

Stop Trafficking !

Anti-Human Trafficking Newsletter



Awareness

Advocacy

Action

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This issue highlights how vulnerability among children leads to exploitation and sex trafficking.



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Exploited Youth

Girls - Parental Hurt

When the foster mother said four little words — *"I don't love you."* — it was the last straw for Deborah, a 13-year-old girl from Jackson, MS. She ran away and planned to sleep under the carnival rides. As Deborah told her story, she did not want to give her last name for fear that her trafficker is still out there, after being released from prison.

She met him the same day she ran away. *"He was nice to me. He paid attention to me, he listened to me. He bought me something to eat. And within a couple of hours, I left with him."* He was just 19, but old enough to recognize and prey on the vulnerability of a girl with no one to turn to. *"It was the first time I had alcohol. The next thing I know, I'm on the way to Detroit."*

The 19-year-old teen left Deborah alone overnight in a Detroit hotel. He returned the next day and drove her back to Jackson. He said that if she wanted to stay, he would be back in an hour to pick her up. She didn't want him to leave her. She stayed. And it continued for 25 years, for reasons both complicated and simple. She had no one else.

Deborah said she always thought she chose the life she was stuck in — but she later understood otherwise, learning hard truths about what happens when vulnerable young people are hunted like prey. *"Even at 40 years old," she said. "I*

Girls cont. pg. 2

Boys - Silent Victims

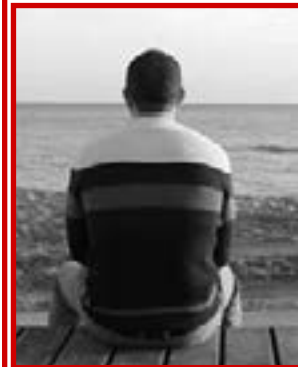
As a child, Tom Jones was raped and sold for sexual exploitation. It was not until he was 15 that the brutality ended. But, like many male victims of sex trafficking, he kept the pain inside. He attempted suicide twice, while carrying his trauma for another 15 years, before he opened up about his abuse.

Societal perceptions of sex trafficking fuel the stigma attached to male

victims. *"Boys hear that it only happens to girls,"* explained Steven Procopio, clinical director of MaleSurvivor, a network of therapists and survivors. *"This is seen as a gender-biased, gender-specific issue. Journalists seldom write heartbreaking stories about 15-year-old boys sold on Backpage.com."*

Procopio pointed to another bias — discrimination against gay males and transgender people — that prevent boys and transgender victims from being seen as victims who deserve help. *"There's a lot of homophobia. But this issue is not about sexual orientation,"* Procopio said. *"Trafficking is about power and control."*

Boys cont. pg. 2





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Girls *cont. from pg. 1*

didn't know what human trafficking was."

A therapist later told her she had 'Stockholm Syndrome,' the term used for the warm feelings captives can develop for their hostage takers. "I considered him my whole world," she said. "He took care of me. He took care of my basic needs, something that my own parents wouldn't do."

Early on, she had seen her trafficker beat with a coat hanger the feet of another young girl, who tried to run away, telling her, "You'll never walk away from here." Deborah at times was beaten herself, sometimes for not bringing in enough money. She said she began taking cocaine to dull her emotional pain. Because of that, she was in and out of prison from the age of 14, and had no idea where to turn to for help. "I was looked at through the court system as a menace to society."

It wasn't until she was 38 and her trafficker had gone to prison that Deborah was able to break away from being prostituted.

(<http://detroit.cbslocal.com/2018/02/14/are-your-kids-safe-human-trafficking-victim-details-vulnerability-that-led-to-life-of-abuse/>)

Boys *cont. from pg. 1*

In 2008, researchers from the John Jay School of Criminal Justice reported that boys account for about 45% of child trafficking victims in New York City. In 2016, a Department of Justice-commissioned study, 'Youth Involvement in the Sex Trade,' found that boys make up about 36% of children caught up in the U.S. sex industry (about 60% are female and less than 5% are transgender males and females). In reality, male victims

of commercial exploitation and sexual abuse suffer the same types of trauma as females. The result is that tens of thousands of boys and men continue to suffer in silence. And like other victims of sexual abuse, they're at greater risk of depression, suicide and chronic diseases. They're more likely to abuse drugs and alcohol. More likely to land in prison.

