

Stop Trafficking !

Anti-Human Trafficking Newsletter



Awareness

Advocacy

Action

August 2013 Vol. 11 No. 8

This issue highlights issues affecting the exploitation and rehabilitation of trafficked teens.

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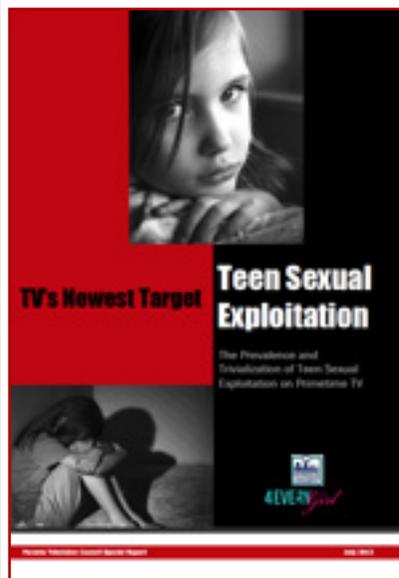
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Trafficked Children & Teens: Community Responses

'TV's Newest Target: Teen Sexual Exploitation'

This report put out in July 2013 by the *Parents' Television Council* (PTC, See also pg. 6) is the third report by the PTC that touches on the issue of the entertainment media's sexualization of young girls.



The Report, entitled 'TV's Newest Target: The Prevalence & Trivialization of Teen Sexual Exploitation in Primetime TV', reveals that sexual exploitation has become a common topic and a comedic topic on primetime television in shows airing as early as seven o'clock central time.

TV's Newest Target, *cont. pg. 2*

Child Sexual Exploitation: Trauma in the Family + Complexity for the Police

It was a nice house on a nice street in a town in Alberta, Canada, with a seemingly normal family living inside. The photographs hanging on the walls showed the family smiling and happy. The father had a good job and spent lots of time with his children. He played hockey in his spare time, had close friends, and volunteered in the community.

When law enforcement walked into the house on a Friday afternoon, a child's birthday cake was sitting on the counter. Birthday presents were wrapped and piled on the couch, ready to be opened at a little girl's seventh birthday party that evening. But there wouldn't be a party.

Instead, the girl and her mother were taken to a child protection center while police searched the house for anything that could hold electronic information that may have recorded evidence of the sexual abuse the man had inflicted on his youngest daughter, from the time she was barely a toddler. After searching the house, police seized a laptop, two cameras and a BlackBerry. The devices contained hundreds of movies and photographs the father had made of himself sexually abusing his daughter, and voyeurism images

Trauma and Complexity, *cont. pg. 3*



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'TV's Newest Target'

cont. from pg. 1

Past research has shown girls develop their identities as teenagers and women, and learn how to engage in intimate relationships in two ways: 1) by modeling behaviors of older girls and young women; and 2) by imitating the behaviors of female characters in the media. Based upon results from a study conducted by the *American Psychological Association* (APA), today's media industry is not only a social influencer of sexist attitudes, societal tolerance, and the exploitation of girls and women — they also may contribute to these phenomena.

Creating a social environment that liberates adolescents and adults to laugh at rape, child molestation, prostitution, sex trafficking, and sexual harassment further compounds the troubling effects of sexualized media images in general.

Today, not only are exploitation labels appearing in jokes (i.e. "sex slave," "prostitute," "whore," "dead hooker," etc.), but these topics also represent the most severe forms of sexual exploitation. Yet the audience continues to laugh. Some shows have added laugh tracks, which direct the audience when to laugh and provide cues for what should be viewed as funny. The laugh track informs the viewing audience about what is humorous, harmless, and acceptable.

The PTC study examined the prevalence of exploitative images in primetime media, such as sexual violence (child molestation and rape), sexual harassment, sex trafficking, prostitution, pornography, and stripping. Three age groups of female characters in primetime scripted programming

were assessed: Underage (ages 17 and under); young adult (ages 18-21/recent high school graduates or young college student); and adults which were included as a comparison group. Results revealed: 1) The appearance of an underage female character in a scene increased the likelihood that the scene would include sexual exploitation; and 2) the appearance of an underage female character in a sexually exploitative scene increased the probability that the scene would be presented as humorous.

