



# Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Schools and Social Media

American Council for School Social Work  
Tulane University, New Orleans, LA

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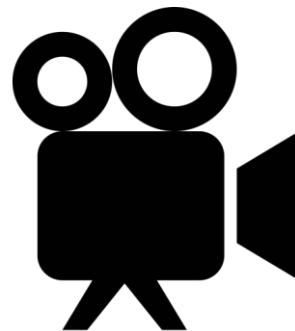


# OBJECTIVES

- Defining Human Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)
- Mandated Reporting Laws for Child Abuse and Intersectionality with CSEC
- Warning Signs, Recruitment Tactics and the role of Social Media
- Best Practices and Innovative Strategies for Addressing it in School Communities



# DHS — Blue Campaign: What is Human Trafficking?



# Human Trafficking – 22 USC §7102(9)

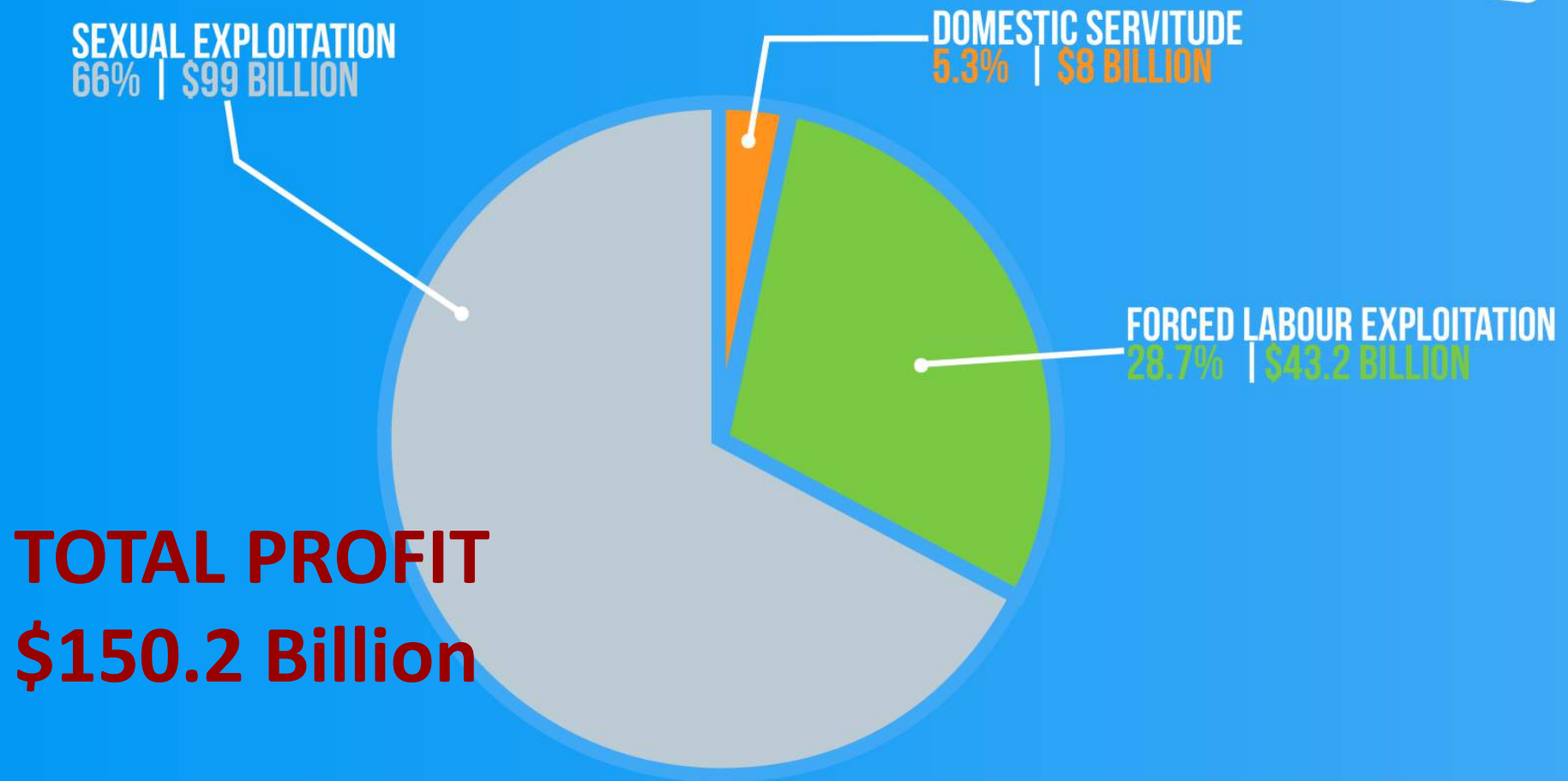


The term “severe form of trafficking in persons” means:

