

Understanding Trafficking to Develop a Local Tribal Response Dec. 16, 2015



Paula Julian, NIWRC
Program Specialist



Amanda Watson, MIWSAC
Membership & Outreach Coordinator

Trafficking and Prostitution

3

WHAT TRIBAL LEADERS, ADVOCATES, AND SERVICE PROVIDERS NEED TO KNOW TO DEVELOP A TRIBAL RESPONSE

Goal and Objectives

4

Goal: To provide a basic understanding of the system of prostitution and trafficking as a form of domestic violence and violence against Native women and identify effective tribal response strategies.

Objectives:

- Define prostitution and sex trafficking as violence against women
- Recognize that prostitution and sex trafficking is a multi-billion dollar industry that targets the most vulnerable, including women and children for profit
- Identify warning signs and outreach strategies for those being used in prostitution and trafficking
- Share strategies to develop tribal responses

Definitions

5

Prostitution

Exchanging sex for food, money, housing, transportation, safety, visitation, drugs, and/or favors

Sex Trafficking

Recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purposes of a commercial sex act, in which the commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age

(22 USC § 7102; 8 CFR § 214.11(a))

Systems of Prostitution and Trafficking: A multi-billion dollar global industry

6

- Adult and Child Pornography
- Massage Parlors/Sauna's
- Stripping
- Truck Stops
- Street Prostitution
- Escort Services/ Out Call
- Peep shows

- Phone sex
- International and domestic trafficking
- Mail Order Bride Services
- Prostitution Tourism
- Internet
- Prostitution Rings

How are Native Women and Children Uniquely Impacted?

7

- History of colonization and sexual violence
- Native women are hypersexualized and fetishized by media and popular culture
- Native women are disproportionately impacted by prostitution and trafficking
- Barriers to reporting and receiving services
- Cycles of victimization
- Geography
- Jurisdiction Issues

8

“A john said to me, ‘I thought we killed all of you.’”

Prostitution and Trafficking are Domestic Violence

9

Tactics used by pimps

- Isolation
- Intimidation and threats
- Economic abuse
- Physical violence
- Sexual violence
- Emotional/verbal abuse

Tactics used by batterers

- Isolation
- Intimidation and threats
- Economic abuse
- Physical violence
- Sexual violence
- Emotional/verbal abuse

10

“I wouldn’t say there are pimps anymore. Now they’re all boyfriends.”

Tactics of Control

11

Pimps/Traffickers

- Sweet talk/token acts of kindness
- Male privilege
- Controls women, threats
- Shows pornography/forces women to do things in pornography
- Tells her she's his girlfriend, but has many other women
- Preys on social stigma of prostituted women

Batterers

- Sweet talk/token acts of kindness
- Male privilege
- Controls partner, threats
- Shows/forces his partner to watch pornography and act those out on him
- May be cheating with other women
- Tells her she's crazy - makes it difficult for her to keep a job

How Women Respond to Control Tactics

12

Prostituted/Trafficked Women

- Believes pimp is her man
- Puts pimp's needs over her own
- Feel like pimp saved her or treats her well
- Attempts to leave
- Justifies abuse/blames self
- Lose family, friends, job
- May become addicted to drugs or alcohol

Battered Women

- Believes he is true to her
- Partners needs over own
- Feels like he treats her well most of the time
- Attempts to leave
- Justifies abuse/blames self
- Lose family, friends, job
- May become addicted

Violence in Prostitution: A comparison study

13

	MN Native 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)

Violence in Prostitution: A comparison study continued

14

	MN Native in prostitution (n=105)	9 Country Summary (n=854)
• 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)

Violence in Prostitution: A comparison study continued		
15		
	MN Native in prostitution (n=105)	9 Country Summary (n=854)
• Mean number of childhood sexual abuse perpetrators	4	4
• Median number of childhood sexual abuse perpetrators	2	1

Health Effects	
16	
Spiritual/Emotional	Spiritual/Emotional
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dissociation • Fear, distrust • Inability to be close to others • Scarlet Letter—prostitution and pornography • Suicidal • Loss of self-worth • Feels she deserves to be abused/used • Difficulties fitting in society 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isolated, Few friends • Depression, anxiety • Phobias • PTSD • Feel as if being watched • Difficulty concentrating • “Damaged goods” • Eating difficulties • Avoidance of spiritual/cultural traditions & communities

Physical Effects

17

- Broken bones
- Chronic pain
- Trouble concentrating
- Migraines
- Traumatic brain injury
- Stomach aches and bloating
- Neck pain
- Dizziness

Warning Signs for those used in Prostitution

18

- Hanging out with older people, have little in common with
 - new set of friends or people outside of the norm
- Having unexplained money, drugs, new clothes, cars
 - Getting gifts, jewelry, or other items
- Living in a house with frequent traffic, lot of coming and going day and night
 - Moving frequently (weekly-monthly) from one neighborhood, city, or state in a patterned method
- Suspicious business fronts
 - Massage/beauty parlors, nail shops, medical supplies etc.

