The Making of Sexual Violence: How Does a Boy Grow Up to Commit Rape?

New data from an International Men and Gender Equality Survey (IMAGES) study by B. Heilman, L. Herbert, and N. Paul-Gera underscore previous evidence of the tremendous levels of sexual violence that women and girls face around the world. This violence takes many forms, occurs in all types of households, is endemic to “peacetime” as well as conflict, and has devastating intergenerational effects. The 16-page study, put out by IMAGES, the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) and Promundo in June 2014, was conducted in five countries (Chile, Croatia, India, Mexico and Rwanda) and identified certain influential factors that point the way towards policies and programs to prevent such violence before it happens and mitigate its harmful effects. (See pg. 6 for some of these recommendations.)

Pornography Growing More Prevalent & Violent

Formerly a back-alley, mafia-funded industry, pornography has exploded into a socially ubiquitous form of entertainment. Each year between 20,000 and 30,000 people attend the Adult Video Network Adult Entertainment Expo, the largest pornography industry trade show in the U.S. Throngs roam the convention halls, snapping photos of their friends embracing porn stars to share later via Instagram and Facebook. A growing number of experts are concerned with the way the entire country has accepted, and even embraced, pornography’s cultural infiltration. “The real issue is not whether (porn) has become worse,” said Michael Kimmel, a sociologist at Stony Brook University, NY who studies gender, sexuality and masculinity. “The thing that’s most important is that it’s far more pervasive with far less apology.” An estimated 40 million Americans visit a porn site at least once a month, and 25% of all search engine requests in the U.S. are for porn. The heaviest use is among young men. A 2009 survey of 30,000 college students showed more than 10% viewed pornography online from five to 20 hours a week, and 62% watched Internet porn at least once a week. Another study by researchers at Brigham Young University in 2007 found that 21% of all college students said they watch porn every day or almost every day.
Concerned about how pornography scholars and therapists are becoming human relationships. People are developing a sexual relationship with porn that supersedes positive sexual expression. Sexual arousal patterns in ways that can limit positive sexual expression. We've allowed this product that shows sex in a particular way to train sexual aggression against non-prostituting women. Pornography teaches men how to be johns. Porn is cultural propaganda, which drives home the notion that women are prostitutes.

Porn Alters Brain Activity

Pornography involves printed or visual material containing the explicit description or display of sexual organs or activity, intended to stimulate erotic (rather than aesthetic or emotional) feelings. Repeated arousal by the reader/viewer requires that the intake be intensified, thus quickly turning it into an addiction.

Current data indicates, of online porn viewers, 72% are men and 28% are women. The Pew Research Center found the number of women viewing porn online has quadrupled in the last three years. When women regularly view or read pornography, they suffer from depression and a low self-esteem. An article in the Journal of the American Medical Association: Psychiatry concluded that for persons who watch excessive porn, their brain structure is anatomically altered -- having less gray matter and lowered activity and connectivity. Although not definitive, the study is corroborated in other studies, where learning alters the brain.
Commercial Impact of Underground Sexual Exploitation in Eight U.S. Cities

In March 2014, the Urban Institute put out a study entitled, *Estimating the Size and Structure of the Underground Commercial Sex Economy (UCSE) in Eight Cities.*

(Editor's Note: Use of the term sex work is that of the authors in the study.)

The study focused on eight U.S. cities (Atlanta, Dallas, Denver, Kansas City, Miami, Seattle, San Diego, and Washington, DC.). While almost all types of commercial sex venues (massage parlors, brothels, escort services, and street- and Internet-based prostitution) existed in each city, regional and demographic differences influenced their markets. Across cities, the 2007 underground sex economy’s worth was estimated between $39.9 and $290 million.

Pimps and traffickers took home between $5,000 and $32,833 a week. Data from the study came from interviews with 73 individuals charged and convicted for crimes including forced prostitution, human trafficking and engaging in a business relationship with sex workers.

