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#### NIWRC Webinar Wednesday, April 18, 2012 1:00 p.m. MDST



**Bonnie Clairmont** 



Paula Julian

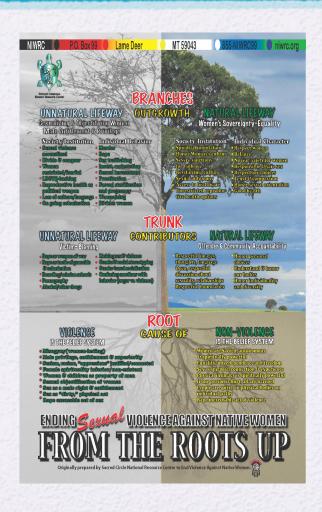


Nicole Matthews

Working Together to Enhance the Safety of Native Women:

Trafficking &
Prostitution as
Crimes of Sexual
Violence

# April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month





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# A Brief History of Sexual Violence and Trafficking of Indian Women

Bonnie Clairmont
Tribal Law & Policy Institute

#### **Pre-Contact**

- •Women were considered sacred, held esteemed positions in the nation
- No one word for rape
- Sexuality was natural & women's sexual autonomy was respected
- •Women were not seen as property of men
- Matrilineal/matriarchal tribal nations
- •Tribal justice response to acts of violence was swift & severely punished
- Individual and tribal sovereignty



#### **Pre-Contact**

- Human captivity existed in North America prior to contact
- Different than slavery as we know it
- Indian captives would often later be adopted into that tribe or decided to stay
- Indian raiding parties would capture neighboring communities to increase their population but not to sell them
- Wholesale commercialization was completely unknown
- Enslavement of Indian people by Europeans was commonplace from days of early contact.



#### Enslavement in Indigenous History



- Kidnapping Indians by Europeans to enslave as guides, informants and interpreters common
- Spanish, Portuguese, French and English engaged in this behavior
- Manifest Destiny
- Papal bulls created to carry out this "divine prophesy" of manifest destiny
- Behavior was encouraged and transplanted into the legal system
- Christopher Columbus recognized the profit potential of enslaving American Indians

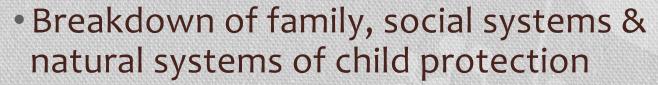
#### Major Historical Events that Caused Destruction or Near Destruction of Tribal Nations & Commercialization of Native Women's Bodies



#### Including, but not limited to:

- Warfare
- Slavery
- Relocation
- Boarding schools
- Oppressive health care system

#### Sexual Violence Reality



- Traditional forms of justice mostly eliminated
- Conquest: Land/women
- Diminished status of women
- Inequality between genders/ages
- Erosion of individual and tribal sovereignty
- Natural became unnatural



#### **Contemporary Reality**



- •American Indian women experience sexual assault at a rate 3.5 times higher than all other ethnicities (Greenfield & Smith, 1999).
- •Over 70% of rapes are not reported. (BJS report, American Indians and Crime, 1999)
- •According to the National Crime Victimization Survey, 87% of sexual assaults on American Indian women are perpetrated by non-Indian men (National Crime Victimization Survey, 2000).
- •34.1% of American Indian women raped in her lifetime (National Violence Against Women Survey, 1998)

#### Taking Back Our Communities

- Education & training for all sectors in the community
- •Training for law enforcement to identify victims of trafficking
- Holding Community Gatherings &
- Youth mentors
- Men speaking out, reclaiming their role as protectors and providers
- •Women taking their places as leaders, keepers of their lodges,
- •Tribal leaders speaking out & providing needed resources in housing and economic resources for women
- Educating one another on how to help women & girls who are battered, raped, abused, stalked, trafficked, prostituted
- •Strong tribal laws and policies and enforcement of laws consistent with customs and traditions that upheld that Native women are sacred



It is up to all of us!



