

Human Trafficking is Slavery

This is happening in your county, city and maybe even in your neighborhood!

Human Trafficking is a booming 150 billion dollar a year nightmare industry¹. Today in 2018, there are more victims living in slavery, around the world, than ever before. Some studies estimate 40 million victims live in slavery, whereas other studies show the number to be 200 million victims living in slavery or slavery like conditions². To put these numbers in perspective, approximately 39 million people live in the entire state of California.

The number of victims cannot be exact, because most victims never report nor have the opportunity to report. Unlike any other product; a person can be re-sold twenty plus times a day. A child can and will be forced to work nonstop. Dehumanization and indifference are absolutely central to the industry. Upon entry, pimps and traffickers will go through a process of “breaking in” the victim. The goal is to break their spirit. Victims describe feeling a shell of their former self. To traffickers that is all kids are, a collection of disposable dolls. What is on the inside does not matter.

Servitude can be domestic, labor or sexual exploitation. The average age of sexual enslavement of a child is twelve. Even boys and girls as young as nine and ten are routinely put out on the streets. Toddlers are being exploited behind closed doors just the same. Child pornography has become an epidemic further creating an economic incentive to brutalize children. The internet has opened up an arena for images and videos of child abuse to be bought and sold freely.

A child that runs away from home is exponentially more vulnerable to falling prey to a pimp’s promises. Within in the first 48 hours of running away, 1 in 3 youth will be approached by a trafficker / pimp. Make no mistake child “prostitution” is **not** a choice. Children are there by physical force of force of circumstance. There is nothing glamorous about “*The Life*” the reality is repeated rapes, beating, and debilitating degradation. Traffickers prey on the vulnerable, trusting and naïve. Every child is at risk. The most dangerous of these predators come disguised as new friends, boyfriends, trusted adults or even young girls and boys luring other youth.

- 1) ***Ruse to Rape: Older girl, Jesse, poses as a teenager and enters a school to recruit girls.*** Jesse befriends Shauna and invites her to a sleep over. Shauna’s mother was

¹ IPWR, Sarah Gonzalez, *The Economic Drivers and Consequences of Sex Trafficking in the United States*, <https://iwpr.org/publications/economic-drivers-consequences-sex-trafficking-united-states/>

² The Washington Times, W. Kurt Hauser, *Slavery, a modern day tragedy*, <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2017/oct/18/modern-day-slavery-more-widespread-than-any-time-i/>

diligent and set up a meeting with Jesse and her father beforehand. In reality, Jesse's charming father was a pimp. The slumber party turned into a nightmare. Over the next three days, Shauna was raped and beaten by a parade of men paying to do so. Shauna was eventually sold, over the internet, for \$300,000 (according to her captors). While her captors were transporting Shauna to her new "owner", she was saved. Shauna was airlifted to a hospital. She had to be revived twice. In addition to the immense physical and psychological trauma, Shauna suffered a STD from the rapes. Shauna was 16.³

- 2) ***Ruse to Rape: Date with an older boy, Daniel.*** Daniel ended up raping Theresa and had a friend photograph the event. They threatened to show everyone, including her parents, if Theresa did not "consent" to further sex. Theresa came from an inordinately religious family. She felt her family would disown her. Daniel further silenced Theresa with violence and muted her with shame. Theresa felt forced to submit to Daniel and his friends until her family moved away. Theresa was routinely raped and beaten monthly. Theresa was 15.⁴
- 3) ***Ruse to Rape: Abduction by women.*** Two Ohio teen cousins Kimberley and Carol were abducted while walking down Main Street to get milkshakes. They were offered a ride by a man accompanied by two females. The girls felt safe due to the women so they accepted the ride. The teens were separated and each was threatened if they tried to escape the other cousin would suffer. Their daytime prison was a home located in a quiet suburban neighborhood, at night they were prostituted out in motel rooms. The teens were transported, after ninety days, to a commercial truck stop where they were further sold. Luck changed when a trucker alarmed by their young age called "911." At the time of abduction Carol was 14 and Kimberley was 15.⁵
- 4) ***Ruse to Rape: Beloved Uncle.*** Kim had nobody but her sister Sara, their mother was a drug addict and neglected them. Once Kim turned six, things began to look up! Kim's uncle Dan began to shower her with gifts and attention. She felt loved. Dan took Kim and Sara on exciting trips in his big rig truck- they loved it! Those joyful trips soon changed. Dan allowed men to rape Kim and Sara at truck stops for money. Dan raped them too. This went on for years until Sara tried to kill herself and the truth came out. Dan is now serving life in prison. Kim and Sara were ages 6 and 7 when they were first raped⁶.
- 5) ***Ruse to Rape: The Romeo Pimp story of BF turned captor.*** Young girls are routinely lured in by an older boyfriend who is used as bait to catch and capture girls. This "Romeo pimp" treats them like gold, showering girls with expensive gifts and affection. After the pimp feels he has control he flips the switch.
- 6) ***Ruse to Rape: Youth are lured to locations under promises of a modeling contract.***

