Communities Engaged In Ending Sexual Exploitation

A Toolkit and Activist Guide
Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation

“He promised me everything and better. Clothes, cars, house, himself. I was just looking for someone to love and love me”

- prostitution survivor
Resource Toolkit

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On behalf of Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation (CAASE), we would like to thank you for taking time to learn about innovative ways to stop prostitution and commercial sexual exploitation in your community. This toolkit can help build a community free from sexual exploitation by addressing the root cause of the issue: the demand to purchase sex. If there were no people willing to purchase sex in your community, then there would be no prostitution. This toolkit is a resource to help individuals and communities address the demand for paid sex. CAASE believes this is the most effective strategy to end the harms of prostitution and commercial sexual exploitation in a community.

You will find this toolkit has several sections:

• The Understand section provides general information about prostitution, including information about demand, traffickers, and pimps.

• The Act section includes:
  o Community offers action steps to help anyone raise awareness and mobilize their community to work toward ending sexual exploitation.
  o Media* is a toolkit about how to confront harmful media depictions of the sex trade, as well as how to use the media to educate the public on the realities of prostitution.
  o Communities of Faith* is a resource for faith communities and individuals. It includes applicable religious texts and reflective questions that can be used to explore prostitution in a spiritually relevant way. In addition, it provides practical action steps that can be taken to eliminate commercial sexual exploitation, and identifies supportive faith-based organizations and denominations.

*Media and Communities of Faith are included electronically.

For more information or to receive assistance with this toolkit, please contact the Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation: (773) 244-2230 X1 or info@caase.org
CAASE addresses the culture, institutions, and individuals that perpetrate, profit from, or support sexual exploitation. Its work includes:

Prevention: CAASE created a groundbreaking curriculum, Empowering Young Men In Ending Sexual Exploitation, to teach high-school-age men about the exploitative dynamics and violence in the sex trade and deter their involvement in this industry as consumers.

Community Engagement: CAASE conducts research and shares data to inform the community and public policy decision-making and develops toolkits for nonprofits, faith-based groups, schools, businesses, and community organizations to help them take action against sexual exploitation.

Policy and Advocacy: CAASE works with policy makers, service providers, and community allies to reform law and policy to better meet the needs of survivors and hold sexual exploiters accountable.

Legal: CAASE provides civil legal representation to survivors of rape and prostitution in order to create individual and institutional accountability.

A Note On Language

The word “john” is a slang term referring to a man who purchases sex. While john is admittedly an informal term, it is has been widely adapted to name several demand deterrence strategies (i.e. Johns’ Schools, John TV, etc.) For simplicity’s sake, the term is used here to refer to men who purchase sex. CAASE explicitly refrains from referring to a buyer of sex as a “customer,” so as not to equate commercial sexual exploitation with a simple economic transaction. This choice reflects CAASE’s belief that the purchase of sex cannot exist as an equal transaction within a patriarchal society.

CAASE also acknowledges that men and transgender individuals are also victims of sexual exploitation, and there are women who are traffickers and buyers in the commercial sex trade. However, the vast majority of people who purchase sex are male and the vast majority of people in prostitution are female. This toolkit and its language reflect that reality.

CAASE does not use the term “sex worker” as it justifies the harm people the sex trade experience as “part of the job.”

CAASE also recognizes that prostitution is a form of sexual exploitation and therefore the terms “sexual exploitation” and “prostitution” are used interchangeably throughout the toolkit.
How Community Members Can Help

Prostitution-related activities are prevalent throughout Illinois. Although not always clearly visible, prostitution occurs in almost every city and town in our state. One of the reasons prostitution continues to thrive is that the majority of sex is purchased in off-street venues and behind closed doors.

This kit offers many tangible actions that communities can take to create social change in their neighborhoods. It can be a useful tool for any individual who is passionate about ending sexual harm and it can be a catalyst for activism within neighborhoods across our state.

Prostitution and human trafficking are a violation of human rights. As long as people remain unaware of the extent and root causes of sexual exploitation, the violence experienced by victims will continue.

This toolkit focuses on the importance of ending the demand for paid sex. People who buy sex are driving demand, and they are the most commonly overlooked or ignored facet of the problem of sexual exploitation. As long as demand for paid sex exists, vulnerable children and adults will continue to be recruited and coerced into the sex trade. CAASE also believes that it is vital to provide resources and social services to people who are impacted by the sex trade, and we will also offer information about the need for more services in our state.

We hope you will use this toolkit to educate your fellow community members and organizations about the harms of commercial sexual exploitation, and to work with them to identify ways to take action toward change. Communities and individuals can have an amazing impact. As exemplified in the words of Margaret Mead, “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

“How many people consider the sex trafficking of children to be an international issue and not a problem that impacts us here right in our own communities, but that is not the case at all.”

-Anita Alvarez, Cook County State’s Attorney

1. And I Quote : The Definitive Collection of Quotes, Sayings, and Jokes for the Contemporary Speechmaker (1992), edited by Ashton Applewhite, Tripp Evans, and Andrew Frothingham
Why the Focus on Demand for Paid Sex?

Solving the issue of prostitution is complicated. People impacted by the sex trade need a variety of social services and other resources to exit the sex trade safely. Many experience tremendous rates of harm, including sexual assault and homelessness. Unfortunately, instead of viewing these individuals as crime victims in need of assistance, society tends to label them as criminals. This leads to a criminal justice response that disproportionately targets those selling sex and not the buyers, pimps, and traffickers who are profiting.

In 2008, nearly two-thirds of prostitution-related arrests in Chicago were of the women and children who were being prostituted, while one-third were of buyers, and only about 1% were pimps. This one-sided focus fails to address the root cause of prostitution: the demand to purchase sex.

As long as this demand exists, more vulnerable women and children will be forced, coerced, and manipulated to meet the demand. The equation is simple: eliminate demand and we will eliminate commercial sexual exploitation.

In Illinois, incarceration rates for felony prostitution (again, just the selling side of the transaction) have increased by nearly 1,000 percent since 1995, causing women in prostitution to face further barriers to rehabilitation. A felony arrest record makes it more difficult to secure a job or home.

The johns, on the other hand, receive lesser punishments such as car impoundment, fines, and municipal violations, resulting in very little deterrence. Clearly, this strategy is not working.

Prostitution will not end unless we end the demand for it. By shifting the community focus from targeting women in the sex trade to eliminating the demand for paid sex, we believe we will see a real reduction in prostitution and the harms associated with it in our communities.

“...prostitution is not a victimless crime. It’s a terrible life, and a caring society has a responsibility to help these women.”

- Former Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley

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2. Data compiled by the Mayor’s Office on Domestic Violence for the Innersystems Assessment and obtained through the Chicago Police Department.
Prostitution in Chicago

Between 16,000 and 24,000 women and girls are impacted by the sex trade on and given day in the Chicago metro area.4

Many people believe that most people in prostitution are there of their own free will, or choose to do it to earn lots of money. But research conducted both in Chicago and nationwide reveals that a substantial percentage of women in prostitution are homeless, and/or survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, and often start selling sex at a very young age. Many also experience mental health and substance abuse issues that go untreated.

Additionally, these individuals often experience extreme physical violence, sexual harm, and psychological trauma. Research on women in prostitution in Chicago shows that approximately 90 percent are physically, sexually, and emotionally abused at the hands of pimps and johns. This abuse results in a myriad of health problems, including sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, migraines, memory problems, sleeplessness, severe depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, and eating disorders.

The Commercial Sexual Exploitations of Children

The overwhelming majority of individuals engaged in prostitution have a history of physical or sexual abuse, with estimates ranging from 65 to 90 percent.5 Incest has long been considered a form of “boot camp” for prostitution because it teaches victims to expect and accept abuse, even from the people who claim to love and care for them most. It also teaches young people how to disassociate their bodies from their minds, and as many women in the sex trade have said being able to disassociate is necessary to survive the trauma of prostitution.

“Prostitution is not the oldest profession, but the oldest form of oppression.”