Anti-trafficking non-profit *Polaris* explained that gay and transgender youth are more at risk of being trafficked because family conflicts push many to run away from home. On the streets, runaway kids — no matter their gender or sexual orientation — are highly vulnerable to abuse. Yet, according to the 2016 'Youth Involvement in the Sex Trade' study and other research, most male child trafficking victims aren't gay. The majority are heterosexual boys manipulated or forced into having sex with men. As a consequence, Procopio notes, it's common for straight male victims to question their sexual orientation long after the abuse ends.

Tom Jones now works to help other men who are survivors of trafficking for sexual exploitation, but he says it hasn't been easy. Many of the men are still reluctant to speak to counselors and most do not want to talk face to face. One man, despite years of interaction with Jones, won't acknowledge that he suffered the abuse he describes. "He says it happened to a friend," Jones says. "They haven't told even their families what they've been through." (<https://www.freedomunited.org/news/boys-silent-victims/>)



Robert King,

Bruce Bemer,

William Trefzger

Preying on Disabled Young Men

By his early 20s, the young man was dealing with psychological disorders so severe that they required regular hospitalizations and several medications to manage. So when Robert King, a Danbury, Connecticut man, offered to help him, the young man welcomed the friendship. But by the time he realized what was happening, he was trapped in a predatory cycle of cocaine addiction, prostitution and threats of death if he told anyone.

The young man's courage in sharing his trauma with a health care worker at a group home in Danbury launched the 15-month investigation by city detectives and the FBI. "He still needs therapy regarding this period of his life," reads a police report, which does not identify the young man nor the 14 other victims involved in a trafficking ring operating for over 25 years. The ring reached other towns and cities as well.

Police charged three suspects in the ring that preyed on more than a dozen similarly vulnerable young men. Bruce J. Bemer, 64, and William Trefzger, 72, were charged with patronizing a trafficked person. Bemer owns the New London-Waterford Speedbowl and Bemer Petroleum Corp. He admitted to investigators King had provided him with 'boys' for sex for up to a quarter of a century, according to court documents.

According to the warrant for Trefzger's arrest, Danbury police and the FBI began investigating in January 2016, when they received a complaint from a probation officer that a mentally disabled man who was on probation

had been involved in sex trafficking and prostitution. The disabled man had been diagnosed with schizophrenia and paranoia.

The probation officer told police she learned Robert King and William Trefzger -- a convicted sex offender

Men *cont. pg. 3*



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Men *cont. from pg. 2*

-- had been operating the prostitution ring. Investigators eventually learned the prostitution business also involved Bemer, the warrant said.

King, 52, was arrested and charged with promoting prostitution and tampering with a witness, police said. *"This ring is alleged to have exploited young males with mental health issues by delivering them to wealthy 'clients' throughout CT for the purpose of having sex for money,"* police said.

Authorities identified about 15 victims, most of whom suffer from severe psychological disorders and *"significant mental health needs,"* police said. At least two of the victims had been treated at a residential care facility in Danbury; two had conservators appointed to handle their affairs. Some were younger than 18, court documents show. Police say the ring preyed on young men with disabilities including schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. Some of the victims lived in area group homes.

According to the warrant, the business worked like this: King would find young men with apparent mental health disorders and befriend them, promising them work, money and necessities. He would give them drugs and keep track of how much money the men owed for them. He then would introduce the victims to Trefzger and Bemer for the purpose of engaging in sexual activity in exchange for money -- although the disabled men were not aware of the agreement, the warrant said. King would collect the drug debt from the proceeds, keeping some extra money for himself.