**Findings from the study include:**

- **Pimps claimed inaccuracy in media portrayals.**
  Most pimps believed that the media portrayals exaggerated violence. Some even saw the term “pimp” as derogatory, despite admitting to occasional use of physical abuse for punishment. Although pimps may have underreported the use of physical violence, they did cite frequent use of psychological coercion to maintain control over prostituted women.

- **Pimps manipulate women into sex work.**
  Pimps used a variety of tactics to recruit and retain employees (eg., discouraging having sex “for free” and feigning romantic interest). Some even linked their entry into pimping with a natural capacity for manipulation.

- **Women, family, and friends facilitate entry into prostitution.**
  Female sex workers sometimes solicited protection from friends and acquaintances, eventually asking them to act as pimps. Some pimps and sex workers had family members or friends who exposed them to the sex trade at a young age, normalizing their decision to participate. Their involvement in the underground commercial sex economy, then extends the network of those co-engaged in the market even further.

- **Unexpected parties benefit from the commercial sex economy.**
  Pimps, brothels, and escort services often employed drivers, secretaries, nannies, and other non-sex workers to keep operations running smoothly. Hotel managers and law enforcement agents sometimes helped offenders evade prosecution in exchange for money or services. Law enforcement in one city reported that erotic Asian massage parlors would purchase the names of licensed acupuncturists to fake legitimacy. Even feuding gang members occasionally joined forces in the sex trade, prioritizing profit over turf wars. The most valuable network in the underground sex economy may be the Internet.

- **The Internet is changing the limitations of the trade.**
  Prostitution is decreasing on the street, but thriving online. Pimps and sex workers advertise on social media and sites like Craigslist.com and Backpage.com to attract customers and new employees, and to gauge business opportunities in other cities. An increasing online presence makes it both easier for law enforcement to track activity in the underground sex economy and for an offender to promote and provide access to the trade.

- **Child pornography is escalating.**
  Explicit content of younger victims is becoming increasingly available and graphic. Online child pornography communities frequently trade content for free and reinforce behavior. Offenders often consider their participation a “victimless crime.”

- **The underground sex economy is perceived as low risk.**
  Pimps, traffickers, and child pornography offenders believed that their crimes were low-risk despite some fears of prosecution. Those who got caught for child pornography generally had low technological knowledge, and multiple pimp offenders expressed that “no one actually gets locked up for pimping,” despite their own incarcerations.

Commercial Impact cont. on pg. 4
The Shared Hope International study entitled, Demanding Justice Report 2014, targeted research on demand, i.e. the role of the buyer in four sites where there had been active enforcement of anti-demand laws (D.C.-Baltimore Corridor - Montgomery County & Baltimore County, MD; Phoenix Metro Area, AZ; Portland Metro Area, OR; and Seattle Metro Area, WA).

The Report examined the progress in targeting demand, including legislative efforts, the role of law enforcement, prosecutors, and judges. The 134-page Report provided extensive statistics, case examples and identified barriers, challenges and hopeful trends in anti-demand enforcement.

“America’s youth are at risk because of a simple economic principle — demand for sex acts with children drives the market of exploitation. Little has been done to address the culture of tolerance or confront the obvious conclusion that penalizing buyers is essential to protecting our youth from becoming prey. Unfortunately, attempts to find answers to the problem of demand have been scarce. In a very limited number of cases a buyer has been convicted federally under a provision of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, and this needs to be developed for greater applicability at the state level. Enactment of good laws at the state and federal level are essential but just the beginning. Enforcement of these laws will be the deterrent necessary to stem demand for commercial sex acts.

Therefore, the purpose of this Report is to measure criminal justice outcomes. Nonetheless identifying buyers of sex acts with minors was a crucial preliminary step in the research and lent itself to a prevalence review by default. One overarching challenge encountered in studying demand is the anonymity of buyers. Similarly, the anonymity of buyers presents one of the greatest challenges to investigation and arrest. Victims often do not know or remember the buyers’ real names, addresses, or other identifying information. This can be due to the trauma of the sexual exploitation or to the evasive techniques of traffickers in orchestrating the commercial encounter with the buyer. Prostitution is done on a cash basis and buyers frequently use false names, leaving law enforcement with limited evidence.