#### **Garden of Truth:**

The Prostitution and Trafficking of Native Women in Minnesota

**Nicole Matthews** 



**Research by:** 

# Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition & Prostitution, Research, and Education

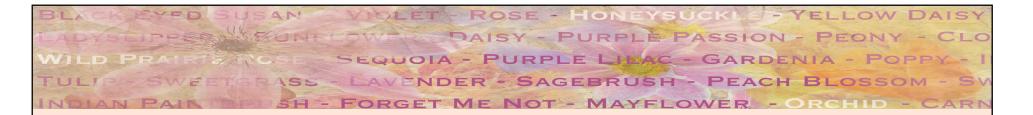
**Authors:** 

Melissa Farley
Nicole Matthews
Sarah Deer
Guadalupe Lopez
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Eileen Hudon



#### Goals

- To assess the life circumstances of Native women in prostitution in Minnesota
- Learn more about their needs for recovery



#### Method

- 105 Native women in MN
- 4 Questionnaires
- 1.5 3 hours per interview
- Quantitative and Qualitative

BLA PURPLE PASSION - PEONY - CLO
WILD PRAIL SEQUOIA - PURPLE LINAG - GARDENIA - POPPY - I
TULIP SWEET PASS - LAVENDER - SAGEBRUSH - PEACH BLOSSOM - SV
INDIAN PAIR SH - FORGET ME NOT - MAYFLOWER - ORCHID - CARN

# Demographics

- 39% of the women we interviewed were under the age of 18 when they entered prostitution.
- Mean Age: 35
- Age Range 18 60
- Years in Prostitution: 14
- 57% had family members used in prostitution

WILD PRAIR OF SEQUOIA - PURPLE LINAC - GARDENIA - POPPY - ITULIP SWEETER SS - LAVENDER - SAGEBRUSH - PEACH BLOSSOM - SWEETER SS - LAVENDER - SAGEBRUSH - PEACH BLOSSOM - SWEETER SS - LAVENDER - MAYELOWER - OPCHID - CARN

### **ANTECEDENTS**

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TULI - SWEET RISS - LAVENDER - SAGEBRUSH - PEACH BLOSSOM - SW
INDIAN PAIR SH - FORGET ME NOT - MAYFLOWER - ORCHID - CARN

#### Child Sexual Abuse

 79% of the women we interviewed had been sexually abuse as children, by an average of 4 perpetrators.

"My dad sold us to his friends when I was younger."



# **Boarding Schools**





#### **Foster Care**

- 48% of the women had been placed in foster care. They had been in an average of 5 foster homes.
- 46% of the women in foster care had been abused.



## Adoption

• 5 interviewees were adopted, and all of them reported being abused spiritually or culturally in the adoptive family. BLACK PURPLE PASSION - PEONY - CLO
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#### **Arrests**

- 52% of the women were arrested as minors an average of 8 times.
- Several had been arrested for prostitution as children.
- Most common offenses: assault, underage drinking, truancy, and theft.

WILD PRAIR OF SEQUOIA - PURPLE LINAC - GARDENIA - POPPY - ITULIE - SWEET RSS - LAVENDER - SAGEBRUSH - PEACH BLOSSOM - SWEET RSS - LAVENDER - SAGEBRUSH - PEACH BLOSSOM - SWEET RSS - LAVENDER - MAYEL OWER - ORCHID - CARN

# **FINDINGS**



#### Homelessness

 98% of Native women interviewed, were currently or previously homeless. BLANDIAN PAIR SH - FORGET ME NOT - MAYFLOWER - ORCHID - CARN

#### Trauma

- Half of the women interviewed met a conservative legal definition for sex trafficking
  - Third party control over prostituting by pimps or traffickers
- 86% reported deception and trickery at the outset
- 92% wanted to escape



#### Trauma

- 48% had been used by more than 200 sex buyers
- 16% had been used by at least 900 sex buyers
- 49% reported giving most of their money from prostitution to pimps
  - 42% of the pimps were gang-affiliated

