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**Definition: Sex Trafficking**

- Sex trafficking within the U.S. is defined as commercial sex acts induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person has not attained 18 years of age
- Oppression
- Human sex trafficking is a form of **slavery and involuntary servitude** resulting in grave human rights violations. Sex trafficking involves individuals profiting from the sexual exploitation of others and has severe physical and psychological consequences for its victims.

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**FORCE**

- Physical assault
- Assaults with objects
- Burning
- Branding
- Sexual assaults
- Gang Rape
- Drugs
- Confinement
- Isolation
- Malnourishment

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### FRAUD

- False Promises
- Deception
- Affection
- Promises of love, better life, money
- Blackmail and extortion
- Illegal Contracts

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### COERCION

- Threat of physical harm
- Threats to loved ones
- Threat of Sexual Violence
- Humiliation
- Emotional Abuse
- Control
- Dependency
- Withholding basic needs

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### Types of Sexual Exploitation

- |                                  |                     |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| • Prostitution-<br>Backpage.com  | • Strip/Dance Clubs |
| • Hotels-95 Corridor,<br>Route 6 | • Pornography       |
| • Gangs                          | • Brothels          |
| • Familial                       | • Massage parlors   |
|                                  | • Escort Services   |

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### Community Perception of CSEC




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### Changing the Perception




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### Myths Vs. Facts

- **MYTH:** Trafficking only happens in big cities/high crime areas
- **FACT:** This happens EVERYWHERE
  
- **MYTH:** Trafficking/CSEC is more of an international problem
- **FACT:** Domestic AND International. This is happening in R.I. and throughout the entire U.S.
  
- **MYTH:** Most CSEC victims get into the life to support a drug habit
- **FACT:** Many of these children started abusing drugs/alcohol AFTER getting into the life as a coping mechanism; pimps often give drugs to victims to coerce them or create dependency (Power & Control)

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### Myths vs. Facts

- **MYTH:** This only happens to girls
- **FACT:** Youth of all gender identities are at risk of being victimized
- **MYTH:** These children **CHOSE** to do this
- **FACT:** Children **DO NOT** wake up one day and decide to sell their bodies. Pimps/exploiters often put them through an extensive grooming process. This process, coupled with elements of force, fraud, and coercion, can lead directly to commercial sexual exploitation.

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**FACTS**

- Average age entering into CSEC is 14
- Up to 90% were sexually abused prior
- Traffickers can earn up to \$1,000,000 per year with 4 victims
- Estimated up to 330,000 kids in the US each year

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### Who is at risk?

- **ALL CHILDREN ARE AT RISK**
- Child welfare involved youth
- Sexually abused children
- All teens seeking attention and relationships
- Attachment, attachment, attachment
- Developmental disabilities
- Bullied youth
- Minorities, immigrants, and refugees
- LGBTQ+ youth (over 40% of the homeless youth population)
- Runaways and missing children

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### Why?

- People can be sold OVER and OVER....
- Power and Control- Victims don't tell
- \$99 BILLION annually!
- DEMAND!

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**Demand fuels the purchase of human beings for sex.** Demand is comprised of a culture that tolerates or promotes sexual exploitation; men who buy commercial sex; exploiters who make up the sex industry; and states that are complicit in providing safe haven for pimps and traffickers.



**IF THERE WAS NO DEMAND, THERE WOULD BE NO CSEC!**

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### Recruitment

- Social Media- Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Kik, etc.
- Group homes- Pimps know them **ALL**
- Friends in group homes/foster care
- Familial- for drugs or income
- Gangs
- "agents" for stripping
- Malls/areas known for runaways
- Kennedy Plaza
- Schools and parks

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### The Grooming Process...

- Girls are flattered and flirted with
- Pimps start to “rescue” them and take them out
- Pimps begin to buy gifts and tell the girls they are their “boyfriend”
- Get the girl to sexually engage
- Introduce to drugs/alcohol
- “If you really love me.....”
- HOOKED

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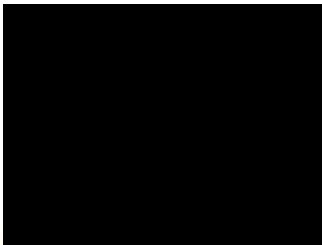
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### The Making of a Girl



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### Case Study

- What are some of the key factors that made Wendy vulnerable to exploitation?
- What are some of the tactics that the traffickers used to recruit Wendy?
- What were some of the barriers that might have played a role in keeping Wendy at that hotel room?

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### Why Victims Stay...

#### Many Reasons:

- May be fearful or mistrustful of authority figures
- Fear of being arrested
- Money/basic needs
- Fear for their own physical safety or for their family
- Drugs/addiction
- They may have been taken to an unknown location where they do not know anyone but their exploiter
- They may not realize that they are being victimized
- Scared/unsure of how they will survive without exploiter
- May be returning to a situation that is even worse

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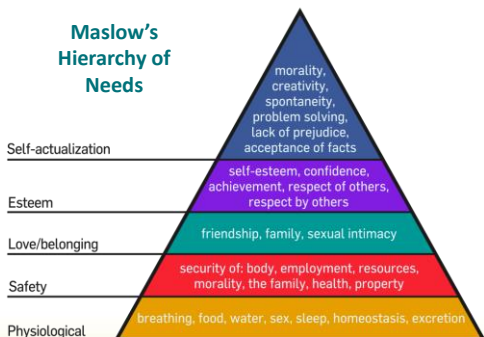
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### Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs



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### Trauma Bonds and Stockholm Syndrome: What Needs to be Present?