“Given the challenges law enforcement face in identifying and arresting buyers, the number of buyers who have come into contact with law enforcement reflects a small subsection of those who are buying sex acts with minors. Within that subset are the cases that were reported by the media with sufficient information to clearly identify the case as involving commercial sexual exploitation of a minor by a buyer, narrowing the field of cases even further. Since prosecutions of traffickers for the offense of sex trafficking of minors are more prevalent and generally carry more serious penalties than prosecutions of buyers of sex acts with minors, trafficker cases are more often identified in media articles as sex trafficking and more often reported.

“The conduct of traffickers is increasingly referred to as human trafficking in the media, but there is little consistency in the language used to refer to the conduct of buyers. In some instances, the offense of buying sex acts with a minor is viewed as a type of prostitution case. The desk review

Demanding Justice for Minors cont. on pg. 5

Commercial Impact cont. from pg. 3

The following recommended changes in policy and practice would help combat trafficking and prostitution:

• Cross-train drug, sex, and weapons trade investigators to better understand circuits and overlaps.
• Continue using federal and local partnerships to disrupt travel circuits and identify pimps.
• Offer law enforcement trainings for both victim and offender interview techniques, including identifying signs of psychological manipulation.
• Increase awareness among school officials and the general public about the realities of sex trafficking to deter victimization and entry.
• Consistently enforce laws for offenders to diminish low-risk perception.
• Impose more fines for websites that host ads linked to prostitution and pornography.

For a complete text of the study, go to: http://www.urban.org/publications/413047.html
Demanding Justice
cont. from pg. 4

phase of this research identified 407 relevant cases largely through media sources; 25 of those media outlets referred to a minor victim as a prostitute, reflecting the attitudes that prevent these cases from being reported as serious offenses of commercial sexual exploitation of a child.

"Prevalent misunderstanding of a buyer’s role in the sex trafficking of minors perpetuates another set of challenges in identifying these offenders. Lower penalties for buying sex acts with a minor discourage law enforcement from aggressively investigating the buyer as they focus efforts on traffickers who face more substantial penalties and are perceived as more culpable. Media’s focus is also on these more serious offenses, promoting public perception that traffickers are the only offenders that warrant attention. While substantial penalties for traffickers have been a legislative focus for many years, a shift toward focusing on buyers as culpable parties in the sex trafficking of children has only begun to take root.

"Despite the trend for law to treat the purchase of sex acts with a minor as a crime of sex trafficking, public perception continues to allocate some blame to the older minor and this is reflected in state legislation that minimizes penalties when a buyer purchases or solicits sex acts with an older minor. While many states have clarified their laws in the past couple years to clearly define a sex trafficking victim as any minor under the age of 18 used for commercial sex, buyers may enjoy a lower standard of culpability when their victim is older than 14 or 15, and may avoid serious penalties entirely by claiming mistake of age. Meanwhile, offenses against younger minors are often recognized and charged as sex offenses, regardless of whether there was an exchange or offer of compensation for illegal sex acts, leading to substantial variation in the treatment of buyers depending on the age of the victim.

"Building upon three years of research on state legislative efforts to combat demand under the Protected Innocence Challenge, Shared Hope International undertook this study of the criminal justice consequences faced by buyers of sex acts with children to explore the barriers that prevent law enforcement and prosecutors from bringing buyers to justice. This study sought to identify challenges and trends in anti-demand enforcement, including changes stemming from recent case law that holds buyers of sex acts with a minor accountable under the federal sex trafficking law.