Past studies have shown that not only can humor reinforce stereotypes and negative images, but the trivialization that results from the joke can lead to desensitizing the audience to serious social issues. In other words, if media images communicate that sexual exploitation is neither serious nor harmful, the environment is being set for sexual exploitation to be viewed as trivial and acceptable. As long as there are media producers who continue to find the degradation of women to be humorous, and media outlets willing to air the content, the impact and seriousness of sexual exploitation will continue to be understated and not meaningfully addressed in our society. (Report, pgs. 4-7)

Digital Evidence Linked to Victimization

In a study by Melissa Wells, Kimberly J. Mitchell & Kai Ji entitled, '*Exploring the Role of the Internet in Juvenile Prostitution Cases Coming to the Attention of Law Enforcement*' researchers surveyed national law enforcement agencies regarding their treatment of juvenile prostitution cases. Some characteristics of the Internet appear to make it easier for third-party exploiters to involve younger juveniles in prostitution. For instance, vague statements regarding "young girls" may allow pimps to advertise without identifying the actual age of the prostitute, *Digital Evidence, cont. pg. 5*

Sexual Abuse of Children with Disabilities: A National Snapshot



In March 2013 the *Vera Institute of Justice* issued a report indicating that children with disabilities are three times more likely than other children to be victims of sexual abuse. The likelihood is even higher for children with intellectual or mental health disabilities. These children face many challenges in reporting the abuse and receiving vital services designed to meet their needs. Without receiving support, these children suffer long-term aftereffects, including post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, and depression, as well as an increased risk of victimization in adulthood.

- Children with disabilities are at higher risk for child sexual abuse than children without disabilities.
- The risk of sexual abuse is exacerbated and heightened because of unique dynamics related to their disabilities and their receipt of disability-specific services.
- There is an alarming lack of primary prevention efforts geared to preventing sexual abuse of children with disabilities.
- Children with disabilities who experience sexual abuse are less likely to receive the services and supports they need to heal and seek justice.
- Public awareness about sexual abuse of children with disabilities is lacking on every level.

Vera's Center on Victimization and Safety partnered with the *Ms. Foundation for Women* in 2012 to examine the prevalence of this abuse and existing responses and to recommend next steps for a national strategy to respond to this epidemic. The 'Issues Brief' summarizes the study, its findings, and its recommendations and can be accessed at: <http://www.vera.org/pubs/sexual-abuse-children-with-disabilities>



Awareness

Trauma and Complexity

cont. from pg. 1

of other children in the family home. There were also close to 2,000 images he'd collected of other children - including bondage imagery and images of very young children. The 39-year-old man was later sentenced to 12 years in prison.

Such arrests are the result of the work of the members of Alberta's Internet Child Exploitation (ICE) unit. The ICE Unit is a 32-person team of police officers, contract technical workers and support staff that operates as part of the Alberta Law Enforcement Response Teams (ALERT). They examine computers, cellphones and hard drives that uncover sexual exploitation connected to the very corners of the globe, the limits of the imagination, the depths of what someone can do to a child. "Because the Internet has no borders, investigations by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police ICE units have no borders either," explained an investigator.

New cases come to ICE every day, sometimes from RCMP investigators in Ottawa, from international agencies such as Interpol or Homeland Security in the USA, or from anonymous tip lines like cybertip.ca. The challenge is to prioritize evidence and put cases in which children are being abused or in physical danger at the top of the growing list. The number of cases in Alberta is growing rapidly, partly because the crime of online child sexual exploitation is as vast as the Internet itself. The investigation techniques must change and adapt as quickly as technology does. People now have more devices than ever, and evidence can be divided among desktop and laptop computers,

gaming consoles, phones, digital cameras, social media accounts, backup hard drives and off-site data storage. Internet connections and storage capabilities are greater than ever, capable of handling information in a way that wasn't possible even three years ago. "They can easily leave their computer running, and if they find a site, they could download thousands of pictures a minute," police explained. "You can go out and buy a three terabyte hard drive for \$150 today. And you could literally load hundreds of thousands of pictures and tens of thousands of movies onto just that one \$150 hard drive. Those are the technological challenges that we have."

