

Sexually Trafficked Youth: How to Stand in the Breach as a Community of Faith

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What is it?

CSEC or Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children is modern-day slavery. Children perform commercial sex through the use of force, fraud, or coercion. Under 18 engaging, commercial sex is considered to be human trafficking, regardless of the use of force, fraud, or coercion (to young to consent)

<http://traffickingresourcecenter.org/mission>

Also called **Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking:**

(DMST) is the commercial sexual abuse of children through buying, selling or trading their sexual services.

National District Attorney Association (excellent website on national laws)

<http://www.ndaa.org/pdf/Human%20Trafficking%203-3-2015.pdf>

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One Million

- In 2006, the US State Department reported to the United Nations that 1 million children were exploited in the global sex trade.
- The greatest factor in the increasing numbers of trafficked children: DEMAND
- <http://www.ungift.org/knowledgehub/en/about/trafficking-of-children.html>

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A long time to get here: Human Trafficking is worth \$32 billion internationally

- Human trafficking, which includes the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC), is a 32 billion dollar a-year industry,
- after drug trafficking and counterfeiting, is the most profitable criminal activity worldwide.
- It's estimated that a pimp can earn up to \$650k a year exploiting only 4 children
- CSEC is defined as the “sexual abuse of a minor for economic gain.”
- From the Young Minds Advocacy Project
- <http://www.youngmindsadvocacy.org/csec-2/>

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Sex trafficking

- The term “sex trafficking” means the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act.
<https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/22/7102>
- The [Trafficking Victims Protection Act \(TVPA\) of 2000](#) is the first comprehensive federal law to address trafficking in persons.(reauthorized in 2013)

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CSEC, looks like?

- Hard to pinpoint age, especially when they have on “work clothes”
- Kids (boys and girls) don’t always see them selves as victims, many actively deny being exploited.
- Average start age: for boys between 11 and 13, for girls, between 12 and 14. (FBI estimates on age)
- Average life span for a CSEC: 7 years, homicide, HIV/AIDS account for the majority of deaths.
- One study found 68% of CSEC have PTSD

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A trafficked kid

Youth at Risk

Children who have a history of neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, those in foster care, child protective service systems, those who have run away, or forced from their homes and refused permission to return (defined as throw away children) are among the most at risk for commercial sexual exploitation.

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Recruiting: A Well Oiled Machine

Can we be as good as the pimps?

- Posing as a boyfriend, caretaker, and protector, and pressure them to perform sexual acts first on themselves and then on others.
- Finesse Pimp/ Romeo Pimp
- Gorilla Pimp
- Renegade (person involved without pimp)
- Branding (tattoo, or carving, showing who owns you)
- Daddy
- Quota
- Family or Folks (under same pimp)

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Numbers in Georgia

- 2010 A group now called youthSpark commissioned a Georgia demand study (on girls) and found:
- 7,200 men in Georgia knowingly or unknowingly exploit an adolescent female **each month** in 8,700 sex acts (300 per day)
- 42% of the men buy sex with young girls in and around metro Atlanta
- Each adolescent female is exploited an average of three times a day
- Today each month, approximately 200+ girls are sold for sex in Georgia
- Survival Sex: more than 50% of the domestic sex trafficking victims are runaways and live on the streets
- FBI lists Atlanta Georgia in the top 14 cities for CSEC
- <http://www.youth-spark.org/>

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youthSpark in Georgia releases study on boys trafficked

On May 5, 2015, youthSpark released a demand study on boys:

- Services procured primarily on line (like girls): Craig's List, Jack'd. Sugar Daddy
- Many buyers are straight married men
- 4 week data collection using capture/recapture methodology
- 1 month: 638 males sold in metro Atlanta
- Half are under 23 and of that group, 56 of those sold in the month long demand were 17 and younger
- posted a sham add and had 253 people click all the way through to look at picture posted on flicker. Geo located as far as Hawaii, and Maine

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youthSpark 2015 study on Boys being trafficked

Dealing with Demand:

- Risk to buyers almost 0%
- 2014 Georgia metro prostitution arrests, 305: only 10% were buyers
- Arresting buyers works. 70% lower recidivism when buyers arrested
- Need to create a referral funnel for boys
- Georgia Cares Connection created for CSEC victims has served 1000 youth since 2009, only 35 were boys, there are huge holes in the net
- <http://www.youth-spark.org/>