#### Four Factors:

- A perceived threat to one's physical or psychological survival
- A perceived small kindness from the abuser to the victim
- Isolation
- The perceived inability to escape

#### Examples: Elizabeth Smart and Shawn Hornbeck

- Kidnapped and abused; formed bond with abusers
- Had the opportunity to escape but didn't
- Media and public were sympathetic; They were viewed as VICTIMS

Adapted from GEMS

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**Stockholm Syndrome and Trauma Bonds**

**What to look for:**

- Signs of trauma/PTSD
- Denies/rationalizes violence
- Believes they have some control over the abuse
- Self-blame
- Wants to keep exploiter happy
- Sees the world from exploiter's perspective
- Sees pimp as good guy/protector
- Sees exploiter as victim
- Is thankful/grateful that pimp hasn't killed them
- Sees outside authorities/providers as bad Guys

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**QUESTIONS ON WHY VICTIMS STAY???**

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**Who needs to be involved with CSEC Victims?**

- EVERYONE: they are all of our kids....
- Teachers
- Doctors
- Social workers
- Law enforcement
- Counselors
- Spiritual leaders and organizations
- Mentorship programs
- After school programs
- Group homes
- Prosecutors/attorney
- Homeless shelters

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### Identification – ASK!

- Have you ever had to exchange sex for money, food, shelter, or personal items?
- Have any of your friends ever been asked to have sex for something?
- Has anyone ever asked you to have sex with someone else?

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### Interventions and Differences

Adult Survivor	Girl in the life
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation: guarded, cautious, ashamed</li> <li>• Talk about it as soon as it's identified</li> <li>• Creative, expressive therapies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation: angry, aloof, resistant</li> <li>• Allow connection before talking about her trafficking experience</li> <li>• Creative, expressive therapies and MOVEMENT</li> </ul>

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### Let's Start at the Beginning...

- Safety, shelter, food, medical care, legal advocacy...
- NON JUDGEMENT
- Meet them where THEY are
- Attachment- safety with other
- Don't overwhelm them
- Positive reinforcement
- Nurturance
- Mirroring
- Praise

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### Don't Give Up on Them...

- It takes an average of 6 encounters with a CSEC victim before they can feel safe enough to receive help
- MOST cases will return to the life and/or self-destructive behaviors prior to committing to therapy
- 6 encounters will be focused on basic needs!
- MANY cases have been exposed to substance abuse or other self-destructive behaviors
- MANY do not have stable living environments and struggle with access to mental health services (no transportation, not legal adults)

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### Impacts of CSEC on Victims

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>MIND</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self-destructive behaviors (i.e. cutting)</li> <li>• Depression</li> <li>• Suicide attempts</li> <li>• Anxiety</li> <li>• Dissociation</li> <li>• PTSD</li> <li>• Paranoia</li> <li>• Eating disorders</li> </ul> <p><b>BODY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• STIs, including HIV</li> <li>• Pregnancies</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Addiction</li> <li>• Physical impact of daily rape</li> <li>• Physical damage</li> <li>• Traumatic brain injury</li> </ul> <p><b>SOUL</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Isolation-disconnection from family and community</li> <li>• Rage</li> <li>• Intense grieving</li> <li>• Self-hatred/Self-blame</li> <li>• Despair</li> <li>• Hopelessness</li> </ul> |
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### Researched Treatments that Work

- Motivational Interviewing
- EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitization Reprocessing)- once trafficking experiences are discussed
- Sensory-motor based therapies
- Internal Family Systems
- Yoga
- Group
- MENTOR MENTOR MENTOR

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## RI Uniform Response Protocol for CSEC

Nearly three years ago a team of highly dedicated people came together to develop an effective system to respond to victims of human trafficking

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### Who Was Involved?

- R.I. Attorney General
- R.I. State Police
- Providence Police
- Cranston Police
- Warwick Police
- Pawtucket Police
- East Providence Police
- DCYF
- Department of Homeland Security Investigations
- U.S. Marshal Service
- U.S. Attorney's Office
- R.I. Public Defender's Office
- Day One
- Aubin Center at Hasbro

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### Focus Areas of RI Protocol

- Defining Victims
- Risk factors
- Screening
- Initial engagement with child
- Reports and notification of cases
- Initial responses (law enforcement and non-law-enforcement)
- Initial treatment and placement
- The MDT process

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### Care Coordination

- Day One’s Human Trafficking Advocate can go out and meet with both children and adults to provide a support system, offer resources, and coordinate necessary services
- Responsibilities of the Care Coordinator:
  - Individualized meetings with Youth and Adults
  - Assess needs/strengths of clients and build on those
  - Safety Planning/Crisis Intervention
  - Emergency Support
  - Assist with housing, transportation, child care, education, financial needs, food, clothing
  - Identify and Coordinate Appropriate Services




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### Additional Day One CSEC Programs

- **Survivor Mentorship**-Someone who was in “the life” and successfully made it out relates to these girls in a way that those on the outside cannot
- **Be Program**-empowers youth by allowing them to choose activities and personal interests they would like to pursue, connects youth with community mentors to participate in events that highlight their individual talents and interests, and allows members of the community to have an understanding of the strengths and challenges involving youth involved in human trafficking




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### Additional Resources

- **Gateway Healthcare:** *Gateway to Recovery* program offers trauma informed care to victims of sex trafficking
- **St. Mary’s Home for Children:** *Supporting Teens and Adults at Risk Project (STAAR)* for male and female CSEC survivors (up to age 25) and their families
- **My Life My Choice:** Prevention education curriculum held at Day One, St. Mary’s Home for Children, and Family Service of Rhode Island
- **Aubin Center:** Medical intervention for CSEC victims




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