

Sponsored by

Child Protective Services Unit

Virginia Department of Social Services



Editor
Joann Grayson, Ph.D.
Editorial Director
Ann Childress, MSW
Editorial Assistant
Wanda Baker
Computer Consultant
Phil Grayson, MFA
Student Assistants
Zachary Buchin
Anthony Chhoun
Tigrail Harris
Marissa Noell
Jessica Woolson

Spring, 2015

Virginia Child Protection Newsletter

Volume 102

SEX TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN

June 23, 2014- The FBI rescues 168 of America's children as a result of a coast-to-coast crackdown on sex traffickers. The youngest child was 11 years old. The cross-country operation occurred in 106 cities and resulted in the arrest of 281 traffickers and pimps. "These are America's children," stated FBI Director James Comey. "These are not faraway kids in faraway lands" (Tucker, 2014).

A man advertises a 15-year-old girl for prostitution on the internet with numerous photographs of the victim in lingerie. A suspicious neighbor contacts the Sheriff's Department. Intervention and investigation leads to a prosecution and sentencing for child sex trafficking.

A young girl runs away from home. She meets her traffickers through a friend. Taken to an apartment, she is bound, gang-raped, and kept in a dog kennel. She is threatened with physical harm and forced to work as a prostitute.

A 17-year-old girl from Honduras was enticed to migrate to the United States. When she arrived, her trafficker forced her into the commercial sex trade, moving her between Harrisonburg and Charlottesville in Virginia to Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Washington, D.C. On October 16, 2014, she pled guilty to human trafficking and was sentenced to 15 years in federal prison (Daily News-Record, Harrisonburg, VA, Knight, 2014).

August 16, 2013- A Winchester, Virginia man admitted to enticing 19 minors to engage in sexually explicit conduct via webcams. He pled guilty in U. S. District court.

According to the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), sex trafficking is the recruitment, enticement, harboring, transportation, provision or obtaining of a person for a commercial sex act where the sex act is induced by force, fraud, restraint, threats, or coercion or where the person induced to perform the sex act is under age 18.

Pfenning, Bardine & Smoot (2014) note that language and definitions have evolved over time. For forty years what is now termed child sex trafficking was known as 'survival sex' or 'child prostitution.' Alternative wordings currently in use are 'commercial sexual exploitation of children' or 'domestic minor sex trafficking.'

The Extent of the Problem

Statistics about child trafficking are based largely on conjecture (Schauer & Wheaton, 2006). There are numerous reasons for the lack of precision. Child trafficking is clandestine and traffickers do not publicize their activities. Only a fraction of the cases are detected and prosecuted. Child victims may be moved from one place to another.

It is difficult to sort through available estimates about child sex trafficking. Some reports include adults in the figures offered about numbers of victims. Some reports include young adults through the early 20's in the figures. Some reports refer to 'human trafficking' and offer estimates that include forced labor. Some reports discuss worldwide statistics. Children who are victims of sex trafficking in other countries may be victimized mainly by citizens of the United States who travel to foreign countries in order to avoid detection and prosecution for child abuse. Even when sex trafficking within the United States is specified, it is often unclear if the numbers refer to children and youth who were born in this country and are citizens or if the figures include children and youth smuggled into our country illegally in order to work in the sex trade.

The National Human Trafficking Resource Center maintains a help center. From



its establishment in 2007 until the end of December, 2014, the Center has had over 75,000 calls with 21,431 calls in 2014. The total cases reported in 2014 was 5,042 with most (3,598 or 71%) being sex trafficking. Virginia was the fifth highest state with 175 cases reported.

According to information presented by the U. S. Department of Juvenile Justice in a webinar on November 19, 2014 (Pfenning et al., 2014) there are 21 million people worldwide who are victims of forced labor of all types and approximately 100,000 children inside the United States are victims of sex trafficking. In 2003, Estes & Weiner estimated that between 244,000 and 325,000 children in North America were at risk of becoming victims of commercial child exploitation. The average age of girls becoming victims of prostitution was 14. Runaway and 'throwaway' youth living on the streets for longer than 7 to 10 days are at greater risk of resorting to or being coerced into 'survival sex.' It is worth noting that most adult prostitutes report being introduced to the commercial sex industry prior to age 18 (studies reviewed by Kotrla, 2010).

Pornography is constitutionally protected under the First Amendment and Americans spend roughly \$10 billion a year on adult entertainment. According to Hepburn & Simon, 2010, the lack of regulation of adult entertainment and pornography results in illegal use of underage and trafficked persons for pornography. Again, due to the illicit na-

continued on page 2



Sex Trafficking

continued from page 1

ture of the activity, the numbers of affected children is unclear.

Who are the Traffickers?

Traffickers exploit others for profit. They are motivated in large part by greed (Dillon, 2008). The commercial sex trade is a quick way to acquire money, as it involves repeated sale of the same product, unlike drugs or weapons which can be sold only once. If a child victim earns \$500 per night, the trafficker would obtain \$182,000 a year, tax-free (Hepburn & Simon, 2010). Due to the exorbitant profits, human trafficking is thought to be the fastest-growing criminal industry in the United States and the second largest illegal enterprise behind drug trafficking (Sangalis, 2011). Since detection of the abuse is difficult, trafficking is considered low risk with high profit margins. While stringent penalties do occur, many traffickers still face minimal sentencing, if detected and prosecuted (Hepburn & Simon, 2010; Logan, Walker & Hunt, 2009). Traffickers include pimps, gangs, criminal networks, intimate partners, family members, and businesses.

Child trafficking may be operated by organized entrepreneurs. These groups have individuals who are the primary entrepreneurs and planners and who organize the network, recruiters who find the vulnerable children and entice them or their parents to participate, transporters who move children from location to location and sellers (such as brothel or nightclub owners or pimps) (Schauer & Wheaton, 2006). Other traffickers may lack an organized network, operate independently, and prey on vulnerable runaway or throw-away children. Sometimes family members may offer their children for exploitation.

How are Children Recruited?

There are three principle methods by which youth are procured for exploitation: a) runaway or throwaway youth are solicited for prostitution; b) youth are lured, tricked, or outright kidnapped; c) youth are exploited or sold by family members (Salisbury, Dabney & Russell, 2014).

Internationally, the factor that emerges from examination of studies is extreme poverty. Families in desperate economic situations gain financially from sending children with the trafficker and they may believe that

their children will have opportunity for a better life (Logan et al., 2009). Traffickers may come from the same community and circumstances as their victims and familiarity gives them credibility (Sangalis, 2011). Youth and their families may be misled about work and living conditions. The employment offers may be totally fraudulent.

For domestic victims, some locations and situations are more likely than others for recruitment. Older youth can be recruited from parties, at malls and social hang outs, from schools and in their neighborhoods. Runaway youth can be found at bus stations and shelters (ACYF, no date). With the availability of online networks, recruitment can be virtually anywhere (Pfenning et al., 2014). Virginia professionals working in the field stress that traffickers are increasingly recruiting more typical teens who still live at home but have some vulnerability (see Virginia's Picture, this issue).

Vulnerable children include:

- Victims of prior abuse or violence
- Runaway and homeless youth from dysfunctional homes
- LGBTQ youth
- Youth lacking strong support systems
- Youth whose parents have substance abuse or serious mental health problems
- Youth in homes experiencing domestic violence
- Unaccompanied and/or undocumented foreign youth
- Youth with special needs or cognitive disabilities
- Youth with poor school success
- Minority youth
- Youth already using substances
- Youth already involved in the juvenile justice system
- Youth in and aging out of foster care
- Children and youth in poverty

Issues such as negative family dynamics, poor parenting skills, and child maltreatment are associated with youth who are vulnerable to recruitment into commercial sexual exploitation. In particular, parental neglect is often substantial, with lapses in parental supervision and high levels of parental absence (Twill, Green & Traylor, 2010). For more information on Runaway Youth, see VCPN, volume 66.

Research (cited in ACYF, no date) indicates that children who have former involvement with child welfare services such as foster care or who have experienced family instability are at much higher risk to become victims of sex trafficking. Traffickers look for vulnerability and prey especially on children and youth with low self-esteem and minimal social support, characteristics prevalent among homeless youth or youth in foster care. Vulnerable abused, neglected, and maltreated youth appear more susceptible to the recruitment and control tactics of human traffickers. Child sexual abuse, in particular, appears to increase the likelihood of runaway

youth becoming involved in sex trafficking (Tyler, Hoyt, Whitbeck & Cauce, 2001).

Melissa Snow, Program Specialist for Child Sex Trafficking with the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, addressed the vulnerability of youth in the child welfare system in a recent interview with VCPN staff. "Youth in the child welfare system are vulnerable because of their age and because they are disconnected from their families due to histories of prior exploitation. It is 'the perfect storm' for a trafficker. Children in the foster care system can have a 'hole in their heart.' The trafficker is so good at investing in that emotional need. Youth often say their trafficker was the first adult who loved and cared for them." Snow adds, "The trafficker can even use the prior sexual abuse as a rationale for engaging in commercial sex. The pimp will tell the youth, 'People have been getting sex from you for free. Why not make money from it?' That's terribly confusing to a vulnerable youth."

There are other factors that have been linked to vulnerability. African-American and Hispanic youth are more likely to be victims of sex trafficking (Pfenning et al., 2014). Additionally, Native American children and youth who have trauma-related risk factors are vulnerable to child sex trafficking according to recent exploratory studies (ACYF, no date). Boys may be under-identified due to their unwillingness to admit to the victimization (ACYF, no date). Literature reviewed by ACFY and by McClain & Garrity (2011) suggests that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning (LGBTQ) youth can be up to five times more likely than heterosexual youth to be victims of trafficking, due to increased susceptibility that accompanies feelings of rejection and alienation often experienced by LGBTQ youth. They note that LGBTQ youth are overrepresented among runaway, homeless youth and child welfare populations. The LGBTQ 'coming out' process may produce family conflicts that result in the adolescent running away from home or even being asked by the family to leave.

A recent study by Reid & Piquero (2014) suggests that delinquent youth and youth who are already using substances are higher risk to become involved in commercial sexual exploitation. The trajectory suggests that juvenile justice professionals need to be alert for youth on their caseloads who are becoming involved with sex trafficking.

Where does Sex Trafficking Occur?