BLANDIAN PAIR SH - FORGET ME NOT - MAYFLOWER - ORCHID - CARN

"I wouldn't say there are pimps anymore. Now they're all boyfriends." BLACK PER SUSAN VILLET ROSE - HONEYSUCKI, FYELLOW DAISY

DAISY - PURPLE PASSION - PEONY - CLO

WILD PRAIR OF SEQUOIA - PURPLE LINAC - GARDENIA - POPPY - I

TULI - SWEET ROSE - LAVENDER - SAGEBRUSH - PEACH BLOSSOM - SW

INDIAN PAIR SH - FORGET ME NOT - MAYFLOWER - ORCHID - CARN

#### Trauma

- 84% were physically assaulted
  - 44% by johns
  - 15% by pimps
- 78% had been threatened with a gun, knife or other weapon within the past month



#### Racism

- 42% of women reported racial verbal abuse by pimps and buyers
- As with other types of sexual violence towards Native women, a majority of perpetrators were non-Native.
- Native women were fetishized as exotic.

BLANDIAN PAIR SH - FORGET ME NOT - MAYELOWER - ORCHID - CARN

"A john said to me, 'I thought we killed all of you'."



#### Violence

- 92% had been raped
- 84% had been physically assaulted in prostitution.
- 72% suffered traumatic brain injuries in prostitution.

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# Violence in Prostitution of Native American Women and in a Study of Prostitution in 9 Countries

	Minnesota Native Women in Prostitution (n=105)	9 Country Summary (n=854)
Threatened with a weapon in prostitution	78% (73)	64% (503)
Physically assaulted in prostitution	84% (85)	73% (595)
Raped in prostitution	92% (92)	57% (483)
(Of those raped) raped more than five times in prostitution	68% (50)	59% (286)
Current or past homelessness	98% (97)	75% (571)
As a child, was hit or beaten by caregiver until injured or bruised	56% (55)	59% (448)
Sexual abuse as a child	79% (78)	63% (508)
Mean number of childhood sexual abuse perpetrators	4	4
Median number of childhood sexual abuse perpetrators	2	1
Current or Past Homelessness	98% (99)	75% (571)



#### Dissociation

#### Symptoms:

<ul> <li>Flashbacks</li> </ul>	65%
<ul> <li>Spacing Out</li> </ul>	71%
<ul> <li>Dizziness</li> </ul>	28%
<ul> <li>Memory Problems</li> </ul>	68%
<ul> <li>Derealization</li> </ul>	59%
<ul> <li>Not in Your Body</li> </ul>	50%

# BLANDIAN PAIR SH - FORGET ME NOT - MAYFLOWER - ORCHID - CARN

"When the johns were sexually assaulting me, I could be in England or somewhere else until they were done."

"There's times I'd walk around in a space out, because when I stop and think about reality – I break down and can't handle it."



### **Chronic Health Problems**

<ul> <li>Muscle aches and pains</li> </ul>	72%
<ul> <li>Memory problems</li> </ul>	69%
<ul> <li>Trouble concentrating</li> </ul>	69%
<ul> <li>Headaches or migraines</li> </ul>	57%
<ul> <li>Joint pain</li> </ul>	52%
• Stomach ache or upset stomach	48%
<ul> <li>Neck pain</li> </ul>	44%

BLANDING DAISY - PURPLE PASSION - PEONY - CLO
WILD PRAISON - SEQUOIA - PURPLE LINAC - GARDENIA - POPPY - I
TULIP - SWEET RASE - LAVENDER - SAGEBRUSH - PEACH BLOSSOM - SW
INDIAN PAIR SH - FORGET ME NOT - MAYFLOWER - ORCHID - CARN

### Mental Health Diagnoses

<ul><li>Depression</li><li>Anxiety Disorders</li></ul>	78%
	71%
<ul> <li>Bi-Polar Disorder</li> </ul>	33%

 56% of the women were taking medications at the time of their interviews.