— U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Public Affairs, “The Link between Prostitution and Sex Trafficking”

Commercial sexual exploiters in the United States target particularly vulnerable youth such as runaway and homeless adolescents and are constantly searching for younger victims, who often bring higher profits. Pimps understand the circumstances and tactics necessary to compel an individual into the sex trade, and they seek out the most vulnerable women and girls to physically coerce or emotionally manipulate through false promises, verbal and physical abuse, and threats of harm to the victim and her family.\(^7\)

Nationally, the average age of entry into the sex trade is estimated to be as young as 12 to 14.\(^8\) In Chicago, according to the Center for Impact Research, 35 percent of all women in the sex trade entered before the age of 15.\(^9\) The effects are devastating for these children. Youth in prostitution are seriously affected developmentally, suffering from lack of sleep, malnutrition, loss of appetite and concentration, addiction to drugs, sexually transmitted diseases, and a feeling of intense isolation. Additionally, they are often treated as criminals by law enforcement and judges, even though federal and Illinois law state that any child under the age of 18 who has performed a commercial sex act is a victim of a severe form of human trafficking.\(^10\)

What is Human Trafficking?

Victims of human trafficking are people who are forced, coerced, or deceived into labor or commercial sex.

Labor trafficking is widespread in a variety of work situations that may include small-scale businesses like restaurants and cleaning services or domestic workers held in homes, as well as large-scale operations such as farms, factories, sweatshops, and the supply chains of major multinational corporations.

Sex trafficking occurs in all sectors of the sex industry, including street prostitution, online escort services, strip clubs, pornography, brothels, and the exploitation of children for commercial sex. Some “mail order brides” become victims of both labor (domestic work) and sex trafficking.

Under international law, any child involved in commercial sex is considered a trafficking victim, even if no force or coercion occurs. In the United States, a person is a victim of sex trafficking if he or she is being exploited to engage in commercial sex.

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11. Ibid.
A person is a victim of a severe form of sex trafficking if he or she is:

• Being forced, coerced, or tricked to either work or engage in sex for money, and believes serious harm would occur if attempting to leave the situation.

OR

• Under the age of 18 and is having sex for money. (It isn’t necessary to prove force or coercion for minors; the law recognizes that children cannot meaningfully consent to sex).

It’s important to remember that:

• Anyone can be a victim of human trafficking, including U.S. Citizens, foreign nationals, men, women, and children.

• Trafficking is not smuggling or forced movement. While transportation or movement may be involved in human trafficking, trafficking is simply forced or coerced labor; it doesn’t require transportation or movement across borders.

• Trafficking does not require physical abuse, force, or restraint. Often, traffickers use psychological manipulation/abuse, deception, threats of harm, or debt manipulation to control their victims.

**Prostitution vs. Human Trafficking:**

“He promised me everything and better. Clothes, cars, house, himself. I was just looking for someone to love and love me”

- prostitution survivor

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood... Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

—United Nations, articles 1 and 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)

**Similarities and Differences**

When many people imagine a woman in prostitution compared to a victim of sex trafficking, different images come to mind. We, as a culture, tend to blame women in prostitution for their involvement in the sex trade but view victims of sex trafficking as innocent. Indeed, our response to victims of sex trafficking is almost uniformly sympathetic, while our response to women in prostitution is usually arrest, incarceration, and blame. So what is the real difference between sex trafficking, and prostitution?

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act defines “severe forms of trafficking in persons” as the following:

1) sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion or in which the person induced to perform such an act is under 18, or

2) 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.11

Sex trafficking is one form of human trafficking, which includes both exploitation for commercial sex (sex trafficking), and exploitation for other labor (labor

11 Ibid.
We’ve created a legal dichotomy in America in which the federal government views prostituted children as victims, yet most states treat them as criminals. If state laws treated child prostitution more like human trafficking, then state social service agencies would play a more important role in helping this vulnerable population.

Pimps use similar tactics to other sex traffickers, including violence, threats of harm, and dishonest recruitment tactics.

Even though an adult in prostitution who entered the sex trade entirely of her or his own volition and does not have a third-party involved is not legally considered a victim of trafficking, it is important to move beyond legal definitions to understand the human rights violations experienced by both trafficked and non-trafficked individuals in prostitution.

The sexual and physical violence and psychological harm inherent in prostitution can erode an individual’s human dignity, concept of self-worth, and even basic health. This is because prostitution can inhibit an individual’s ability to live a life free from violence and harm. For example, a study by the Center for Impact Research confirmed that prostituted women in Chicago face a wide array of violence, including physical and sexual assault, as well as high rates of psychological trauma, homelessness, drug addiction, and chronic health problems.

The trauma of prostitution creates a startling fact: according to an FBI estimate, a woman’s average life expectancy is only seven years after the date of entry into prostitution. Girls and women in the sex industry also have a mortality rate 40 times higher than the national average.

Further, when we compare the life circumstances that precede entry into prostitution and sex trafficking, and assess the overall devastation of sex trade involvement, the line between prostitution and trafficking becomes even more blurred. Regardless of whether or not an individual is involved in prostitution as a result of human trafficking or because of limited life opportunities or past abuse, the reality is that the sex trade is incredibly harmful, dangerous, and demeaning. It is important to move past legal definitions to understand that prostitution harms everyone involved.

“We’re talking about money here. Millions of dollars and these people don’t think about these women as human beings. They think of them as dollars and cents. Chicago, Houston, St. Paul, Minnesota—these crimes are happening in every community in America, big and small.”

—Marcie Forman, Director of Investigations for Immigration and Customs Enforcement

“We’ve created a legal dichotomy in America in which the federal government views prostituted children as victims, yet most states treat them as criminals. If state laws treated child prostitution more like human trafficking, then state social service agencies would play a more important role in helping this vulnerable population.”

12. Raphael and Shapiro, Sisters Speak Out.
Olivia grew up on the south side of Chicago, and to the outside world her childhood seemed like that of any other girl. She would spend time with her friends, create adventures around the neighborhood, and spend hours at a time escaping into worlds of play and creativity. Yet by the age of 16, Olivia had already began her decent into the world of strip clubs, prostitution, and drug addiction.

Olivia was raised by her mother and father, parents who might have seemed loving and caring to the outside world. Yet in the home, both were struggling with alcohol addiction. Olivia’s father was physically abusive to her mother on a regular basis. With alcohol always present in her house, Olivia became accustomed to a lifestyle of drinking at a very early age. She began to use alcohol when she was only nine years old in order to block out her parents’ fights and the abuse in her family. Much of their childhood, Olivia and her siblings were left to care for themselves.

As Olivia got older, her father had health problems which eventually progressed to the point where he could no longer work and support their family. When her father became seriously ill, the family moved into a housing project. At twelve years of age, money was scarce for Olivia’s family and Olivia began to earn extra money by helping a family friend, or “uncle”, with groceries. Soon this “uncle” became sexually abusive and would reinforce the abuse with money given to Olivia and her sister.

Desperate to escape an abusive family and the hardships of life in the projects, Olivia left her home, following her older sister to Job Corps. Though she was only sixteen, Olivia gravitated towards an older crowd in the program, drinking and partying much of the time. Despite her substance use, in ten months she completed Job Corps with a G.E.D. and a nursing certificate.

Life could have taken a positive turn at this point; Olivia was finally free from an abusive home and the addictions of her parents. But finding work was hard. When finding a job proved challenging, an older friend helped Olivia secure a job as a barmaid on the south side of Chicago. Not long after being hired at the bar, Olivia moved on to more lucrative work through employment at a strip club on Rush Street. When she joined the club, she thought they were actually searching for dancers. It didn’t take her long before she realized that authentic dance talent was not what they were searching for. As she began to strip and endure the harassment and degrading comments from patrons, Olivia turned again to using alcohol to cope and numb herself against this reality that had become her life.

“You kind of desensitize yourself to what is really happening, and you are using more and more alcohol.”
Olivia craved attention when she worked on Rush Street, and would do almost anything to gain the interest of adult patrons—the type of attention that she never got from her parents. While working at the strip club, Olivia began to see that there was more going on than just dancing: “I was very naïve, I had been to dancing school. I thought I was this great dancer...It doesn’t take long to see what’s going on in the club”. The longer she was there, the more she was pressured to perform beyond just the dance floor.