There are a range of options according to sources consulted. Street prostitution and brothels are likely to have access to underage victims. Truck stops, "strip clubs" and bars may have connections to sex trafficking. Some massage parlors, hotels and motels may contain staff connected to sex trafficking. Escort services and private residences may be less visible but also account for some incidents. Online exploitation can also lead

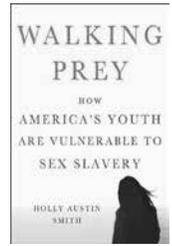


Walking Prey: How America's Youth are Vulnerable to Sex Slavery

By: Holly Austin Smith (2014), 248 pages.

Palgrave Macmillan, Macmillan Publishers Limited
175 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10010

Website: www.plgrave.com



Holly Austin Smith is a child trafficking survivor and advocate, as well as a consultant for AMBER alert. In her book, **Walking Prey**, Smith writes of her personal experiences with sex trafficking. **Walking Prey** tells of Smith's personal experience and the factors surrounding her involvement in human trafficking. She shows how suburban, middle class communities are becoming an epicenter for human trafficking. As a young woman, just out of middle school, Smith was looking for something more, as she states in the prologue, and was lacking positive guidance or engagement, making her a prime victim for exploitation. After meeting an older man, Smith finds herself running away from home and living in the streets of Atlantic City, which led to involvement in sex trafficking.

This book is much more than just a memoir, since Smith discusses predisposing factors, community risk factors, and the mindset of "willing victims." She writes about her experiences in order to educate law enforcement and service providers, raise awareness in communities, advocate for survivors, and support stronger laws against human traffickers.

to in-person encounters (ACYF, no date; HHS, 2012). According to research reviewed by Kotrla (2010) children have even been advertised online for sex through regular classified services. Craigslist and other websites have been used to connect men to underage prostitutes (The Schapiro Group, 2009).

How are Children Retained?

While some children and youth may report trafficking or reach out for help, many do not. Victims do not always perceive a need to be rescued and they may actively resent interference or intervention. Even when law enforcement or service providers suspect that youth are being used for prostitution, the victims may deny that they are victimized. Adolescents may feel indebted to the trafficker because of his gifts of food, shelter, clothing or even drugs. Adolescents may be unaware of alternatives or of their rights as victims (Logan et al., 2009; McClain & Garrity, 2011).

Exploiters utilize a variety of techniques, ranging from physical to psychological. The exploiter may make victims feel loved and obligated to perform sex acts or labor to raise money. The victim may feel loyalty towards the exploiter. This tactic has been termed 'finesse pimping' (McClain & Garrity, 2011). A "trauma bond" can form between the victim and the trafficker parallel to the Stockholm syndrome. The juvenile may perceive the trafficker as a boyfriend or supporter (Salisbury, Dabney & Russell, 2014). In contrast, the victim may be led to fear arrest or deportation. Violence, beatings, threats and intimidation has been termed 'guerilla pimping' (McClain & Garrity, 2011).

Practical considerations also keep children and youth silent. Victims may fear greater uncertainty if they leave their traffickers. Since wages are withheld, victims generally have no means of livelihood, no transportation, no resources for food and shelter and clothing. Children may be moved constantly within a nationwide network of brothels or businesses and the moves keep them isolated and disoriented. Further, if they have lived in countries with corrupt law enforcement, they may fear officials (Logan et al., 2009; Sangalis, 2011). Youth may fear disappointing parents or being sent back to parents where living conditions are poor. If the victims are in the country illegally, they may fear deportation (McClain & Garrity, 2011).

Detecting Victims

Research has indicated that victims of sex trafficking are infrequently identified by service providers who have contact with them (Macy & Graham, 2012). Child welfare agencies, law enforcement, staff in emergency departments, and programs for runaway and homeless youth are all well-positioned to detect victims of child sex trafficking. The ACYF (no date) and others (McClain & Garrity, 2011) mention some indicators. A chart with warning signs for possible sex trafficking is available on the VCPN website.

Children and youth who are victims of sex trafficking may be homeless or have chronic runaway behaviors. They may be seeking care for sexually-transmitted diseases, show evidence of prior pregnancies, or give a history of abortions. They are likely to show evidence of physical, mental, and emotional abuse and will likely show fear, tension, shame, humiliation, and nervous-

ness. They may exhibit over-sexualized behaviors.

Victims may be unable to speak on their own behalf. There may be the presence of an older male or boyfriend who seems controlling. If the youth returns for care, a different person might accompany them. The victim may be unwilling to speak to law enforcement or service workers alone or appear coached in what information to relate. They may have no funds (not allowed access to funds) or they could have an excess amount of cash or have access to material items that they should not be able to afford.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (U.S. DHHS) has screening questions available (see resource reviews, this issue) that offer sample questions in five categories: Safety; Employment; Living Environment; Travel or Immigration; and Child and Youth-specific questions. These are also reproduced in Macy & Graham (2012).

Use of a trauma screening tool (see VCPN, Volume 95) can be broadened to include assessment of other needs such as housing and health care. Those working in health care can be alert to injuries that are not consistent with the history offered, signs of physical abuse, and signs that the youth is fearful or depressed. These can all be indicators of trafficking. Reports of many sexual partners, poor working conditions, living with an employer, signs of addiction or substance abuse, and lack of schooling may be clues to trafficking. Service providers should also note if youth have little knowledge of the community and report living in a hotel or at a temporary address (Macy & Graham, 2012).

continued on page 4



Sex Trafficking

continued from page 3

Law enforcement should be alert to the idea that juvenile victims may have had their identities changed by their traffickers. Some traffickers provide false identification and even social security numbers that identify the youth as an adult (Salisbury et al., 2014). Police should be alert to youth who have arrived recently in the United States and who lack immigration documents or a passport (Macy & Graham, 2012).

U. S. DHHS funds the National Human Trafficking Resource Center, a free calling center where social service providers, law enforcement, and community members can report suspected trafficking incidents as well as receive referrals and technical assistance. Readers with interest in these services can find a more comprehensive description elsewhere in this issue.

Legal Actions

More information on federal legislation is on the VCPN website. A brief summary is included here.

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 classified the crime of trafficking as a separate violation, whether for forced labor or for commercial sex acts. The Act provided for up to 5,000 T visas each year to allow trafficking victims to stay and work in the United States if the victims meet certain requirements. There were also restitution provisions for the victim's losses. The hope was that federal authorities would be equipped to eliminate human trafficking in the United States if the statute was vigorously implemented (studies reviewed in Sangalis, 2011).

The Act was reauthorized in 2003. The appropriations allocated to criminal prosecution and crime prevention were increased and provisions were made to enhance criminal prosecution. The debate about the T visas was moot as over the three years since the TVPA enactment, only 172 victims had obtained a T visa despite an allocation of 15,000 (studies reviewed in Sangalis, 2011).

After the modifications in 2003, the TVPA was reauthorized in 2005. This bill focused on domestic trafficking and enhanced penalties. It established grants to benefit domestic victims of sexual exploitation (studies reviewed in Sangalis, 2011). Again in 2008, the Act was modified and broadened, adding strict liability for trafficking minors and addressing the problems of prior versions. As amended, the TVPA intends to combat human trafficking in strong and comprehensive measures. However, there are still critics who feel that the legislation over-emphasizes prosecution and under-emphasizes protection. In the first nine years of the TVPA, there were 466 criminal convictions (sources cited in Sangalis, 2011). In September, 2012, President Obama announced increased federal resources for monitoring and combating human trafficking, including domestic sex trafficking.

According to the U. S. Federal Bureau of Investigation, the **FBI Innocence Lost** project has recovered over 3,600 child victims. Nearly 1,500 traffickers have been convicted and over \$3.1 million in assets have been seized. During **Operation Cross Country VIII** in July, 2014, 168 child victims were recovered and over 281 traffickers were arrested in 106 cities.

Restitution is a part of trafficking legislation. Hepburn & Simon (2010) report in criminal cases, restitution is automatically a part of trafficking proceedings. According to sources they cite, in fiscal year 2008, traffickers were ordered to pay more than \$4.2 million to their victims.

HR 4980 (Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act) was signed into law on September 29, 2014. This Act requires state agencies to develop policies and procedures for identifying youth who may be victims of sex trafficking and to report suspected sex trafficking to law enforcement. Additionally, youth who are abducted or who are missing from foster care or residential institutions must be reported to the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) data base of the FBI and to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Melissa Snow, Program Specialist for Child Sex Trafficking from the Center comments, "This is an incredibly important change. Youth in care may not have family advocating for their return." She adds that states have until 2016 to set policies for response to youth who are missing from foster care.

Further legal efforts are needed, according to commentators (Rafferty, 2013). For example, Rafferty states that there should be efforts to prosecute all facilitators, including agencies on the Internet advertising sex for sale with children, owners of real estate used for commercial sex venues, 'mail-order bride' agencies facilitating child sex trafficking, and strip clubs and massage parlors using underage youth for sexual services.

According to Schauer and Wheaton (2006), wider prosecution will likely re-

quire a paradigm shift from a 'prostitution paradigm' to a 'trafficking paradigm.' In a 'prostitution paradigm' the women and juveniles are arrested. If they are undocumented immigrants, they are deported. They may serve time in prison or juvenile detention. The 'prostitution paradigm' assumes the prostitute is complicit and chooses to engage in the activity. The 'trafficking paradigm' in contrast does not assume that women and juveniles are willing in their engagement. They are instead viewed as crime victims who need rescue and reintegration services. Those who have forced them into crimes and keep them enmeshed in the sex industry are the perpetrators of felony crimes.

Others (Hepburn & Simon, 2010; Sangalis, 2011) cite enormous problems in prosecution. There can be multiple perpetrators and multiple victims. Prosecution may involve dealing with multiple countries. The complicated nature of sex trafficking requires interagency cooperation.

Some victims do not regard themselves as crime victims and are unwilling to testify. Victims are often ill-equipped to testify, even if the victim is willing. Victims may suffer from trauma and not recall facts reliably or have suppressed memories. Some have language barriers. There can be mistrust of police and fear of revealing all details due to perceived culpability. There may continue to be fear of the traffickers or those in the trafficker's network even if the victim is in a safe place. By helping victims examine and address the issues and fears, mental health practitioners can play a pivotal role in helping victims become able to aid law enforcement.