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CSEC/ Foster Care link

- In the California Report: CSEC A CALL FOR MULTI SYSTEM COLLABORATION, a study is quoted finding
- at least 85% of all trafficked youth in New York had a child welfare background,
- and seventy-five percent of trafficked youth residing in New York City had spent time in the foster care system.
- Kids in the child welfare system: neglected and abused youth are major targets for exploiters and pimps

<http://www.youngmindsadvocacy.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/Ending-CSEC-A-Call-for-Multi-System-Collaboration-in-CA.pdf>

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Foster care link cont.

Selling America's Foster Youth and Children (a Ca. Study)

- In 2012, studies estimate that between 50 and 80 percent of commercially sexually exploited children (CSEC) in California are or were formally involved with the child welfare system.
- 58% of 72 sexually trafficked girls in Los Angeles County's STARS Court in 2012 were foster care kids
- In Alameda County, 41% of 267 victims in 2011-2012 were foster care kids
- http://www.casre.org/our_children/fcht/

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Baucus Statement on Preventing Sex Trafficking in Foster Care

June 11, 2013

- At least 100,000 children are exploited every year in the United States. Most of these kids are only between 12 and 14 years old.
- This committee has jurisdiction over the nation's foster care and adoption system. Today we will focus our attention on the children most vulnerable to trafficking predators – foster children.
- **Fifty to eighty percent of the children that are exploited and sold** each year in America are connected to the foster care system. The tough background and unstable upbringing of many foster youth increases their risk of exploitation.
- <http://www.finance.senate.gov/newsroom/chairman/release/?id=53a6ed23-43db-495a-9981-68f3474bbba0>

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The most vulnerable targets

- Through no fault of their own, there were approximately 397,000 children in foster care in the United States on the last day of 2012.
- Every year about 23,000 kids age out of foster care.
- To get your head around the numbers, that is the student population at Georgia State. That means for 23,000 foster kids last year, the system failed. (The Children's Bureau and Office of the Administration for Children and Families, 2014)

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“Aging Out”

- 23,000 kids left the foster care system without being returned to their families or adopted.
- Aging out means that their chances for graduating from high school plummet while the chance for becoming homeless, and parents before they are ready, skyrockets

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A lonely job...

- Being a foster kid is a lonely job. In an attempt to keep them safe, they are removed from their families and sent to live with people they have never met.
- Foster kids usually have to change schools. They lose friends and neighbors. Contacts with the outside fall away after a year in foster care.
- A slumber party invitation for a foster child can require a criminal background check for everyone over 14 in the house the slumber party is occurring.

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Raised by shift workers

- The isolation foster youth face on a daily basis affects how they grow up and who they have the chance to be.
- What if only people paid to watch you raised you? With shift workers as your primary caretakers, the person who turned out the lights at night is never the same person who wakes you up in the morning.
- It is hard to grow up this lonely, and it is easy to take advantage of kids who have.
- A December 2011 article in the *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*, titled “Foster Care for Young Children: Why It Must Be Developmentally Informed,” cites “decades of developmental research on the science of attachment” in support of a focus on permanent adult connections. Co-authored by Shauffer, who is an attorney, with Charles H. Zeanah, MD <http://www.aecf.org/blog/reducing-congregate-care-worth-the-fight/>

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Training Grounds for What?

“One recovered youth told me that, ‘being in foster care was the perfect training for commercial sexual exploitation. I was used to being moved without warning, without any say, not knowing where I was going or whether I was allowed to pack my clothes. After years in foster care, I didn’t think anyone would want to take care of me unless they were paid. So, when my pimp expected me to make money to support ‘the family’, it made sense to me.”

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A pipeline?

