Look Again...Do You See Me Now?

Lisa G. Bownds
Reflection Ministries of Texas

Mission: All students will graduate prepared and ready for college or career.
HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS CONTROLLING A PERSON FOR THE PURPOSE OF EXPLOITING THEM THROUGH SEXUAL OR LABOR ACTS BY MEANS OF FORGE, FRAUD OR COERCION
Human Trafficking In The United States

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Texas ranks #2 in the country for human trafficking cases.

Polaris Project

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Sex trafficking is a booming industry. It thrives because there is demand. Buyers fuel the market with their money.

Trafficker/Pimp: Exploits victims to earn revenue from buyers.

Victim: Includes girls, boys, men and women who are bought and sold for profit.

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THE PROFIT

1 Victim @ $1,000.00/day
$1,000.00 X 7 days = $7,000.00/week
$7,000.00 X 4 wks = $28,000.00/month
$28,000.00 X 12 mos = $336,000.00/year

1 trafficker w/ 3 victims can easily clear $1,000,000.00 year

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What Traffickers look like...

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WHO ARE TRAFFICKERS?

TRAFFICKERS ARE PEOPLE WHO EXPLOIT OTHERS FOR PROFIT. IN REALITY, TRAFFICKERS INCLUDE:

- People of all races
- Family members
- Boyfriend/girlfriend, peers
- Neighbors
- Professional pimps
- Gangs & criminal networks
- Businesses

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POWER & CONTROL

- Coercion, Threats
- Emotional Abuse
- Isolation
- Economic Abuse
- Denying, Blaming, Minimizing
- Intimidation
- Sexual Abuse
- Physical Abuse
- Using Privilege

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Rules to Pimp Home

1. Never disrespect your pimp.
2. Never let anyone disrespect your pimp.
3. Trust your pimp.
4. Stay loyal, rules die, stay honest with your pimp.
5. Never let black people see your face or eyes. Black only see the back of your head. Your pimp should be the only one.
6. Respond and talk to your pimp with manners and respect at all times using "daddy" in each sentence.
7. Be clean and dirty, side or die for your pimp even if it involves deceiving yourself. Your pimp is your primary and secondary reason to see the every need.
8. Always obey your pimp.

Use "Daddy" in every sentence.

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"With the young girls, you promise them heaven, they'll follow you to hell."

-----Arizona pimp

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1/3 of runaway children will be lured into prostitution within 48 hours of leaving home.
WHO ARE THE VICTIMS

- History of prior abuse or domestic violence
- Homelessness
- Lack of support networks
- Special needs or cognitive disabilities
- Juvenile justice system involved youth
- Runaway youth
- Foster care youth

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BECAUSE OF SOCIAL STIGMA OR MISINFORMATION, VICTIMS GO:

UNIDENTIFIED: SILENCED BY FEAR AND THE CONTROL OF THE TRAFFICKER

MISIDENTIFIED: PIGEONHOLED INTO TREATMENT FOR ONLY THE SURFACE ISSUES

SO:

SEX TRAFFICKED VICTIMS ARE INSTEAD TREATED FOR:

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UNDERSTANDING THE VICTIM'S MINDSET...

Trauma bonds
Complex trauma
PTSD
Inability to regulate
Emotions
OCD
Anxiety/depression
Dissociative disorders
Shame/self-blame
Belief in false promises
Drug addition
Hopelessness/resignation
Normalization
No where to turn

MISD
Midland Independent School District

REFLECTION MINISTRIES
A WELL-HIDDEN AMERICAN EPIDEMIC

Hundreds of thousands of victims each year

AMERICA
LAND OF THE FREE*
*SOME TERMS AND CONDITIONS MAY APPLY

Average life expectancy
7 years

Average age of entry
Girls 12-16
Boys 11-13

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TECHNOLOGY ALLOWS TRAFFICKERS TO MORE EASILY:

- Make contact or stalk victims
- Groom & recruit victims
- Control victims
- Employ sexting or sextortion tactics
- Advertise & market victims
- Connect with potential buyers
- Distance the trafficker from the crime

PLAYSTATION
75% PORNOGRAPHY

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ONLINE ADS....