#### Needs

Table 10. Needs of 105 Prostituted Native American Women

	Native	Prostituted
	Minnesota	Women in
Need	Need Women	9 Countries
	(n=105)	(n=854)
Individual Counseling	75% (79)	56%(431)
Peer Support	73% (77)	51%(393)
Vocational Training	68% (72)	76% (600)
Home or Safe Place	67% (71)	75%(618)
Substance Abuse Treatment	58% (62)	47%(356)
Self-Defense Training	50% (53)	45%(340)
Health Care	48% (51)	61%(480)
Legal Assistance	34% (36)	51%(366)
Physical Protection From a Pimp	26% (28)	23%(157)
Childcare	26% (28)	44%(335)
Legalized Prostitution	10% (11)	34%(251)

BLA PYFD SUSAN VILLET ROSE - HONEYSUCKI, FYELLOW DAISY

PAISY - PURPLE PASSION - PEONY - CLO

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TULI - SWEET ROSE - LAVENDER - SAGEBRUSH - PEACH BLOSSOM - SW

INDIAN PAIR SH - FORGET ME NOT - MAYFLOWER - ORCHID - CARN

#### Recovery

- 80% had used outpatient substance abuse programs
- 77% had used homeless shelters
- 33% had used sexual assault programs
- 65% had used domestic violence services



#### Recovery

- The women stated a need for different or expanded services such as:
  - More culturally specific in-patient substance abuse treatment
  - Housing and vocational counseling
  - Access to services that incorporate Native healing practices

## Prostitution: Warning Signs

- Hanging out with older people, or people they have little in common with.
- Having unexplained money, drugs, new clothes, cars.
- Getting gifts, jewelry, or other items.
- A new set of friends, or people outside of the norm.
- Living in a house with frequent traffic, or a lot of coming and going day and night.
- Moving frequently (weekly-monthly) from one neighborhood, city, or state in a patterned method. Be sure that this activity is not a normal cultural behavior, such as ceremonies, pow wows, etc.
- Suspicious business fronts. (Massage parlors, nail shops, beauty parlors, medical supplies, etc.)

# BLA PYFD SUSAN VIOLET - ROSE - HONEYSÜCKL - YELLOW DAISY DAISY - PURPLE PASSION - PEONY - CLO WILD PRAIR SEQUOIA - PURPLE LINAC - GARDENIA - POPPY - I TULIP SWEET PASS - LAVENDER - SAGEBRÜSH - PEACH BLOSSOM - SV INDIAN PAIR SH - FORGET ME NOT - MAYFLOWER - ORCHID - CARN

- Gang Affiliation
- Suddenly withdrawn or changes in daily activities.
- Changes in sexual activity, more or less promiscuous, or fearful of sex.
- Inappropriate knowledge of sex that you wouldn't expect someone of that age to have.
- Working in a strip club, or a sex shop.
- Suspicious on-line activities. Watch out for posting on-line, or community papers such as City Pages.
- Little kids who are sexually abused will sometimes forget where they are and begin posing inappropriately (pornographic posing).

Compiled by Beth Jacobs, Guadalupe Lopez, and Christine Stark



#### Advocacy

- Do not judge it's important to check your own biases before working with a woman used in prostitution.
- Be patient with her she may take time to fully disclose to you. She may be testing the waters to make sure you're a safe person to talk to.
- Women/girls will often say their pimp is their boyfriend and that they love him. They might defend him, but given time and building of trust they will often tell a different story
- Be sure that you're entire staff are educated on prostitution and trafficking, so that the women do not need to educate you.
- Be aware of fear of prosecution, having children taken from them, family finding out, and/or having the community find out.
- Focus on action, not on the person.