At 17, Olivia walked in on her friend injecting drugs. “I do this because I hurt so bad inside” her friend told her. Always searching for new ways to numb her pain, she injected. Olivia will always remember the intense sense of relief and freedom she felt the first time she injected drugs. She spent the next 18 years chasing that first high. Once Olivia began using heroin, she started turning tricks in the back rooms of the clubs where she was working to support her habit. According to Olivia, when using drugs, she no longer cared about the abuse of “johns” or the verbal cruelty that had become a daily reality within the club’s walls. As Olivia’s drug habit began to spiral out of control and the tracks on her arms became harder to conceal, she left the club and began an 18 year involvement in prostitution on Rush Street in downtown Chicago. Olivia’s drug habit eventually left her homeless, and she became increasingly more dependent on her violent “partner”. This “partner” was responsible for collecting the money she made in prostitution, providing shelter, and supporting their collective drug habits. When Olivia didn’t make enough money to support their lifestyle, he often violently abused her.

Prostitution transformed Olivia into a shell of the woman she had once been. “I was so tired. I was so totally abused. I was in such bad shape. I felt nothing. I cared about nothing. I was a walking zombie.”

The streets could have been the end for Olivia, just as it was the end for many of her friends in prostitution. Luckily, when she got to the point where the only solution was contemplating her own death, Olivia was approached on the street by an outreach worker who had been doing research on women in prostitution.

“I had become so comfortable with the idea that this is how I was going to die, that I just wanted it to happen and get it over with, because it was so painful.”

To her own surprise, the next morning Olivia went to meet with the researcher who then referred her to a substance abuse program for her drug addiction. Although it was difficult, Olivia resisted the urge to use and began her journey to recovery.

Olivia’s childhood was unstable and she experienced incest, rape, domestic violence, alcohol abuse, and drugs, all of which pushed her towards a life of stripping, prostitution, and alcohol and drug addiction. Thankfully, with resilience and determination, Olivia lives to share her story and to help others overcome similar issues.
Pimps, Johns
Pimps, Johns, and Harms to Prostituted Individuals

Pimps, traffickers, and johns each play a role in fueling the sex trade industry. Were it not profitable to sell women and children, then there would be no incentive for pimps and traffickers to manipulate, coerce, or outright force individuals into the sex industry. As long as there are johns willing to pay for sex, the sex trade and all its harms will continue to flourish.

Confronting misconceptions about pimps

Have you ever flipped through TV channels and come across the popular show, “Pimp My Ride”, an advertisement to “pimp your phone”, or had a conversation with someone who used the word pimp to describe something in a positive light? If you have, you know that “pimping” is glamorized throughout modern culture. The role of a pimp is idealized in movies, TV shows, and music. This false portrayal of pimps as glamorous and benevolent to prostituted individuals distorts the reality of the abusive and controlling nature of pimps.

Pimps, in fact, are manipulative individuals who use extremely harmful and abusive tactics to get women, girls, and sometimes boys to engage in commercial sex for the pimp’s financial benefit. These tactics include: physical, sexual, and psychological abuse; isolation; withholding food, water, and shelter; forcing drug use on prostituted individuals; and threatening harm to a person’s family or loved ones. Moreover, most pimps keep all the money their victims earn, and do not provide any sort of “protection” from johns to their victims. The current popular image of a pimp hides the fact that pimps are not protectors but exploiters, rapists, and the primary beneficiaries of a sexually exploitive industry. Further, pimps who are manipulating or coercing women and children to have sex are human traffickers according to federal and state law.

“Prostitution is not a victimless crime— the women are the victims.”

-Former Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley
June 2005 press conference
Learning More About Those Who Pimp Women and Children:

Interviews with 25 Ex-Pimps in Chicago

In the Winter of 2008-09, the DePaul College of Law’s Schiller DuCanto & Fleck Family Law Center conducted interviews with five ex-pimps from Chicago. The research was expanded in 2009-2010 to include interviews with an additional 20 ex-pimps. Here is what they found:

Participants explained that recruitment of girls “never stopped. It is part of the daily routine.” They targeted women and girls who were vulnerable and often young. In addition, they frequently mentioned targeting runaways.

“I looked for girls who needed things, who would do whatever to come out of the messed up homes and escape from their messed up parents, and I pulled those girls. Women who had been abused by some sucker, who wanted better treatment and nice things.”

“Girls who ran away from home or were put out by their parents. Ladies who were pretty but were on welfare, drop outs, you know you can smell desperation. If she is hungry, she will go.”

“They all claimed to be 18, but I knew for a fact that some were 15 years old.”

One said “as young as 15,” another “as young as 14. It was the nature of the business.”

Still another said, “If they were bleeding they could work for me.”

Why pimps and traffickers are central to the existence of prostitution

Pimps and traffickers are a key part of the demand for prostitution: they are the ones making the money, so they make sure there are women and children available for buyers. Pimps, also referred to as domestic sex traffickers, prey on the vulnerabilities of women and girls – vulnerabilities which often come from past sexual abuse.

Pimps identify vulnerable women and girls and groom them for the sex trade. This grooming often includes rape or gang rape and can include exposure to large quantities of pornography. Even though pimps are abusive and exploitative, “in Chicago, pimps make up less than 1% of prostitution related arrests.” (Chicago Coalition For the Homeless).

The vast majority of those arrested in relation to prostitution are the victims of prostitution: women and children who are being pimped out. The reality is that pimping is a form of modern slavery.
Sixty percent of the sample said they paid-off law enforcement officers in order to survive in the business. “We paid so we could run our business—police, detectives, and an alderman or two.” In addition, the pimps shared their profits with a host of other actors, including lawyers and doctors, bellmen, hotel clerks, bartenders, and cab drivers, all of whom were regularly paid for referring customers and keeping quiet about the exploitation.

Pimps reported they left the industry due to reasons related to aging, alcohol use, and drug addictions. As one commented, “I’m not as young as I used to be. Like I said, it’s about control and a little fear. The older you get the less people fear you, so you get replaced.” After pimping, some became involved in drug sales, but did not like the business and found it too dangerous. Given the large amount of money they made and the general lack of danger, pimping remained more attractive than selling drugs or other off-market activities.

This research study clearly shows that incarcerating more pimps is not the whole

To recruit girls, pimps used various deceptive and manipulative strategies.

“I had many games to cop a girl. I would tell them I was an agent. I would say I designed clothes. I even told them I sang with certain bands. It was more challenging when I got girls who were older. I really became more creative the older the girls were.”

The pimps also reported using websites such as MySpace and Craigslist to recruit girls. Some admitted that sometimes the girls didn’t even know they were being pimped. One pimp said he gave parties, got young girls intoxicated on liquor and marijuana, and the girls never knew that the guys at the party had paid to be there and have sex with them.

As pimps, all of the interview participants controlled multiple women and girls at one time. Altogether among the sample of 25, they pimped a minimum of 4,135 women during their lifetimes, and at any given time they exploited 2 to 30 women.

Over a third of the 25 participants said that their girls and women were not allowed to keep any of the money that was made. Limiting the money was a form of control, which was evident in several of their comments.

“You can’t control your stable [group of women and girls] if you allow your hos to keep a dime of the money.”

“I was the money handler. Hos don’t need money.”

“I had all the cash. Money is power. Hos have no power.”

Joseph Parker, United States, 1997

“The first step in understanding the sex industry is to understand the customers, the johns.”

Joseph Parker, United States, 1997
This research study clearly shows that incarcerating more pimps is not the whole solution to ending sexual exploitation, because other pimps can easily replace them. It is the customers who keep the industry in existence, and as the pimps said, none of them had any difficulty finding willing and eager customers. As one commented about identifying customers: “didn’t have to, sex sells like wild fire.” There wasn’t one specific type of customer. They were anyone. “From laborers to astronauts.” Because it wasn’t difficult to find men to purchase sex, it was easy for pimps to sell the bodies of women and girls. “It’s like sticking your pole into a fishing hole. Somebody is going to bite.” It is only by going after the customers, pimps and other traffickers that we can begin to see a real reduction in prostitution. As one participant commented, “As long as men can get away with it, there will always be prostitution.”

For the full research results, please see the thumb drive’s Research section: “From Victims to Victimizers: Interviews with 25 Ex-Pimps in Chicago” by Jody Raphael and Brenda Myers-Powell

In Chicago, of approximately 4,500 individuals arrested annually on prostitution related charges, two-thirds are of women selling sex and less than one-third are of “johns.”

Who Are the Johns?