"The scope of analysis for the Demanding Justice Report focuses on enforcement of laws that specifically combat demand for commercially sexually exploited minors. Restricting the analysis to minors provides clear parameters for identifying demand for this group of sex trafficking victims because any minor engaged in a commercial sex act is a victim of sex trafficking under federal law. Given the broad gaps in penalties between age-neutral prostitution offenses and the felony offenses that generally criminalize purchasing sex acts with minors, focusing on minor victims facilitates a clear assessment of when sex trafficking cases are misperceived as prostitution offenses, as well as other persistent misperceptions of the offenses that buyers commit. The goal of providing clear, quantifiable data on the criminal justice outcomes for those who create the demand for sex trafficked minors was accomplished." (SHI, pgs. 4-6)

The Report contains extensive examples and statistics with graphs and references to corroborate data. To read the entire report, go to:
http://www.demandingjustice.org/resources/

Changing Cultural Norms

While there is no single narrative for how minors are exploited through prostitution, the reality remains that minors are exploited regardless of apparent agency and a pimp or trafficker is not the only party responsible for that minor’s exploitation. The need to shift the discussion from prostitution to sex trafficking is critical to shifting cultural attitudes that tend to tolerate buying sex with minors while the same conduct—sexual abuse of a minor—is socially and legally condemned in any other context, especially when the sexual abuse of the child is captured on film as child pornography.

Buyers of sex with minors are often husbands, fathers, or business leaders—not the type of people that we usually associate with criminal conduct; as a result, prosecuting them makes people uncomfortable. The image we have of a trafficker is more in line with whom we think of as a criminal so it is more culturally acceptable to focus on prosecuting traffickers and not focus on buyers. (SHI, pgs. 37-38)
Boys and Violence Study

Lessons and Recommendations: Focus on Attitudes and Entitlement

Sexual violence emerges from a mindset that grants men a sense of sexual entitlement and devalues women’s bodies and agency in sexual decision-making. A wide range of institutional, cultural, and other factors combine to underpin violence in society, but this report and other evidence show that attitudes drive sexual violence more than do individual pathologies or demographic indicators.

• As such, it is critical to dedicate resources and effort to programs that directly tackle issues of power, gender norms, entitlement, and sexism in society, especially with men and boys. These “gender-transformative” approaches are proving more effective at shifting attitudes than program approaches that maintain a neutral or superficial stance on issues of gender and power.

• Violence prevention efforts should also directly engage the particular settings that propagate men’s violent attitudes and sense of sexual entitlement, including (in some but not all cases): sports teams and other male social spaces at schools, colleges and universities; workplaces; military institutions; religious institutions; and mass media.

Bring Harmful Alcohol Use into the Conversation

The pathways connecting alcohol use and sexual violence are not yet well understood. However, alcohol use is implicated in the complex web of social, environmental and behavioral predictors of sexual violence. The present evidence, which shows links between alcohol use (in some sites any drinking, in others binge drinking) and rape, lends further support to this development.

Set a Nonviolent Life Course as Early as Possible

Many of the most consistent influences on men’s likelihood of committing sexual violence occur during childhood and adolescence. Policies and programs aiming to prevent violence must therefore place greater emphasis on setting a nonviolent life course among young children and adolescents. New research is pointing to promising outcomes:

• Recent school-based programs aiming to reduce violence and to prompt healthier, more nonviolent lifestyles have shown success in multiple age groups. The Gender Equity Movement in Schools shifted attitudes related to gender among schoolchildren aged 9 to 13 in Mumbai, India. The Young Men Initiative in the Northwest Balkans, as well as other school-based adaptations of Promundo’s landmark Program H curriculum have also shown effectiveness in shifting attitudes related to violence.

• Engaging men as fathers and caregivers—including via better paternity leave policies, parenting education courses, presence at childbirth, and involvement in newborn care—helps prompt a stronger bond between a father and his children, leading to less likelihood of violence in the childhood home (a consistently significant driver of violence later in children’s lives). Such policies also make a powerful social statement that men have roles to play as caregivers and nurturing fathers and husbands, reinforcing the fundamental equality of men and women in both domestic and economic matters.

