

US Initiatives to Eliminate the Demand for Sex Trafficking & Prostitution:

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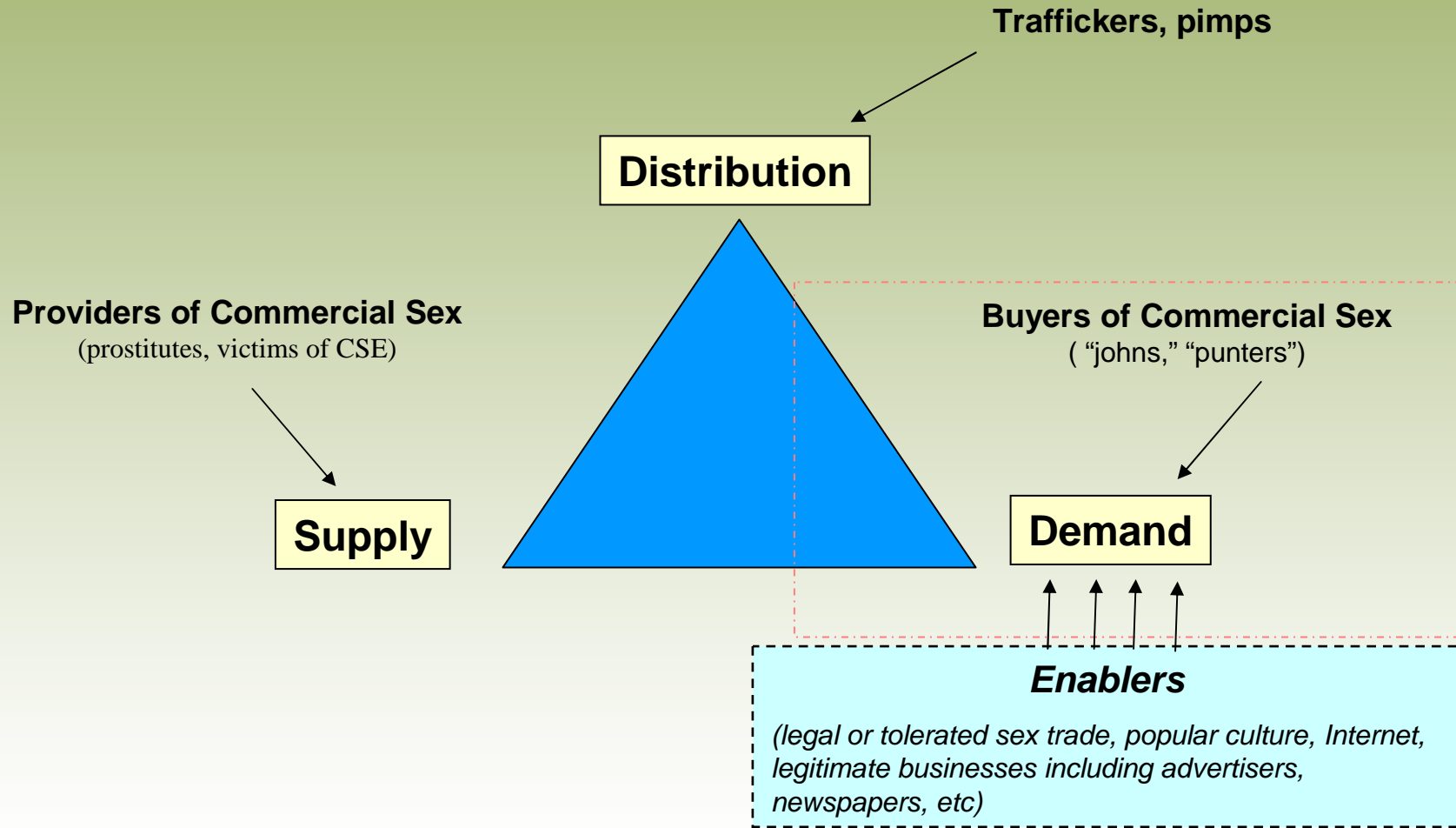
**PREVENTING AND COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS:
REDUCING PROSTITUTION AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION
EXPERTS CONFERENCE**

Plzen, Czech Republic : 03 June 2009



Provoking Change....For Good.