Johns are the backbone of an industry that inflicts harm on women and children. Although these men fuel the sex trade industry, they are often invisible to the public and are rarely penalized. Their actions are too often justified as “men with sexual needs” or as men simply doing “what men do”.

Instead of justifying the actions of these men, we need to identify the purchasing of sex as harmful while simultaneously confronting the various ways our society both encourages and normalizes these actions.
Interviews with men who buy sex

“It’s a coming into manhood thing”

In addition to funding the sex industry and buying sex from both children and women who are being exploited, many johns commit extreme acts of physical and psychological damage against women in prostitution. These harmful acts are documented by empirical research in Chicago. *Sisters Speak Out: The Lives and Needs of Prostituted Women in Chicago* is one research study that sheds light on the inhumane and violent acts that prostituted individuals endure in the sex trade industry. Researchers Jody Raphael and Deborah Shapiro found that johns are the number one perpetrators of violence committed against women involved in sex trade industry. “Customers were identified as being responsible for 62-100% of the acts of violence against women engaged in street-level prostitution.

In 2006-2007, the Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation and Prostitution Research and Education (PRE) conducted interviews with 113 men who buy sex to better understand their motivations and what would deter them from further sex trade patronage. Results from the research provided insights into the demand side of the sex trade, and helped dispel common misconceptions about men who purchase sex.

Misconception #1

Many believe that men who purchase sex simply want to have fun and are not aware of the multitude of harms experienced by women and children in the sex industry.

Reality:

Quite a few of the interviewees had seen an act of violence perpetrated against a woman in prostitution. In addition to witnessing the violence, several of these “johns” perpetrated violent acts as well. One interviewee acknowledged committing an act of violence by stating the following:

“I almost killed a hooker because she tried to run off with my money and I wasn’t going to let her. I used the blunt side of the knife. She tried to leave the car. We struggled for awhile. I wanted to scare her, so I put the blunt side of the knife to her throat. Somehow there was blood, and she gave me the money back. I left her lying there down in the street. I didn’t even want the money no more.”

Another john reported that he witnessed a prostituted woman dragged by her hair by a pick-up truck.

The reality is that men who purchase sex are frequently aware of the harms faced by women in prostitution, and are most commonly the perpetrators of this violence.

Misconception #2

Men who buy sex are unaware of the vulnerabilities of the women in the sex trade.

Reality:

68% of the interviewees believed that women become prostitutes out of economic necessity and 27% thought that women in the sex trade frequently experience homelessness. These beliefs were evident in several of their comments:
“She didn’t choose to become a prostitute, she needs money.”

“It’s such an unhealthy behavior—it’s probably reliving the past trauma over and over again, and reinforcing it with money. It’s gotta be confusing.”

Additionally, 32% thought the majority of women in prostitution entered before the age of 18. One of the interviewees stated, “Some girls from high school, they get addicted to drugs. Sometimes the mom makes the daughter sell sex.”

The reality is that most men who buy sex acknowledge that women in prostitution experience high levels of abuse, health problems, homelessness, and sexual violence. Furthermore, many are aware of the economic disadvantages and limited opportunities faced by prostituted individuals.

**Misconception #3**
Prostitution decreases rape: 39% believed that the availability of prostitutes makes the rape of other women much less likely.

**Reality:**
The johns’ explanations for this belief reveal that men who use women in prostitution frequently justify rape of women both in and out of the sex trade:

“She has no rights because you are paying for a sex act; she gives up the right to say no.”

“If we agree on something, half way through she can’t change her mind.”

“Wouldn’t have to rape somebody if there are prostitutes. You don’t have to beat up your wife if prostitutes are available.”

21% of interviewees did not think that it was possible for women in prostitution to be raped.

41% of the survey respondents thought that if a woman participates in any sexual activity then the man has the right to rape her.

The reality is that men who use women in prostitution frequently justify rape of women both in and out of the sex trade. The idea that there are some disposable women—prostituted women—who it is OK to rape or physically assault merely perpetuates devaluing women and the idea that it is normal to commit violence against women. The right to say “no” is never taken from an individual, even if they are involved in prostitution and are paid money or some form of compensation for a sex act.

Additionally, 27% of the interviewees acknowledged that they had committed sexually coercive acts against women not in the sex trade, proving that the use of prostituted women does nothing to prevent men from committing rape.

**Misconception #4**
Only certain types of men buy sex.

**Reality:**
The respondents in the study ranged in ages from 20-71 years and were of different races and ethnicities; 40% African American, 36% European American, 14% Latino, 5% Asian/Pacific Islander, and the remaining 5% identified as multicultural or ‘other’. In addition, they had different backgrounds in
education levels, family income, and religion. The reality is that there is no common “profile” of men who purchase sex. They are from every race, age group, sexual orientation, profession, economic class, and education level.

Even though the above statements made by interviewees represent only a fraction of the research’s findings, it is apparent through these statements that men who purchase sex frequently dehumanize, devalue, and treat women and children in prostitution as objects. This research also demonstrates the power that “johns” believe they have over women in prostitution.

Additionally, many of these men identified cultural practices that normalized or encouraged their sexually exploitive behavior. One interviewee admitted to having won a sexual act in a job raffle, and another described his experience in the armed forces by saying that the Army encouraged buying sex. When buying sex is culturally sanctioned, as it was in these examples, it both increases the demand for prostitution and ignores the devaluation of and violence against prostituted women and children. The selling of women and children will not stop until the demand for it no longer exists. As one interviewee stated, “If there were no customers, there would be no prostitution.”

For the full research findings, please see thumb drive: “Deconstructing the Demand for Prostitution” by Rachel Durchslag and Samir Goswami.
Act: Community
What can be done to stop sexual exploitation in our communities?

Multiple sectors of communities have a role to play in ending sexual exploitation in their neighborhoods. This section provides tangible actions that community businesses and individuals can take against sexual harm. Please help spread the information by educating others on the issue, and informing them about the actions that they can take to help end this human rights violation.

“An injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

-Martin Luther King Jr.

Actions for Businesses

Having your business operate in a neighborhood with any type of crime ultimately hurts your bottom line. It can result in fewer customers frequenting your business and lower property values. To end the crime of prostitution in your business’s community, the only effective strategy is to target the demand for commercial sex.

As a local business owner, you have the opportunity to make a difference toward ending sexual exploitation in your community. Businesses can help contribute to efforts of ending sexual harm by doing things like displaying posters in the window of shops with messages such as “Warning: purchasing sex is not tolerated in our community”, “Shop standing against sexual exploitation”, or “The women and children in our community are not for sale.” These are simple and direct messages that foster a culture of disdain for sexual harm.

Besides all community businesses contributing to a neighborhood culture that does not tolerate sexual exploitation, there are certain businesses within communities that have a particular role to play since these types of businesses are frequently sites where sexual harm occurs. They include hotels, strip clubs, massage parlors, bars, and brothels.

Hotels

The hotel industry has begun to take notice of patrons’ use of their businesses as a place to purchase sex. Marriot International, Starwood Hotels, and most recently Choice hotels have taken a strong stance against the sex trade, specifically with regards to sexually exploited children. Other hotels can learn from these examples and implement policies that will significantly decrease the purchasing of sex and the victimization of women and children at their establishments.

Note: Child sex tourism (CST) is the term used by hotels. CST is tourism for the purpose of engaging in commercial sexual exploitation of children. CAASE recognizes that other forms of commercial sexual exploitation, other than CST, occur at hotels as well.

Marriot International has taken notable steps in addressing child sex tourism (CST), and has championed the hotel industry’s responsibility in prevention efforts. Marriot’s strategy includes awareness-generating and training workshops for employees as well as sending pre-arrival emails to Marriott guests that highlight the criminal nature of CST and how CST engagement is not tolerated by Marriott hotels. In addition, Marriot amended their Human Rights Policy Statement to include sexual exploitation of children.

Starwood Hotels and Resorts Worldwide, Inc. has also made great efforts toward ending CST. Starwood adopted a policy similar to Marriott’s and integrated it into their Human Rights Policy Statement. The corporation has met with leaders in the Episcopal Church to create public awareness initiatives about CST and to identify ways to transform the hospitality industry’s response to CST. With over 900 locations in 100 countries, Starwood has begun to alert hotel owners, staff, and guests about CST and its devastating effects. Additionally, the hotel corporation meets with stakeholders yearly to address the issue.

