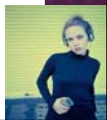
- Safe Space
(Physical and Emotional)
- Treatment Model
(Intensive vs. Community Based)
- Cultural Competency
- Youth Development

SAFE (PHYSICAL) SPACE

- Safe location
- Confidential space
- Security system
- Recognize and respond to limitations of a confidential address: protocols around exploiters knowing location
- Set rules for appropriate conduct for youth
- Create a staff code of conduct/ethics and ensure training
- Create an inviting, youth friendly space

SAFE (EMOTIONAL SPACE)

- Appropriate music
- Decorate the space with appropriate, informational, and/or inspiring images
- Use appropriate language
- Create policies that address recruitment in the agency
- Respect children's need for privacy and confidentiality
- Conduct mental health assessments
- Encourage and practice self-soothing/self-care for staff and youth
- Promote an inclusive and non-judgmental community
- Provide ongoing professional development opportunities to ensure a trained and sensitive staff



CULTURAL COMPETENCY

- Trained staff on CSEC
- Build on the cultural strengths of youth
- Bilingual staff
- Promotional materials for the community
- Staff representative of clients served
- Utilize the Survivors in the treatment process!!
- Work with a CSEC victim as a whole person
- MH providers to be cognoscente of cultural/community perceptions of MH services
- Develop community relationships to enhance services
- Celebrate and foster diversity in your agency

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

- CSEC as leaders
- Infuse programming with youth leadership opportunities
- Give youth ownership of aspects of program planning
- Provide age appropriate, engaging, and youth friendly activities
- Provide a continuum of services to meet immediate and long term needs
- Offer access to diverse learning experiences
- Focus on providing opportunities for youth to build healthy self esteem
- Foster a sense of belonging and importance in the community
- Create opportunities for investment and empowerment within the community



CSEC PROGRAM STRUCTURE

- **AWOLs**
 - Allow AWOL returns to reflect on bad choices, not bad person
- **Healthy Connections**
 - Assigned Client Liaison at Intake
 - Assigned Residential Counselor
 - Treatment Team approach
- **On-site Probation Officer with special CSEC training**
 - Assigned to various CSEC clients through STAR COURT
 - Available for consultation
 - CSEC debriefings

OBSTACLES IN TREATMENT

> Stockholm Syndrome

CSEC victims often form “trauma bonds” with perpetrators.

> How are Trauma Bonds are formed?

- Violence
- Threats
- Disloyal thoughts
- Isolation
- Shame

STAR COURT

- Funded by a grant from California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation; \$300,000 / year for 3 years.
- Dept. of Probation also granted \$350,000 / year for 3 years.
- Currently working with 90 girls, ages 12 - 18.

L.A. STATISTICS

- Median age in STAR Court: 15 -16 years
- Ethnic Background: 91% of youth in the STAR Court are African American or Latino.
- Approximately 210 girls arrested annually in L.A. County for prostitution-related charges
- Almost 40% of girls in STAR are on probation for non-prostitution charges
- 80% have had prior or current DCFS involvement

HOW DO CHILDREN BECOME VICTIMS?

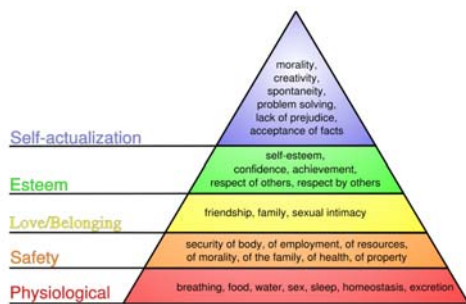
"Love, affection, and attention. It has nothing to do with drugs or survival. It's about filling a void. This child has an enormous void in her life."

Sgt. Byron Fassett, Dallas Police Dept.

HOW THEY PRESENT IN COURT

- ◉ Refuses help
- ◉ Runs away
- ◉ Aggressive
- ◉ Displays unclear or disjointed memories
- ◉ Does not identify herself as a victim

MASLOW'S HIERARCHY OF NEEDS, 1954



CSEC PROGRAM STRUCTURE

- Intensive Mental Health Services
 - Treat the “whole” child not just CSEC
 - Seeking Safety: Trauma Informed Milieu
 - 4 hours of daily structured Rehabilitative Services
 - Referral to Therapeutic Behavioral Services within 3 to 7 days
- Secured Facility
 - Over 50 exterior and interior (common area) cameras
 - Officer of the Day secures campus and provides additional support to campus 24 hours a day
- Training of ALL Staff
 - Therapeutic Crisis Intervention
 - CSEC

CSEC MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT

- Prevention: My Life, My Choice Mental Health Group
- In the life: Recovery Thinking
- In Survivorship and/or in the life: Recovery Thinking for CSEC Survivors

TRENDS IN STAR COURT

- 90+% are African American; younger
- 85% have DCFS history
- 15% have parents who may be appropriate
- 10-15% likely recruited by family members
- 2 former probationers allegedly involved in pimping
- History of parental substance abuse
- History of assault against Mother
- Older “uncles” coming to court
- Not much drug use
- Many are pregnant and/or parenting; pimp likely to be father
- They like positive attention
- Very smart and goal oriented
- Verbal
- Empowered by helping other girls

HEALING IS A MESSY, COMPLICATED PROCESS...

