



Minnesota HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASKFORCE

Human Trafficking & Primary Prevention

ISSUE • RESPONSE • SOLUTION

UNDERSTANDING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Human trafficking is a public health, public safety and human rights violation that occurs around the world and in communities throughout Minnesota. Human trafficking includes both labor and sex trafficking, and international and domestic victims. The Minnesota Human Trafficking Task Force (MNHTTF) is working to address and prevent human trafficking in Minnesota through a coordinated, multidisciplinary, statewide response.

THE ISSUE: PRIMARY PREVENTION

Primary prevention is a systematic process that *promotes* healthy environments and behaviors and *reduces* the likelihood or frequency of an injury or traumatization. Primary prevention efforts are those that aim to stop the harm from happening in the first place. Prevention requires comprehensive efforts for reducing and ending sexual abuse, exploitation and trafficking.

Primary prevention efforts in Minnesota increase investment in, and focus on strategies to end sexual exploitation and the demand for it. In contrast to victim services, criminal justice expansion and response after harm is done, effective prevention efforts focus on actions to significantly:

- Reduce the likelihood that males will buy or sell women or children.
- Reduce the likelihood that women and children will be vulnerable to such commodification and exploitation.
- And reduce the ways that businesses are profiting from trafficking and exploitation.

"Primary prevention efforts are those that aim to stop the harm from happening in the first place."

The Response: Community Efforts to Address the Demand and Victims

A "patron" is defined under Minnesota law as "an individual who hires or offers or agrees to hire another individual to engage in sexual penetration or sexual contact."⁽¹⁾ Patrons fuel the demand for the sex industry into which women and girls are trafficked. However traditionally, these individuals often go unpunished, while the women and girls who are more likely to be victims of pimps or domestic traffickers often make up 70 to 90 percent of the prostitution-related arrests. ⁽²⁾

However, in recent years, certain law enforcement agencies in Minnesota have achieved a paradigm shift, dedicating resources and focus to combat the demand, prioritizing “John” enforcement activities, and conducting sting operations to arrest offenders who attempt to purchase human beings for sex (please see the Law Enforcement Fact Sheet for more information). Community organizations are doing their part to combat the demand, changing the community’s views and response to the men fueling the market for sex trafficking victims. Please also see the “Men’s Role Fact Sheet” for information on what men are doing to prevent trafficking.

Demand Change Conference: Hosted by Breaking Free, this bi-annual event focuses on engaging community members, service providers, policymakers, law enforcement, lawyers, business owners, etc., in addressing human trafficking in Minnesota. Significant focus is placed on prevention, by engaging men, looking at the causes and contributors to human trafficking, and understanding and combating the societal norms and privilege that create, promote, and protect men’s violence. <http://www.breakingfree.net>

Clean Hotels Policy: Clean Hotel policies have been adopted by various agencies throughout the state, whereby employees do not receive reimbursement for hotel stays (while on official business) unless the hotel has agreed to not offer pay-per-view pornography in their hotel rooms. This provides incentive for motels to become “clean”. <http://www.menaspeacemakers.org/programs/mnman/hotels>

Prevention Committee of the MN Human Trafficking Task Force: The Prevention Committee is working to develop a comprehensive trafficking prevention agenda for Minnesota. For more information, email: amy.kenzie@state.mn.us

Addressing the harms of pornography, strip clubs, etc.: Increasingly common and easily available, violent pornography impacts children, youth and our culture, as do other sexually exploitative businesses. These also strongly link to the demand for prostitution of women and children. For information on current efforts to address this: www.cordeliaanderson.com

Prevent Child Abuse MN: PCAMN is focusing on reducing childhood trauma through their MN Communities Caring for Children program. <http://pcamn709.wix.com/minncommcarechildren#>

MN Second Chance Coalition: Reduce legal barriers to successful re-entry for those leaving prison, including reforming laws around job attainment for people with criminal records, so that individuals can obtain jobs. <http://www.mnsecondchancecoalition.org/>

Ramsey County Runaway Intervention Project: RCRIP works with runaway girls to address trauma and help rec-connect them to supportive and protective factors: <http://www.co.ramsey.mn.us/Attorney/RunawayInterventionProject.htm>

1. MINN. STAT. § 609.321, subd. 4 (2007).
2. Hughes, Donna M., Race and Prostitution in the United States (2005)
3. Prevention Institute. <http://www.preventioninstitute.org/>
4. Cohen, L. & Swift, S. (1999). The spectrum of prevention: developing a comprehensive approach to injury prevention. Injury Prevention, 5, 203-207. Retrieved January 22, 2012, from http://www.preventioninstitute.org/index.php?option=com_jlibrary&view=article&id=105&Itemid=127

THE SOLUTION: THE SPECTRUM OF PREVENTION

Exploring the Solutions: The Spectrum of Prevention

The Spectrum is a tool for understanding the breadth of programs and changes needed to reduce trafficking. Prevention efforts are needed at all levels of the Spectrum of Prevention (however, concentrating efforts at the top two levels of the spectrum provide the greatest impact).

- Consider engaging in collaborative efforts that *influence policy and legislation* (Level 6) to reduce trafficking.
- Also consider creating efforts in your community to *address demand*, such as focusing on the societal norms that promote men's violence against women and children.



Level 1: Strengthening Individual Knowledge and Skills

Example: School-based programs that incorporate healthy relationship education into the curricula.

Level 2: Promoting Community Education

Example: Organizations like Breaking Free and The Advocates for Human Rights that present to local community groups.

Level 3: Educating Providers

Example: Prevention webinars offered through the MN Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MNCASA) and the MN Department of Health (MDH) through the Sexual Violence Prevention Network (SVPN), and other networks.

Level 4: Fostering Coalitions and Networks

Example: The Minnesota Human Trafficking Task Force engages a statewide collaboration on this issue.

Level 5: Changing Organizational Practices

Example: Organizations like MNCASA and Winona County that have passed Clean Hotel policies which state that employees cannot stay in hotels that offer pay-per-view pornography in effort to get hotels to “become clean” by stopping the offering of pay-per-view porn to guests.

Level 6: Influencing Policy and Legislation.

Example: Safe Harbor legislation that was passed in 2011 and includes strategies for prevention in the service response model.