King had a shrine in his mobile home dedicated to one victim who killed

himself. The shrine included a handwritten note from the victim. *"I felt so angry at Bob at myself guilty ashamed and discusted [sic],"* the note states, according to court documents. *"What happened [sic] as an act of survival I was minibilated [sic] and taken advantage of. It wasn't my falt [sic]."*

As of early 2018 Trefzger was given a 10-year sentence and had agreed to cooperate with state investigators against the other co-defendants. In February 2018 Bemer rejected an offer of probation and opted for trial by jury. He also agreed to put up \$25 million in assets to cover his potential liabilities in related civil cases. If convicted, he could face up to 30 years in prison. (<http://www.norwichbulletin.com/news/20170330/police-speedbowl-owner-said-he-paid-boys-for-sex-for-nearly-25-years>) (<https://www.newstimes.com/local/article/More-victims-emerge-in-Danbury-sex-trafficking-11155769.php>) (<https://www.newstimes.com/local/article/Leader-of-prostitution-ring-preyed-on-vulnerable-11042302.php>)

Unidentified Children Online

End Child Prostitution and Trafficking (ECPAT) and *INTERPOL*, the world's largest international police organization, collaborated to publish a 2018 study describing the severe harm to children involved in sexual exploitation materials posted online by 'paraphilic' individuals.

The 104-page study is entitled, *'Towards a Global Indicator on Unidentified Victims in Child Sexual Exploitation Material.'*

The first part of the study was an analysis of information recorded for more than one million media files of child sexual exploitation and abuse material in the *International Child Sexual Exploitation (ICSE) Database*. Almost 47% of the files in the database portray child victims that have been

Definitions

'Child sexual abuse material' (CSAM) is a term used as an alternative to 'child pornography' for materials depicting acts of sexual abuse and/or focusing on the genitalia of the child.

'Child sexual exploitation material' (CSEM) encompasses all sexualized material depicting children, including 'child sexual abuse material.'

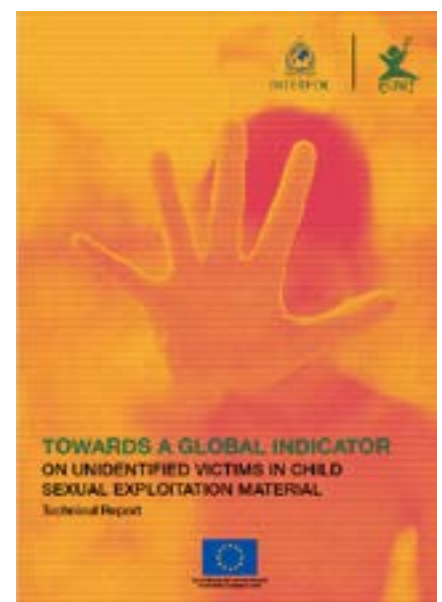
'Paraphilic disorder' refers to persons "having a sexual desire or behavior that involves another person's psychological distress, injury, or death, or a desire for sexual behaviors involving unwilling persons or persons unable to give legal consent."

identified by law enforcement, while the remainder depict unidentified children.

The second part of the study involved consultations with law enforcement personnel and experts in child sexual exploitation around the world.

Gender

In the 72.5% of cases where victim gender was recorded, 64.8% of unidentified media files depicted female children, 31.1% depicted male children and in 4.1% both male and female victims. When boys were depicted in the abuse, it was more likely to be severe or involve paraphilic themes.





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ECPAT *cont. from pg. 3*

Why is this important? It is often considered that most victims of sexual abuse and exploitation are girls. However, the significant proportion of boys depicted in unidentified images and videos in the ICSE Database invites closer attention to this group.

Ethnicity

Victim ethnicity could be determined in 93.9% of the analyzed series. 76.6% featured white children, 10.1% were Hispanic/Latino children, 9.9% Asian children, and 2.1% depicted black victims. A small proportion (1.%) depicted children of multiple ethnicities.