Needs of Victims of Sex Trafficking

A commentator in the PBS Documentary, *A Path Appears*, noted that most Americans fail to appreciate how prevalent and how brutal sex trafficking in the United States is. It is a form of slavery, even if victims appear to have the means to leave. Victims of sex trafficking are treated as a disposable commodity and they experience physical and emotional trauma, humiliation, exposure to violence and degradation. The crimes impact children's growth and development (Logan et al., 2009; Rafferty, 2008; 2013). Children who have been exposed to complex trauma are at increased risk for problems with attachment, emotional regulation, behavioral regulation, self-concept, physical health, and cognitive functioning (Rafferty, 2008).

Traffickers keep profits high by keeping costs low. They do not pay the victims or pay them very little. Victims are housed in unsanitary and crowded conditions. Victims are made to work for many hours. According to literature reviewed by ACYF (no date) and Sangalis (2011), there are both health-related after-effects and mental health after-effects for victims of sex trafficking. Physical health problems include untreated injuries from beatings and rapes, reproductive health

Special Thanks To.....

Mindy Loiselle

Resources

problems (such as exposure to HIV and sexually-transmitted infections and fertility issues), somatic complaints secondary to trauma (headaches; chronic pain), malnutrition, severe dental problems, TB, and addictions (due to forced use of substances or due to using substances as a coping mechanism). Victims may have also experienced unwanted pregnancies and unsafe abortions (Loiselle, MacDonnell, Duncan & Dougherty, 2006; Rafferty, 2008).

Mental health difficulties include extreme fear and anxiety, serious depression, inability to trust others, self-destructive behaviors (such as suicide attempts), profound shame and guilt, and despair and hopelessness. PTSD is common. Longer periods of exposure to sex trafficking are associated with higher symptoms levels (ACYF, no date; McClain & Garrity, 2011; Rafferty, 2008; Sangalis, 2011). Williamson, Dutch and Clawson (2010) note that most studies related to mental health needs focuses on significant levels of PTSD. Victims of human trafficking have generally experienced or witnessed trauma that include threatened death or serious injury which have caused intense fear, helplessness, and horror. They include a chart with 16 common symptoms ranging from inability to recall most or parts of the traumatic event (36%) to recurrent thoughts/memories of terrifying events (75%). All but two of the 16 symptoms were reported by half or more of the victims. The most prominent disorders shown are anxiety disorders, mood disorders, dissociative disorders, and substance-related disorders.

Behavioral outcomes can include mistrust of people, antisocial behaviors, self-harm behaviors, as well as hostile and aggressive behaviors (Rafferty, 2008). It is worth mentioning that complex trauma is linked to extended periods of captivity and has been directly associated with human trafficking (Williamson et al., 2010).

According to Williamson et al. (2010), child victims can show a wider range of presentations than adults. Common presentations include substance-related disorders, dissociative disorders, impulse control difficulties, conduct disorder, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, antisocial personality traits, mood disorders, and anxiety problems as well as PTSD. Victimization can interfere with achieving developmental milestones.

For children brought to the United States from other countries, victims fear not only for their own safety but for the well-being of their families in their homelands. Threats to harm families can be potent because U.S. law enforcement cannot protect their families. The trafficker is likely to be from the same ethnic group and region as the victim, and they are likely part of an organized crime network, making the threats to family members more credible. Child victims from other countries may not be familiar

continued on page 6

National Center for Missing and Exploited Youth (NCMEC)

699 Prince Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314-3175

Website: <http://www.missingkids.com/Home>

Phone: (703) 224-2150

Fax: (703) 224-2122

Email at: <http://www.missingkids.com/Contact>



The **National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC)** is a nonprofit organization that works with law enforcement, families and professionals who serve children on issues related to missing and sexually exploited children. **NCMEC** has created public and private partnerships and has built a coordinated, national response to the problem of missing and sexually exploited children. The Center has also established a missing children hotline and serves as the national clearinghouse for information related to missing children. They also provide services, resources and technical assistance to child victims of abduction and sexual exploitation, their families and the professionals who serve them.

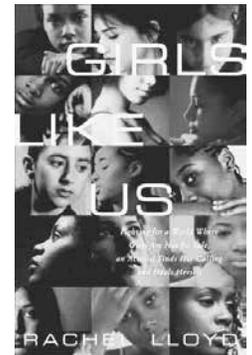
Girls Like Us: Fighting for a World Where Girls Are Not For Sale—A Memoir

By: Rachel Lloyd (2012), 277 pages.

Harper Collins Publishers
195 Broadway
New York, NY 10007
Phone: 212-207-7000

website: www.harpercollins.com

During her teens, Rachel Lloyd became a victim of commercial sexual exploitation. With time and help from a local church community, she was able to leave her trafficker. Since that time she has devoted herself to helping other young girls escape “the life.”



Girls Like Us details the circumstances of domestic sexual exploitation. It also tells of the creation of GEMS (Girls Educational and Mentoring Services), a non-profit organization dedicated to assisting child trafficking victims.



The National Plan to Prevent the Sexual Exploitation of Children

By: The National Coalition to Prevent Child Sexual Exploitation (2012)

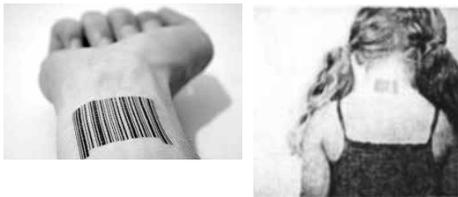
Email: PreventTogether@gmail.com

Website: www.PreventTogether.org

Available at:

<http://www.preventtogether.org/Resources/Documents/NationalPlan2012FINAL.pdf>

The **National Plan to Prevent the Sexual Exploitation of Children** was written in an effort to assure that all children have childhoods free from sexual exploitation and abuse through physical and digital environments. By striving toward this goal, the National Coalition to Prevent Child Sexual Exploitation hopes to help children develop into healthy adults capable of having healthy relationships. The plan discusses the need to reduce the societal demand for commercial exploitation of children and provides an outlined strategy to prevent children from being used as sexual commodities. Furthermore, the plan aims to prevent child sexual abuse and exploitation by bringing attention to these issues in order to make them socially, economically, politically, and spiritually unacceptable in the United States and around the world.



Sex Trafficking

continued from page 5

with English language or the culture of the United States. They are unlikely to have support systems or relatives in the United States (Sangalis, 2011). Providers will need to be aware or become aware of the beliefs, values, and practices of the child's culture in order to provide competent care (Williamson et al., 2010).

Victims, whether they are U.S. citizens or from abroad, are likely to have few or no natural supports to help them. To build a life as a fully-functioning individual, the needs appear enormous. In addition to medical and psychological treatment, victims are likely to need academic instruction, vocational training, and will need to develop a system of environmental supports. Youth need to develop a basic understanding of how to care and provide for their needs without resorting to criminal activity (Twill et al., 2010).

Bill Woolf of the Fairfax County Police Department and a member of the Northern Virginia Human Trafficking Task Force, comments, "People don't understand how traumatic it is to be a victim of sex trafficking. They think that the teen is older and sexually active anyway, so the impact is not great. However, that is simply wrong. The youth can't even process the trauma. A young girl may be turning five tricks a day, five days a week. That's 25 times a week where they are being assaulted. The trauma builds." Woolf notes that victims can be rude, argumentative, and fail to self-identify as a victim. "People then blame the youth, but you can't blame her. The reactions are due to PTSD and are a direct result of being victimized," he continues.

Woolf advocates for interventions specifically designed to deal with the sex trafficking. He relates, "I know these intensive interventions work because I have witnessed the changes in the victims. Within weeks there are physical changes. The girls' views of themselves and their approach to the world can begin changing within a month. After six months of treatment, I have seen a completely different person emerge."

Interventions

Appropriate care for child victims of sex trafficking requires use of trauma-informed, culturally appropriate, gender and developmentally-appropriate, and individualized care that address both physical needs (such as housing and health care), legal services,

and mental health needs. The goal is to decrease vulnerability, to equip systems and services to identify and intervene early, to offer a multidisciplinary and coordinated approach (ACYF, no date; Kotrla, 2010; Loiselle et al., 2006; Rafferty, 2013; Williamson et al., 2010).

Despite the fact that victims of human trafficking have greater need than typical crime victims, there are fewer resources and services to assist these victims (Fong & Cardoso, 2010; Logan et al., 2009). There are few programs specific to sex trafficking victims and their needs are far more complex than children who have been sexually abused. The treatments designed to be effective for sexual abuse may fall short when victims of sex trafficking have experienced torture, rape, forced drug abuse, isolation and extreme physical abuse (Fong & Cardoso). Additionally, funding focuses on international victims and domestic youth may have even fewer options or be referred to providers lacking needed expertise (Fong & Cardoso).

According to ACYF (no date), there is much work needed to create effective interventions and practices to promote positive outcomes for child and youth trafficking victims. Williamson et al., (2010) note that limited research has been conducted to assess the impact of various mental health therapeutic treatments, hindering providers' understandings of which methods might have the most positive impact. Establishing evidence-based treatments will be part of efforts to end sex trafficking. Considering that the majority of sex trafficking victims have also experienced child sexual abuse and/or dating violence and rape, the evidence-based treatments that are effective for child sexual abuse victims are likely relevant for child victims of sex trafficking (see VCPN, Volume 95 for a review of effective interventions for child sexual abuse).

Williamson et al. (2010) maintain that treatment should begin with a complete psychiatric evaluation. A comprehensive evaluation will provide the treating professional with a more complete understanding of the victim's psychological and social needs. Treatment should address not only psychological symptoms, but also functional status and quality of life. The victim's development of independence, employment, and positive relationships should be part of the outcome criteria. The toolkits reviewed under resources (this issue) include screening questions.

Models such as Multisystemic Therapy (MST) may be useful. MST addresses substance use, behavioral problems, mental health needs, social functioning and family relationships. Treatments such as Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) may be a start. While short-term treatments may be useful, there is general agreement that processing the consequences of human trafficking requires long-term, comprehensive therapy (Williamson et al., 2010).

Effectively incorporating a trafficked child or youth into a foster care setting, whether family or residential care, depends largely on the family's or program's preparedness to receive the child. Loiselle and her associates interviewed foreign-born trafficked children. They found that victims had a wide range of experiences both prior to trafficking and during the trafficking experiences. The circumstances of freeing the children and youth, their understandings about the trafficking, and their initial encounters with adults upon being rescued all impacted treatment outcome. Establishing trust was essential, but was a long-term process that could take a year or more (Loiselle et al., 2006).