Model of Sex Trafficking & Prostitution Market



Source: Laura J. Lederer, 2008

Overview of Sex Trafficking Demand Reduction Strategies

- **Law Enforcement Activities**
 - Arresting buyers (“reverse stings”)
 - Shaming (“Dear John” letters home, names or pictures on Web sites newspapers, billboards, local TV, etc.)
 - Seizing automobiles
 - Geographic restraining orders or “stay-away zones”
 - Community service for arrested or sentenced buyers
- **Neighborhood Watch Programs**
- **“John School” Education & Treatment Programs***
- **Prosecution (Criminal and Civil)***
- **Legislation ***
- **Public Awareness Campaigns***
- **Prevention Education ***

** Will highlight emerging/ best practices in detail*



US Sites Engaging in Demand Reduction Efforts

Demand Reduction Strategy	Number of Sites Identified
Law Enforcement	
Reverse stings (street operations)*	525
Reverse stings (Web-based)	95
Shaming: Names and/or photos publicized	281
Shaming: "Dear John" letters sent home	23
Auto seizure	70
Geographic restraining orders or zones	41
Community service	12
Surveillance cameras in active prostitution zones	4
Neighborhood Programs Targeting	15
Buyer Education or Treatment Programs	
John schools* (currently active)	42
Education programs covering health topics only	12
Buyer Public Awareness/Education Campaigns	11

*Evidence-based practice.

Emerging Evidence of Effective Strategy

- **Evidence is mounting** that prostitution and sex trafficking can be successfully fought by:
 - Focusing **criminal justice efforts on buyers**, while shifting to a “**therapeutic model**” for **providers** of commercial sex.
- *Evidence:*
 - Sweden
 - Ipswich, England
 - Deterrent effect of arrest
 - Prevention effect of education programs (“John schools”)



Evidence-Supported Demand-Reduction Approaches

- **Arresting Buyers***

- Arresting buyers is an effective deterrent to street prostitution. (Brewer et al., 2006).
- Comprehensive crackdowns that include arresting consumers reduces street prostitution. (Weisburd et al., 2006).

- **Educating Buyers***

- Comprehensive education for arrested buyers is an effective deterrent: Results from San Francisco and San Diego. (Shively et al., 2008)

* *These studies ruled out displacement as primary explanation of effect, and concluded that true deterrence occurred.*

Overview of the John School Programs

- Police conduct “**reverse stings**” and courts process offenders.
- Diversion: Case is dismissed if eligible men volunteer and:
 - Pay a fee
 - Attend one-day, 8 hour class (“John school”).
 - Avoid re-arrest for specified period.
- **Sentence:** Men required to attend as condition of sentence.
- Single class versus multiple session classroom options.
- **Curriculum:**
 - Legal consequences
 - Health consequences
 - Impact on communities
 - Impact on “providers”
 - Impact on buyers
 - Pimping & trafficking
 - Sexual addiction



Source: Michael Shively

Key Findings of Evaluation of First Offender Prostitution Program (FOPP)

- FOPP logic model is **solid**, and program was implemented as intended, in general.
- Program is **stable, sustainable**:
 - Operating with same structure, partners, and goals for 13 years.
 - Strong revenue stream, generally strong support.
- Program **meets restorative justice goals** by funding programs for prostituted women and girls.
- **Relieves courts** of misdemeanor case burden:
 - 6,000 cases 1995-2008
- FOPP significantly **reduces recidivism** (by over 30%)
- Diversion poses **no increased risk to public safety**.
- **No other initiatives or actions proven to reduce prostitution or sex trafficking.**

Why FOPP Evaluation Results are Encouraging

- **The program is:**
 - effective in reducing demand
 - cost taxpayers nothing
 - reduces court workload
 - provides public health and criminal justice benefits.
- **No opportunity cost or public safety risks.**
- **Demand is the engine driving many serious crimes.**
By successfully curbing demand, “John schools” can impact:
 - Assaults, robbery, rape, kidnapping, drug trafficking
 - Local street prostitution
 - Underage prostitution (rape of children)
 - Sex trafficking (domestic and international)
 - Neighborhood blight, other crimes (“broken windows” theory)