Choice Hotels International recently took proactive action to prevent the commercial sexual exploitation of children in their hotels. This vital decision was made after a long letter-writing campaign from Change.org and over a month of discussions with leading child protection organization ECPAT International (End Child Prostitution Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes). Choice Hotels has agreed to take the following actions:

- Develop a training designed to teach key staff to recognize commercial sexual exploitation of children and take appropriate steps with help from ECPAT-USA. This material will be incorporated into the week-long training given to all new franchisees.

- Develop training materials on commercial sexual exploitation of children prevention that will be published on the Choice University website, available to most employees.

- Develop training materials that can be downloaded from Choice University website for individual hotels to share with their employees who do not normally visit the website.

Local hotels can adopt these models by ensuring that all staff receive training on CST, putting notices in brochures about the hotel’s stance on CST, and posting the hotel’s policy on prostitution.

Additionally, hotels can sign The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism (www.thecode.org). Companies that sign the Code commit themselves to implementing the following measures:

- Establishing an ethical policy regarding the commercial sexual exploitation of children.
- Introducing a clause in contracts with suppliers stating a common repudiation of commercial sexual exploitation of children.
- Providing information to travelers by means of catalogues, brochures, in-flight films, ticket-slips, home pages, etc. about not tolerating CST.

Strip Clubs

A strip club is supposed to be a legal business where adult women voluntarily strip as a form of employment. However, the reality is that people dancing in strip clubs are often induced to work there due to vulnerabilities and limited life opportunities. In addition, minors are often exploited in strip clubs. Perhaps most arresting is the fact that some people in strip clubs are there because they are sex trafficking victims: they are either minors (as mentioned), or they are being forced or coerced to strip, and believe they’d experience serious harm if they tried to leave the situation.

Just like other forms of commercial sexual exploitation, the business owners (traffickers) making money off the exploitation threaten the women and girls under their control and manipulate or coerce them into telling purchasers that they are there out of their own free will. The business owners (traffickers) are usually successful at
misleading the public into believing that the people working in strip clubs are all adults, are all there by choice, and are all allowed to keep all or most of their money. It’s important to realize that when a person patronizes a strip club, the patron has little way of knowing whether s/he is supporting prostitution, whether the people stripping are under 18, whether they are being forced or coerced to work, or whether they get to keep the money they earn.

Without being inside a strip club, it may be difficult to identify whether prostitution or sex trafficking is taking place, and even then, it is difficult. Nonetheless, you can advocate that local strip clubs adopt policies aimed at preventing prostitution, or introduce city or state legislation to demand that strip clubs take proactive steps to end sexual exploitation. Examples:

• In 2005, The Seattle City Council passed a firm set of rules for local strip clubs. The rules require a 4 foot distance between patrons and performers, brighter lights, tip jars, more clothes, and no more drapes or doors that would create private or VIP areas away from direct viewing where the prostitution could occur.

• Ohio passed a bill which requires clubs to close between midnight and 6 a.m., has a “no touching policy” between patrons and performers, enforces strict alcohol policies, creates lighting requirements, and provides no private or VIP areas/rooms.

To help ensure that prostitution does not take place in a neighborhood strip club, community members can consider advocating for similar legislation or policies.

Individual Actions

Individuals have the power to make change happen regarding sexual exploitation. The following are ways you and your community can be proactive in addressing demand for commercial sex in your neighborhood.

Monitor potential sex trafficking activity occurring in your neighborhood:

Individuals can take actions against sexual exploitation that may be occurring in local businesses. The information provided below is to help report any exploitative behavior employed by pimps and johns. It is not to be used as a means of reporting the women and girls who are being prostituted.

1) Fake Massage Establishments

If you think individuals are being prostituted in a business using massage therapy as a front in your neighborhood, you can report it to The Compliance and Investigation Division of Chicago at 312-747-5185.

There is also an ordinance to help you ensure that only legitimate massage businesses are allowed to operate in your community. According to Chapter 4-92 of the Municipal Code of Chicago (Massage Establishments and Massage Services):

• Front windows are to be clear glass, not painted, darkened, or blocked by any cloth or obstruction.
• One needs to have the ability to view the front greeting area of the massage parlor from outside the building.
• Current and valid licensing needs to be placed in a location viewable by entering patrons.
What to look for:
• Darkened, obstructed, or covered windows
• Expired or nonexistent license
• Suggestive advertising
• People coming and going at odd times
• Mostly male clientele

For the full text of this ordinance, see the thumb drive.

2) Strip Clubs and Bars

Similar to strip clubs, bars can be a difficult place to identify if prostitution activity is occurring. Nonetheless, one should still be aware and conscious of potential illegal activity. Below is a list of signs community members can look for to assess if prostitution activity is happening behind strip club and bar doors: what to look for in strip clubs and bars:
• Private or VIP rooms
• Discarded condoms
• Violations of regulations regarding performers, patrons, liquor sales, lights, and hours of operation
• People who appear to be under 18 either patronizing the club or performing
• Performers who have cuts/bruises, who look particularly exhausted, or who won’t make eye contact. (It’s important to note, however, that a performer who looks “fine” can still be experiencing force or coercion keeping her in the situation.)

How to report massage parlors, strip clubs, and bars where prostitution may be occurring:

If businesses or individuals notice any of the above activity, they should contact the Compliance and Investigation Division of Chicago. This division conducts investigations to ensure that the laws governing business licensing are upheld to preserve public safety and welfare. Telephone: 312.747.5185, Fax: 312.747.9016.

3) Brothels

Brothels are defined as establishments dedicated specifically to prostitution and are always illegal in Chicago. Though difficult to identify, there are a few signs that a location might be a brothel. What to look for:
• Darkened, covered, or obstructed windows
• People coming and going often and at odd hours
• Cars and vehicular traffic that seem inconsistent with neighborhood norms
• Mostly males coming in/out

How to report brothels:

Call 911 and provide the address as well as descriptions of pimps and johns. You can also call 911 to report pimps and johns at any of the above businesses. If possible, provide the following descriptions of potential johns and pimps/traffickers:
1) Color and type of clothing
2) Physical description of the person
3) Description of car
4) License plate number
5) Any other identifying information of the individual(s)

If the 911 operator asks for a description of the individual in prostitution, please do not provide information. Please keep in mind that the purpose of reporting is NOT to criminalize the women and girls who are prostituted, but instead to take action against the pimps and traffickers who maintain the demand for and profit from prostitution.
Take direct action:

If you suspect someone is in your neighborhood for the purposes of purchasing sex (such as driving in circles around areas known for high levels of prostitution), you can make them feel self-conscious about their actions by taking their picture. Taking pictures of buyers, their cars, and their license plates can aid police in their investigations and serve as a deterrent to those planning to purchase sex. Even just pretending to take pictures can be enough to scare off potential buyers. In addition, you can write down license plate numbers. Similar to taking pictures, writing down license plate numbers serves both to assist police and deter demand. Again, even just appearing to take down a license plate number can serve as a deterrent.

Raise awareness and continue learning about the issue:

There are many films and books about human trafficking and prostitution. Further your personal knowledge about the issue by checking out any of our recommended resources, or facilitate a book club or film screening for a group of friends or your neighborhood. Develop action steps from these activities to apply what you learned. Reach out to other organizations and committees in your community, and engage them in your activities. You can find a list of our recommended films and books in our reference section at the end of this toolkit.

How To Report The Information

• Please call 311 today with this information or
• File the report online at www.CLEARPATH@chicagopolice.org
  
  Click: “Online Crime Reporting” or “Report a concern about an issue affecting your neighborhood”

• Call 911: for emergencies & if the crime is in progress
• Call 31 to file a police report after the crime has occurred and the offender is gone.

Important: With either of these actions make sure that there is no potential of physical harm to you. Always assess a situation before you choose to act.
**Add a personal dimension:**
At times we find ourselves so removed from an issue that we can’t imagine that it is happening in our communities. As a community member, you can help raise awareness about the issue by hosting an “educational hour” and inviting a survivor of prostitution or expert on the issue to come and share their story with your friends, civic group, faith group, neighborhood, or entire community. This is a great opportunity to create dialogue around these important issues. If you are interested in having someone speak to your community, please contact Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation at info@caase.org.