Safety is the first priority. Victims may be pursued by pimps, recruiters, and the human traffickers even after they enter a shelter or program. Security features and protocols for a safe environment are necessary. According to Loiselle et al. (2006), phone calls should be monitored, mobility controlled, and visitors restricted. Family members may have sold the child or be profiting from the trafficking or can be under the control of the traffickers. Those caring for children or youth can be in danger. Age-appropriate housing is crucial. Access to safe housing has been cited as a major barrier to success for victims who do attempt to leave their traffickers (Kotrla, 2010; McClain & Garrity, 2011). A range of placement options including kinship care, foster care, and residential placements are needed.

There can be a complex relationship between the youth and the trafficker. This relationship will need to be addressed in therapy (Rafferty, 2013). The relationship can also pose risks for runaway behavior as some youth will try to return to the trafficker (Loiselle et al., 2006).

Since some victims may be in the country illegally, it is important to have connections with refugee services and legal aide. Some programs may not be available to sex trafficking victims who are not citizens. The Unaccompanied Refugee Minors program (URM) is one potential resource. Those who do not qualify for assistance through URM may be able to receive help from the National Human Trafficking Victim Assistance Program (NHTVAP) (ACYF, no date).

Youth are likely to lack appropriate schooling and lack preparation for jobs or careers. The mandate for education can be a major challenge for both domestic youth and for those from foreign countries. Education can become a source of conflict between victims and service providers. Youth may not perceive the importance of education or be comfortable in school settings. Some may have extremely low academic skills. For foreign youth, schools may be ill-prepared to help trafficked children and youth with limited English skills (Loiselle et al., 2006).

Clawson and Grace (2007) in an Issue Brief for the U. S. Department of Health and

Human Services, discuss the basic services that should be provided. These include meeting basic needs such as food, housing, clothing, and safety. Intensive case management is a central service. The youth should have 24-hour access to their advocate/case manager. Needed services (medical; legal; psychological; schooling; career planning; job training) should be provided. Trained staff should be available for crisis management at all times. Youth development programming should be utilized to help victims 'find their gifts' and build on strengths. Including the victims in program creation and management can improve services.

Clawson and Grace (2007) also recommend promising practices for residential facilities that are serving victims of sex trafficking. Interested readers can visit the VCPN website for a block with their suggestions.

Thompson, Cochran & Barczyk (2011) examined treatment outcomes for a small group of 13 girls in residential care who were in a group home and also received a specialized program ACT (Acknowledge, Commit, and Transform). Their findings indicate that better outcomes for exploited youths can be obtained if victims are willing to acknowledge the sexual exploitation, are able to commit to living in a group home, and show desire to transform their lives. A separate program for these youth is preferred instead of including them in a general program with a mixed group of youth.

Educational groups such as the My Life, My Choice group offered by a survivor can serve an educative function as well as mentoring. Maintaining a home-like living environment with greater freedom than a typical residential program, while maintaining clear rules and consequences, appears to be effective.

Williamson et al. (2010) review research indicating that several approaches to intervention are not effective and may even cause harm. According to the authors, brief interventions administered shortly after the traumatic events and 'psychological debriefing' can increase the symptoms of PTSD. While these approaches are not supported, the authors note that early supportive interventions, psycho-education, and case management have been found to facilitate victims' continued use of mental health services.

Programs that Offer Assistance

The U.S Department of Health and Human Services has funded a **National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC)**. They operate a hotline 24 hours a day, every day. The NHTRC can help callers identify and coordinate with local organizations that protect and serve child victims of trafficking.

Child and youth victims of trafficking who meet State eligibility requirements may access medical screenings, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Medicaid, State Children's Health Insurance Programs

(SCHIP), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) programs, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), and public housing programs.

For a child without legal immigration status, an Eligibility Letter or an Interim Assistance Letter can be sought from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) or from the HHS Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR). Submission of a Request for Assistance for Child Victims of Human Trafficking form can facilitate the determination of eligibility for services. The form is available at: www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking The request can be submitted by e-mail to ChildTrafficking@acf.hhs.gov or by FAX to 202-401-5487. An HHS/ORR Child Protection Specialist will respond to requests and can be reached by phone at 202-205-4582.

The HHS/ORR Eligibility Letter will allow a foreign child trafficking victim to be eligible for benefits and services without regard to immigration status. The Interim Assistance Letter allows benefits for 90 days. During that time, the U.S. Departments of Justice and Homeland Security and nongovernmental organizations are consulted prior to a determination of the child or youth's

continued on page 14

SPOTLIGHT ON COURTNEY'S HOUSE



Tina Frundt is a woman on a personal mission. She is executive director for the only organization in the greater DC area for sex trafficking survivors that is run by a survivor. "All of our services are based on my life. I was placed in foster care as a child, and I was trafficked in those homes."

Frundt has been working to help sex trafficking victims since 2004 and then in 2008, she established Courtney's House. Since that time, the organization has assisted over 500 victims of sex trafficking, ages 12 to 21. Currently, there are 28 active participants. Courtney's House operates a drop-in center and provides intensive long-term intervention. "We develop relationships and build a positive family," Frundt explains.

The organization takes a three-prong approach.

1) **Courtney's House fearlessly searches for child victims.** Every Friday and Saturday night, staff do street outreach from 2:00 am until 6:00 am.

2) **Courtney's House embraces the rescued children.** In addition to the drop-in center, Courtney's House provides related services. A thorough assessment leads to the creation of a plan termed A Positive Hustle Plan. Intensive individual and group counseling titled Transition Your Mind Out of The Life. "It is an all-encompassing journey," explains Frundt. Unlike most programs, Courtney's House emphasizes parent involvement. "A child can't succeed at home without parent support," remarks Frundt. "I would like the foster care system to make it a requirement for foster parents and group home staff to participate in the parent support and education groups."

3) **Courtney's House trains the community and creates awareness.** Frundt has developed a curriculum for her trainings and she has developed a screening instrument to help service providers detect sex trafficking. A video she created for New York

State Department of Social Services will be released later this spring. Her training covers paradigms, how to screen for sex trafficking, and service provision.

Due to her personal experiences in the foster care system, Frundt would like to see improved screening for foster parents and she would also like to have foster parents trained about sex trafficking. She stresses the need to provide services for boys as well as girls. In her organization, male and female teens attend the same support groups. Frundt says she does not separate based on sex as the experiences of being a victim transcend gender issues.

Frundt is energized by the success of her organization since 2008. Two of the child victims are now in college and others have been able to obtain jobs and support themselves. Courtney's House is there to help and to celebrate the successes.

More information is available from: Tina Frundt, Courtney's House, P. O. Box 48626, Washington, DC 20002, (202)525-1426 or E-mail: tinafrundt@gmail.com or eacourtneyshouse@gmail.com website: www.courtneyshouse.org



EXTENT OF TRAFFICKING IN VIRGINIA

There is general agreement that trafficking is an increasing problem in Virginia, however, VCPN could find no official data source to track trafficking cases. The 2013 statistical overview at the National Human Trafficking Resource Center indicates that calls from Virginia to their Center were the sixth highest number by state. California, Texas, Florida, and New York had a greater number of calls. Ohio had just three more calls than Virginia.

ASSESSMENT

Shared Hope International conducted an assessment in Virginia in 2011 to examine the practices and procedures used to identify victims and to provide services. They identified several areas of need:

- Training- The assessment described the level of training about human trafficking as "strikingly low." Training, when available, was sporadic and inconsistent.
- Because no laws directly addressed sex trafficking, law enforcement was charging perpetrators with related but inaccurate crimes such as rape, carnal knowledge and contributing to the delinquency of a minor.
- Safe and secure shelter for victims was an issue.
- CPS staff had not received training in how to address human trafficking.

While there have been efforts since 2011, many of the issues are persistent and will require continued attention. Some recent efforts are described below.

REPORTS



Report on the Human Trafficking Services Needs Assessment Survey

In September, 2012, the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services published a report summarizing a Needs Assessment Survey completed in the summer of 2012. The 118 survey respondents represented victim-witness services, domestic violence/sexual assault service providers, adult and juvenile probation and parole staff, and adult and juvenile correctional facilities. Of the

respondents, a bit under half had prior experience in providing services for a trafficking victim.

Over half of the respondents did not know whether or not there was a human trafficking service organization that helped victims in their area. Of those who could identify a help source, nearly all were located in the Washington DC, Baltimore, or northern Virginia area. About a third of respondents had attended a workshop on human trafficking during the past five years and 17% had completed formal training on serving victims. No agency had a protocol to guide service delivery to trafficking victims.

The three largest barriers identified for service provision were lack of adequate resources, problems detecting and identifying victims, and a lack of adequate training.

Readers can find the report at: <https://www.dcjs.virginia.gov/victims/documents/HTNeedsAssessmentSurvey.pdf>



Laying the Foundation for Virginia's Coordinated Response to Human Trafficking

Published in 2013, this document details Virginia's response to human trafficking. It offers a legislative history and offers strategies and recommendations for a coordinated response to human trafficking in Virginia.

The report can be found at: <https://www.dcjs.virginia.gov/victims/documents/Laying%20the%20Foundation%20Final%20Report.pdf>

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services maintains information about human trafficking on their website. Visit: www.dcjs.virginia.gov/victims/humantrafficking/research.cfm

LEGISLATION

The Office of the Attorney General maintains a website of Virginia Anti-Trafficking Laws. It reviews laws for both labor trafficking (such as Abduction for Forced Labor or Receiving Money for Procuring Person) and sex trafficking (such as Abduction; Solicitation of Prostitution). The site also reviews laws related to the production of child pornography. The site

can be accessed at: www.dcjs.virginia.gov/victims/humantrafficking/ca/documents/VAAnti-TraffickingLaws-criminal-2011.pdf

Bills under consideration in the General Assembly for the 2015 session include sex trafficking statutes.

House Bill 1964 and Senate Bill 1188 establish a standalone sex trafficking statute which, if passed, will fill a key gap. It would clearly define the offense of sex trafficking, criminalize sex trafficking of a minor, enhance penalties when the victim is a minor, eliminate the requirement to prove force, fraud or coercion when the victim is a minor, and assist in properly identifying human trafficking victims. At the time of this article, the sex trafficking statute was proceeding through the process with considerable support.



LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

Bill Woolf is a lead investigator for the Fairfax County Police Department and he is part of the Northern Virginia Task Force on Human Trafficking. He encounters mainly cases of sex trafficking. The labor trafficking cases involve door-to-door sales solicitations or commercial businesses. A trafficker might manipulate impoverished youth to solicit donations for a bogus charity or sell a product door-to-door. The trafficker pays the youth little and pockets the donations or profits. Restaurants may employ undocumented youth and pay them less than minimum wages. Woolf notes that labor trafficking can blend with sex trafficking. "After the restaurant closes for the night, youth may be used for prostitution," he comments.

Undocumented youth may be the victims of sex trafficking, but domestic youth are also targeted. "Traffickers look for vulnerabilities," explains Woolf. Youth with unstable homes are especially vulnerable, as are runaway youth. Woolf says that repeated episodes of runaway behavior are a sign of possible trafficking.

Woolf agrees with others that Virginia's lack of laws specific to trafficking makes it more difficult to prosecute cases. He related that sometimes he facilitates federal prosecution, as the penalties are more appropriate to the harm that victims experience. However, federal prosecution is complex and he can handle only two cases at a time if federal prosecution is involved.

Literature (Clawson & Dutch, 2008) has documented that one barrier to addressing trafficking is lack of manpower and resources. Cases take considerable time and few organizations have law enforcement assigned solely to trafficking cases. Woolf agrees that limited manpower is a challenge. In his jurisdiction and many others, the purchasers of child and youth prostitutes are rarely prosecuted. Woolf explains, "With over 170 'leads' and possible cases referred, and given that the cases are resource intensive, enforcement efforts must be prioritized. We try to prosecute the trafficker. We don't have resources to also prosecute the buyers."

Literature also documents that perceptions of youth involved in prostitution has been a barrier. Changing from perceiving the youth as a juvenile delinquent to thinking of the youth as a victim will be a slow process (Clawson & Dutch, 2008). Woolf is among those who work to change the perception of youth prostitutes. He acknowledges that some youth are still being charged with a crime when they are the victims. Woolf notes that there are few options "at 2:00 in the morning." Mental health and social services don't have safe and secure emergency facilities, so detention may be the only safe place to house a youth. Woolf says, "It is a huge education piece."

Woolf also comments that few people understand the extent of sex trafficking. "It is the second largest criminal enterprise in the nation."

A Virginia effort to combat sex trafficking is "Operation Innkeeper" a cooperative investigative and community policing effort led by Henrico County Police. VCPN staff was unable to locate anyone who could be interviewed about this initiative. According to published material, Operation Innkeeper, in partnership with the Richmond Retail Merchants Association, educates hotel owners and employees about the specific vulnerabilities of hotels and guests to crime. In 2012, the Henrico Police Division personally visited every hotel and motel in Henrico County to offer training and points of contact to reduce lodging-related crime. The efforts of the Division have proven effective. They have seized illegal narcotics, removed firearms, and arrested traffickers. Seventeen victims of trafficking have been rescued and traffickers are serving sentences. More than \$80,000 in currency has been confiscated. In 2013, Operation Innkeeper won an achievement award for Criminal Justice and Public Safety.

PROSECUTION

The U. S. Attorney's Office serves the seven judicial divisions of Western Virginia. Geographically, the Western District of Virginia encompasses two-thirds of the Commonwealth. There are four offices staffed with full-time Assistant U. S. Attorneys (AUSA) and support staff. The main office is located in Roanoke with branch offices in

Charlottesville, Harrisonburg and Abingdon.

VCPN staff talked with Assistant Attorney Erin Kulpa. Prior to assuming this position, she spent four years working in the Virginia Commonwealth's Attorney Office. She has over ten years of professional experience with sex trafficking cases. In her current position, Kulpa serves as the prosecutor for all sex trafficking cases and she co-leads the Law Enforcement Task Forces in the Western District.

While there are no statistics available about prosecutions and their degree of success, Kulpa relates many cases with successful outcomes. Some successful prosecutions are related on their website at:

<http://www.justice.gov/usao/vaw>

The Task Forces are comprised of federal, state and local law enforcement, along with victim-witness coordinators and some select service providers. The Western District is divided into four regions and each region has its own task force. They meet as needed to discuss progress on cases. The focus is on rescuing victims and arresting traffickers, although some jurisdictions will arrest buyers. Kulpa notes that it is not easy to locate buyers and 'reverse sting' operations are resource intensive.

Kulpa has invested considerable time and effort in training. She has personally trained over 3,500 professionals. She feels that the Western District has offered robust training programs and states that the majority of law enforcement personnel are well-trained in handling sex trafficking cases.

Prevention is also a priority for the U.S. Attorney's Office. The USAO sponsors Project Safe Childhood (see: www.projectsafefchildhood.gov/), which focuses on internet safety. For the Western District of Virginia, Assistant U. S. Attorney Nancy S. Healey coordinates Project Safe Childhood. She is available for presentations and can be reached at (434) 293-4283.

Kulpa notes that exploitation is "all about vulnerability." She says, "Efforts that strengthen youth and families will protect children not only from trafficking, but from a number of negative outcomes." Ultimately, she says, prevention efforts must address demand and economics. "As long as the activity is profitable, people will engage in exploitation."

MULTI-DISCIPLINARY EFFORTS

The Virginia Anti-Human Trafficking Coordinating Committee

The Committee was established in 2013 under the previous administration by Executive Directive No. 7, Comprehensive, Coordinated State Response to the Problem of Human Trafficking. Its purpose was to review and coordinate the implementation of the recommendations in **Laying the Foundations for Virginia's Coordinated Response to Human Trafficking** (described above) and to identify additional actions and strategies to further strengthen the Common-

wealth's responses to human trafficking.

The work of the Committee has continued under the McAuliffe administration. The Committee is coordinated by staff in the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS). Other participating agencies include: the Departments of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Alcoholic Beverage Control, Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, Education, Health, Health Professions, Labor and Industry, Professional and Occupational Regulation, Social Services, State Police, and Transportation, as well as the Virginia Employment Commission and the Office of the Attorney General.

One of the DCJS staff who assists with coordinating the Committee is Kristina Vadas, LCSW, MSW. She relates that the Committee has met five times since inception (twice in 2013, twice in 2014 and once this year). The group has formed six working groups: Statistics and Data Collection; Administrative Action and Policy; Health & Human Services Awareness, Outreach & Prevention; Industry Awareness and Outreach; Prosecution & Law Enforcement; and Victim Support. They are planning to release a report on their progress towards the end of the year.

For more information, contact: Kristina Vadas, LCSW, MSW, Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services, (804) 786-7802 or E-mail: Kristina.Vadas@dcjs.virginia.gov



The Northern Virginia Human Trafficking Initiative (NOVA HTI)

In 2010, congressional representative, Frank Wolf, asked the faith community to join the fight against human trafficking in Northern Virginia. A group of pastors, the Loudoun Pastors Consortium, heeded the call and established **NOVA-HTI**.



Kay Duffield

Kay Duffield, Director, explains that the efforts of **NOVA-HTI** are divided into five teams that address separate areas of need.

continued on page 10



Virginia's Picture

continued from page 9

- **Awareness and Prevention Team**- This group has three sub-teams. The Events subgroup organizes workshops and events. Duffield is also a member of the Attorney General's Anti-Trafficking Coordinating Committee's Outreach and Awareness Subcommittee. NOVA-HTI coordinates speaking requests for the Northern Virginia area in addition to responding to requests that come directly to NOVA-HTI. A second effort is offering Pure Desire groups. This support group is a faith-based approach to help those struggling with sexual addiction. The third sub-team is organizing a Justice Summit faith-based conference for Fall, 2015.
- **Prayer Team**-This team gathers on conference calls to pray through requests from partners, for justice in the region, and for anti-trafficking professionals who call in or send prayer requests.
- **Creative and Communications Team**-These volunteers create and update the website, write the monthly newsletter, create brochures and banners as well as keep up with postings on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts.



- **Policy and Legal Advocacy Team** – This is the newest team. They partner with Richmond Justice Initiative and

International Justice Mission in advocating for policy that prevents and protects trafficking victims. Two law firms also partner with NOVA-HTI to provide pro bono legal services related to immigration status.

- **Victim Services Team**- Two sub-groups work to provide direct services to victims of trafficking. The Mentoring Team befriends and stands



with the trafficking survivors, helping them through emotional and spiritual challenges. "I believe in mentoring," says Duffield. "The sooner we can connect a victim with someone who can stay with them throughout their

long journey, the better." The Resource Team finds basic necessities for victims. Twelve partner churches supply tangible items and find free medical and dental care, counseling, tutoring, and child care. Two new teams are being built. The Crisis Response Team members will be on call 24-7 to work with law enforcement to be certain that victims will be well-cared for and safe. The Case Management Team will also work with law enforcement to assess the individual needs of victims and refer to treatment facilities.

Duffield notes that there are many partnerships. For example, NOVA-HTI partners with JustAskVA (described below) to promote prevention activities. Duffield also leads a group for teenage trafficking survivors at an undisclosed location.

For more information, contact Kay Duffield at (571) 207-5890 or E-mail: kay@novahti.com or visit their website: www.novahti.com/



Northern Virginia Trafficking Task Force

Founded in 2004, the **Northern Virginia Human Trafficking Task Force** is a collaboration of federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies and nongovernmental organizations dedicated to two major efforts. First is the investigation and prosecution of persons engaged in sex trafficking, forced labor, and closely-related crimes. The second focus is identifying, rescuing, and providing services to victims of human trafficking.

The **Northern Virginia Trafficking Task Force** facilitates a more coordinated anti-trafficking effort in Northern Virginia through protocol development, extensive community outreach, proactive investigations, law enforcement training, intelligence-sharing, and more formalized partnerships between law enforcement organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). There are a number of subcommittees:

- Training Committee
- Victim Services (led by Polaris)
- Law Enforcement
- Outreach and Awareness

For more information about the **Northern Virginia Trafficking Task Force** readers can contact: Bill Woolf, E-mail: William.Woolf@fairfaxcounty.gov Kay Duffield, E-mail: kay@novahti.com Deepa Patel, E-mail: DPatel@mccva.com

SERVICES AVAILABLE

The VCPN website has a listing of Virginia resources for victims of human trafficking. Specific programs for victims of human trafficking are limited. Several were identified. Two of these (The Gray Haven in Richmond and The Arbor in Charlottesville) are featured in separate Spotlights, this issue. Deepa Patel, LCSW, of the Multicultural Clinical Center has developed a specialized curriculum for victims of sex trafficking which is described in a separate spotlight.