- Our Baptismal Covenant means that we may be called to make sure that our foster care system doesn't become a pipeline for the commercial sexual exploitation of youth.
- Isolated youth are targets for sex traffickers.
- California studies **found between 50 and 80% of the commercially sexually exploited children are or were formerly involved with the child welfare system.** Those same studies noted that boys are an generally between 11 and 13 when they start being trafficked , and girls are between 12 and 14

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Harvard School of Public Health January 17, 2014

Comments on Draft Legislation for the Ways and Means Committee:

“Preventing Sex Trafficking and Improving Opportunities for Youth in Foster Care Act”

- That it recognizes that congregate care, including group homes, are targeted by traffickers and consequently often fail to protect children from CSEC.
- While the draft legislation seeks to ensure that states “do more” to move children out of long-term foster care, we are disappointed that it does not introduce other measures to protect children in foster care from predatory traffickers.
- Interim measures could be implemented to protect children who will inevitably continue to reside in congregate care. For example, congregate care centers could be required to implement a substantive training course on CSEC for residents of their centers, providing girls with the knowledge of CSEC and the skills to resist trafficking recruiters
- <http://fxb.harvard.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2014/01/FXB-Comments-on-Preventing-Trafficking-1-17-14.pdf>

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Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act

On Monday, September 29, 2014, the President signed H.R. 4980, the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act.

- Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act - **Title I: Protecting Children and Youth At Risk of Sex Trafficking - Subtitle A: Identifying and Protecting Children and Youth at Risk of Sex Trafficking** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/house-bill/4980>

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Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families

- Requires state child welfare agencies to identify, document, and determine appropriate services for children in foster care or who are otherwise involved in the child welfare system who are victims of child sex trafficking or at risk of becoming victims.
- Requires state child welfare agencies to promote "normalcy" for youth in foster care allowing them to more easily participate in age appropriate social, scholastic and enrichment activities. (reasonable prudent parents)

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Preventing Trafficking future reporting requirements

- States will report efforts to ensure that kids in care develop long term lasting relationships with caring adults, EVEN when the the youth in care has to move to a new placement or gets a new caseworker. (Faithful Visitors, hello...)
- Requires that States report to congress on the outcomes for youth placed in settings other than foster families as well as data on foster children who are pregnant or parenting

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Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act

Subtitle B: A game changer for **kids in care 5 years from now** if it's done well... (increased appropriations for making sure that kids likely to remain in care to age 18 have access to developmentally appropriate opportunities **by 2020**)

- Requires states to develop reasonable and prudent standard of care for the child's participation in age appropriate extra curricular and social activities (sleep overs, lessons, girl scout meetings)

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You are what change looks like

When it comes down to it, it's all about change.

It's what we signed up for in our Baptismal Covenant. We vowed to strive for peace and justice, to respect the dignity of every human being.

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Faithful Visitors: Working in partnership with the State

- The concept is simple; the State chooses foster children who are growing up with no outside support in our foster system.
- We recruit Visitors who are trained, screened and commit to 2 years of visiting.
- We assign Faithful Visitor teams who visit once a month for two years. It is not rocket science, or designed for specialists, it is where we are all called to ante up and live up to our Christianity.

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Why this project isn't nation-wide, yet

- 3 years in the making
- Protect and Isolate mode of State Child Welfare Agencies
- Avoiding harm and causing it with the “bubble”
- the access hurdle
- Recognition of the developmental need for mentors and social bonding without family supports to provide. (Harvard study, Casey research) Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act
- Lack of action “safer” as the payoff is long term
- 35% turn over
- Big system fatigue
- NEVER GIVE UP

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Standing in the Breach

The Faithful Visitors Project

1 team of Faithful Visitors

+ 1 kid

1 visit a month

for 2 years

= change

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one kid at a time

Changing the world happens one foster kid at a time. The only people who won't be glad you came are the pimps.

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RESOURCES

- <http://www.youth-spark.org/learn/trafficking-resource-hub/>
- National District Attorneys Association: excellent US-wide list of laws and sterling research papers on DMST updated March 2015 <http://www.ndaa.org/pdf/Human%20Trafficking%203-3-2015.pdf>
- The Barton Center's http://bartoncenter.net/uploads/publications_staff/2012ProsecutorsToolkitFINAL.pdf
- Ending the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: A Call for Multi-System Collaboration in California <http://www.youngmindsadvocacy.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/Ending-CSEC-A-Call-for-Multi-System-Collaboration-in-CA.pdf>
- The center for Missing and Exploited Children's <http://www.missingkids.com/LegalResources/Exploitation>

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