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Ad Lingo

- Penis
- Marijuana
- Money or payment for services
- Safe sex – condom required
- Big butt

Ad Lingo

❤️ A minor, childlike or still has growing to do
❤️️ The girl is a minor
👑 The girl has a pimp
✈️ In town for a short amount of time or new in town
🌸 Vagina or virgin

420 friendly = will smoke marijuana
ParTy = drugs (meth)
DDR = Disease and drug free
PNP = Party n Play – drugs in exchange for sex
SK8 is used to describe someone as "drug and disease free" and carries a connotation of generosity and kindness
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MISD
Midland Independent School District

PORNOGRAPHY
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THE BUYER PROFILE

- 67% ARE WHITE EDUCATED MEN
- 66% HAVE CHILDREN
- 52% ARE MARRIED
- 11% ARE WOMEN

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Where Does It Happen?

- Hotels and motels
- Private Residence
- Truck stops
- Strip clubs and bars
- Major sporting events
- Street prostitution
- Commercial front brothels
- Schools/College Campus
- Man Camps
- Escort services
Victims frequently interact with...

WHO SEES THEM?

Victims are seen on average 8 times before someone recognizes they are a victim.
RECOGNIZING EXPLOITATION

Recognize that all students are at risk of exploitation.

There is no such thing as a “good kid” or a “bad kid” when it comes to exploitation.

Recognize that traffickers, recruiters, and victims’ cross ethnic, racial, gender, socioeconomic, and age lines.

Recognize that traffickers brutalize the children that they traffic.

REPORT WHAT YOU OBSERVE.
What to look for....

Tattoos & Brandings

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ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENT

- Truancy or frequent tardiness
- Frequent changes in schools
- Declining grades
- Tiredness throughout daytime, falling asleep in class
- Changes in usual activities or friend changes in hobbies, demeanor, or economic circumstances
BEHAVIORAL SIGNS TO LOOK FOR....

The presence of an older, controlling “boyfriend” or female companion.

Clothing that is inappropriate for the weather or other conditions.

A demeanor that is either withdrawn, depressed, & fearful, or one that is confident & boasting.

Not being allowed to talk. Scripted answers, inconsistent stories.

Being handled roughly or touched inappropriately.

Malnourished or eats as if ravenously hungry.

Use of terms common to the sex industry.
AND YOU MAY SEE.....

.Lack of proper documents (school identification, driver’s license, Social Security card.

.Poorly formed or rotted teeth.

.Evidence of mutilation

.Stunted growth

.STD’s, forced abortions, miscarriages
YOU Can be the Missing Link....

When educators report abuse or neglect, children can be linked to vital services including:

- Counseling or mental health services
  - Medical care
  - Shelter or housing
  - Immigration or legal services
- Safety planning
- Education and training

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What to do if a Child Makes an OUTCRY.....

1. Make sure you and the victim are **safe**.

2. Remain **Calm**.

3. **Assure** the child that they did the **right** thing in telling you and that they are **not** to blame for the abuse.

4. Do **NOT** make promises about what will happen to them or the trafficker.

5. Let the child tell their story, but leave the questioning to the professionals.

6. **Never** confront the suspected trafficker. Victims will be moved quickly, if the trafficker suspects he or she has been identified. **Beatings** will occur.

7. **Report**. Texas law requires reporting to law enforcement and child protective services within **48 hours**.
To whom do I make a report?

Reports may be made to any of the following:

- A law enforcement agency: The Midland Police Department, at (432) 685-7149, or the Midland County Sheriff’s Office, at (432) 688-4600;

- The CPS division of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services at (800) 252-5400 or Texas Abuse Hotline Website¹; or

**Taken directly from MISD Policy FFG (Exhibit)**

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FFG(EXHIBIT)-A
Reflection Ministries Mission...

Identify victims, equip cities, and provide avenues of restoration for human trafficking victims.

- Restorative trauma therapy
- Full medical evaluations
- Educational advancement
- Life skills and vocational training
- Identity restoration
- Legal assistance
- Aftercare programs up to four years

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QUOTE

“YOU MAY CHOOSE TO LOOK THE OTHER WAY BUT YOU CAN NEVER SAY AGAIN THAT YOU DID NOT KNOW.”

—William Wilberforce

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One of the best ways to combat human trafficking is to raise awareness and learn more about how to identify victims.

NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING RESOURCE CENTER AND HOTLINE

888.3737.888
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