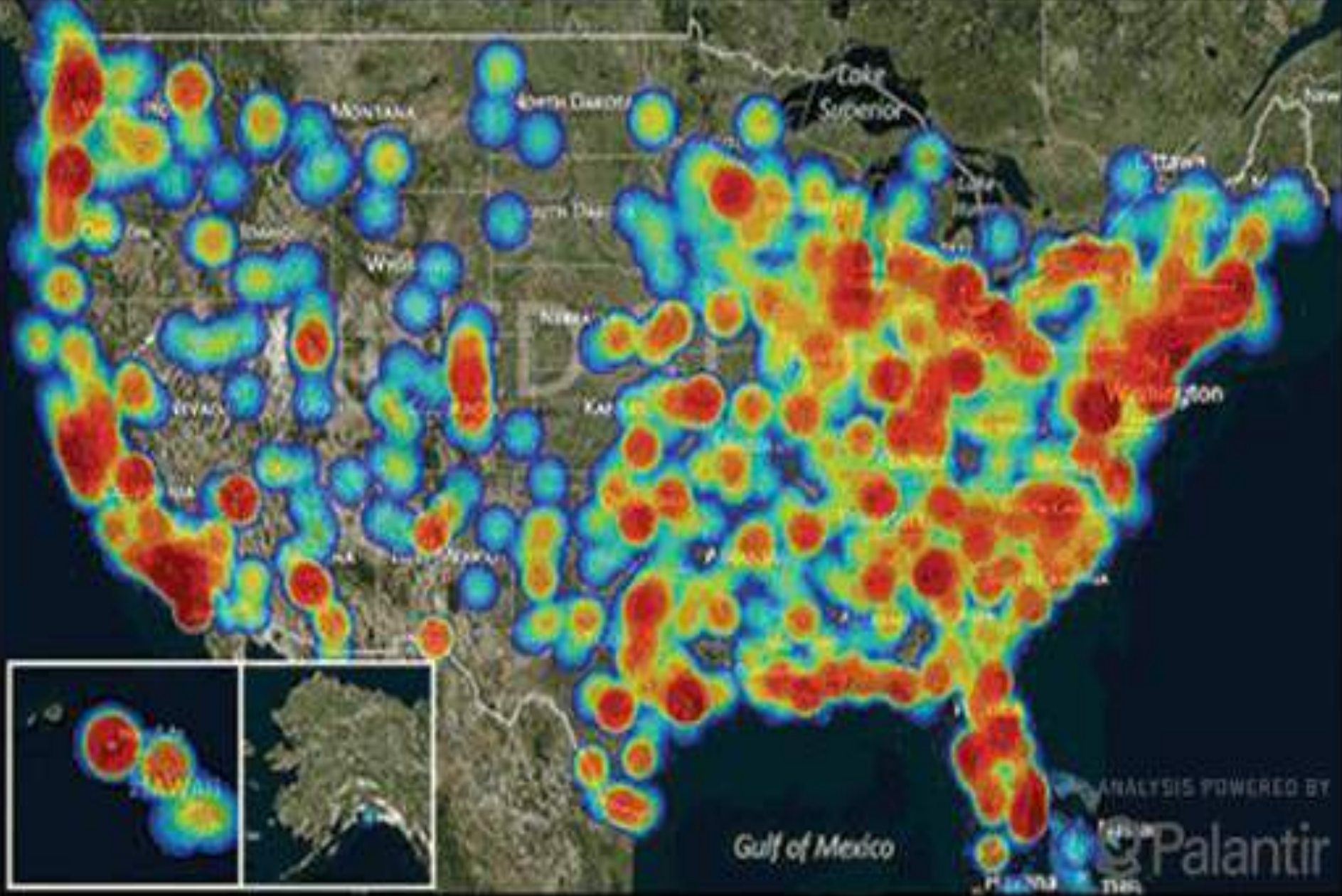
- (A) **sex trafficking** in which a commercial sex act is induced by **force, fraud, or coercion**, or in which the person induced to perform such act has **not attained 18 years of age**; or
- (B) the **recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining** of a person for labor or services, through the use of **force, fraud, or coercion** for the purpose of subjection to **involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery**.