## WILD PRAIL SECUOIA - PURPLE LIVAC - GARDENIA - POPPY - TULIP SWEETER ASS - LAVENDER - SAGEBRUSH - PEACH BLOSSOM - SAGEBRUSH - PEACH BLOSSOM - SAGEBRUSH - PEACH BLOSSOM - SAGEBRUSH - ORCHID - CAR

- Language is powerful consider using, "Prostituted women," rather than "prostitute," "ho," "hooker"
- Many of the women often do not view themselves as victims society views the as criminals or as getting over on men, and they might have internalized that as well.
- Women/youth may not identify what they are engaged in as prostitution or trafficking, so let them identify for themselves.
- The women may carry a lot of shame about being used in prostitution, and may feel disconnected from their culture because of it. Help them to reconnect and reassure them that they are welcome.

WILD PRAIR OF SEQUOIA - PURPLE LINAC - GARDENIA - POPPY - I
TULIE SWEETER SS - LAVENDER - SAGEBRUSH - PEACH BLOSSOM - SW

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

BLANDIAN PAIR OF FORGET ME NOT - MAYFLOWER - ORCHID - CARN

- Increase state and federal funding to necessary services
  - Transitional and long term housing
  - Advocacy programs for victims of trafficking
  - Physical and mental health care
  - Job training and placement
  - Legal services

WILD PRAIR OF SEQUOIA - PURPLE LINAC - GARDENIA - POPPY - I TULIP SWEET RSS - LAVENDER - SAGEBRUSH - PEACH BLOSSOM - SW INDIAN PAIR SH - FORGET ME NOT - MAYFLOWER - ORCHID - CARN

- Research on effective services for Native women and girls used in prostitution.
- Reducing arrests for victims of prostitution
  - Focus on arresting traffickers and sex buyers

# BLANDIAN PAIR SEQUOIA - PURPLE LINAC - GARDENIA - POPPY - INDIAN PAIR SH - FORGET ME NOT - MAYFLOWER - ORCHID - CARN

- All service providers, should educate their staff members to recognize, and support women and girls used in prostitution and trafficking.
- Congress should hold field hearings to listen directly to the voices of Native women.
- Educational institutions should include the voices of Native women in their curricula.

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DAISY - PURPLE PASSION - PEONY - CLO

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INDIAN PAIR SH - FORGET ME NOT - MAYFLOWER - ORCHID - CARN

"We need someone to understand where we came from and how we lived, and that half of us were raped, beat, and made to sell our bodies. We need people with hearts..."



#### For More Information:

"Garden of Truth: The Prostitution and Trafficking of Native Women in Minnesota"

www.miwsac.org

www.prostitutionresearch.com



#### Web Resources

- Prostitution Research & Education http://www.prostitutionresearch.com
- Aboriginal Women's Action Network, Laura Holland 604-767-5564
- Coalition Against Trafficking in Women <u>http://www.catwinternational.org</u>
- Polaris Project <a href="http://www.polarisproject.org">http://www.polarisproject.org</a>
- GABRIELA Network, USA <a href="http://www.gabnet.org">http://www.gabnet.org</a>
- SAGE, <a href="http://www.sagesf.org/index.htm">http://www.sagesf.org/index.htm</a>
- Breaking Free, <a href="http://www.breakingfree.net/">http://www.breakingfree.net/</a>
- Andrea Dworkin Online Library, http://www.nostatusquo.com/ACLU/dworkin/OnlineLibrary.html
- Strip Clubs According to Strippers (article),
   <a href="http://www.ccv.org/downloads/pdf/Strip\_club\_study.pdf">http://www.ccv.org/downloads/pdf/Strip\_club\_study.pdf</a>

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DAISY - PURPLE PASSION - PEONY - CLO

WILD PRAIR OF SECURITY SECURITY SECURITY SAGEBRUSH - PEACH BLOSSOM - SV

INDIAN PAIR SH - FORGET ME NOT - MAYFLOWER - ORCHID - CARN

#### Service Providers

- Project RESPECT, Madison WI
- Breaking Free, St. Paul, MN
- PRIDE, Minneapolis, MN
- Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center, MN
- Division of Indian Work, MN
- GEMS, New York City, NY
- SAGE, San Francisco, CA



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## Working Together to Enhance the Safety of Native Women: Trafficking & Prostitution as Crimes of Sexual Violence



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