As images are traded and recycled, one child's abuse, shared by offenders around the globe, becomes a composite window into the child's exploited childhood. "Sometimes investigators see children grow up through the series of pictures we study. We see kids from the time they are a baby or toddler all the way up to their teens."

Savvy offenders go to great lengths to hide or destroy evidence of their crimes. But, finding the digital "shrapnel" people thought was gone is one of the best parts of the investigative job. "There is the little extra satisfaction when you can find something they were trying to hide, or that they thought they deleted, but surprise! It's still there."

Alberta Internet Child Exploitation (ICE) Unit members in west Edmonton investigate the online underworld from a copper-lined room impenetrable to radio signals, as they search for sexual crimes against children.

Photo: Larry Wong, Edmonton Journal, Postmedia News

The little girl in the birthday case was first seen by police in an investigation in Italy. Her identity was unknown then, but as police investigated the case led to Ottawa, then to Edmonton. When someone in the unit recognized that a family photograph had been taken in Calloway Park outside Calgary, investigators knew the girl had been in Alberta at some point. They raced to try to figure out who she was and how to find her. "That was on Friday morning," officials stated. "By 5:20 in the afternoon, the father was in custody."

There is a catastrophic impact of child sexual exploitation on an entire family. There is the impact of the abuse on a child, the profound betrayal of trust in that family, and even the economic impact of losing the sole breadwinner when the abusive parent is imprisoned. In the Alberta case, the child's mother had no idea about the abuse until the ICE team came to her house.

People often have unrealistic expectations of police and the justice system simply because they spend more time watching the law portrayed on TV than they do reading about it in the Criminal Code.

(<http://www.vancouversun.com/news/Crimes+without+borders/8690067/story.html>)

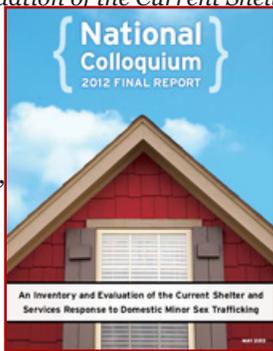




Advocacy

Help for Children & Teens

There are critical challenges to restoring the survivors of juvenile sex trafficking. In a recent report entitled, *'National Colloquium 2012 Report: Inventory and Evaluation of the Current Shelter and Services Response to Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking'*, over 100 provider, survivor, government, advocacy and funding experts offered recom-



mendations on emerging trends and barriers encountered in attempting to secure restorative shelter and services for juvenile sex trafficking victims and survivors. Topics include:

- Survivor empowerment
- Challenges to placement
- Safety and security
- Lack of specialized services especially for boys and LGBT youth
- Challenges to measuring outcomes

Five key areas were examined through surveys and during the *National Colloquium* discussion. These are highlighted in the Report along with a list of 26 recommendations.

In addition, the Report contains over 100 pages of survey analysis, including a summary of the 93 question *National Provider Survey* completed by over 40 providers across the country, the *National Survivor Survey*--a survivor led and implemented survey completed by 33 domestic sex trafficking survivors, and a summary of the *National*

Advocate and Funder Survey. The report includes three complete, unedited U.S. Government Agency Reports.

The following 26 recommendations, derived from the *National Colloquium*, serve as the beginning of a framework of core principles in developing shelter and services for domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST) victims.

Placement and Services for Identified Youth

- Providers must assess the individualized needs of DMST victims and place each into the most suitable emergency or long-term services, always with a plan in place to assist toward full restoration and independence.
- Service providers are to establish regular, coordinated communication in order to share information on available resources and services, so agencies and providers can provide the services needed at any given point in the restoration process.
- Information pertaining to the services available to DMST victims must be easily accessible to all the involved parties: first line responders, law enforcement, and service providers.
- Placements could range from congregate care and foster care to community based care, depending on the specific need and condition of the DMST victim. Treatment and services are not uniform and must be taken on an individualized, case-by-case basis.
- More diverse options for placement are needed to prevent barriers to placement resulting from funding limitations or any one of a number of characteristics of a DMST victim including: history of running away from another program, altercation within a placement, identification in the middle of the night or outside programs operating hours, lack of identification

of vital records, unavailable parent or guardian, low IQ, pregnancy, addiction or severe mental or physical health needs.