*(Victims of Trafficking and Violence Prevention Act of 2000 can be found at  
[www.ojp.usdoj.gov/vawo/laws/vawo2000/](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/vawo/laws/vawo2000/) )*

# THE PROFITS MADE FROM HUMAN TRAFFICKING







*Location of potential human trafficking cases reported to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (2007 - 2012)*



**POLARIS PROJECT**  
FOR A WORLD WITHOUT SLAVERY

# Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)



- CSEC is a form of human trafficking.
- Involves a child/youth being treated as a commercial sexual object.
- Crimes of a sexual nature committed against minors for financial or other economic reasons.
- One does **not** need to prove that force, fraud, or coercion was used to qualify for “trafficking”
- CSEC is an extreme form of child abuse!

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention - IOM and NRC 2013, 401

# CSEC in the United States



- Every **26** seconds a child runs away
- **1.6** million children run away from home each year in the U.S.
- **1:3** youth will be recruited by a exploiter (pimp) within **48** hours of leaving home
- Average age of children who are exploited is between 12 – 15 years old (Grace, Starck, Potenza, Kenney, & Sheetz, 2012)

National Runaway Safeline, 2012. Retrieved from <http://www.1800runaway.org/faq/#>;  
The National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Throwaway NISMART



# RECRUITMENT METHODS



**ALL  
CHILDREN  
ARE VULNERABLE.**

## COMMON METHODS OF RECRUITMENT INCLUDE:



**MEETING THE NEED FOR  
FOOD, CLOTHING, SHELTER**



**PROMISES OF ROMANCE,  
LOVE, ACCEPTANCE**



**OFFERS OF  
INDEPENDENCE,  
LUXURY ITEMS, CASH**



**EXPLOITING POSITION OF AUTHORITY**



**FLATTERY, LIES,  
MANIPULATION**



**EXPLOITING  
VULNERABILITY  
OR DESPERATION**





# YouTube - BEAUTIFUL: How I got into the Life

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RAzLkyaQURQ&t=128s>

# Anyone – There are Different Types of Exploiters/Recruiters



- Romeo/Boyfriend
- Guerrilla
- Madam
- Managers/CEO
- Peers
- Bottom Girls
- Family Members



Human Trafficking Unit, Los Angeles County Department of Probation,  
2014

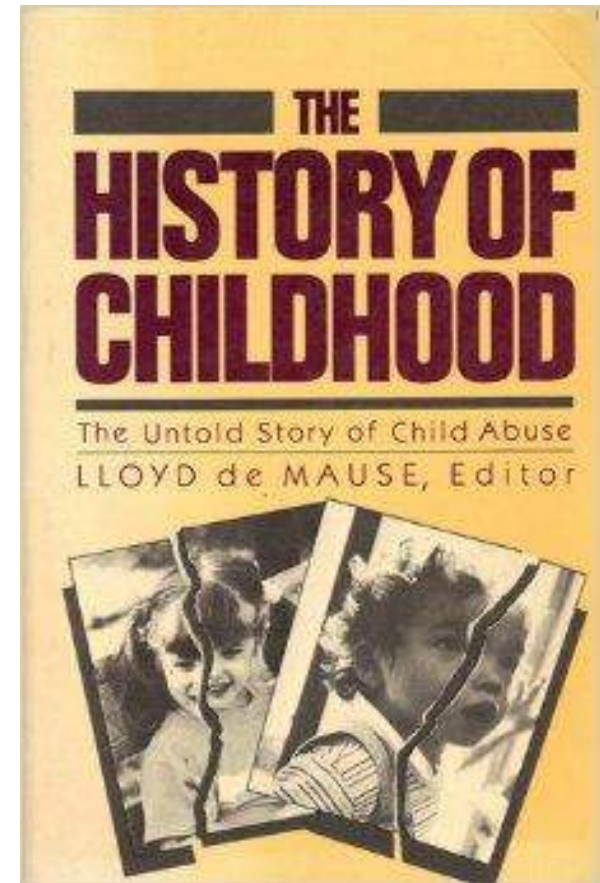


# Highest Risk



**Studies found  
70 to 90% of  
commercially sexually  
exploited youth also  
have a prior history of  
sexual abuse.**

Bagley, C. & Young, L. 1987. "Juvenile Prostitution and Child Sexual Abuse: A Controlled Study." Canadian Journal of Community Mental Health. See also Council for Prostitution Alternatives, 1991. Annual Report. Portland Oregon. See also Murphy, P. 1993. Making Connections: Women, Work, and Abuse. Paul M. Deutsch Press, Florida.