Prosecution (Criminal and Civil)

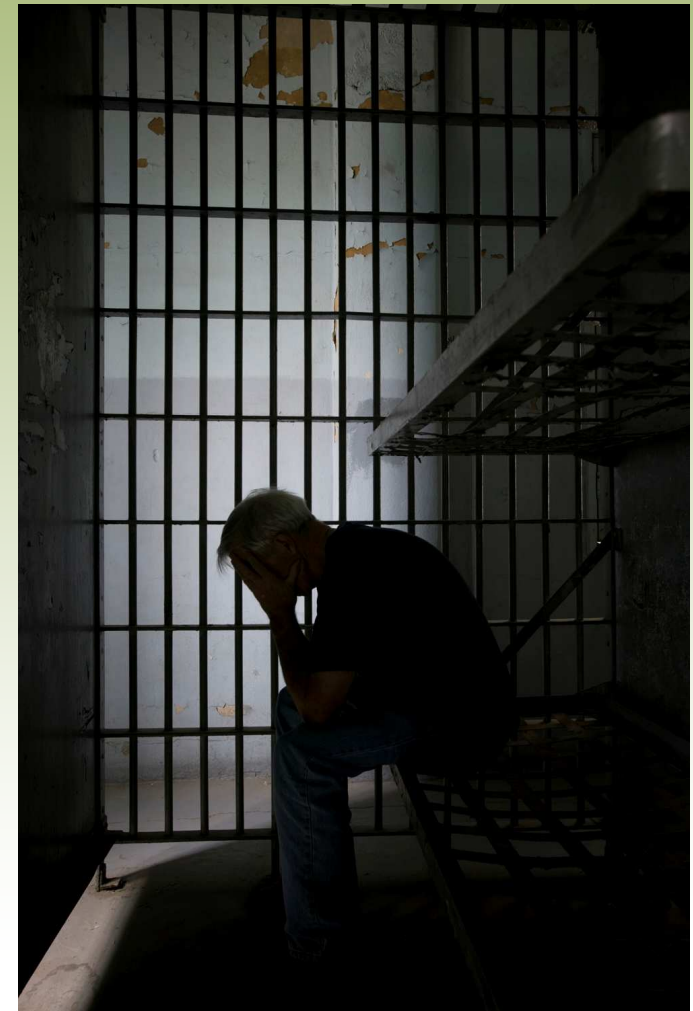
* *Criminal prosecutions of buyers, particularly in federal court, is uncommon (E.g. Governor Spitzer)*

Emerging efforts and ideas:

- Attacking **entities that enable demand** and facilitate prostitution (*E.g. actions against Craigslist by Sheriff Tom Dart in Illinois, Attorney General of Connecticut*)
- **Civil prosecutions** against sex tourists and “johns” (*E.g. Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation, Colorado law firm*)
- Prosecuting buyers as **conspirators to trafficking**
- Relying on **buyers as witnesses** against traffickers and pimps instead of victim-centered testimony

“Unlike the purchaser of consumer goods produced through trafficked labour, the prostitute-user is simultaneously both the demand-creator and (by virtue of his receipt of the trafficked person) part of the trafficking chain.”

- Report of the UN Special Rapporteur on
Human Trafficking
Sigma Huda (February 2006)



Legislation

Existing Laws:

- Trafficking Victims Protection Act (2000)
 - 2005 Reauthorization “End Demand Act”
 - 2008 Reauthorization “William Wilberforce Act”
- State prostitution laws
- Predator Accountability Act (Illinois)

New/Emerging efforts:

- Raise existing penalties for buyers
 - New York (2007), Atlanta (2008)
 - Sex with minors should be a felony
- End Demand Illinois – pilot case modeled after Sweden’s Sex Purchase Law (1999)

