

BUYING SEX STOPS HERE

AWARENESS

Buying people for sex is a **SERIOUS** problem in **Minnesota**.

FACTS:

- The average age of entry into prostitution is 12-years-old.
- 8,000 to 12,000 people are involved in prostitution and sex trafficking in Minnesota every day.
- In a North Minneapolis research project on prostitution and sex trafficking, 56% of people involved had their first experience in prostitution or sex trafficking as a juvenile (under age 18). Studies in other US cities found similar figures (Chicago, 62%; San Francisco, 78%).
- While definitions of prostitution and sex trafficking vary, the root causes and traumatic outcomes for victims are the same.

SAFETY:

Prostitution and sex trafficking harm victims and are **NOT** victimless crimes. **Support safety & services for victims.**

FACTS:

- 90% of people used in prostitution want to leave immediately and need a safe way out.
- Runaway, homeless, abused and at-risk children are approached by pimps and drug dealers within 48 hours of landing on the streets.
- Women who have been used in prostitution and sex trafficking have a mortality rate 200 times higher for women who have not been used in prostitution and sex trafficking.
- Rates of sexual, physical, and emotional abuse are very high among people involved in prostitution and sex trafficking. In North Minneapolis, 84% have experienced physical, sexual, or emotional abuse sometime in their lives; 56% experienced all three forms of violence.
- Prostitution and sex trafficking causes many health problems, including higher rates than the general population of cancer (particularly cervical); chronic disease; pelvic inflammatory disease; traumatic brain injury and more.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Purchasing people for sex is a crime, john's must be held **accountable**.

FACTS:

- Prostitution and sex trafficking affects not only how men think about women; it also influences their actual behavior toward women, including sexual aggression towards women who are not prostituted/trafficked. In a recent study on men's use of prostituted or trafficked women in Scotland, 54% of men who frequently purchased women for sex had committed sexually aggressive acts against non-prostituted/trafficked women.
- Of 140 men arrested for soliciting a prostituted/trafficked person in Minnesota; 33% showed significant psychopathology when psychologically tested.
- Several studies indicate that, like pimps, purchasers regularly assault women and girls in prostitution and sex trafficking.

STOP THE DEMAND

You can help stop the demand. **You can help stop the purchase of people for sex.**

TAKE ACTION

- Educate and protect children from the dangers of on-line recruitment by predators. Play an active role in monitoring their activity on-line and report any suspicious behavior.
- Support community based services that help women and girls escape prostitution and sex trafficking.
- Encourage health care providers to identify and provide initial assistance to victims of human trafficking. Current screening tools utilized to assess for domestic and sexual violence can be amended to include additional questions. Guidelines for such questions can be found at (www.endhumantrafficking.org).
- Challenge social structures that normalize prostitution and sex trafficking. Challenge laws that criminalize prostituted women and children.
- Support policies which require johns to attend Breaking Free's john School or similar programs.
- Ask that companies not contract or use the services of travel agents, hotels, and other hospitality services that offer adult entertainment, engage in sex tourism or other similarly exploitive practices.
- Encourage tourism, travel, and hospitality companies to educate employees regarding sexual exploitation, human trafficking, sex tourism and prostitution and design policies to protect women and children from sexual exploitation.
- Ask tourism, travel, and hospitality companies to educate travelers by providing information through catalogs, brochures, in-flight videos and websites regarding the sexual exploitation of women and children by emphasizing the harm caused to victims and the need to hold johns accountable.
- Take a stand to end the sexual exploitation of women and children by challenging the normalization of sex trafficking, pimping and prostitution.
- Take a stand by challenging men who use pornography, and men who solicit women and children on-line, in strip clubs, on the street, or through brokers, pimps and sex traffickers.

COLLABORATION PARTNERS – MINNESOTA

- Adults Saving Kids
- Breaking Free
- Center for Women, Economic Justice and Public Policy, College of St. Catherine
- Justice Commission of the Sisters of St. Joseph and Consociates
- Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault
- Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women
- Minnesota Department of Health
- Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center
- Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition
- Minnesota Men's Action Network
- Not For Sale Campaign
- Pride Program of Children and Family Services
- Sexual Offense Services of Ramsey County
- Women of Nations
- Women of Senate District 67

MESSAGE ENDORSEMENTS

As of August 28, 2008

Minnesota Congressional Delegation

- Congressman Keith Ellison
- Congresswomen Betty McCollum
- Congressman Jim Ramstad

Minnesota State Senate

- Senator Warren Limmer
- Senator Mee Moua
- Senator Sandra Pappas
- Senator Patricia Torres Ray

Minnesota State House of Representatives

- Representative Michael Paymar
- Representative Sheldon Johnson

Minneapolis

- Hennepin County Attorney Michael Freeman
- Minneapolis City Council Member Betsy Hodges
- Minneapolis City Council Member Gary Schiff
- Minneapolis Mayor RT Rybak
- Minneapolis Police Chief Tim Dolan

St. Paul

- St. Paul City Council
- St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman
- St. Paul Police Chief John Harrington

Ramsey County

- Ramsey County Attorney Susan Gaertner
- Ramsey County Commissioner Toni Carter
- Ramsey County Commissioner Jim McDonough
- Ramsey County Commissioner Rafael Ortega
- Ramsey County Commissioner Jan Parker - Chair
- Ramsey County Commissioner Victoria Reinhardt

Minnesota State Departments

- Commissioner Michael Campion - Minnesota Department of Public Safety
- Commissioner Dr. Sanne Magnan - Minnesota Department of Health

Associations, Organizations & Individuals

- Former US Attorney Thomas Heffelfinger
- Minnesota Alliance on Crime
- Minnesota Women's Consortium
- National Association to Prevent the Sexual Abuse of Children
- Sorooptimist International – of Greater Minneapolis

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO TAKE ACTION:

www.breakingfree.net

www.notforsalecampaign.org

www.polarisproject.org