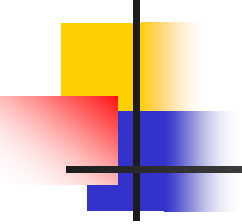




Public Chapter 1023: Human Sex Trafficking of Children

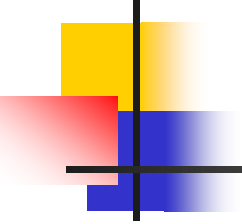
**A Report to the Members of
Senate and House
Judiciary Committees**

**Prepared by the
Office of the Select Committee
on Children and Youth**



Human trafficking is second only to transfer of arms as the largest and fastest growing illegal activity in the world.

--US Department of State and the Polaris Project



Pursuant to Public Chapter 1023 of the Public Acts of 2010 of the Tennessee General Assembly, the Select Committee on Children and Youth is directed to study human sex trafficking, the improvements that should be made to existing laws and the impact of human sex trafficking on children and youth in the State of Tennessee.



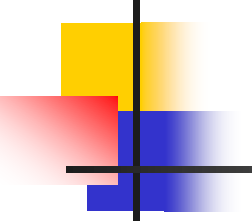
Definition of Trafficking:

- Connotes the buying and selling of goods, products of a wrong or illegal kind.
- In regard to sex trafficking, the “goods and products” are sex and human beings.



Two forms of human trafficking:

- Labor trafficking
- Sex trafficking



As many as 300,000 children in the US are at risk of becoming victims of human sex trafficking every year; estimates are that approximately 100,000 of them do, in fact, fall prey to traffickers who commercially exploit them sexually.

--2001 University of Pennsylvania study, **Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in the US, Canada and Mexico** (Estes and Weiner) and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children



What children are at risk of being caught up in human sex trafficking?

- Girls, especially between the ages of 13-17
- Children who are marginalized and have vulnerabilities that tend to isolate them from peers
- Children in foster care
- Children who spend lots of time unsupervised, especially out in the community
- Truants, Runaways, Throwaways and Homeless Children
- Forcible abductions of children by strangers
- No child is absolutely safe from or immune to Stranger Abduction



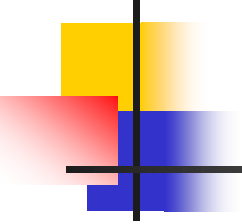
How do children get ensnared into human sex trafficking?

- Pimps play to victims' vulnerabilities
- Ply them with gifts, commiserate with them about bad home life
- Once lured in by the "too good to be true" promises, pimps' threats, physical beatings, psychological control tactics, and brutality hold the girls in bondage
- Some experts describe this as Stockholm Syndrome

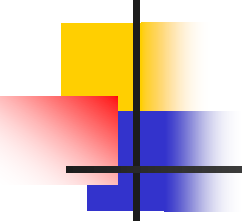


How many Tennessee kids are we talking about?

- In 2009, the TBI received 9,276 reports of missing children for an average of 773 per month.
- Of those reports, roughly 1/3 or 3,051 were girls between the ages of 13-17.
- Tennessee could have as many as 1,000 girls per year that are being sex trafficked (TBI).

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- On March 1, 2011, 153 children and youth in the custody of the State of Tennessee were on runaway. Their whereabouts are unknown.
 - 54 of them are girls between the ages of 13-17.

--Department of Children's Services data provided by Internal Affairs and Absconder Unit

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- In Tennessee, names and information for approximately 14,500 registered sex offenders are on the Tennessee Sex Offender Registry. Of these registrants, 71% are convicted of offenses against children. Many of these may have been involved in commercial sexual exploitation of a child.

--Discussion in TBI focus groups



3P's Needed to Combat Human Trafficking

- **Prevention** – public awareness campaigns; hotline as a source of general information and training; deferral programs such as “john schools”; public posting of names and pictures of johns and pimps; local and statewide anti-human trafficking coalitions.
- **Protection** – improving capacity of key stakeholders to recognize the issue; hotline as a means for victims to self-identify and seek help, and a means for persons suspecting or knowing of sex trafficking to report to authorities; emergency shelters; foster care and therapeutic resources for victims
- **Prosecution** – well trained law enforcement to conduct investigations; sentencing laws strong enough to serve as deterrent; high level of cooperation between local, state and federal authorities with multi-jurisdictional authorities; multi-jurisdictional task forces such as the state drug task forces.

Polaris Project "10 Point" List Category Descriptions



1. Sex Trafficking Statutes
2. Labor Trafficking Statutes
3. Asset Forfeiture for HT
4. Training on HT for Law Enforcement
5. HT Commission/Task Force
6. HT Hotline
7. Safe Harbor
8. No Requirement of Force, Fraud, or Coercion of Minors in HT Law
9. Victim Services
10. Civil Remedy



10 Recommendations to the Tennessee General Assembly:

1. A legislative corps of members and key staff should continue gathering information and developing a solid knowledge base about the most effective methods for preventing human trafficking, prosecuting traffickers and protecting victims. A major focus of these efforts should be on children.
2. The legislature should use the Polaris Project 10 Categories List as a check-list for on-going legislative work to incorporate best practice knowledge into our state policy. Favorable consideration should be given to bills in the current General Assembly and going forward that address the specific provisions set forth in each of the 10 categories.
3. Legislators and all others involved in anti-human trafficking work and advocacy should adopt the **"3P"** paradigm response framework of prevention, protection and prosecution to organize the work and to assure development of a comprehensive and balanced public policy for the state that thoroughly combats human trafficking and promotes a strong anti-human trafficking message in Tennessee.



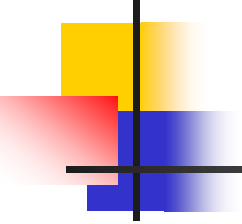
Legislative Recommendations Cont.

4. Public awareness is necessary so the general populace, including especially children, youth and young adults will become familiar with signs, indicators and response protocols.
5. The formation and strengthening of local anti-human trafficking task forces should be encouraged; local task forces have great potential capacity to promote public awareness and advance training opportunities.
6. Explore ways to more definitively capture data specific to human trafficking and commercial exploitation of children within law enforcement and child welfare information management systems.
7. Consider forming multi-jurisdictional task forces for human trafficking interdiction similarly to way drug task forces have been formed and authorized in Tennessee.



Legislative Recommendations Cont.

8. Engage the mental health professional community in dialogues on human sex trafficking developing clinical expertise among practitioners about treating victims of human sex trafficking. This should extend into the child welfare arena and DCS' network of residential therapeutic foster care providers in order to strengthen therapeutic care available for child victims who come into the custody of the state.
9. Study the needs for training for law enforcement on recognizing and responding to human sex trafficking and develop a plan for meeting those needs; the upcoming TBI report should be especially informative regarding law enforcement training needs and strategies for carrying out training.
10. DCS case managers along with child advocacy center personnel and community-based child abuse prevention and family support services providers need to be trained and become proficient in recognizing and responding to signs and indicators of human sex trafficking.



***"They are seduced, they are tricked, they are lured into this practice, and then they lose the ability to walk away.....
These kids literally become 21st century slaves."***

*--Ernie Allen, President and CEO
National Center for Missing
and Exploited Children*