³ MSNBC.com, *Sex Slaves: in the Suburbs*, <http://today.msnbc.msn.com/id/27098993/>

⁴ MSNBC.com, *Sex Slaves: the Teen Trade*, <http://today.msnbc.msn.com/id/29181173/>

⁵ ABCnews.com, *Pimp Abducts Ohio Teens*, <http://abcnews.go.com/TheLaw/story?id=5382645&page=1>

⁶ I prosecuted this case in Riverside County. The victims were from Moreno Valley. The Defendant received a sentence of 485 years to life. The names of the victims and the Defendant have been changed to protect the victims' privacy.

- 7) *Ruse to Rape*: Send older kids into organizations where abused kids are to recruit them. Some studies estimate 90% of adult prostitutes were sexually abused as kids. Pimps are masters at taking a child's previous victimization and using that to further exploit girls and boys.
- 8) *Ruse to Rape*: Pimps and traffickers search social media looking for potential victims. Not only do pictures attract them, but also perceived insecurities are an alluring flag to pimps. They will spend months researching and talking to a girl or boy to learn how to best manipulate them.

Sadly this list goes on...

For more information visit:

www.savinginnocence.org

www.gems-girls.org

www.polarisproject.org

Call to report, for help or for information → 1-888-373-7888

Any questions, email DDA Kacey Sutton at Kasutton@rivcoda.org

WARNING: RED FLAGS to Domestic Violence

Insta- BF / GF!! Wow he/she is so intense... She is so focused, so fast -you love it (for now)! Talking kids, marriage, you+me forever babe! "I love you!" You think it is so different because, wow, there are no games! Think again, they have just begun.... Someone professing feelings too soon is likely fake. Two things usually happen: (1) just as quickly, he shuts off or (2) the obsession will accelerate. It is all a game- a game of **control and manipulation**.

MINE all mine!! She will begin to isolate you. He points out how your friends / family / co-workers take advantage of you or don't respect you, etc. He will put down your friends. She will find a way to alienate you from everyone she sees as a threat. He will try and convince you that anybody who doesn't approve of your relationship is just "jealous." It's you and him against the world! He insists you make him your number one priority and guilt trips you.

Isolation is bad!

Stalker! She has you on GPS! He has you under surveillance and demands you report all actions. She dictates who you hang out with, what you eat, how you dress, your dreams, your goals, your everything....

Attacks your self-esteem! The less self-esteem you have, the easier you are to control. "Other guys are so particular about weight, but I love you just the way you are." He insults you in passive aggressive or blatant ways. She makes you feel ugly, fat, stupid, inferior, grateful to have her, blah, blah.... She tells you nobody else "would love you" / "put up with you" / "tolerate you".... He tells you that you cannot accomplish your dreams. He belittles you in front of others. She is constantly highlighting your mistakes. Haters are for hating, not dating!

Marking his territory! Hickies, crazy PDA, obsessive social media posts, pressures you to sext, gropes you in front of others, makes jokes about or tells others about your sex life.... He pressures you into doing things then makes you feel bad about it. All meant to degrade you into submission!

If you leave I'll be so devastated that.... She threatens to kill herself / do self-destructive things or harm you / animals / your loved ones or your reputation. Self-destructive threats are just manipulation and a sign of instability. It is very common for controlling partners to threaten suicide. Do NOT fall for it → RUN!

All threats are unacceptable!

"If you loved me" Pressures you into anything under those words! Sexual, giving up dreams, hurting another....

"It's your fault!" He goes through your phone, belongings, etc. and blames you for making him NEED to do it. He acts like a freak and blames you! She says everything is your fault! Soon if you do not get out you too will believe everything is your fault!

Low blows and crazy scenes: When in a fight, she verbally attacks you where it will hurt most: name-calling/ profanity /attacking your insecurities. You walk on egg shells. You never know what will make her flip out. He twists your words. You say "sorry" just to shut him up. He yells at you in front of others.

Unpredictable is unstable! Do not live your life as an appeaser!

Destruction of property is abuse! If he is destroying property, throwing things, punching *walls* or threatening to do the same, that is abuse. Those objects may be symbolic of you. Next time you may be the *wall*!

"It was an accident" "you are so overly sensitive": If it hurts, it is abuse! It may start with tickling, pinching, squeezing and then escalate to hitting, kicking, strangling. Passion shouldn't hurt! It was not an accident!

Jealousy is not cute! You are constantly defending yourself. "I swear I wasn't flirting!" He thinks everybody is out to date you and that you are leading them all on! Constantly reassuring a partner is an exhausting job you do NOT want!

"Just this one time" If he pressures or even suggests you prostitute yourself, that is abuse and RUN!