Build the Knowledge Base

Much more research is needed on the prevalence and dynamics of sexual violence perpetration around the world.

Two examples cited include:

• Research that focuses specifically on sexual violence—in all its forms—as separate from other kinds of intimate partner violence and violence against women;

• Research that explores the perspectives of men from low and middle-income countries;

Involve, Encourage, and Learn from More Men and Boys

It is critical to engage men and boys in efforts to curtail sexual and other forms of violence against women. The majority of men in the survey did not report violence, and male respondents’ attitudes toward gender spanned a range of views, from the rigidly traditional to the more progressive and equitable.

This suggests that men across the world hold diverse, shifting views about how men and women should relate. They are not a homogeneous population, and it is likely that any man with violent behaviors also has male friends, colleagues, and/or family members who reject violence.

• An urgent programmatic, research, and policy challenge to help curtail sexual violence is to involve, encourage, and learn from those many men who do not use sexual violence and can influence those who do. (pgs. 13-15)

The study can be obtained at the following links:
http://www.promundo.org.br/relatorios/
http://www.icrw.org/publications/making-sexual-violence

Letters Put Pressure on Businesses

Over 80 Benedictine Sisters from Mount St. Scholastica Monastery in Atchison, KS wrote letters to seven of the ‘Dirty Dozen’ companies (Facebook, Cosmopolitan, Barnes & Noble, Verizon, Hilton, Google, and U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder) identified by Morality in Media as tolerating or promoting porn and thereby cultivating an environment for sex trafficking. (See Stop Trafficking March 2014, vol. 12/3)
Thank ‘Google’ for New Efforts to Protect Children

Morality In Media (MIM), PornHarms.com and concerned citizens are thanking Google, the top Internet site in the world, for taking major positive steps to protect children and reduce sexual exploitation.

For two years in a row MIM placed Google on its “Dirty Dozen” list of top pornography facilitators in America. MIM launched a public campaign in which thousands of ordinary citizens contacted Google by email and phone to urge the company to get out of the porn business for the sake of children.

MIM realized in meeting with Google executives, who also have children, that they were as concerned about the influence of pornography on their own children as other parents are.

In June 2014 the company introduced a policy change that prohibits pornographic ads and ads directly linking to sexually explicit websites. Google also stopped offering sexually explicit apps in Google Play, which is Google’s phone app store. Google still needs to improve policies for Google Search, Google Images, YouTube and Safe Search.

For news of their AdWords policy change, go to: http://bit.ly/1tYIf00
For details about the ‘Dirty Dozen List’ & Google, go to: http://pornh Harms.com/dirtydozen/
To add your name to the ‘Thank You’ note to Google, go to: http://pornh Harmsaction.com/app/sign-petition?c=61487

‘Cutting Edge: The Child Sex Trade’

A Romanian filmmaker returned to his homeland to investigate stories about the trafficking of children into the sex trade. He met a fifteen-year-old street boy who had been selling sex to foreign pedophiles since he was twelve. The boy said that a wealthy German bought him a passport so he could go to the West.

Through the boy the filmmaker met a gang of street kids, some as young as eleven, also preyed on by pedophiles. The co-producer/director infiltrated a Romanian pimping network and filmed damning evidence of how underage boys are preyed upon and trafficked to wealthy pedophile clients in the West.


What You Can Do About Porn

• Communicate with local law enforcement and prosecutors as well as state prosecutors about establishments or Internet sites you find offensive and problematic.
• Write letters or call companies that use sexually explicit advertising and express your concern and determination to shop elsewhere.
• Refuse to support companies that make money off of distributing pornography. For information on such companies visit: pornh Harms.com/dirtydozen
• Become educated about the applicable obscenity laws in your state and at the federal level.
• Become educated about pornography and pornography addiction.
• Talk to youth about sexuality and appropriate expressions of intimacy.
• Install filters on computers, phones, gaming systems and cable systems to prevent exposure to pornography.