Why is this important? In some cases, the ethnicity of victims may be a proxy indicator for the location of the abuse or exploitation. However, the ethnicity of the victims in the database does not necessarily paint an accurate picture of the ethnicity of victims globally, because many countries do not yet contribute images and videos to the ICSE Database. This highlights the need to connect more countries and regions to the database to generate a more nuanced understanding of victims' ethnic profiles.

Age and Severity of Sexual Victimization

Where the unidentified victim's age could be determined, 56.2% of cases depicted prepubescent children, 25.4% were pubescent children, and 4.3% were very young children (infants and toddlers). 14.1% of cases featured children in multiple age categories.

When victims were younger, the abuse was more likely to be severe. It was also found that very young children were more likely than pubescent victims to be subjected to abuse and

exploitation featuring an additional paraphilic theme.

Why is this important? It is often assumed that victims of sexual abuse are older children. This may be due in part to increased media attention and public awareness surrounding the risks associated with young people's use of technology and the Internet, including the production of youth-produced material, but it may also be due to the fact that most people find it hard to imagine the extreme sexual assault of an infant. While the victimization of any child of any age is inexcusable, over 60% of unidentified victims in this study were prepubescent, including very young children (infants and toddlers). This finding highlights the need to reflect and potentially prioritize this age group in policy and programming.

Gender of Offenders

It was only possible to identify the gender of the offender in under half of all analyzed series. Where this was the case, the vast majority (92.%) of offenders were male. Female offenders were most frequently depicted together with a male offender in the sample (in 5.5% of valid cases). Where the imagery showed males and females abusing a child together, it was almost always the males who recorded the sexual activity, while the female offenders were actively involved in the abuse of the child(ren). In cases where females abused a child on their own (only 2% of the analyzed series), these lone female offenders appeared younger in age (some apparently in late adolescence or young adulthood) than those depicted abusing a child together with a male.

Why is this important? This finding supports the contention that most producers of CSAM/CSEM are male. However, the significantly lower proportion of female offenders depicted in the analyzed series does not negate the importance of understanding the role played by adult and young females in the abuse and exploitation

of children. Whether females were seen offending alongside males, or where lone female offenders were seen abusing a child, it was difficult to tell from a visual assessment whether the depicted abuse and exploitation was committed at the behest of the male offender, female offender, or as a truly collaborative act. The role played by females in CSAM/CSEM production is apparently complex, particularly in terms of distinguishing females who act as proponents or facilitators of this crime, or both. This area requires further, focused investigation in order to inform improved strategies for the management and prevention of child sexual abuse and exploitation.

Ethnicity of Offenders

Due to a number of issues, including the fact that offenders may disguise their identity when producing CSAM/CSEM, it was only possible to determine offender ethnicity in less than 25% of cases. However, where this determination was possible, 78.8% of offenders were white; 12.2% were Hispanic-Latino; 4.2% were black; and 3.2% were Asian.

Why is this important? There were several possible reasons identified for the low proportions of some ethnic groups in CSAM/CSEM producer profiles, including the current geographical scope of countries connected to the ICSE Database. Based on this study, producers of CSAM/CSEM appear to have a preference for victims of the same ethnicity. It should be noted however that this could also be the result of proximity and opportunity when the offender is part of the victim's circle of trust or community, or where traveling sex offenders travel to abuse children within their own country or region. This belies the assumption that sexual exploitation of children is a crime only carried out by white males traveling to developing countries.

Number of Victims

Of the eligible series, 71.6% depicted a single victim; 15.7% involved two victims; 4.4% featured three victims;



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ECPAT *cont. from pg. 4*

2.3% featured four victims; and 6% featured five or more victims.

Why is this important? Understanding the situation of unidentified children requires insight into the context of their victimization. For example, the high proportion of single victims may be the result of the secretive nature of child sexual abuse, where silence is enforced by an offender through grooming, manipulation and threats to a child victim. Cases involving multiple victims may indicate intra-familial (e.g. sibling) or peer abuse, or a more opportunistic offending profile (e.g. child abuse by traveling sex offenders).