“For too long, exploited children have been treated as criminals, while the adults who stole their innocence go free. Illinois does not tolerate exploitation of our children. Today, we give important new tools to aid law enforcement in this fight and help our victimized children to heal.”

-Gov. Quinn

**Distribute information on criminal and civil consequences:**
Pimping and soliciting sex are illegal! There are serious legal consequences that need to be brought to the attention of pimps and johns. You can download the Sex Trade Consumers and Illinois Law cards from the thumb drive and distribute to community members, including law enforcement and public defenders. Law enforcement can provide this information to the pimps and johns they encounter. *(Local Laws and Legislation Folder: Johns.ppt)*

**Use fair trade coffee or have traffic-free chocolate parties:**
Buying fair trade is the only way to ensure people were not trafficked/enslaved in the production of a good or service. Buy fair trade and traffic-free chocolate and coffee and use them as an entry point for conversations with friends, family, and neighbors about human trafficking, both abroad and in Illinois. Use fair trade coffee at community and private functions and encourage surrounding communities (especially schools, colleges, and local shops) to do the same. Learn more about fair trade products at http://transfairusa.org and www.betterworldshopper.com.

**Distribute information on legal options:**
Though often unknown to both community members and individuals in prostitution, women involved in the sex trade industry have a variety of civil legal rights and options. You can download Legal Options cards from the thumb drive and pass them out to community members, outreach workers, businesses, organizations, and directly to women who you know are involved in prostitution. *(Local Laws and Legislation Folder: Judges and Attorneys.ppt)*

Learn more about the importance of using fair trade by reading about it on the thumb drive under “Take Action” *(CAASE_FairTrade.pdf)*
Advocate to implement CAASE’s prevention curriculum in your local high school:
Empowering Young Men in Ending Sexual Exploitation is a curriculum aimed at preventing young men from sexually exploiting others and patronizing the sex trade. It is designed to help increase a young man’s empathy for women and girls in the sex trade, and empower them to confront the normalization of the sex trade in their social groups and within the broader culture. For additional information, please see curriculum appendix on the thumb drive. (Take Action Folder: CAASE_Curriculum.pdf)

Film Recommendation
Host a screening of Shared Hope International’s “Demand” Video, included with this kit. This provocative film shows the sex industry as it truly is—not the glamorized world portrayed by Hollywood, but a world of darkness and violence. Hosting a screening and discussion helps spread awareness about the impact of demand on the sex industry.

The following are on the thumb drive:
1) Instructions on how to host a community screening
2) Discussion questions
3) Outline of how to create an action plan

(Take Action Folder: CAASE_Demand_FilmQuestions.pdf)

Involves Parents of Young Men:
Encourage parents to use the Parent toolkit. This toolkit trains parents to educate their sons on the impact of gender stereotypes and sexual exploitation. The toolkit is included on the thumb drive. (Take Action Folder: CAASE_Parent_Toolkit.pdf)

Reach out to college students:
The college toolkit guides students towards developing chapters of CAASE at their universities. The toolkit is included on the thumb drive. (Take Action Folder: CAASE_College_Toolkit.pdf)

Reach out to faith communities:
CAASE has created toolkits to help faith communities understand issues of sexual exploitation in a way that is spiritually relevant to their congregation. Meet with churches or temples in your community, educate them about the issue, and then provide them one with a toolkit so they can be part of the solution. The Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish toolkits are included on the thumb drive. (Communities of Faith Folder)

Call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center at 1.888.373.7888 if you suspect anything.
Work with law enforcement to implement the Illinois Safe Children’s Act:
In August of 2010 Illinois passed a law that provides complete criminal immunity to prostituted youth. Work with law enforcement to implement the provisions outlined in the bill. For information on the bill please see the summary on the thumb drive. For help with working with law enforcement on enacting the bill, please contact CAASE’s Advocacy Director Lynne Johnson at: lynne@caase.org.

Get involved with district subcommittee meetings:
Contact the Community Policing Office in your local district for information on subcommittee meetings. Choose one, such as the domestic violence subcommittee, and attend the monthly meetings to become informed about the issue and to bring the issue of sexual exploitation to the table. You find your local district at the link below: https://portal.chicagopolice.org/portal/page/portal/ClearPath/Communities/Districts

Volunteer at an organization that helps women or children involved in the sex trade:
Volunteer your time and talents and help make a difference! Partner with organizations that are working on this issue. Many organizations/coalitions are looking for individuals that are interested in supporting this work through volunteer time, collaborative community efforts, and donations. Areas of need can be found in medical care, translation, job placement, housing, legal services, and mentoring. The more people involved, the stronger the impact. Chicago-based organizations working to end sexual exploitation can be found in the Chicago Resources section. If you need assistance in finding an organization that matches your skill set and interests, please contact CAASE: info@caase.org.
Advocacy Efforts

Build a relationship with your aldermen/city mayor/senators/representatives:
Help your elected representative understand the importance of not re-victimizing women in his or her community. Advocate for eliminating sexual exploitation by targeting those causing the harm: pimps, other traffickers, and those purchasing commercial sex, instead of re-victimizing prostituted individuals by allowing them to be arrested and jailed for “prostitution.”

Most political leaders have one day a week that their office is open specifically for meeting with their constituents. Call ahead to confirm times and to schedule a meeting to introduce yourself and your recommendations.

In Chicago you can find your alderman at the website below:
http://www.chicityclerk.com/citycouncil/ alderman/find.html

The Chicago mayor’s office:

Find your state and federal representatives at the website below under the title “Illinois Legislative Action Center- My Elected Officials.”
http://capwiz.com/cfw/state/main/?state=I

Pornography

Pornography is another sex industry sector in which women and children are both sexually exploited and forced/coerced into sex for other people’s profit. As with other forms of commercial sex, people in pornography—particularly more violent pornography—are often manipulated, coerced, or forced, and some are minors. People forced/coerced into pornography and minors in pornography are trafficking victims under federal law, just as minors and people forced/coerced into other forms of commercial sex are. Moreover, pornography usually depicts sex that is degrading to women; this serves to normalize sex that treats women as objects for another person to use, regardless of the consequences to the woman.

Individuals can take action against pornography and the harms it entails by refusing to purchase it.

Businesses such as video/DVD vendors and hotels can choose to stop selling (and profiting from) pornography, and can educate their customers about why they’ve chosen to stop supporting porn.

“Clean Hotels” Initiative

The Minnesota Department of Health’s Sexual Violence Prevention Program and the Minnesota Men’s Action Network: Alliance to Prevent Sexual and Domestic Violence collaborated to develop the “Clean Hotels” Initiative. This anti-pornography initiative is one effort to create safe and healthy communities by curbing the mainstreaming of sexually violent and degrading material.
Call for Action:

These two organizations are asking that businesses, public/private organizations, and municipalities modify their meeting facility policy to clarify that meetings and conferences will be held in facilities that do not offer in-room adult pay-per-view pornography, and that travel policies are amended to reimburse employees’ lodging costs only when staying at hotels that do not offer in-room adult pay-per-view pornography. They have created a model policy that can be easily adapted for these purposes. In this way, they collectively remove support for the mainstreaming of this sexually violent material and begin changing the environment which supports violence against women, girls, and boys.

How you can help:

They created several documents that can assist you in the development of policies at your state and local levels of government, as well as private businesses, organizations, and agencies. These documents can be found on the thumb drive or on the Minnesota Men’s Action Network: Alliance to Prevent Sexual and Domestic Violence website: www.menaspeacmakers.org/programs/mnmanv(MNMAN Folder: what_you_can_do.pdf; MnMan_Booklet.pdf)

Legislative Success!

Voicing your concerns to legislators can bring about positive change.

End Demand Illinois’ first legislative initiative was signed into law by Gov. Quinn in August 2010. The Illinois Safe Children Act makes all children under the age of 18 immune from prosecution from prostitution, under any circumstances. If a child exploited in prostitution is encountered by law enforcement, she/he may be taken into temporary protective custody, and law enforcement must notify DCFS, which in turn must initiate an investigation into child abuse within 24 hours. The bill also raises penalties and limits the availability of affirmative defenses for those exploiting minors. The bill provides the possibility of additional funding for services to survivors of human trafficking and prostitution through expanded vehicle impoundment fees. Finally, the bill expands law enforcement’s ability to engage in wiretapping during investigations into human trafficking crimes.