(http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865582687/)

New Educational Video on Human Trafficking

The Catholic Health Initiatives (CHI) has produced a 10-minute educational video on human trafficking as part of its commitment to violence prevention. This issue is particularly significant to the health care industry, since experts estimate that about half of all human trafficking victims will be seen at some point in a health care setting.

CHI is a nonprofit, faith-based health system serving communities in 18 states with over 90 acute care facilities. CHI has four academic medical centers and teaching hospitals: 24 critical-access facilities; community health services organizations; accredited nursing colleges; home-health agencies; and other facilities that span the inpatient and outpatient continuum of care. In fiscal year 2013, CHI provided $762 million in charity care and community benefit, including services for the poor, free clinics, education and research.More information about human trafficking can be found on the Advocacy pages of CHI’s official website: http://www.catholichealthinitiatives.com/human-trafficking-how-you-can-help
Survivors of Slavery: Modern-Day Slave Narratives

Author Laura Murphy offers close to forty survivor narratives from Cambodia, Ghana, Lebanon, Macedonia, Mexico, Russia, Thailand, Ukraine, and the United States, detailing the horrors of a system that forces people to work without pay and against their will, under the threat of violence, with little means of escape. Organized around such issues as the need for work, the punishment of defiance, and the move toward activism, the collection isolates the causes, mechanisms, and responses to slavery that allow the phenomenon to endure. The book establishes a common trajectory of vulnerability, enslavement, captivity, escape, and recovery, creating an invaluable resource for activists, scholars, legislators, and service providers. 


Study/Action Modules

The U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking (USCSAHT) Social Analysis Work Group is offering five newly-updated study/action modules on the following topics:
- Poverty and Human Trafficking;
- Objectification of Women and Human Trafficking;
- Pornography and Human Trafficking;
- Sporting Events and Human Trafficking; and
- Reducing Demand for Human Trafficking.

‘Facing the Monster: How One Person Can Fight Child Slavery’

A one-day Symposium, scheduled for October 18, 2014 (9-12:30 p.m.) and sponsored by the Advocacy Committee of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia, features Carol Hart Metzker as the keynote speaker. Carol is the author of Facing the Monster: How One Person Can Fight Child Slavery. The presentation will be held at Our Lady of Angels Convent, 609 S. Convent Road, Aston, PA 19014. For further details: osfadvocacypj19014@yahoo.com

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


Online Sex Ad Customers Population and % Estimates https://copp.asu.edu/college-news/pressreleases/new-study-helps-estimate-online-sex-advertisement-use


The modules are available at the following websites:
http://www.bakhitainitiative.com
http://www.stopenslavement.org/archives/

Anti Human Trafficking Newsletter 12/9

Toll-Free 24/7 Hotline National Human Trafficking Resource Center 1.888.3737.888 or text HELP or INFO to BeFree (233733).

Action

Anti Human Trafficking Newsletter 12/9

Toll-Free 24/7 Hotline National Human Trafficking Resource Center 1.888.3737.888 or text HELP or INFO to BeFree (233733).

Land of Missing Children

A 23-minute documentary film, Land of Missing Children: The Rape Trade, examines the plight of teenage girls trafficked from Northeast India into big cities, such as Calcutta. Naïve villagers, often illiterate, hand over their girls into marriage or send them away for work, often to avoid the burden of needing a dowry. In actuality these girls are simply traded to the big cities for prostitution -- many never come home.

http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/land-missing-children-rape-trade/

Stop Trafficking! is dedicated exclusively to fostering an exchange of information among religious congregations, their friends and collaborating organizations, working to eliminate all forms of trafficking of human beings.

Use the following web address to access past issues of Stop Trafficking!
www.stopenslavement.org/archives.htm

To contribute information, or make requests to be on the mailing list, please contact: jeansds@stopenslavement.org

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