Relationship between Exploitation and Abuse Material

84.2% of the analyzed series depicted the sexual abuse of children, while 15.2% of series comprised materials depicting sexual activity that was exploitative. Although not formally coded for the study, more than 61% of analyzed series were identified as being both 'abusive and exploitative in character', meaning that universally illegal sexual abuse images and potentially legal exploitation images of the same victim were found together.

Why is this important? The significant proportion of series containing both exploitation and abuse images points to the complexity of victimization where the lines can become blurred between 'acceptable' and therefore 'legal' images and videos, and those depicting an illegal act. For example, a person with a sexual interest in children may produce and collect images/videos that are acceptable according to the law, and therefore legal, as well as images/videos that are categorically illegal.

Youth-Produced Material

The study did not include 'youth-produced' CSAM/CSEM in the formal analysis, largely because it was almost impossible by looking at images to determine reliably whether they were self-generated, coerced or otherwise solicited by another child or an adult.

However, from the observations that were made for material appearing to be in this category, there was a wide range of sexual activities depicted. This included more innocuous, nude or semi-nude 'selfies', through to 'self-generated' depictions of extreme sexual activity involving bestiality and sadomasochistic themes.

While many images were produced in domestic settings, others appeared to have been produced in school settings, and featured uniformed students.

The levels of CSAM/CSEM production depicted in these cases were quite complex, and challenged the traditional simplistic distinction that has been made between content that is 'youth-produced' and offender-generated. (*See ECPAT pg. 8 for reference.*)

'Backpage.com' Guilty & Shutdown

Backpage CEO Carl Ferrer pleaded guilty in Sacramento Superior Court in April 2018 to laundering tens of millions of dollars earned from the now-shuttered sex site. Ferrer pleaded guilty to a single count of conspiracy to commit money laundering and three counts of money laundering. The pleas were tied to \$45 million siphoned through shell corporations prosecutors say were used to hide earnings from pimps, sex workers and johns who used the site's adult services section.

The \$45 million cited by prosecutors were dollars originated in California, said former *Backpage* prosecutor

Maggy Krell, who was at the Sacramento hearing. "While there is no silver bullet to end sex trafficking, to stop its largest beneficiary is a huge step in the right direction," Krell said.

Ferrer's guilty plea is the latest domino to fall in a rush of developments against the site. Federal agents raided *Backpage's* Phoenix offices in April 2018, a 96-count federal indictment followed and new legislation has been proposed that would make it easier for states to go after sex traffickers and the websites that harbor them.

Ferrer stood with attorney Nanci Clarence for the brief hearing before Sacramento Superior Court Judge Lawrence Brown. He returns to the Sacramento courtroom in October. Ferrer and Clarence walked hurriedly from downtown Sacramento's county courthouse and took no questions from a reporter.

Absent were Ferrer's partners, former *New Times* and *Village Voice* owners, James Larkin and Michael Lacey, who with Ferrer were briefly jailed at the onset of the case on pimping charges.

The state Attorney General's Office said that Ferrer will cooperate with prosecutors in the case against Larkin and Lacey, which will continue in Sacramento Superior Court.

"Human trafficking is modern-day slavery, and it is happening in our own backyard," Becerra said in a statement. "The shutdown of *Backpage.com* is a tremendous victory for the survivors and their families. And the conviction of CEO Ferrer is a game-changer in combating hu-





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Backpage.com *cont. from pg. 5*
man trafficking in California, indeed worldwide.”

Former state Attorney General, now Sen. Kamala Harris, dubbed the site the “world’s largest online brothel” for its adult section which prosecutors argued was a multibillion-dollar front for prostitution and sex trafficking including the selling of children for sex.

California prosecutors alleged that nearly all of the money taken in by the site came from its adult services section – including some \$51 million in California alone from 2013 to 2015. Investigators said in the 14 years *Backpage* was in operation, the company made \$500 million.