Public Awareness Campaigns

- “Dear John” Campaign in Atlanta, Georgia
- Public health campaigns

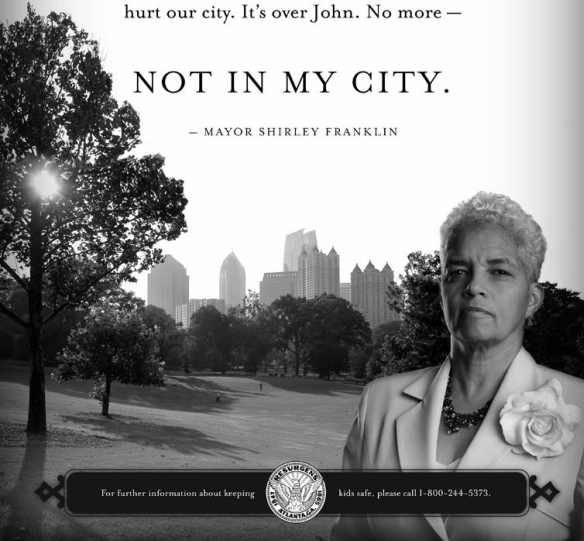
DEAR JOHN

You have been abusing our kids, prostituting them and
throwing them onto the street when you're done.


As Mayor of Atlanta, I have promised to listen to people.
Kids are no exception. When you buy sex from our kids,
you hurt them, you hurt our families and you
hurt our city. It's over John. No more —

NOT IN MY CITY.

— MAYOR SHIRLEY FRANKLIN



For further information about keeping kids safe, please call 1-800-244-5373.




DEAR JOHN

The girls on my team stay in school and learn important
life lessons: Sportsmanship. Leadership. Teamwork.

They become strong women. Meanwhile, you use kids for
your own sexual sport. You take away their hope
and their lives. The game's over. No more —

NOT ON MY TEAM.



For further information about keeping kids safe, please call 1-800-244-5373.

Prevention Education

- Curricula for **high-school & university** students
 - Modeled after date rape, domestic violence curricula
- **Targeted male populations**
(truck stops, churches, sports clubs)
 - Texas – Sex Trafficking Obliteration Project
(T-STOP)



Disabling the Enablers

- Create a **cultural shift**
 - Emphasize **dignity** of *all* human beings
 - Stigmatize pimping
 - De-glorify the commercial sex trade
(*E.g. CATW efforts against HBO “The Cathouse”*)
- Cooperate with **legitimate businesses** to actively fight sex trafficking, sexual exploitation, and commercial sex trade (or at least not enable)
 - *The New York Times, The Chicago Tribune, Los Angeles Times, and the Boston Globe* eliminated erotic services sections

Approaching Demand-Reduction

- **Need comprehensive, simultaneous, and multidisciplinary approach to attack demand:**
 - **Top-down** *and* **bottom up**
 - **Immediate** intervention *and* **long-term** strategies
 - **Arrest and punish perpetrators** *and* **assist victims**
 - Change **laws** *and* change **culture**



Where to Begin?

- **Train & educate** police & courts to enforce existing laws
- **Pressure legislators** to appropriate funding – 2005 TVPA & Wilberforce demand
- Assist the **current grassroots abolitionist movement** to attack demand at the local level
- **Raise fees and fines** for buyers to create “restorative justice” funding stream

Current Research on Demand Reduction

- **Abt Associates, Inc. Studies**
 1. National (US-based)
 2. International (Hunt Alternatives as main subcontractor)
- **Goals:**
 1. describe and assess **variations in programs**
 2. convey “**lessons learned**” in program implementation, operation, and sustainability
 3. produce a **typology of programs** and a generic logic models
- **Final Products:**
 1. A **Web site & blog** aimed at practitioners, to facilitate peer communication and assist local
 2. A **global web conference**

“The Truth is Simple...

... if there were no demand, prostitution would not exist. Prostitution is not about women's sexuality. It's about men. If men the world over did not demand paid sex, there would be no need to corral, break, and submit millions of women and children to this dehumanizing existence.”

- Victor Malarek, author, *The Johns: Sex for Sale and the Men Who Buy It*

The Human Rights Issue of Our Time

We are all part of a **global abolitionist** movement...



...let's **end sex slavery** by eliminating demand!

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