# Intersections Between Child Abuse and CSEC





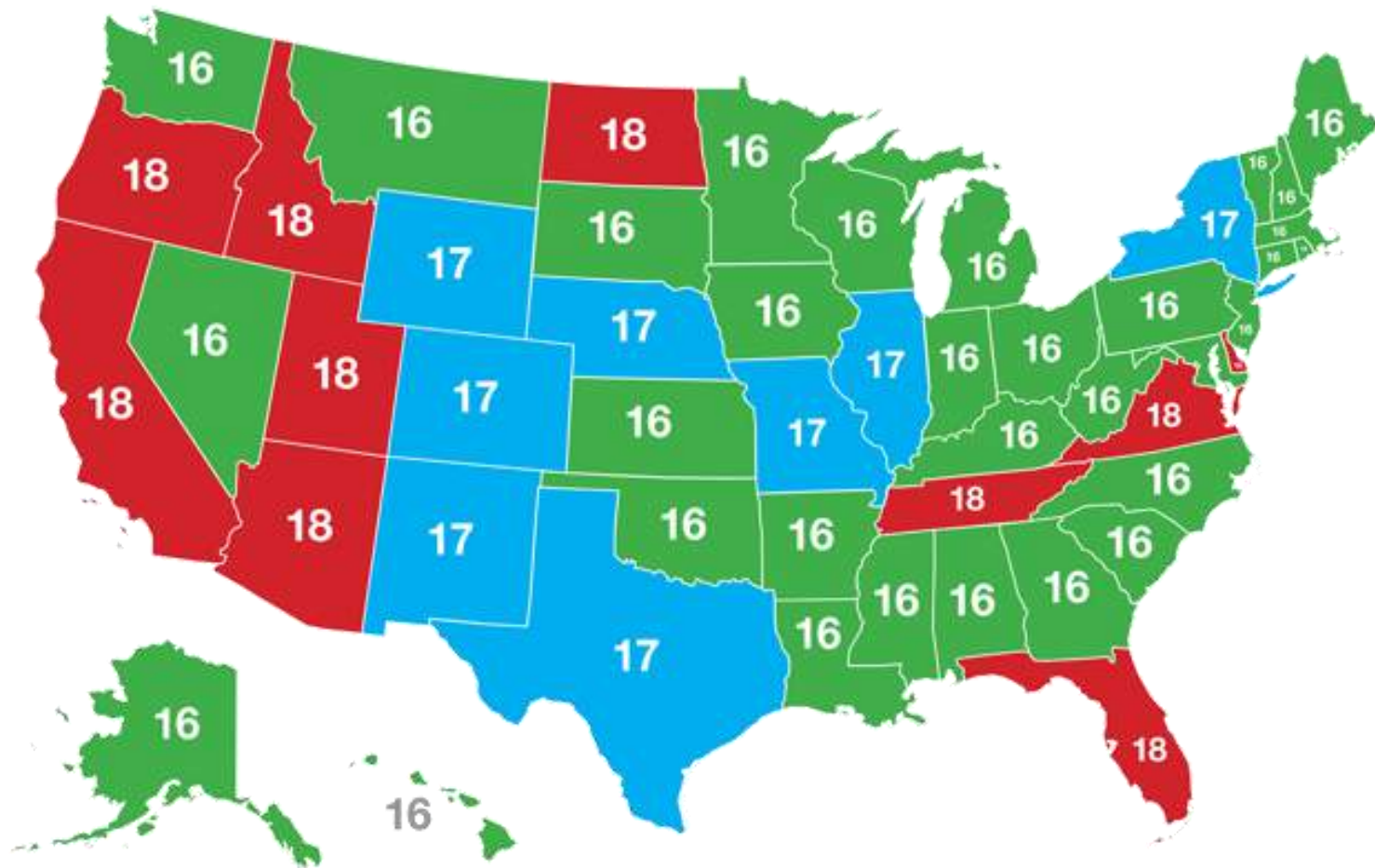
# Child Abuse and the Responsibilities of Mandated Reporters