A federal subcommittee in 2017 went further in a scathing report alleging *Backpage* concealed its criminal conduct by sanitizing its adult ads and stripping words and terms such as “lolita,” “rape,” “amber alert” and “school girl” that could tip authorities to sex trafficking and child sex trafficking - all under Ferrer’s direction.

Defense attorneys had argued from the beginning that federal legislation protecting publishers of third-party content shielded the site from prosecution and that the criminal case against Ferrer and his partners violated their First Amendment rights.

Two Sacramento Superior Court judges – Michael Bowman and, later, Brown – held that federal law was a shield and said it was up to Congress to change the statute.

State prosecutors changed methods last year, filing nearly 40 new money laundering charges against Ferrer, Larkin and Lacey. The company’s founder is indicted on 93 counts. (<http://www.sacbee.com/news/local/article208752799.html>)

Stopping the Demand Is Vital

When *Backpage.com* removed its adult services section from their website law enforcement said it did not stop people from soliciting sex online. “On the ‘women-seeking-men’ tab, there were no normal people seeking a relationship. It was 100% people wanting sex for money,” a deputy said.

After the announcement of the site being seized by federal authorities in April 2018, deputies said it took only hours for some criminals to move their operations to other websites. “The amount of money that’s being generated from these girls, the guys aren’t going to let one website ruin all their money that’s coming in,” the deputy said.

Investigators are already working cases on those new websites. They said the only way to stop trafficking for good is to stop the demand of paying for sex. “The only thing we can do is do our best to get the juveniles and the people that are being forced to do it out of this game.”

(<http://cbs4indy.com/2018/04/09/undercover-deputies-say-backpage-com-shut-down-wont-stop-human-trafficking/>)

Societal Responsibility

California is stepping up its efforts to keep children from being exploited for labor or sex by requiring CA classrooms to include human trafficking prevention education as part of sex education.

California Attorney General Xavier Becerra announced the implementation of Assembly Bill 1227, in February 2018. Signed into law in October, 2017, CA is thus the first U.S. state to adopt human trafficking prevention education and training for both teachers and students. It must occur at least once in middle school and once in high school.

“It is about preventing child trafficking and partnering together to make sure we prevent this from happening to any child – because every child is our child. California should be able to say no young person in our state deserves to have his or her childhood ripped away from them,” said Becerra.

Fresno County Superintendent of Schools Jim Yovino fully supported the state law. His office partnered with the Fresno County District Attorney’s office on implementation.

“We intend to develop a curriculum to provide to school superintendents and school boards across Fresno County,” said Yovino. He acknowledged the topic might be delicate for some families but said this new curriculum is just another layer of protection designed to keep children safe.

“We want to get information into parent’s and teacher’s hands and help our students become aware of the warning signs. We’re doing the right thing for our children,” said Yovino. (<http://abc30.com/new-curriculum-trains-teachers-and-students-in-identifying-signs-of-human-trafficking-/3085246/>)

Parental Responsibility

According to Birmingham psychologist Dr. Tracey Stulberg, it is not only abused teens who are vulnerable to trafficking. The Internet has opened opportunity for predators to prey on any young girls and boys, who may be having a bad day, or are being bullied, or are arguing with their parents.

“It feels good when you post something on Facebook or Snapchat that gets all these likes,” Stulberg said. “Well, that is the attention traffickers give, knowing that is also what a child or a teen wants to hear.”

Parents *cont.* pg. 7



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Communications Decency Act Amended

In April 2018 the *Coalition Against Trafficking in Women* (CATW) commended the passage and signing into law of the 'Allow States and Victims to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act' (H.R. 1865). The law, known as FOSTA-SESTA, will hold websites accountable for knowingly facilitating sex trafficking and pimping online. The law also provides the opportunity for victims and survivors trafficked online to sue these websites for civil damages, both at the federal and state levels.

FOSTA-SESTA narrowly clarifies Section 230 of the *Communications Decency Act* (CDA 230), which states that websites are not liable for third party content. CDA 230 shielded a number of websites, including the classified ads website *Backpage.com*, from prosecution, and prevented trafficking victims, bought and sold in prostitution through online ads, from having any legal recourse against these websites.