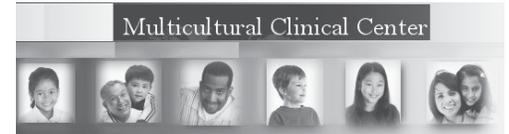
Northern Virginia
Family Service

Northern Virginia Family Services has hired an anti-trafficking coordinator. Saroj Uprety, MA, MSW moved to northern Virginia last fall from Chicago. He works with the Health and Mental Health Case Management Unit. His job is to assist trafficking victims for three months. He speaks five languages and his caseload is eight trafficking victims, all foreign-born adults. The focus is on practical needs such as food, shelter and legal issues. He explains that he works closely with a variety of resources in order to transition victims to long-term services. Uprety stresses the extensive needs of trafficking victims, "They lack information and don't know their rights."

Another service provider is the Fairfax County Office for Women & Domestic and Sexual Violence Services, a governmental agency. The agency provides an extensive range of services and has a staff of about 30 professionals. L. Chris Davies, LPC, is the Counseling Services supervisor and oversees a staff of seven. He and his staff provide short-term counseling services and do not typically work with teens who have been trafficked. For adult victims, they provide timely, targeted stabilization and safety. Davies adds, "We help victims learn skills for relaxation and how to manage arousal symptoms. Women who are trafficked may define themselves as criminal and don't easily trust others." Davies' staff provides services at shelters such as Artemis House. He and his staff provide both individual and group therapy to women, including trafficked women, who are sheltered temporarily while more permanent accommodations are arranged. He stresses that victims of trafficking are not necessarily foreign nationals. "Increasingly, we find that victims may be young people with more typical family backgrounds," he notes. Davies has also been active with JustAskVA, described below.

continued on page 12

SPOTLIGHT ON SPRINGFIELD, VIRGINIA



The Multicultural Clinical Center has a long history of offering treatment for sex trafficking victims. Deepa Patel, CSOTP, LCSW, Gang Intervention and Sexual Exploitation Program Director and the Coordinator for the Sex Offender Program explained that the treatment program for sexual exploitation arose from her efforts in gang intervention. Over time, Patel became aware that females attached to gangs were being trafficked and sexually exploited.

Through her private practice, Patel developed a curriculum for use in residential centers. The curriculum includes a comprehensive assessment of the sex trafficking victim and a 10-phase treatment for victims and families. The clinical assessment can identify whether or not a youth has been trafficked and identify the most effective treatment for that individual. The assessment also provides important information about relationships, substance use, self-esteem, and other pertinent issues.

Patel has contracted with six residential facilities. She provides the facility with four 8-hour days of intensive training and then is available for follow up. "It is a 'training of

trainers' model," she explains. The people who are trained can then train all facility staff and can train new staff as needed. The curriculum teaches how to identify trafficking, offers an overview of gangs and exploitation, and presents the treatment model. The treatment model utilizes individual, group and family modalities. The participating facilities are all secure ("locked") facilities that can offer victims safety as well as an intensive level of treatment. Patel stresses that the complex trauma experienced by victims often complicates treatment. "Often needs cannot be met on an outpatient basis," she explains. "The youth may be in danger from the trafficker and some also pose a risk to themselves." Treatment is also difficult because the youth may not identify themselves as victimized. They may present as aggressive, antisocial, and oppositional rather than with more typical PTSD symptoms of depression and anxiety, although these symptoms may also be present. Patel notes that the resistance to services can be frustrating to service providers. The many needs and considerable damage also mean that treatment is a long-term endeavor.

Patel relates that it can take six months to a year for the youth to stabilize. "It is important to work intertwined with all aspects of the trauma. A 'piece-meal' approach is not likely to be effective," she asserts. "Care must focus on relationship-building."

Unlike many providers of victim services, Patel also works with offenders. She is a certified sex offender treatment specialist and treats a homogenous group of sex offenders, including men who have trafficked children. "Traffickers have lost track of empathy," she notes. While she does not have longitudinal data, Patel feels that sex traffickers have benefitted from treatment and have been successfully re-integrated into the community.

In addition to therapeutic and assessment services, Patel also serves on the board of JustAskVA and the Northern Virginia Task Force on Human Trafficking (featured in this issue of VCPN). Readers interested in her work, training, and curricula can contact Deepa Patel at: Multicultural Clinical Center, 6563 Edsall Road, Springfield, VA 22151, 571-366-0086 or E-mail at: DPatel@mccva.com website: www.mccva.com

SPOTLIGHT ON CHARLOTTESVILLE: THE ARBOR



The Arbor is a safe house in Charlottesville, Virginia for survivors of human trafficking. They provide long-term housing for up to seven residents. The anticipated length of stay is a year. The residence is staffed 24/7. It is a new resource and accepted their first client in fall, 2014.

Joanna Jennings, MSW, directs the effort. Prior to becoming a social worker, she worked at ABC News. Jennings came to Virginia in 2012 after working at a facility in New York that serves human trafficking victims. She met others with similar interests and learned that there was a need for long-term services.

Jennings and her associates performed a needs assessment survey of communities across Virginia. Over 80% of agencies contacted were seeing victims of human trafficking and there was agreement that

there were many gaps in services. Community education and awareness, screening tools, and culturally-specific care were identified by more than half of those responding.

"The needs of trafficking victims are complex," explained Jennings. "In the needs assessment, long-term housing was cited by 85 percent of respondents as one of the greatest needs. In addition, trafficking victims require a comprehensive and holistic approach."

The Arbor partners with community providers for medical care, legal needs, literacy training, and job training. The program uses a strengths-based approach and offers the

time, space and support women need to recover and begin to heal. Jennings notes that pimps and traffickers use many persuasive techniques to convince women to remain in commercial sex. Education about rights and learning alternatives is part of the support offered.

The Arbor can serve victims of either labor trafficking or sex trafficking from any locality, but plans to be a primary resource for women in the Central Virginia area. They are not equipped at present to assist women who are pregnant or who have children living with them, nor can they serve women with severe substance addiction or serious mental health difficulties. They hope to broaden their services in the future to include a separate housing unit for women who are pregnant or raising children.

For more information, contact: Joanna Jennings, The Arbor, Box 4692, Charlottesville, VA 22905 E-mail: Joanna@arborville.org website: www.arborville.org



Virginia's Prevention Efforts



FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Fairfax County Public Schools has incorporated prevention of human trafficking into their Family Life Education Curriculum. Elizabeth Payne, Ed.D., K12 Coordinator for Health, Family Life and Physical Education, explains that the human trafficking topic is not a “stand alone” module, but rather is layered into the broader family life curricula and parts are presented at each grade level from sixth grade forward. “No grade level is taught all of the curriculum, rather information on teen sex trafficking is introduced a bit at a time and connected to other topics relating to community safety, online safety, and healthy relationships,” explains Payne.

A video entitled *Tricked* was developed by the Fairfax County school system’s media specialists and is available for a five dollar duplicating fee. Interested persons can contact Tracey Jewell, FCPS Digital Media Services at: TJjewell@fcps.edu. The 60-minute video includes a 15-minute section for parents at the end. The portion for youth explains the process and the ‘business model’ used by traffickers, how youth can protect themselves, the importance of healthy self-esteem and how to get help for oneself or others. The parent section provides an overview. The section features comments from a parent, a former trafficker, and a young adult victim.

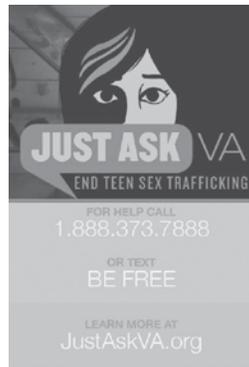
Payne is pleased about the Fairfax County School’s approach to prevention. She noted that dozens of other school districts, agencies, and organizations are utilizing their model. For example, *Tricked* was shown in the Phoenix area by KNOW 99, a youth education channel, during the days leading to the Super Bowl. Payne notes that traffickers are active during major sporting events and recruit vulnerable youth.

Fairfax Network, the media arm of the Fairfax County Schools, makes educational materials available to subscribers. The Fairfax Network has also developed an app for the human trafficking prevention materials. To support other communities, they have chosen to make *Tricked* available online for free, in addition to providing DVD at a \$5 cost.

For Human Trafficking Prevention Month in January, the Fairfax County School Board adopted a resolution, as did the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. The schools and the community held awareness events. Payne was a featured speaker along with others at a parent awareness workshop that attracted over 200 participants.

Payne can be contacted at (571) 423-4550 or by E-mail: etpayne@fcps.edu

A link to *Tricked* is:
<http://www.fcps.edu/it/fairfaxnetwork/trafficking/videostream.html>



JUST ASK PREVENTION PROJECT

The summer of 2013 marked the creation of **JustAskVA**, a public awareness campaign designed to expose the growing incidence of teen sex trafficking in Northern Virginia and to inspire the community to end the scouting, manipulation, and recruitment of teenagers. It encourages parents and the general public to “Just Ask” if something does not appear right. It is a collaborative effort among Fairfax County Public Schools, the Fairfax County Police Department Human Trafficking Unit, Fairfax Office for Women and Domestic & Sexual Violence Services, Hidden Brook Communications, and Northern Virginia community offices, organizations, faith-based groups.

Chris Davies from the Fairfax Office for Women and one of the **JustAskVA** members commented, “We had become aware that gangs were recruiting girls from our high schools and middle schools. These were youth who were attending school and some had good grades and two-parent families. We wanted the teens and the community to become aware of the risks.”

Kristin Fitzmorris, Executive Director, elaborated. “We found that traffickers were using three criteria for victim selection: availability; emotional vulnerability; and suit-



ability. Availability deals with being able to get the girl to the customer, so for example, a teen with no after-school activities or supervision is a target. Emotional vulnerability is something all teens might experience. However, teens with buffers such as an adult support system they actively talk with are more protected. Suitability deals with behavior patterns and self-esteem. Traffickers target teens with low self-esteem and who are willing to follow directions and keep secrets.”