- First line responders, law enforcement, social workers, and therapists, must be trained to identify and respond to DMST in a trauma-informed and victim-centered manner.

Licensing and Maintaining Shelter and Programs

- Licensing agencies should review, amend, or enact regulations to alleviate barriers or restraints that may dissuade or prevent service and shelter providers from serving youth.
- Licenses must be made available for all types of congregate care facilities to meet the diverse needs of the DMST victim population. This includes emergency, restorative, long term, and transitional housing.
- Providers need to work closely with licensing authorities to establish realistic licensing and funding contracts for populations served. License parameters often prohibit or fail to encompass vital components of a DMST treatment program, e.g., survivor mentors may be prohibited from serving on staff if they have a criminal record; license may not include the ability to access education or mental health resources.
- Laws that mandate, establish, and financially support residential and community-based programs provid-



Linda Smith, founder of *Shared Hope International*, introduced the *'National Colloquium 2012 Report'* during a July 2013 Congressional briefing.



Advocacy

DMST Services *cont. from pg. 4*

ing treatment and case management for DMST victims across the continuum of care are needed. Service providers cannot give effective case management when clients are ordered to inappropriate placements, such as ill-equipped foster care, group homes and detention facilities, or they are returned to unsafe homes.

- Service providers who consider offering residential services should engage an expert in the regulatory and compliance aspects of licensing.

Identifying Sustainable Resources

- Donors and the general public must be educated by providers, law enforcement, advocates and the concerned public on the issue of juvenile sex trafficking, as distinct from other social problems affecting minors, and understand why DMST deserves attention and funding.
- Potential funders need to understand why services for DMST victims tend to be expensive due to the complex, often lengthy healing process.
- Shelter and service providers need to establish measurable indicators that are both realistic and quantifiable to demonstrate good stewardship to donors and encourage new investment.
- Shelter and service providers must diversify funding rather than rely solely on government reimbursements or one major funder.
- When securing funding to support services for DMST victims, utilizing and integrating funds from several sources can help support the cost of high quality and appropriate care.
- Residential services providers must

have staff who are knowledgeable about state/local child welfare and juvenile justice policies and practices.

Programmatic/Therapeutic Response

- Age, socioeconomic status, culture, personality, and other associated factors require that each victim have tailored treatment plan. This necessitates flexible and adaptive programming. Each individual case is unique and must be treated as unique.
- Residential facilities need to be staffed with or have regular access to medical and case professionals who can effectively assist the DMST victims through trauma-informed care. In addition, training in trauma-informed care must extend to all staff members, as well as host families or foster families, who may open their homes to DMST survivors.
- Survivors demonstrating that it is possible to overcome exploitation should be involved in and take leadership roles in programs and mentorship for sex trafficked youth. This involvement will be an example to the newly-liberated survivors that they too can turn their experience into assistance for others or powerful advocacy for the cause.
- Programming must be strength-based and assist survivors with accessing the inherent skills, abilities and qualities of character they possess but may not recognize. Educational and vocational opportunities are critical to helping them develop their talents and interests, gain independence and be active members of their communities.
- Treatment plans should be designed to lead to self-sufficiency, identifying services that will allow the DMST survivor to transition towards independence. Conversations and formulation of exit plans are necessary to ensure that DMST survivors understand the value of progressing towards independence.

- Community and/or family participation is necessary to help in the ultimate success and independence of DMST survivors. Therefore, educational programs, including family counseling to assist these support systems, is imperative.
- Service providers should offer the opportunity for the DMST survivor to have spiritual needs met, as well as mental/physical/social health needs.