A Senate investigation found that *Backpage.com* in particular actively engaged in the editing of prostitution-related ads, with knowledge of facilitating sex trafficking. Reports also indicate that the company reaped \$500 million in profits from ads promoting the sex trafficking and sexual exploitation of mostly women and girls.

"It was Backpage that made my experience in prostitution worse for me and better for my pimp," said survivor leader Melanie Thompson, who was sex trafficked in New York at 12 years old. "He made me write the ads and profited three times more using Backpage. The sex buyers who found me on Backpage were the most violent and demanding; they didn't

care that I felt violated and degraded. Backpage helped my pimp keep them coming."

This groundbreaking legislative success is the result of the efforts of social justice advocates nationwide and the brave survivors and family members of victims of online sex trafficking who continuously called on Congress to amend CDA 230 for almost a decade. Bi-partisan efforts, led by Sens. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., and Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., who investigated *Backpage.com* and listened to survivors, were also key to this legal victory, which will end impunity for online sex trafficking and sexual exploitation.

"This isn't about free speech and it isn't about internet freedom; both of which will continue to flourish," said Taina Bien-Aimé, CATW's executive director. "It's about Desiree Robinson, murdered at age 16 by a sex buyer who found her on Backpage. This law is in her honor and in honor of the countless other victims on whose sexual exploitation, or even death, Backpage richly profited. No more." (<http://www.catwinternational.org/Home/Article/734-catw-applauds-the-passage-of-fosta-hr-1865>)

Legislation to Combat Drug-Facilitated Human Trafficking

Rep. John Ratcliffe (R-TX) and Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX) introduced legislation in February 2018 to crack down on drug-facilitated human trafficking. The bipartisan, bicameral 'Protecting Rights of Those Exploited by Coercive Trafficking' (PROTECT) Act (H.R. 5027) would amend existing human

trafficking law to specify that the use of drugs or illegal substances to cause a person to engage in a commercial sex act or forced labor constitutes a form of coercion. The bill would make tougher penalties for traffickers who use drugs to control victims.

It also aims to protect trafficking victims from prosecution by recognizing that drugs may have been used to control and trap victims in the sex trade and force them to commit crimes by virtue of that victimization.

"Creating and preying on the addictions of children is just one of the many despicable tools traffickers use to control their victims. The PROTECT Act would clarify that using drugs to force individuals into sex or labor trafficking demands a greater criminal penalty," Cornyn explained.

The PROTECT Act is endorsed by the Fraternal Order of Police, National Sheriffs' Association, Major County Sheriff's Association, National District Attorney's Association, Polaris Project, Shared Hope International, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, and Truckers against Trafficking.

Other original cosponsors are Sens. Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), Bill Nelson (D-FL), Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Rob Portman (R-OH), Thom Tillis (R-NC), and Rep. Kathleen Rice (D-NY) (<https://ratcliffe.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/rep-ratcliffe-and-sen-cornyn-introduce-legislation-combat-drug>)

Parents *cont. from pg. 6*

Stulberg said parents need to have conversations about human trafficking with their children and tell them never to 'friend' someone online whom they do not know personally. Children should also never post something that can be seen by the general public.

Parents need to keep a close eye on children's online interactions. "That is not taking away freedom. It is being cautious and prudent," Stulberg stressed.

(<http://detroit.cbslocal.com/2018/02/14/are-your-kids-safe-human-trafficking-victim-details-vulnerability-that-led-to-life-of-abuse/>)



Action

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Marriott Hotels Train Staff

In the early morning hours in a Marriott Hotel in New Orleans last March, a safety and security associate at the hotel noticed a 12-year-old boy in the company of two men buying snacks. The associate overheard one man say to the other, “*I may take this one home.*” Trained to notice signs of human trafficking, the associate thought the situation did not look right to her. Following her training, she alerted her supervisor, and they called the police. When the police arrived and questioned the men and the boy, they confirmed the associate’s suspicions. The young boy had been missing for three days. Thanks to the quick actions of the associate, a child was safe.