Fitzmorris has also examined the tactics that traffickers use to manipulate teens into sex trafficking. She uses the acronym ‘SCAR’ to explain. “The ‘S’ is for low self-esteem. The ‘C’ refers to compensation, for example giving the youth gifts of clothes or even drugs. ‘A’ refers to affection. Some traffickers pretend to be the girls’ boyfriend or play on her desire to be part of a group. ‘R’ is retaliation. That can be violence or shaming the teen with threats of exposing their activities or distributing video or pictures of the sexual activity.”

JustAskVA is organized around two prongs. One is messaging and the other is mobilization. Davies comments, “We want to get the word out through public awareness events and materials and the website.” Fitzmorris wants parents and the general public to know the warning signs of trafficking, the techniques of recruitment and retention of victims, and the steps to take if one suspects a trafficking situation. The second ‘prong’ of mobilization is accomplished through “a very robust group” of volunteers and professionals. “Within each interest group such as schools or mental health or law enforcement, a designated individual incorporates others from their interest area. For example, the Victim Services Sector coordinator enlisted the group *Girls Inspired and Ready to Lead* to use a recent holiday to assemble 120 bags of supplies for trafficking survivors. They placed personal notes into the bags. Fitzmorris added, “Therapists tell me that these notes are healing and some survivors carry the notes with them.”

SPOTLIGHT ON RICHMOND: THE GRAY HAVEN



The Gray Haven in Richmond is a fairly new organization that is providing comprehensive services to domestic and foreign victims of human trafficking. Josh and Andrea Bailey became aware of the issue of global trafficking and gradually became aware that human trafficking was also present in their local community. Determined to make a difference, they filed for 501 (c)(3) status in September, 2010 to start an agency,



Posters and advertising have been placed in public schools, public transportation, and community buildings. **JustAskVA** also focuses on training. Davies explains that trainings have been tailored for specific interest groups. Thus far, trainings have been offered for counselors and social workers, for foster parents, for shelter and residential staff, and for faith-based community members.

In addition to continuing the efforts underway, Fitzsmorris would like for **JustAskVA** to work with the hotel industry. ECPAT International has developed a Code of Conduct and training to help prevent child exploitation. **JustAskVA** is examining those materials to determine if they could be useful for business establishments to consider adopting.

Fitzsmorris summarizes, "**JustAskVA** is an umbrella organization and helps people do what they can in many sectors. Our focus is prevention and education. We have developed materials that can be valuable to other communities and we are happy to work with anyone who wants to use our model."

Readers wanting more information can contact:

Kristin Fitzsmorris (703) 405-3947,
E-mail: kristinfitzsmorris@gmail.com
L. Chris Davies (703) 704-6727,
E-mail: Lorin.Davies@fairfaxcounty.gov

Visit the website at: <http://justaskva.org>

The Gray Haven, to address needs of trafficked individuals. They received their approval in October, 2010 and spent about 18 months making contacts and seeking funding. They received their first referral in February, 2012. Since that time, their staff of five has served approximately 80 victims of human trafficking.

Josh Bailey exudes enthusiasm as he describes The Gray Haven's services and progress. He begins, "The Gray Haven provides comprehensive survivor care with an advocate to walk with a survivor through the complexity of healing and rebuilding their lives," Bailey stresses that all staff (even the secretary) have been trained in how to provide trauma-informed services. "We work with the victim until she is self-sufficient and ready to be independent," he explains. The Gray Haven provides or arranges for short-term needs such as clothes, food, shelter, health care, substance abuse treatment and mental health treatment. "Next," says Bailey, "we consider long-term needs. We listen to victims' goals and identify barriers. We may need to help with immigration status, education, work skills and therapy to empower the women to reach their objectives. We partner with community providers to help the women build a life and accomplish their dreams."

Bailey describes the process as variable, depending upon the situation and needs of the individual referred. Was the individual living in poverty? Had they been abused as a child? What is the skill level? Does the woman have children? Are there community supports? Was the family of origin dysfunctional? How much time was spent in the trafficking situation? What degree of trauma is interfering with the individual's functioning?

According to Bailey, the first six to nine months generally requires intensive support. He describes a staff that is very available and client-centered. By two years, the individual may require only occasional support and are managing independently. The Gray Haven program has been operating just three years and some clients from its inception still receive services.

In addition to the comprehensive case management, The Gray Haven also offers a Crisis Response Team that is available to assist law enforcement 24/7. There is a small residential safe home that serves up to four women (and a woman can bring her child as well). The residential program is designed for a 6-to-12-month stay but can be flexible if longer time is needed. The Gray Haven does not offer emergency residential placement. Bailey says that emergency placements are a great need in Virginia, but

his organization is not equipped or licensed to meet that need.

Bailey is extremely pleased with the nonresidential drop-in center. Survivors can come to the drop-in center and use a computer, receive help with job applications, or just "hang out" and receive support from staff or other victims.

Of the 80 clients served to date, most (70%) are sex trafficking victims. The Gray Haven has served labor trafficking victims who were brought to U.S. to work in agriculture, meat processing, construction or domestic situations. They are very diverse in their countries of origin.

In cases of sex trafficking where the victim is a minor, Bailey says that child protective service is always involved and CPS places the child, either back in their family, in foster care, or in a residential center. The Gray Haven provides support to the youth survivor and their families. Bailey notes that the situations of minors can be various. Their family may be involved in prostituting the minor. The family may be dysfunctional and abusive. In other cases, the family is supportive and the youth was lured into trafficking because of a vulnerability not directly related to the family, such as feeling bullied at school or not fitting in to a social group. "Teens can be vulnerable because they want someone to care for them. A trafficker meets them where they are and offers attention. There can be a gradual grooming process where he tells the girl that she is beautiful and gives her gifts. The girl pictures him as a boyfriend and she is gradually introduced into prostitution. While there is almost always violence, the larger part is gradual brainwashing," explains Bailey.

While The Gray Haven has served survivors from across the Commonwealth, they mainly serve those from the greater Richmond area. They have received several grants. Bailey works with the Task Force coordinated by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services. Bailey is also working with a group that hopes to form a state-wide coalition of law enforcement and providers. They just began meeting in December, 2014 and are seeking interested members.

Bailey offers training in conjunction with others on a fee basis. He is happy to work with agencies and organizations to try to make training affordable.

Interested readers may contact Josh Bailey at: The Gray Haven, PO Box 1/2, Richmond, VA 23218 (804) 365-2529, E-mail: info@thegrayhaven.org Website: www.thegrayhaven.org



Sex Trafficking

continued from page 7

continuing eligibility as a victim of trafficking. Children are not required to cooperate with law enforcement or to have been granted a Continued Presence or T visa in order to receive assistance.

If there is no parent or legal guardian in the United States, a child victim of trafficking with an Eligibility Letter is able to receive services through the ORR **Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (URM)** program. Children can be placed in licensed foster homes or other care settings according to the individual needs of that child or youth.

Prevention Ideas

The Buyers—First and foremost, what fuels commercial sex trafficking of children are people, mostly males, who are willing to pay for sex with children (Dillon, 2008; Kotrla, 2010; McClain & Garrity, 2011). Dillon states, “On the demand side, there stand tens of thousands of men ready to pay for the sexual enslavement of women, and of children” (p. 168). These men are able and willing to cast aside nurturing the young in favor of exploiting them. If no one were purchasing the children for sex, there would be no sex trafficking of children. Preventative efforts must address global demand for cheap victims (Rafferty, 2013).

A substantial minority of men in the United States admit to having purchased sex from adults at some point in their lives. According to Shively, Kliorys, Wheeler & Hunt (2012) at Abt Associates, most surveys find between 10% and 20% of men admit to this crime. The rates found in the United States are similar to those found in Australia and Europe.

A secondary prevention is educational programs for men who purchase sex (such as ‘John’s School’). Men who are arrested for buying sexual services are required to participate in a seminar designed to educate and rehabilitate and prevent further acts (Kotrla, 2010; Rafferty, 2013). According to Barnitz (2001), few men who completed an eight-hour program were rearrested for participation in prostitution. Abt Associates (Shively et al., 2012) review a number of formal evaluations of ‘John’s Schools’ and arrests of buyers that showed low rates of recidivism and large reductions in prostitution, although these studies do not specifically examine teen prostitution.

The Traffickers—Some effort needs to be made in identifying people who profit from trafficking and to learn about recruitment patterns. Disrupting trafficking networks can be important in prevention (Rafferty, 2013). Better protections for children who migrate might prevent exploitation (Rafferty, 2013). There is general agreement that those who supply child victims, the traffickers, are motivated by simple greed. Traffickers may be part of an organized crime network or they may be acting in small groups or alone (Kotrla, 2010). There is focus on arresting and prosecuting traffickers.

Since trafficking of children often includes moving children across state lines or importing children from other countries, a national approach, rather than a state-by-state response has been recommended (Rafferty, 2013). Law enforcement and services agencies need to work together across borders to offer a coordinated response to the crime of sex trafficking. Adequate training of law enforcement and ‘front line’ staff is part of the coordinated effort.

Child Vulnerability—Further study of adults who were recruited as children might provide insight to recruitment tactics and methods that traffickers use to retain victims. Knowledge about recruitment may also help educate and advise children who are at risk for becoming victims of sex trafficking (Rafferty, 2013).

In a PBS Documentary, *A Path Appears*, aired in January, 2014, Ashley Judd states, “Incest is boot camp for prostitution.” There is general agreement and research supports the idea that experiencing sexual abuse as a young child renders youth more vulnerable to being enticed into prostitution. Therefore, efforts that prevent child sexual abuse can impact sex trafficking. The National Plan to Prevent the Sexual Exploitation of Children involves a seven-point action plan (see block, this issue).

Virginia professionals interviewed (see Virginia’s Picture, this issue) stress that all adolescents have some vulnerability to traffickers simply due to their age and inexperience. In addition, there can be specific risk factors. Adolescents can be vulnerable to recruitment into prostitution due to combinations of isolation, substance addiction, school failure, prior sexual victimization, family dysfunction, and a history of criminal behaviors (McClain & Garrity, 2011). Primary prevention efforts can address both the general population of adolescents and adolescents with specific risk factors. Ensuring that all adolescents acquire life skills for independent living is likely to reduce risk (Rafferty, 2013).