Safety and Security

- Providers must be equipped to identify and respond to internal security risks, such as victims' high flight risk, potential self-harm, harm to others or internal recruitment. All staff and volunteers must be trained to recognize and de-escalate behavior leading to internal security risks and recog-

DMST Services *cont. on pg. 6*

Digital Evidence *cont. from pg. 2*

whereas very young juveniles may be more obvious in street prostitution.

In comparison to non-Internet juvenile prostitution cases, Internet cases involved younger juveniles. Ninety percent of Internet cases involved a third-party exploiter. When digital evidence allowed law enforcement investigators to link a juvenile with such a specific pimp or other third-party exploiter, police were more likely to perceive those juveniles as victims rather than offenders.

"These findings suggest that juvenile prostitution cases involving the Internet may yield compelling evidence in the form of advertisements, pictures, and chat conversations. Therefore, rather than relying solely on the statements of the juveniles involved, law enforcement and social service professionals should make efforts to ascertain whether there is digital evidence of exploitation in juvenile prostitution incidents. The presence of this evidence may contribute toward a view of these juveniles as victims of sexual exploitation rather than as delinquents."

(Study is found in the 2012 *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*, 21:3, 327-342 <http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/CV232.pdf>)



Advocacy

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'4 Every Girl'

The *Parents Television Council* (PTC) is a non-partisan, non-profit grassroots organization whose mission is to protect children and families from graphic sex, violence and profanity in entertainment. The PTC goes about its work through a combination of education and advocacy programs.

Concerned by the growing volume and degree of sexualization the PTC launched a new project in 2012 called '*4 Every Girl*', which strives to combat the sexualization of girls by advocating for a media environment where young girls are honored, valued and represented by healthy, respectful images.

Go to: <http://www.4everygirl.com/>

"If media images communicate that sexual exploitation is neither serious nor harmful, the environment is being set for sexual exploitation to be viewed as trivial and acceptable." (PTC Report, pg. 4)

'Bought & Sold: Voices of Human Trafficking'

This is the title of a large-scale outdoor photography exhibit. The exhibit, shown in various settings around the world, is part of *ArtWorks for Freedom* (AWFF), which aims to use the power of art in the fight against modern slavery and human trafficking. Kay Chernush, founder and director, has extensive experience photographing human trafficking in U.S. and abroad, with extensive one-on-one experience with survivors of human trafficking worldwide.



ArtWorks for Freedom was featured in the 2013 TIP Report (TIP, pg 37).

For more information, go to: <http://www.artworksforfreedom.org/index.php#/bought-sold--the-exhibit/>



"Survival Mask"
"It took me years to remove that mask. Finally I found myself again."

DMST-Related Federal Legislation

S. 1118 Child Sex Trafficking Data and Response Act of 2013

Sponsored by Senators Kirk, Wyden, Portman and co-sponsored by Senators Blumenthal, Brown, and Cantwell.

- This legislation improves state and national data on the scope and prevalence of child sex trafficking and brings reforms to the child welfare system to better identify and assist victims of child sex trafficking and commercial exploitation.
- The bill encourages states to improve coordination between child welfare, juvenile justice, and social service agencies to address the unique needs of victims of child sex trafficking, including placements in stable housing, treatments for sexual trauma, and other measures to help them reach a full recovery. (<http://www.kirk.senate.gov/pdfs/childsextraffickingbill.pdf>)

H.R. 1732: Strengthening the Child Welfare Response to Human Trafficking Act of 2013

Sponsored by Karen Bass D-CA

- Bill provides specific strategies to identify victims, manage cases, and improve services to meet the unique needs of foster youth who are also victims of trafficking or at risk.
- Strategies should be comprehensive, multi-disciplinary, client-centered, strength-based, trauma-informed, and gender appropriate. (<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-113hr1732ih/pdf/BILLS-113hr1732ih.pdf>)

DMST Services *cont. from pg. 5*

nize that these are often symptoms of trauma that require a therapeutic response.

- Providers should have a response plan in place for external security threats. Law enforcement should be aware of the program's operation and available to respond if an emergency situation arises. (Report, pgs. 3-5)

To download the Report, go to: <http://sharedhope.org/2013/07/03/briefing-national-colloquium-2012-report-release>



Action

Toll-Free 24/7 Hotline
National Human Trafficking
Resource Center
1.888.3737.888
 or text HELP or INFO to
BeFree (233733).