You can read the entire legislation at http://www.ilga.gov/legislation Search HB 6462 or read the summary on the thumb drive. (Local Laws and LegislationFolder; IL Safe Children Act Summary Aug 2010 Final.pdf)
Use the Media:

If you see something in the media or print that promotes or glorifies the exploitation of women, write a letter to the editor/producer. All papers/magazines/media have an avenue for this. If you see advertising or billboards that are offensive and/or degrading, you have the right to contact the company or publisher and inform them of your opinion and ask for change. To access CAASE’s guide on how to respond to harmful depictions of the sex trade in the media, please visit: http://www.caase.org or see Media Action included in this toolkit. (Take Action Folder: CAASE_Media_Toolkit.pdf)

Public Service Announcements:

Myths about prostitution and admiration of pimps are consistently reinforced by the media, including radio stations, magazines, films, music videos, and television. But just as the media is used to supply our minds with misleading messages, you can utilize the media to educate others on the harms of sexual exploitation. This section provides ideas on how to generate public service announcements about sexual exploitation. Radio stations are required to provide free air time for a certain number of public service announcements (PSAs) each year. Take advantage of this opportunity and submit a PSA to be played on the radio. For more detailed information on how to respond to harmful depictions of the sex trade in the media, please see the Media Action Toolkit. (Take Action Folder: CAASE_Media_Toolkit.pdf)

Submitting your PSA:

Here are some tips to increase the likelihood of a radio station choosing your PSA:

- Identify yourself and/or your organization in a clear and concise manner.
- Provide phonetic pronunciation of your name and/or your organization’s name.
- Identify an exact release date.
- Find out ahead of time the time limit for PSAs with that station, and keep yours under the limit.
- Deliver a single, clear, concise message.

Raise funds to pay for radio space for your PSA in case it is not chosen to be played for free. Look to local businesses and key community officials to help raise the necessary funds.

Examples of Chicago Radio Stations to Contact:

- WTMX 101.9 The Mix, Skokie, IL http://www.wtmx.com
- WXRT 93.1 Chicago’s Finest Rock Chicago, IL http://wxrt.com
- WLUW 88.7 Loyola University Chicago, IL http://www.wluw.org
- WHPK 88.5 University of Chicago, Chicago, IL http://whpk.org
- WBEZ 9.1 Chicago Public Radio, Chicago, IL http://www.chicagopublicradio.org

Potential scripts to send radio stations:

Thinking about purchasing sex in the Windy City? Then you should know that the average age of entry into prostitution is 13 years old and average life expectancy after entry is just seven years. The FBI has designated Chicago as a top location with a high concentration of children being prostituted. So, if you’re thinking about purchasing sex in the Windy City, think about the fact that you might be purchasing sex from a child.
Thinking about purchasing sex in the Windy City? Then get ready for your close up. If you are caught, your name and your picture will be posted on the internet and your friends, family, and coworkers will know. So, if you think purchasing sex in the Windy City doesn’t have any consequences, think again.

Thinking about purchasing sex in the Windy City? It costs more than you think. Your car could be impounded, you could pay up to $1,500 in fines, and you can go to jail! Your car, money and freedom - all gone at once. So, if you’re thinking about purchasing sex in the Windy City, think again.

Think prostitution is a victimless crime? Ninety percent of women in prostitution in Chicago have experienced physical and sexual violence while in prostitution. None of these harms would exist if it weren’t for the customers who keep the sex trade alive. It’s time to end sexual exploitation by focusing on those who supply the money which keeps women and children in the sex trade. Make it known that purchasing sex is not tolerated in your community. Report pimps and “johns” to the police. You can help end sexual harm in your community.

Use Posters to Raise Awareness About the Harms of Prostitution

Community groups throughout the world are finding innovative ways to use posters to raise awareness about the harmful aspects of the sex industry. We encourage your community to do the same. We have included posters you can download and print for your own use. There are posters both below and included on the thumb drive. We have also provided examples of other poster campaigns used throughout the world in case your community is interested in designing its own posters.

If you are interested in designing your own posters, it is always a good idea to contact graphic design programs at local universities to see if their students would be interested in working with you pro-bono. You can also contact professors to see if they would consider assigning the poster design as a class project.
This business is all about pleasure.

Sex trafficking? Not in the second city.

For those in prostitution, it’s far more likely to be about pain.

According to the FBI, traffickers are exploiting people here every day.

enddemandillinois.org | For help call 1-888-3737-888

The vast majority of prostituted women and girls were childhood victims of sexual abuse. Many entered the sex trade while still in their teens, after fleeing abusive homes. The average age of death for a prostituted woman? Just 34 years old.

On any given day, over 16,000 Chicago-area women and girls are prostituted. And because prostitution and sex trafficking can occur at strip clubs, private parties and fake massage businesses, it’s happening more often than you might think.

enddemandillinois.org | For help call 1-888-3737-888

Posters to download from thumb drive:
The PROSTITUTION MYTH

If a woman chooses to sell her body that’s her business.

The UGLY TRUTH

Prostitution is rarely a choice.

Most prostituted people entered the sex trade while still in their teens, after fleeing abusive homes. They’re coerced by pimps and johns who too often abuse them. Without economic support, breaking free is more difficult than you might think.

enddemandillinois.org | For help call 1-888-3737-888

The PROSTITUTION MYTH

I don’t know anyone who pays for sex.

The UGLY TRUTH

Yes, you probably do.

On any given day, over 16,000 Chicago-area women and girls are prostituted. And because prostitution and sex trafficking can occur at strip clubs, private parties and fake massage businesses, it’s happening more often than you might think.

enddemandillinois.org | For help call 1-888-3737-888
The PROSTITUTION MYTH

Get rich. Work in prostitution.

The UGLY TRUTH

Pimps keep the profits, and prostituted women often pay with their lives.

Many people in prostitution are recruited into the sex trade by pimps who use the threat of violence to force them to meet daily quotas. And because violence against prostituted people is common, they far too often pay the ultimate price.

enddemandillinois.org | For help call 1-888-3737-888

The PROSTITUTION MYTH

It’s the world’s oldest profession.

The UGLY TRUTH

It’s a dangerous form of exploitation.

80% of prostituted persons have experienced violence at the hands of their pimps or Johns. Homicide rates for women in prostitution are 51 times higher than the next most dangerous occupation. The average age of death is just 34 years old.

enddemandillinois.org | For help call 1-888-3737-888
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Resources
Ten Must Read Books

1. A Crime So Monstrous: Face-to-Face with Modern-Day Slavery
   **Author:** E. Benjamin Skinner.  
   **Free Press, 2008.**  
   Journalist E. Benjamin Skinner gives several accounts of current slaves and traffickers, but emphasizes slavery victims in Haiti, Sudan, Romania and India. Their stories, conditions, and abolition are recorded and analyzed.

2. A Piece of Cake
   **Author:** Cupcake Brown.  
   **Crown Publishers, 2006.**  
   Cupcake's story encompasses foster care, child abuse, rape, drug dealing and addiction, alcoholism, gang activity, prostitution, and homelessness. In this original narrative, she is able to overcome these obstacles with the help of both friends and strangers.

3. Bodies and Souls
   **Author:** Isabel Vincent.  
   **HarperCollins Publishers, 2005.**  
   The story of Jewish women victimized in the sex trade from the late 1860s to the beginning of the Second World War is told through academic studies and true stories. In South America, South Africa, India, and New York, these women, shunned by the Jewish community, formed their own Jewish order spreading love and acceptance.

   **Author:** Victor Malarek.  
   **Arcade Press, 2009**  
   The journalist and author of The Natashas writes another expose on the sex industry, its customers, and the women who are trafficked from around the world into sexual slavery to meet the demand for paid sex.

5. Listening to Olivia
   **Author:** Jody Raphael.  
   **Northeastern University Press, 2004.**  
   Jody Raphael gives voice to Olivia, a former prostitute and stripper who worked and suffered from drug addiction, abuse, and poverty in Chicago. Olivia overcame her obstacles and now works to help women exit the sex trade and leave behind a life of shame and harm.