- The Definition of Child Abuse
- The Mandated Child Abuse Reporting Law
- Required to Report Suspected Child Abuse
- Institutional Responsibility to Report
- Know your State Law
- Consent – **Children can't consent to sex!**



# What's the age of consent in your state?

# U.S. Age of Consent





BUYING A TEEN FOR SEX IS CHILD ABUSE.  
TURNING A BLIND EYE IS NEGLECT.



# Warning Signs

- Sudden change in attire, personal hygiene, relationships, material possessions
- Promiscuous and/or makes reference to sexual situations or terminology.
- Has boyfriend/girlfriend that is noticeably older
- Attempts to conceal recent scars
- Poor health, STDs, malnutrition, serious dental problems.
- Identifying tattoos, branding marks





# Branding = Ownership



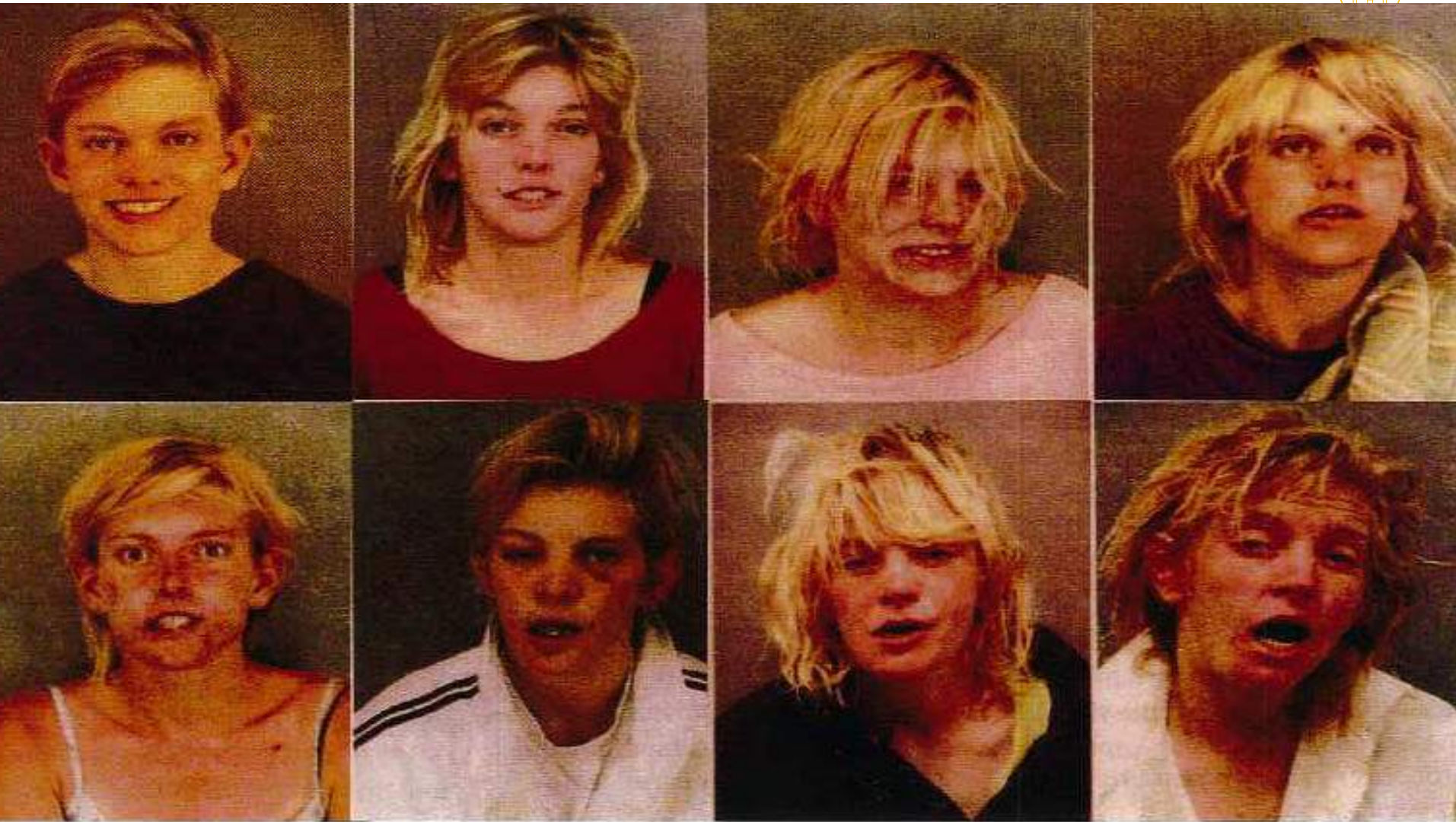




# Warning Signs Continued

- Inability to attend school, make scheduled appointments.
- Frequently runs away from home
- Makes reference to travel to other cities
- Exhibits bruises or other signs of physical trauma, withdrawn behavior, depression, anxiety, fear
- Signs of drug addiction

Human Trafficking of Children in the US Factsheet, Department of Education  
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oese/oshs/factsheet.html>



Coulter, L. (2007). Portrait of Exploitation: The Real Faces of Prostitution. *Prism*. 8-18.

## Street Terminology

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<b>The Life or The Game...</b>	The commercial sexual exploitation or the sex industry
<b>Daddy...</b>	Your own pimp (evoking images of fatherhood)
<b>P.I ....</b>	In reference to another pimp
<b>Stable...</b>	A group of women/girls under pimp control
<b>Bottom Bitch/Bottom Girl...</b>	The head girl
<b>Breaking...</b>	To give all your money to your pimp
<b>Choosing...</b>	To choose another pimp
<b>Folks/Family...</b>	Your pimp or the person for whom you work
<b>Gorilla Pimping...</b>	A pimp who uses force to get a child
<b>Track/Stroll...</b>	A street location for commercial sex