"... that's rarely linear." Rachel Lloyd

"Girls need intense amounts of support, love, and patience."

"Without someone around to understand and explain that their feelings are a 'normal reaction to an abnormal situation,

"without practical resources such as food, shelter, and clothing,

"without constant reassurance that leaving was the right thing to do and that it's going to get better eventually,

"and without counseling or even psychiatric care for depression, PTSD, and the support of people who truly 'get' it, girls struggle, and the alternative seems more and more attractive every day."

HEALING...THE YOUTHS' WORDS:

- "She [a cop] treated me like I was a real person. She even used to call me on weekends just to check on me and make sure I was doing good."
- "The cop told my judge that I needed somewhere to go to be away from him [my pimp] instead of getting locked up."
- "A [place] where I can be myself. I don't have to impress anybody. I don't have to act different in front of nobody because it's like they don't judge me on things that I do of things that I've done in the past."

HEALING

- "The [youth program] have showed me what my talents are. My favorite is poetry."
- "It felt good that when I come in I could get a hug, something that I can get from my counselor that I can't get from my own mother."
- "He [the judge] acted mad interested in my life. So now, even if I have a good court report I go anyway, just so he can see I'm doing good."



QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION

RESOURCES

Books

- Rachel Lloyd, *Girls Like Us: Fighting for a World where Girls Are Not for Sale, an Activist Finds Her Calling and Heals Herself*, Harper Collins, 2011
- Julian Sher, *Somebody's Daughter: the Hidden Story of America's Prostituted Children and the Battle to Save Them*, Chicago Review Press, 2011
- Carissa Phelps, *Runaway Girl: Escaping Life on the Streets, One Helping Hand at a Time*, Penguin, 2012
- Linda Smith, *Renting Lacy: A Story of America's Prostituted Children*, Shared Hope Int'l, 2009
- Cupcake Brown, *A Piece of Cake: A Memoir*, Three Rivers Press, 2007

RESOURCES

Articles

- California Child Welfare Council, *Ending the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: A Call for Multi-System Collaboration in California*, June 2013

<http://www.chns.ca.gov/CWCDCC/Ending%20CSEC%20-%20A%20Call%20for%20Multi-System%20Collaboration%20in%20CA%20-%20February%202013.pdf>

- Institutes of Medicine, *Confronting Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Sex Trafficking of Minors in the United States*, September 2013

<http://iom.edu/Reports/2013/Confronting-Commercial-Sexual-Exploitation-and-Sex-Trafficking-of-Minors-in-the-United-States.aspx>

RESOURCES

Videos

- *Very Young Girls*, 2007, available at www.gems-girls.org

- *Flesh: Bought and Sold in the U.S.*, a film by Kristin R. Lauterbach, Copper Con Productions, 2012, available at www.fleshthemovie.org/purchase

- *Truckers Against Trafficking*, www.truckersagainstrafticking.org

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Street Terminology

The Life or The Game : Commercial sexual exploitation or the sex industry

Daddy : Your own pimp

P.I.: Referring to another pimp

Stable: A group of women / girls under pimp's control

Bottom Bitch / Bottom Girl: The head girl

Breaking: To give all of your money to your pimp

Choosing: To choose another pimp

Folks / Family: Your pimp or the person you work with

Gorilla Pimp: A pimp who uses force to recruit

Track / Stroll: A street location for prostitution

Turnout: Someone who recruits you into the life

Wife-in-law: Another girl working for the same pimp

Dates / Johns / Tricks: Buyers of commercial sex

In House: Someone who works from inside a house

Out of Pocket: To look at or talk to another pimp

Stay in Pocket: To play by the rules of the game

Renegade: To work for yourself, not to have a pimp

Pimps Up, Hos Down: Relative power between pimp and girl (e.g. pimps can stand on the sidewalk,
Girls must stand in the street)

Pimp Circle: A group of pimps surrounding a girl to intimidate

Square: Someone who was never in the life

Squaring up: To get out of the game

Squad: Cops

Recommended Reading / Viewing Materials

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

Books

Rachel Lloyd, ***Girls Like Us: Fighting for a World where Girls Are Not for Sale, an Activist Finds Her Calling and Heals Herself***, Harper Collins, 2011

Julian Sher, ***Somebody's Daughter: the Hidden Story of America's Prostituted Children and the Battle to Save Them***, Chicago Review Press, 2011

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