6. The Macho Paradox
   **Author:** Jackson Katz.  
   **Sourcebooks, Inc. 2006.**  
   Katz’ intended audience is all men, who, he says, have a central role to play in preventing male violence against women. His basic assertion is that rape, battering, sexual abuse and harassment are so widespread that they must be viewed as a social problem rooted in our culture, not as the problem of troubled individuals.
7 The Natashas
The trend in Eastern European girls being forced into the sex trade is examined—how they get there, what happens, how they survive—and its impact on globalization.

8 Not for Sale: The return of the Global Slave Trade and How We Can Fight It
Journalist/professor/editor David Batstone profiles the new generation of abolitionists who are leading the struggle to end modern-day slavery.

9 Prostitution, Trafficking, and Traumatic Stress
This book analyzes all aspects of the sex industry: from impoverished Mexican prostituted women to those trafficked around the world, and highlights the various forms of harm they face.

10 Sold
Author: Patricia McCormick. Hyperion, 2006
Sold is a fictional story of 13-year-old Lakshmi from Nepal who is sold into prostitution as a means to secure money for her family, and held against her will in a brothel in India. This book is suitable for young adults.
Eleven Must See Films

1. **Bangkok Girl**
   19-year-old Pla tells of her experience trying to avoid prostitution while working in a bar in Thailand since the age of 13. The film shows how, with time, she will inevitably be forced into the trade (42 min).

2. **Call and Response**
   CALL+RESPONSE is a first of its kind feature documentary film that reveals the world’s 27 million dirtiest secrets: there are more slaves today than ever before in human history. CALL+RESPONSE goes deep undercover where slavery is thriving—from the child brothels of Cambodia to the slave brick kilns of rural India—to reveal that in 2007, Slave Traders made more money than Google, Nike and Starbucks combined (89 min).

3. **Demand**
   This documentary exposes the men who buy commercial sex, the vulnerable women and children sold as commodities, and the facilitators of the sex trade and the exploitation it entails. (45 min).

4. **Holly**
   An American stolen artifacts dealer comes across a 12 year old Vietnamese girl sold by her family into prostitution. The film focuses on his attempt to bring the girl to safety and raise awareness about child trafficking (114 min).

5. **Lilya 4 Ever**
   At 16 in the former Soviet Union, Lilya is left by her mother. Tricked into prostitution, the film tells the story of the horror Lilya’s life soon becomes and her psychological response to the trauma. (109 min).
6 Not for Sale
This documentary investigates the 27 million individuals ensnared in the modern day slave trade. Undercover footage covers trafficking operations and what modern-day abolitionists are doing to fight the rampant terrors of human trafficking in the US and abroad (85 min).

7 Playground
This documentary exposes the untold story of the commercial child sex industry. The heart of the story is the search for Michelle, an American girl lost to the underbelly of childhood sexual exploitation who has yet to resurface a decade after disappearing (87 min).

8 Svetlana’s Journey
2008. Based on a true story, this drama describes the experience of a young Bulgarian girl sold by her adopted parents for only 10,000 euros to a pimp for sexual exploitation (40 min).

9 Trade
A girl from Mexico City is abducted into modern day slavery, and her brother goes on a quest to rescue her. (119 min)

10 Turning A Corner
A documentary that tells the stories of those affected by the sex trade in Chicago and their efforts to create policy reforms to end the harms experienced by those in prostitution (60 min).

11 Very Young Girls
This film follows 13 and 14 year old girls in New York and addresses the mistreatment and abuse they endure as prostituted young women. Rachel Lloyd, a survivor herself, runs GEMS, a recovery center that is dedicated to supporting these girls as they exit the sex trade (84 min).
Chicago-based Organizations
Direct Service/Outreach

Anne’s House
Anne’s House is a residential home for up to 8 young women and girls who are victims of commercial sexual exploitation/sex trafficking. The home provides a safe environment, long term trauma treatment, life skills training, spiritual support, education, anger management, money management, and recreational activities.
For additional information:
http://www.sapromise.org

Dreamcatcher Foundation
This small non-profit is run by survivors of the sex trade. They provide health services, counseling, referrals to transitional housing and addiction treatment, employment placement, and educational support for young women between the ages of 12-25 who have survived the sex trade.
For additional information:
http://dianetye.com/dreamcatcherfoundation/index1.html
773-936-9898

Footprints
Footprints offers hope and rehabilitative services to girls and women exposed to the trauma of the sex trade. It also facilitates substance abuse and HIV prevention for women arrested for prostitution in Cook County.
For additional information:
www.cchc-online.org 773-533-5600

Human Trafficking Hotline
1-888-3737-888 is the national 24-hour hotline to report suspected cases of trafficking, find victim resources (including crisis intervention and urgent and non-urgent referrals), and to request comprehensive anti-trafficking resources and technical assistance.

National Runaway Switchboard
The mission of the National Runaway Switchboard is to help keep America’s runaway and at-risk youth safe and off the streets. Their 24-hour crisis line has experienced front-line team members ready to help. Their services are anonymous, confidential and free.
For additional information:
http://www.1800runaway.org/
1-800-RUNAWAY.

The Night Ministry
The Night Ministry connects with Chicago’s vulnerable youth and adults through street outreach, youth shelter, and other supportive services, and their mobile health outreach bus. They provide basic resources, free healthcare, housing and supportive services for youth and referrals to other agencies for specific resources.
For additional information:
http://www.thenightministry.org/
773-784-9000
STOP IT
STOP IT aids in the elimination of human trafficking by helping to rescue and protect survivors of the sex industry, and by helping to prosecute traffickers and other exploiters. They do outreach to victims of trafficking and educate the community to recognize and identify possible trafficking victims. Call the STOP IT 24 hour Hotline (1-877-606-3158) to report a suspected case of human trafficking, including commercial sexual exploitation of children, other forms of sex trafficking, and labor trafficking.
For additional information: 773-275-6233 X3029

Young Women’s Empowerment Project
The Young Women’s Empowerment Project is a community based youth led project that was founded in 2001 by a radical feminist and harm reduction based collective of women and girls involved in the sex trade and street economy and their allies. They were created by women and girls who believe that any girl can be empowered and that all girls are priceless, creative, and smart and can be leaders in their communities. YWEP offers girls involved in the sex trade and street economy ages 12-23 non-judgmental support, harm reduction information, and other resources.
For additional information: www.youarepriceless.org
Advocacy

Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation
CAASE is committed to building a global community free from sexual exploitation. We know that all forms of sexual exploitation, including sexual assault and the commercial sex trade, are detrimental to a healthy society and undermine the dignity of all people. CAASE believes in stopping sexual exploitation by directly addressing the culture, institutions, and individuals that perpetrate, profit from, or tacitly support sexually exploitive acts against people. To accomplish our mission, CAASE: seeks legal repercussions against perpetrators of sexual harm; advocates for policies and legislation that hold sexual exploiters accountable; creates and implements prevention initiatives; and develops resources that empower individuals and communities to take actions against sexual exploiters. For additional information: www.caase.org 773-244-2230

Partnership to Rescue Our Minors from Sexual Exploitation
PROMISE is a Chicago faith-based organization working against the sexual exploitation of minors. The Mission of PROMISE is to address, in a holistic manner, the problem of commercial sexual exploitation of all those under age 18 in the Chicago area by focusing on: Prevention, Intervention, Outreach and Service Provision. For additional information: www.sapromise.org 312.286.2011

Prostitution Alternatives Round Table
Prostitution Alternatives Round Table (PART) is a network of city, state, county, and private non-profit organizations and survivors of prostitution dedicated to addressing prostitution and homelessness in Chicago. PART is a project of the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless. PART has an active Steering Committee and Committee of Survivors of Prostitution that lead and organize its initiatives. For additional information: www.chicagohomeless.org 312-435-4548

Soroptimist
Soroptimist is an international organization comprised of professional women working to improve the lives of women throughout the world through raising public awareness, fundraising, programming, and membership. For additional information: http://www.soroptimist.org/

Traffick Free
Traffick Free is an organization dedicated to raising awareness about human trafficking through conducting presentations to churches, schools, and groups. They also serve as a liaison with the community, linking community members with trafficking service providers for educational opportunities, trainings, and volunteer opportunities. For additional information: www.traffickfree.org.
## Toolkit Thumbdrive Index

*Additional information can be found on the thumbdrive.*

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