Warning Signs for those used in Prostitution continued

19

- 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
 - Posting on-line, or community papers such as City Pages
- Child sexual abuse survivors begin posing inappropriately (pornographic posing)

Compiled by Beth Jacobs, Guadalupe Lopez, and Christine Stark

Questions?

20

This is a very brief overview of trafficking and prostitution. For more information or technical assistance, please contact the tribal coalition/TA provider for your area.

Trafficking Victims Protection Act

21

- First authored in 2000; re-authorized in 2003, 2005, 2008, and 2013
- **Prevention**
 - Creates an Office to Monitor and Combat Modern Slavery and Other Forms of Human Trafficking
 - Create initiatives to increase public awareness; create a federal task force
- **Protection**
 - Addresses concerns over visas and access to services for both domestic and foreign survivors
- **Prosecution**
 - Makes trafficking a federal crime
 - Mandates restitution
 - Allocates funding

Grants to Indian Tribal Governments Program

22

- Initiated under VAWA 2005 reauthorization
- Designed to enhance the response of Indian tribal governments to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and since VAWA 2013, sex trafficking
- Funds can be used to respond to violent crimes against Native women, develop strategies to enhance victim safety, and create education and prevention strategies
- Applications can be submitted through the USDOJ Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation

2016 CTAS is available at:

<http://www.justice.gov/tribal/open-solicitations>

Grants to Indian Tribal Governments Program

23

- 2 new purpose areas added under VAWA 2013 –
- “(9) provide services to address the needs of youth who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, sex trafficking, or stalking and the needs of youth and children exposed to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, including support for the nonabusing parent or the caretaker of the youth or child; and
- (10) develop and promote legislation and policies that enhance best practices for responding to violent crimes against Indian women, including the crimes of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, sex trafficking, and stalking.”

Developing a Tribal Response to Meet Basic Needs

24

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing • Healing • Mentorship programs • Chemical dependency treatment • Workskills • Update tribal codes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety from pimps • Relocation • Civil and criminal legal assistance • Help with children • Health needs |
|---|--|

Coordinated Community Response Teams

25

- A multi-disciplinary team of first responders
 - Medical personnel
 - Law enforcement
 - Prosecutors
 - Family Services
 - Child Protection
 - Advocates
- May include others to create a more community-wide response to prostitution and trafficking
- A vehicle for building relationships and education among and between responders

26

Advocacy

Educate community, tribal leadership, and program staff on prostitution and trafficking so the women do not need to educate you

- Be patient
- Allow time and trust building
- Recognize fears
 - fear of prosecution
 - having children taken from them
 - family finding out
 - having the community find out
- Focus on action, not on the person

Do not judge

It's important to check your own biases before working on creating a tribal response.

Things to Keep In Mind:

27

- Language is powerful
 - Use “Prostituted women” or “women used in prostitution” rather than “prostitute”, “ho” or “hooker”
- Many women do not view themselves as victims
 - Society views them as criminals or as getting over on men
 - Women might have internalized these beliefs
- Women/youth may not identify what they are engaged in as prostitution or trafficking
 - Connect, provide education, let them identify for themselves
- The women may carry a lot of shame and may feel disconnected from their culture
 - Help them to reconnect, reassure them they are welcome

Providing Outreach

28

- Connect with local homeless shelters, shelters for run-away youth or other local agencies
- Collaborate with social services departments/agencies
- Include welcoming language and information in publicity and outreach materials

Tribal Codes

29

- The Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation passed a specific sex-trafficking tribal code at Ft. Berthold
- Provide specific definitions and outline consequences and response by the tribe
- It is also important to check and update old codes related to prostitution that re-victimize women
- For technical assistance drafting a code, work with your tribal TA provider
- If you are PL280 be thinking of how to work with county and state LEOs to ensure prostitution and trafficking are addressed effectively
 - Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) can be useful here



Implications for Change

30

Systems Change

- Coordinate Community Response
- Change laws
 - Tribal codes
 - State and federal
- Hold “buyers” accountable
- Utilize funding to develop and enhance tribal services

Social Change

- Educate and inform community
- Embrace women back in tribal communities
- Restore cultural identity, values and customs

31

“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...”

Feel Free To Contact Us!

Paula Julian
NIWRC
515 Lane Deer Ave. | PO Box 99
Lane Deer, MT 59043
(406) 477-3896 | Toll-Free: (855) 649-7299
pjulian@niwrc.org
NIWRC.org

Amanda Watson
MIWSAC
1619 Dayton Ave., Ste. 202
St. Paul, MN 55104
651-646-4800 | Toll-Free: (877) 995-4800
awatson@miwsac.org
www.miwsac.org

Karen Elliott & Gary Allen
ACF
601 E. 12th Room 349, KC, MO 64106-2808
816-426-2291 & 816-426-2236
Karen.Elliott@acf.hhs.gov & gary.allen@acf.hhs.gov

Thank you and please
let us know if you have
any questions!

This project was supported by Grant Nos. 2013-TA-AX-K025 and 2014-IW-AX-0001, awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.