<b>Turnout...</b>	Someone who recruits you into “the life”
<b>Wife-in-Law...</b>	A group of girls who work for the same pimp
<b>Dates/Johns/Tricks...</b>	Buyers of commercial sex
<b>In House...</b>	Someone who works from inside a house
<b>Out of Pocket...</b>	To look at or talk to another pimp
<b>Stay in Pocket...</b>	To play by the rules of “the game”
<b>Renegade...</b>	To work for oneself or to not have a pimp
<b>Pimps Up, Hos Down...</b>	A reference to power and status or a rule of standing in the street and not being allowed on the sidewalk
<b>Pimp Circle...</b>	A group of pimps surrounding a girl for purposes of intimidation
<b>Square...</b>	Those who were never in “the life”
<b>Squaring Up...</b>	To get out of the game
<b>Squad...</b>	Cops



# Boys are Victims Too

- Reasons for lack of support
  - Homophobia and stigma
  - Lack of screening and intake, belief that boys are not victims.
  - Limited outreach to areas of male exploitation.







**USC** Suzanne Dworak-Peck  
School of Social Work

University of Southern California



# Why Victims May Not Appear to Want Help

Captivity,  
confinement and  
isolation

Use and threat of  
violence

Fear, shame, self-  
blame and  
hopelessness

Dependency

Distrust of law  
enforcement

Debt bondage

Misinformation/  
false promises

Lack of  
knowledge of  
social systems

Non-identification  
as a victim

Stockholm  
Syndrome/Trauma  
Bonding

Trauma &  
Cognitive  
distortion



# Intersection of DV & HT



95% of all Americans  
ages 12-17 are online.  
3 out of 4 of them  
access the internet  
via cellphones,  
tablets, and other  
mobile devices.



**“The **Internet** and new technologies have transformed the landscape of human trafficking.**

**Traffickers use **social media** and other online tools to recruit victims and, in the case of sex trafficking, find and communicate with customers.”**

**Former California Attorney General, now  
Senator Kamala Harris**



# Role of Schools

- What can schools do?
- What are schools currently doing to address this issue?