Any questions email me at Kasutton@rivcoda.org

Cyberbullying Crimes at a Glance

Below is a guide to some of the offenses frequently associated with cyberbullying, many more crimes can be applied including manslaughter / murder. I have included a very brief synopsis of the elements to each crime. Please look up these Penal Code sections online for more information and detailed explanations.

Here: Vx = victim and PC = Penal Code section.

1) PC 653.2 Use of electronic communication to instill fear or harass:

- *Place the Vx in reasonable fear for his or her safety, or their family's safety, for the purpose of causing the Vx unwanted physical contact, injury, or harassment.*
- *"Harassment" means conduct directed at the Vx that a reasonable person would consider as seriously alarming, annoying, tormenting, or terrorizing and that serves no legitimate purpose.*
- *Punishable by probation, county jail, and or a fine of up to \$1,000.*

2) PC 653m Use of electronic communication to annoy:

- *With the intent to annoy the Vx, contacts him / her by means of an electronic communication device and uses obscene language or any threat to inflict injury to the Vx or his / her property or any member of his or her family.*
- *Or with the intent to annoy or harass the Vx, makes repeated calls and / or electronic contact with the Vx. An actual conversation is not required.*
- *If you allow someone else to use your phone / device to do this you are guilty of this crime as well.*
- *Punishable by probation, county jail, and or a fine of up to \$1,000.*

3) PC 647(j)(4) Distribution of an Intimate Photograph:

- *Intentionally distribute an image of the intimate body part of another person, or an image of another person engaged in any sexual act.*
- *The person distributing the image knows distribution of the image will cause the Vx serious emotional distress.*
- *The Vx suffers serious emotional distress.*
- *You are guilty of this offense even if you just arrange for or request someone else to distribute the image.*
- *Punishable by probation, county jail, and or a fine up to \$2,000. Punishment increases if you have prior convictions for this offense.*

4) PC 311.11 Distribution of Child Pornography:

- *Image / video of an individual age 17 or younger.*
- *Minor in possession of his / her own picture can be guilty of possession of child pornography.*
- *If you send the picture to another person or post it online, even if the picture is of yourself, you are guilty of distribution of child pornography.*
- *Punishable by county jail, probation, prison and or fines up to \$100,000. Prison can range from sixteen months to six years: priors, age of Vx, amount of pictures affect how long the punishment can be.*
- *Registration as a sex offender.*

5) PC 422 Criminal Threats:

- *Any threat of great bodily injury or death to the Vx or his / her family.*
- *If the Vx sustained reasonable fear that is enough – even if you had no intention to actually carrying out the threat.*
- *If the threat was made to scare the Vx that is enough.*
- *Punishable by county jail, probation, fines and or up to three years in prison and it is a Strike (causes any future prison sentence to be doubled).*

6) PC 31 Aiding and Abetting:

- *If someone encourages another person to harm a Vx in anyway or commit any crime – and someone actually follows through and commits the crime. The “encourager” can be charged for the actual crime as an aider and abettor. Receiving the same punishment as the one that physically committed the crime.*
- *Applies if an individual videotapes an assault:*
 - ➔ *Marina Lonina livestreamed her friend being raped – she was arrested for and charged with rape. Marina faced the same consequences of the rapist even though she never actually touched her friend.*

7) PC 646.9 Stalking & Cyberstalking:

- *Actually threatens or implies a threat to the Vx. The threat can be established through a course of conduct.*
- *Commit two or more acts of harassment and or following of the Vx.*
- *The Vx sustains fear.*
- *Punishable by county jail, probation, fines and or up to five years in prison.*

8) PC 273.6 or 166 Violation of Protective Orders:

- *Violates in civil or criminal protective order by contacting the Vx.*
- *Punishment increases with number of violations. Depending on the frequency of violations, the defendant's criminal record and nature of the order, a violation could be punishable by county jail, probation, prison and or fines up to \$10,000.*

9) Fraud & Impersonation:

- *PC 528.5 – done online or through a device → intent to harm, intimidate, threaten or defraud the Vx.*
- *Creating fake accounts – criminal and civil consequences.*
- *Identify Theft*
- *Defamation & Libel*

Below are the names of specific victims of cyberbullying. Their stories highlight the emotional toll, devastation and dehumanization of bullying, along with the above-discussed legal issues.

- *Amanda Todd*
- *Gabby Molina*
- *Megan Meier*
- *Jessica Logan*
- *Kenneth Weishuhn*
- *Hope Witsell*
- *Steve Urry*
- *Conrad Roy III*
- *Kenneth Suttner*

Let their tragic stories be a reminder of the power of your words. One act of kindness or bravery can save a life. Do not cause harm through your words or silence! Stand up, say something and report abuse!

Any questions, email DDA Kacey Sutton at Kasutton@rivcoda.org

Choose to spread compassion, not hate!