Marriott executives had decided to be proactive on their 6,000-plus properties worldwide. They teamed with ECPAT-USA (*End Child Prostitution and Trafficking*) and *Polaris* to develop a comprehensive training program for Marriott’s hotel staff.

Staff members learned the many indicators or unusual behaviors of traffickers and how to report suspicions to management, who then alert local authorities. Over 225,000 Marriott associates completed the training in 2017. To make the training program more readily available, Marriott teamed up with the *American Hotel & Lodging Association*, so that training was translated into 15 languages and could be used globally.

Now Marriott also signed ECPAT’s *Code*, which requires organizations to take steps to fight the exploitation of children, including establishing policies and procedures to address trafficking and committing to train employees to recognize the signs.

Toll-Free 24/7 Hotline
National Human Trafficking
Resource Center
1.888.3737.888
Text “BeFree” (233733)

David Rodriguez, *Marriott International’s Global Chief Human Resources Officer*, signed the *ECPAT Code* at a ceremony in the U.S. Capitol. Eventually 700,000 employees will be trained. (<https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2018/02/19/our-hotels-fighting-human-trafficking-but-we-cant-do-alone-arne-sonenson/336959002/>)

Educating Children About Trafficking

A21.org is an anti-trafficking organization based in the United Kingdom that has a prevention and awareness program for students, entitled ‘*Bodies Are Not Commodities.*’ It provides a three-lesson introduction into the global issue of human trafficking that can be taught in a variety of settings, including a small group gathering or a large group presentation.

This program is designed to inform students about human trafficking; protect them from becoming victims; and activate a generation of abolitionists.

The program is a combination of videos, hands-on group activities, and participant guide responses. It includes step-by-step instructions, accompanying videos, and additional resources to make it easy to facilitate. The videos were produced in the UK and include a global perspective of human trafficking and is a great introduction for ages 12+.

Go to: <http://www.a21.org/content/education/gn9vqo>

Safe, Supportive Learning is a government website that provides information on how to educate children in schools to the risk of human trafficking. Go to:

<https://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov/human-trafficking-americas-schools/risk-factors-and-indicators>
<https://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov/human-trafficking-americas-schools/sample-protocol-school-districts>

Informative Web Sites:
(Each contains information related to human trafficking)

Native Youth Toolkit on Human Trafficking

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/blog/2018/01/combating-trafficking-native-youth-toolkit-on-human-trafficking>

‘I Am Little Red’

(A 10-minute animated DVD created to share with children and teens at-risk for sex trafficking with the goal of prevention and awareness. Enter code LITTLERED at checkout to get this DVD free, while supplies last.)
<http://www.fbmarketplace.org/i-am-little-red-dvd>

Homeless Youth Report

According to a 2018 *National Network for Youth (NN4Y) Report*, an estimated 4.2 million young people (ages 13–25) experience homelessness annually, including 700,000 unaccompanied youth ages 13 to 17, according to research from Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago. Many of those young people will become victims of sex or labor trafficking.

To read the full report entitled ‘*Responding to Youth Homelessness: A Key Strategy for Preventing Human Trafficking*’, go to: <https://www.nn4youth.org/wp-content/uploads/NN4Y-2018-white-paper-human-trafficking-WEB-1.pdf>

ECPAT STUDY

To read the complete report, go to: <http://www.ecpat.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Technical-Report-TOWARDS-A-GLOBAL-INDICATOR-ON-UNIDENTIFIED-VICTIMS-IN-CHILD-SEXUAL-EXPLOITATION-MATERIAL.pdf>

Stop Trafficking! is dedicated exclusively to fostering an exchange of information among USCSAHT members, organizations and concerned persons, collaborating to eliminate all forms of human trafficking.

To access back issues, go to: <http://www.stopenslavement.org/past-issues-chronological.html>
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