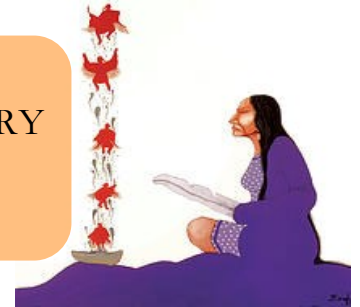




SEX TRAFFICKING IN INDIAN COUNTRY IT IS HAPPENING!

Fact Sheet



Tribal Law and Policy Institute

WHAT IS HUMAN SEX TRAFFICKING AND COMMERCIAL EXPLOITATION?

Federal law defines sex trafficking as the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act in which the act is induced by force, fraud or coercion or if a person forced into sex acts is under the age of 18.



TRAFFICKER TACTICS

Sex traffickers use a variety of methods to “condition” their victims including starvation, confinement, beatings, physical abuse, rape, gang rape, threats of violence to the victims and the victims’ families, forced drug use and the threat of shaming their victims by revealing their activities to their family and their families’ friends.



WHERE SEX TRAFFICKING IS HAPPENING

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| ◇ Internet | ◇ Powwows |
| ◇ Strip Clubs | ◇ Homes |
| ◇ Escort Services | ◇ Truck Stops |
| ◇ Casinos | ◇ Bike rallies |
| ◇ Hotels | ◇ Shopping malls |



WHY NATIVE WOMEN ARE AT INCREASED RISK

- | | |
|--|---|
| ◆ History of sexual abuse or past violence | ◆ Lack of access to jobs |
| ◆ Homeless | ◆ Chemical abuse/addiction |
| ◆ Financial challenges | ◆ Mental Health challenges (depression) |

Resources and Help for Victims

- National Human Trafficking Resource Center
1-888-373-7888 or text Be Free (233733)
- The Rape Abuse Incest National Network
1-800-656-4673
- National Runaway Hotline
1-800-RUNAWAY or 1-800-786-2929
- National Domestic Violence Hotline
1-800-799-SAFE (7223)
1-800-787-3224 (TTY)
- Local shelter for battered women
- Local sexual assault program
- Call 911



A product of Tribal Law and Policy Institute

TLPI Website- www.home.tpi.org • TLPI Sex Trafficking Resources Website- www.tribalcoalitions.org •

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Impact and Harm to Victims

- Drug and alcohol addiction
- Broken bones, concussions, burns
- Traumatic brain injury – perhaps resulting in memory loss, dizziness, headaches
- Sexually transmitted diseases
- Sterility
- Miscarriages or forced abortions
- Long-lasting psychological trauma – fear, shame, grief, distrust, self-hatred, suicide/suicidal thoughts
- Malnutrition
- Chronic illness due to undiagnosed, untreated injuries and illnesses

Primary needs for victims of sex trafficking

- Safe and secure housing (emergency, transitional and long-term)
- Food and clothing
- Individual counseling and peer support
- Substance abuse treatment
- Medical services
- Legal services
- Job training and placement
- Education

Red Flags

- Lacks health care, may appear malnourished
- Shows signs of physical and/or sexual abuse, physical restraint, confinement, or torture
- Not in control of his/her own money, no financial records, or bank account
- Physical marks such as bruises, bites, or cut marks
- Appears anxious, guarded
- Having a significantly older “boyfriend or girlfriend”
- Tattoos, branding of traffickers name
- Suicide attempts
- Alcohol or drug use
- Having unaffordable new things such as clothes, money, or technological devices
- Getting excessive phone messages or calls
- Scripted communication
- Has hotel keys
- Possesses fake identification
- Entering or leaving cars or with unknown persons
- Behavioral signals, such as aggressive or disruptive behavior, withdrawal, running away, or delinquent behavior
- Change in school patterns; specifically, reduced attendance, inability to concentrate, excessive daydreaming, sudden changes in grades
- Pregnancy
- Sexualized activity or conversations not developmentally appropriate for the child’s/ youth’s age
- Lacks adult supervision particularly during late night hours/curfew hours

What Can Communities Do To Address the Problem

- Awareness of the safety needs of victims escaping this life. Provide support and validate victims fears and visit with them about their fears
- Offer to accompany them to a place of safety, to report crime to law enforcement
- Avoid being judgmental
- Educate yourself and your community about sex trafficking and recognizing the signs.
- Encourage vigilance in the community. Community members are the eyes and ears and they can report suspicious activity however communities may not be familiar with the signs to identify trafficking.
- Encourage your tribal leadership to develop and adopt a sex trafficking tribal code/law
- Believe victims. Avoid shaming a victim or questions that place blame on the victim
- Speak out about the problem
- Awareness of resources that a victim of sex trafficking may need (emergency shelter, transportation, medical attention, emotional support)
- Work with tribal leaders and other service providers to create services for victims or to expand existing services.
- Reduce supply and demand- Supply are the victims, the people being recruited and the demand are the buyers.