# Role of Schools



- **Recognize** - signs of CSEC and other forms of trafficking
- **Report** – to Child Protection Services and/or to Law Enforcement
- **Educate** – children and youth about the warning signs and about healthy social-emotional relationships
- **Expand** - Mandated Child Abuse trainings for staff to include CSEC
- **Follow-up** on youth who runaway, are ‘missing’, and chronically truant
- **Act** - Convene or participate in multi-disciplinary task forces that focus on trafficking prevention
- **Connect** - Victims to Resources (e.g. Mental Health)



# Now Matters Later





# Interview Questions



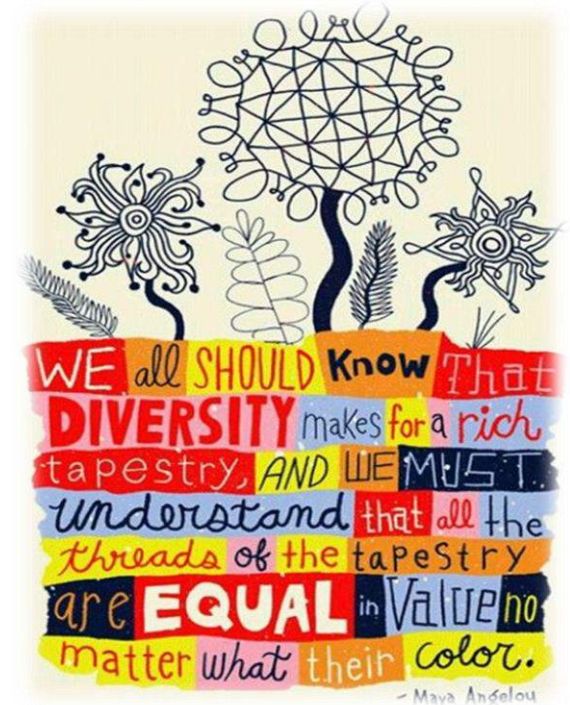
- Do you want to get out of the life, but are trapped and afraid to leave?
- Have you been forced to engage in sexual acts with someone in exchange for favors/money?
- Were you tricked into selling sex thinking you would be doing something different?
- Are you under the age of 18 and is someone pressuring you to sell sex?
- Do you have a debt to someone that you can't pay off?
- Has anyone threatened to hurt you, your family, or friend if you refused to sell sex?
- Is anyone physically or sexually abusing you?
- Has anyone taken sexual photos of you to post online?
- Does anyone take all or part of the money that you earn?
- Is someone holding your passport or identification cards for you?

If you need help, please call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center  
at 1-888-373-7888.

# Cultural Humility



- Victim-Centered
- Aware of own biases – Be careful not to blame or judge
- Combine general knowledge about various cultures with specific information provided by trafficking survivor
- Recognize that diversity exists both within cultures and between cultures
- Access for persons disabilities is also part of cultural humility





As a mandated reporter, if you suspect a  
**child** is being trafficked...



**you must report it to  
Child Protective Services or  
Law Enforcement!!!**



# Buying a Child for Sex is Child Abuse...

No one is for sale. Spot it. Stop it. Report it.







“People who are having sex with children are not johns and tricks. They are child rapists and pedophiles, so we should call them what they are.”

— Jada Pinkett Smith



# The Importance of Language

## Advocacy

- Vulnerable Migrant
- Slavery/Modern-Day Slavery
- Victim
- Survivor
- Undocumented Immigrant
- Child Labor Trafficking
- Missing Person
- Homeless
- CSEC
- DMST

## Survivor Empowering

- Survivor PLUS
  - Survivor **LEADER**
  - Survivor **ADVOCATE**
- What the clients finds empowering!

## Just Bad!

- Child Prostitute
- Illegal Alien
- Teen Prostitute
- Prostitute/Ho
- Criminal
- Drug Dealer
- Thief
- Runaway
- Poor
- Delinquent
- Throwaways
- Addict
- Gang Member





**NO SUCH THING  
AS A CHILD PROSTITUTE**

# Resources



- Contact your local CPS and Law Enforcement agency
- Report suspected trafficking crimes or get help (24/7) [National Human Trafficking Resource Center](#) at **1-888-373-7888**.
- Report sexually exploited or abused minors, call the [National Center for Missing and Exploited Children](#)'s (NCMEC) hotline at **1-800-THE-LOST**, or report incidents at <http://www.cybertipline.org>.
- Educational material regarding internet safety - [www.common sense media.org](http://www.common sense media.org)



***“I freed a thousand  
slaves. I could have  
freed a thousand  
more if only  
they knew  
they were  
slaves.”***

**– Harriet Tubman**





# Any Questions?





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