



CENTER FOR WOMEN,
GENDER & SEXUALITY
STUDIES AT FAU



Surviving Slavery: Sex Trafficking in South Florida

BUILDING BRIDGES LEADERSHIP LUNCHEON

Fall 2014

*A 2014-2015 FAU Collaborative
Faculty Research Initiative*

WHAT IS SEX TRAFFICKING?

“Sex trafficking is one of the most lucrative sectors regarding the illegal trade in people, and involves any form of sexual exploitation in prostitution, pornography, bride trafficking, and the commercial sexual abuse of children. Under international law, any sexually exploited child is considered a trafficking victim, even if no force or coercion is present.”

(Polaris Project)



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FL, CA, and NY
are the nation's
largest
trafficking
states.

In Miami, at
least 75% of the
minors in
prostitution
have a pimp

98% of these
victims are
**women and
children**

Industry
focused on
meeting client
demand

Psychological,
physical, and
sexual abuse

43 - 79 %
are coerced
into commercial
sex exploitation

i'm not
FOR SALE



SEX TRAFFICKING IN OUR BACK YARDS



Jeffery Thomson, 27 & Kaylen Maglaris, 20.



Jessica Thomson, 25.

- Plantation 2013
- Recruited women in Tampa and Orlando for jobs in escort & pornography in South Florida.
- Upon being arrested Thomson claimed he was only acting on his wife, Jessica's, instructions.
- Charges:
 - Human Trafficking, forcing sex activity
 - Force another to prostitution
 - Live on earnings of prostitution
 - Renting for prostitution
 - Possession of crystal meth and marijuana



SEX TRAFFICKING AT FAU!

Do you think you're serious about starting that idea with me? It's would be really good for your resume too. If you have the time. You can be the head of consumer relations or something if you want. Just have to know of you're committed or not

You never went over everything with me.

It's something like a club concierge

Essentially guys with lots of money would come to us to set them up with a bottle service at a club and then a few girls to also attend the club with them and maybe even transportation to the club or bar

Maybe ones that are visiting or even live here

Also setting up security for the girls and making sure it isn't shady

Shady girls get fired and we have to ensure their safety as well



LAWS

State and Federal Agencies

➤ Juvenile

- Department of Children and Families (DCF)
- Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)
- * Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking

➤ Immigration

- Department of Homeland Security (DHS)



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LAWS



The Safe Harbor Act (Fla. Stat. § 39.001)

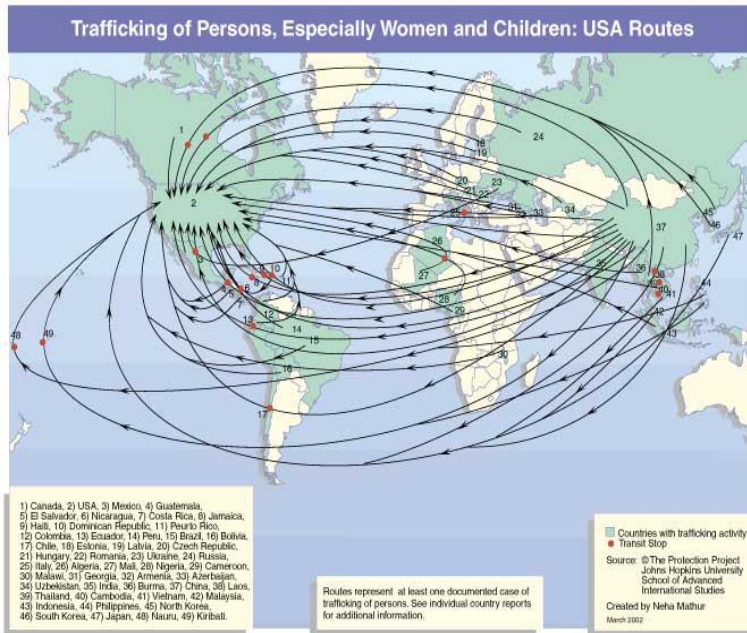
January 1, 2013

- Helps ensure the safety of child victims of sexual exploitation.
- Child welfare professionals take each case.
- Children receive treatment in residential settings that promote their safety and success.
- This statute funds the centers by increasing State fines for soliciting prostitutes from \$500 to \$5,000



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LAWS



- Immigration-related issues
- Victims protected by a Federal Statute passed in 2000
- The Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act (VTVPA)

➤ **Continued Presence:** temporary immigration status granted by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to individuals who are victims of human trafficking.



TREATMENT OF VICTIMS

Developing Assistance for Victims

- Shift in perception has led to laws offering protection for victims
- This shift is the result of advocacy

**FLORIDA IS
ZERO-TOLERANCE
FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

**REPORT HUMAN
TRAFFICKING**



TREATMENT OF VICTIMS

Paradigm Shift

- Advocacy and education that produced laws also created a shift in law enforcement perceptions
- Policy and procedure recognizes prostitutes as potential victims and not necessarily criminals
- New models of dealing with prostitution
 - Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking recognition and provision of services
 - FBI [protocol](#) on dealing with prostitution



TREATMENT OF VICTIMS

Laws that Create Protections

- 1994 Violence Against Women Act (VAWA): provisions for battered immigrant women
- 2000 reauthorization of VAWA entitled Battered Immigrant Women Protection Act
- 2000 Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act
- 2008 William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act
- 2013 Trafficking Victims Reauthorization Act (Title XII of VAWA Reauthorization Act)



FINDING A SOLUTION

- The Center for Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies at FAU launched a *Collaborative Research Initiative: “Surviving Slavery: Sex Trafficking in South Florida.”*
 - **Building Bridges Leadership Luncheon (Fall 2014)**
 - **Bystander Intervention Workshop (Spring 2015)**
 - Lead a Student Organization/Project
 - Get showcased at the Southeastern Women’s Studies Association Conference in the Spring!
 - Get interviewed by Christine DiMattei, a reporter from the local NPR radio station!!





**BREAK THE CHAINS!!!
END MODERN-DAY
SLAVERY**

... Let's start today!



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