Corporate Stance:

We, the *Dominican Sisters of Peace*, proclaim our mission to be a prophetic voice in solidarity with the poor, the marginalized, and the oppressed. We, along with our *Dominican Associates*, commit our support to efforts to end human trafficking. (Feb. 14, 2013)

Corporate Stance Rationale

Aligned with our third Chapter Commitment of July 2009, to “Promote justice through solidarity with those who are marginalized, especially women and children, and work with others to identify and transform oppressive systems,” we call for “Mobilizing resources to address injustices such as...trafficking and the call to explore the possibility of a safe house for women and children.”

(Action Statement 3, July 2010 Assembly)

The trafficking of men, women, and children through sexual exploitation, prostitution, and forced labor strips individuals of their human dignity, their freedom, and their fundamental human rights. “The reality of thousands of our brothers and sisters laboring in modern day slavery compels us to act now to stop human trafficking and to serve the survivors of this crime.”

(US Conf. of Catholic Bishops - USCCB)

In 2011, at least 12.3 million people were being trafficked in 161 countries, including the U.S. It is a \$32 billion industry. More than 150 million children younger than 14 years of age are child laborers working in mines or on farms, toiling as domestic servants in homes or workshops. Another 300,000 children under 18 are child soldiers used as combatants, messengers, porters, cooks, or sexual servants in some 30 conflicts worldwide. Each year more than two million children, some as young as five years old, are exploited in the global commercial sex trade and women are sold into prostitution throughout the world.

Actions

With the adoption of this corporate stance, the *Dominican Sisters of Peace* are actively:

- seeking to collaborate with other religious or civil groups in support of a safe house for victims of human trafficking.
- educating ourselves and others through prayer and study about the evil of trafficking and modern slavery.
- supporting state and federal anti-trafficking legislation. On average, only one person is convicted for every 800 trafficking cases that are tried worldwide.
- volunteering with local service providers who minister to victims of human trafficking.
- dialoguing with companies to encourage them to sign “The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Women and Children.”
- using our strength as consumers and investors by insisting on slave-free supply chains and supporting those companies who engage in good practices. (<http://www.oppeace.org/human-trafficking>)



Informative Web Sites: (Each contains information related to human trafficking)

‘Look Beneath the Surface’

DVDs

- <http://archive.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking/about/form.htm>
- <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/resource/look-beneath-the-surface>

U.S. Dept. of Transportation

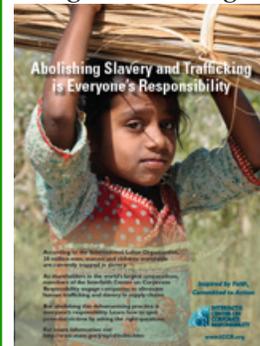
‘Blue Lightning Initiative’

<http://www.dot.gov/briefing-room/us-department-transportation-and-us-customs-and-border-protection-join-airlines>

Launch of ‘Blue Lightning Initiative’ for Airlines

Under a voluntary partnership with the U.S. Dept. of Transportation (DOT), Delta Air Lines and JetBlue Airways, along with Allegiant Air and North American Airlines, joined the ‘Blue Lightning Initiative’.

This training program, announced in June 2013, is available to airlines as part of the U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security (DHS) ‘Blue Campaign’ (<http://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign/blue-campaign>). It is meant to help airlines educate their employees on potential indicators of human trafficking and ways to identify potential victims in flight or on the ground.



The Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility was given this free full-page ad in December 2012 in the US Airways’ in-flight magazine as part of the US Airways anti-trafficking campaign.

Stop Trafficking! is dedicated exclusively to fostering an exchange of information among religious congregations, their friends and collaborating organizations, working to eliminate all forms of trafficking of human beings.

Use the following web address to access back issues of *Stop Trafficking!* <http://www.stopenslavement.org/archives.htm>

To contribute information, or make requests to be on the mailing list, please contact: srjeanschafer@aol.com

Editing and Layout: Jean Schafer, SDS