Another factor when considering prevention are the large numbers of women and children living in poverty. The promise of a ‘better life’ can be enough for girls or for their families to fall under the influence of traffickers (McClain & Garrity, 2011). Reducing the supply of trafficked children can



involve empowering children and youth with personal resources (education; life skills; awareness). Investing in education can break the cycle of poverty. Teaching youth about human rights and human trafficking can develop awareness (Rafferty, 2013).

Cultural tolerance—A more elusive factor allowing sexual exploitation of children is a “culture of tolerance” (Kotrla, 2010). According to sources reviewed by Kotrla, some in the U.S. glamorize pimping and prostitution, making it easier to lure youth into the commercial sex trade. Clothing, songs, video games, television shows and other forms of entertainment glamorize prostitution. She notes, for example, that the song “It’s Hard Out Here For A Pimp” took top honors for Best Original Song at the 78th Academy Awards. Even the words, ‘the world’s oldest profession,’ she claims, fail to acknowledge the degradation that the vast majority of female prostitutes experience.

Farley (2008) notes that prostitution is widely tolerated and buyers are “socially invisible.” Many assume that prostitution is sex rather than sexual violence and a ‘vocational choice’ rather than a human rights abuse. Such attitudes may explain why there is less effort to arrest and prosecute those who purchase sexual services even though some data indicate that arrest and prosecution can be effective.

Public Awareness—Public awareness in general can help counter destructive social norms that minimize the harm to children and youth from sexual exploitation (National Coalition to Prevent Child Sexual Exploitation, 2008). Hepburn and Simon (2010) report that the U.S. government spent \$25 million in 2005 towards enforcement of anti-trafficking laws, raising awareness, and identifying and protecting victims of trafficking. The Rescue and Restore Victims of Human Trafficking public awareness campaign continues and public awareness materials are available on the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Refugee Resettlement.

The general population of youth can be educated in schools, churches, and community agencies. Targeted prevention programs can inform at-risk populations. For example, youth in alternative schools, runaway shelters, and in the juvenile justice system can be educated about the realities of commercial sexual exploitation and taught strategies for avoiding exploitation (Kotrla, 2010). A promising strategy that has not yet been evaluated is awareness-raising programs for groups of men such as members of armed forces and military recruits (Rafferty, 2013).

Prevention of Online Solicitation

Adolescents are the age group most vulnerable to online grooming for sexual exploitation. They have high levels of internet access and are prone to engage in risk-taking behaviors. The higher the level of risk-taking behaviors, the greater the vulnerability and the less resistant the youth is likely to be towards online grooming efforts (Whittle, Hamilton-Giachritsis, Beech & Collings, 2013).

Traffickers search for children and youth online, and are likely to use social networking sites for initial contact with children and youth (Kotrla, 2010). Parents should monitor their children's social media in order to detect troublesome communications.

While there is some evidence that offenders search for vulnerable youth, some think that offenders are indiscriminate and vulnerable youth are the ones who respond to overtures. Youth who have low self-esteem, low self-confidence, and who are using the internet as a compensatory mechanism to deal with offline difficulties are more vulnerable. For example, youth with disabilities or who are questioning their sexual orientation appear more vulnerable to online grooming (studies reviewed in Whittle et al., 2013).

Young people who are performing poorly in school or who are dissatisfied with school may be more vulnerable, as are youth who are isolated from peers and who have social difficulties and experience bullying (studies reviewed by Whittle et al., 2013). Schools can assist by offering internet safety education and by encouraging those who experience online bullying to report to school authorities.

The most potent protective factor appears to be parental involvement and monitoring of youth internet activity as well as youth being aware of parental monitoring (Whittle et al., 2013). Communication between parents and youth about internet use can be a protective factor. Young people with parents who are distracted and who fail to monitor (such as parents with high alcohol consumption) are more likely to be approached online (Whittle et al., 2013). Likewise, there is suggestion that youth from single parent families, from families with dysfunctional dynamics and lack of family cohesion, and poor relationships between youth and parents are all associated with youth experiencing online solicitation (studies reviewed in Whittle et al., 2013).

Concluding Thoughts

The human rights affected by sex trafficking include right to liberty, to dignity, and the right to not be a slave or involuntarily indentured servant. Children have the right to be free of cruel or inhumane treatment and to develop free of abuse or neglect.

Reference List is Available
on the VCPN website

SPOTLIGHT ON MARYLAND



"There's a new momentum for a child welfare response to child sex trafficking. It has been a long time in coming," says Melissa Snow, Program Specialist for Child Trafficking at the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. Snow is one of the crafters of Maryland's comprehensive response to sex trafficking. Diane Banchiere, LCSW-C, In-Home Policy Analyst with Maryland State Government, explained that in 2007 legislation was passed that established the Governor's Initiative and Human Trafficking Task Force. The Task Force is a partnership with the Federal Attorney's Office and the Baltimore City Attorney's Office and has grown to over 40 members. The Maryland Department of Human Services has been involved from the start.

"We were able to meet and to discuss how the service providers and law enforcement intersect. Over time, the group has developed a comprehensive response that includes changes in policy, legislation, and service provision," explained Snow. "In Maryland we have shifted from a Juvenile Justice response to a child welfare response that is a collaborative effort between law enforcement and trauma-informed crisis intervention." Snow discusses the importance of working out potential problems prior to service delivery. "If there is a jurisdictional problem and people don't agree about who should respond, we send the message to the youth that no one wants to deal with them and help them. The trafficker, meanwhile, sends the message that he wants them. Our service system must be streamlined and offer immediate and appropriate care," she says.

Banchiere explained that, effective May 2, 2012, Maryland law defined minors who were being used for prostitution as abused children, placing their care under the department of social services rather than juvenile justice. Banchiere wrote the new policy guidelines for social services and became involved with the Victim Services Subcommittee of the Task Force. To better identify possible victims of trafficking, the Maryland Department of Human Resources developed a state-specific webinar that all child welfare staff were mandated to watch. They also developed a brochure for providers.

Banchiere, in collaboration with other members of the Task Force, created a Foster Care Youth Screening for Human Sex Trafficking instrument. In March of 2014, the screening was administered to every youth age 12 and older in out-of-home placement. The tool is used as a discussion and conversation mechanism. If the screening instrument yielded risk factors or potential signs of trafficking, then a specialist from TurnAround, a domestic violence and human

trafficking shelter, also interviewed the youth. Since 2007, Banchiere says that about 60 victims of human trafficking have been reported to child protective services.

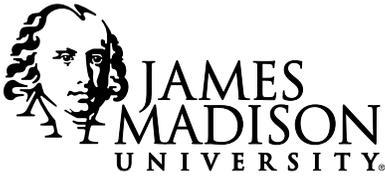
Banchiere relates that program managers and service providers have learned a great deal about serving youth with trafficking histories. At first, they thought that a secure facility and a high level of supervision would be required for every identified youth. While that is often true, Banchiere encourages individual consideration in decision-making. However, they have learned that a 90-day program that serves a wide range of youth is most effective. Banchiere says that they now have two residential facilities and a group home that will accept trafficked youth.

While the goal is to return youth to their families, that is not always feasible. "We must thoroughly investigate the family and be certain that the child will be safe if he or she returns, states Banchiere. The youth who are victimized can be difficult. "More often than not, girls will deny that they are trafficked," notes Banchiere. "These youth are not warm and cuddly. Some are terrors and can lie convincingly. They may have a strong trauma bond with the trafficker. They may not even give their actual name."

The multitude of challenges requires a truly interdisciplinary response. Banchiere relates that she works closely with Homeland Security, the FBI, law enforcement, mental health professionals, and child protective services. "Our Task Force has exceptionally dedicated people," she relates, "and we work together well."

Amanda Rodriguez is a former prosecutor who is now in the Governor's Office as the Coordinator for Maryland's response to sex trafficking. She agrees about the importance of interagency collaboration. Rodriguez stresses the importance of all State agencies appreciating the roles of others. "We evolved from a law-enforcement response to a victim-centered response. We overcame many hurdles in assuring that the victim is not traumatized again." Rodriguez also stresses the importance of public education and support. "The general public needs to know what to look for and who to contact," she asserts. Rodriguez is helping a state work group examine legislation and propose changes that will ensure that youth are defined as victims and not stigmatized.

For more information about Maryland's response and their screening too, readers may contact: Diane Banchiere at: (410) 767-7423 or E-mail at: Diane.banchiere@maryland.gov
Amy Rodriguez at: (410) 821-2846 or E-mail: ARodriguez@goccp.state.md.us
Melissa A. Snow at (703) 562-7637 or E-mail: MSnow@NCMEC.org



Department of
PSYCHOLOGY

91 E. Grace Street, MSC 7704
Harrisonburg, VA 22807
Attn: J. Grayson

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Harrisonburg, VA 22802
PERMIT NO. 161

Return Service Requested



540-429



VCPN is on the web – Visit us at:
<http://psychweb.cisat.jmu.edu/graysojh/>

HOW TO REPORT SUSPECTED CHILD TRAFFICKING

If one suspects a child or youth under age 18 is being used for the commercial sex trade or if there is a suspicion that a child is a victim of trafficking for labor, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Department of State offer the following guidance:

- Call the HHS-funded National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) 24-hour, 7-days a week hotline: **1-888-373-7888**.
- Call the U. S. Department of Justice Worker Exploitation Complaint Line: **1-888-428-7581** (week days 9AM-5PM EST). The line is available in English, Spanish, Russian, and Mandarin.
- If the child or youth is in urgent need of assistance, contact law enforcement or child protective services to report abuse, neglect or exploitation. The Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline can connect a caller with a local number: **1-800-422-4453**.

Reporting Responsibilities

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act, as amended, requires Federal, State, or local officials to notify HHS within 24 hours of discovering a child who may be a foreign victim of trafficking. Federal, State, or local officials should notify a Child Protection Specialist in the HHS Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) at ChildTrafficking@acf.hhs.gov or call **202-205-4582**

**See the Website
for more Articles!**

Go Green

If you prefer an electronic notice when VCPN is published rather than a hard copy, please e-mail your preference to Joann Grayson at graysojh@jmu.edu

© Commonwealth of Virginia
Department of Social Services

VCPN is copyrighted but may be reproduced or reprinted with permission. Write for "Request to Reprint" forms. Request or inquiry is addressed to: Joann Grayson, Ph.D., Department of Psychology, MSC 7704, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA 22807, or call (540) 568-6482.
E-mail: graysojh@jmu.edu