

**Building stronger
urban communities**

in partnership with North Minneapolis

UROC | Urban Research and
Outreach-Engagement Center

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Driven to DiscoverSM



Center for Integrative Leadership

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How to Host a Conversation on the Impact of Sex Trafficking and Prostitution on Families & Communities

Have dinner together. Provide a check-in question to give everyone present a chance to share something with everyone else (e.g., what did you leave behind to be here tonight?)

Show video clips to provide background on the issue. Some examples:

TVbyGirls - [Invisible](#) (13 min)

President Obama - [Clinton Global Initiative](#) (2:06)

Before you begin, have everyone agree to some ground rules. This subject can be one that brings to mind many emotions, agreeing to these ground rules and sticking to them will help everyone be able to express their thoughts in a safe environment.

Ground Rules

- **Fully participate/say it here**
- **Start and stop on time**
- **Say it succinctly**
- **Be present**
- **Be open**
- **Listen respectfully**
- **Put personal agendas aside**

We encourage you to look over the following *Terms and Definitions* section as well as the *Facts about Sex Trafficking and Prostitution* located at the end of this kit. These definitions and facts may help spark conversation and will help everyone come together in how they talk about this issue.

The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

Conversation Rounds

The conversation will happen in two main rounds with a check-out question and possible action steps at the end. Please allow 20-45 minutes for each round and one or two minutes for individual reflection before each round.

Conversation Round 1

What concerns, questions or insights do you have about sex-trafficking and prostitution?

Conversation Round 2

What can we, as individuals and communities, do to reduce harm and promote healing?

Check-out

Give everyone present a chance to share in turn something they've learned from the conversation, a new question they're leaving with or an action they'll take in follow-up.

Possible Action Steps

Use the "What You Can Do" presentation included in the kit to give those present ideas of how they can take action. If possible, provide opportunity to take action immediately (e.g., make phone call or write letter to legislator, make donation, etc.)

How did it go?

We encourage you after the conversation to talk about how you thought the conversation went, and to share your input with us. Please visit our website where you downloaded the kit or go to z.umn.edu/urocsurvey (don't type in www) and complete our short questionnaire to give us your input. UROC greatly appreciates all input and will use that input in designing further conversations and outcomes.

Thank you for hosting, what we believe to be a critical conversation on the subject of sex trafficking and prostitution. Part of what makes these conversations critical is their action-focus. We encourage you to investigate further this topic and possible ways to get involved. If you have any other questions please contact UROC at www.uroc.umn.edu or uroc@umn.edu.

Acknowledgements

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TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

THE DEMAND: Refers to the purchasing side of the market for sex (consumers, purchasers, “johns”, patrons, clients). It’s typically used to describe the “demand side” of the market for sex, as opposed to the “supply side” (children, youth and adults who “supply” sex for sale).

PATRON (“JOHN”, CLIENT, etc.): According to Minnesota State Statutes (609.321, subd. 4), a “Patron is an individual who engages in prostitution by hiring, offering to hire, or agreeing to hire another individual to engage in sexual penetration or sexual contact.”

PIMP: An individual who arranges a commercial sexual transaction, forces a person to sell sex or provides protection for those being prostituted (AKA a sex trafficker, market facilitator, manager, etc.). Many pimps also perpetrate violence as a way to gain compliance and control.

PROSTITUTION: According to Minnesota State Statutes (609.321, subd. 9) "Prostitution" means: “hiring, offering to hire, or agreeing to hire another individual to engage in sexual penetration or sexual contact, or being hired, offering to be hired, or agreeing to be hired by another individual to engage in sexual penetration or sexual contact.”

SEX TRADING: The exchange of sex or sexual activities for money, food, drugs a place to stay or anything else of perceived value. Sex trading occurs along a continuum which includes sex trafficking, prostitution, and survival sex. It happens in many contexts including: street-based, online ads, private house/party, escort service, kidnapping, hotel rooms, bars, truck stops, stripping, etc.

SEX TRAFFICKING: The United States Trafficking Victims Protection Act defines sex trafficking as, “the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act.”* Sex trafficking is one form of the larger problem of human trafficking. It can occur within the United States or internationally.

SEVERE SEX TRAFFICKING: The United States Trafficking Victims Protection Act defines “severe sex trafficking as, a “commercial sex act[s]...induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age.”ⁱ

SURVIVOR: A self-selected reference for an individual who was prostituted, had exchanged or sold sex or sexual activities, was a victim of sex trafficking and is no longer involved

FACTS ABOUT SEX TRAFFICKING AND PROSTITUTION

It is in the best interest of Minnesota tax payers to invest in early intervention and prevention of sex trading and trafficking of minors. A recent study found a \$34 return on investment to the tax payer for each dollar invested.ⁱⁱ

According to a nationally representative sample, 3.5% of all the adolescents in the United States have traded sex (National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health).ⁱⁱⁱ

A recent study of 135 people from North Minneapolis who traded sex found the following:^{iv}

- 90% were unemployed at the time of the study
- 84% experienced violence, including physical, sexual and emotional abuse (62% experienced all three forms of violence)
- Roughly half of those surveyed first traded sex as a minor (under age 18)
 - The average age of first sex trade for those who started as a minor was 13 years old
 - The average age of first sex trade for those who started as an adult was 22 years old

Experience of abuse and violence is nearly universal among street-engaged female youth who had been sexually exploited.^v

Women in prostitution are 60 to 100 times likely to be murdered than women not in prostitution.^{vi}

The Federal Bureau of Investigations has identified the Twin Cities as among 13 cities with notable sex trafficking of juveniles.

In the United States, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children conservatively estimates that 100,000 children are exploited each year for prostitution.^{vii}

83% Percent of total sex trafficked victims between 2008 and 2010 were United States citizens.^{viii}

ⁱ Quoted from "The Facts: Sex Trafficking" produced by the Advocates for Human Rights, 2009.

ⁱⁱ Martin, Lotspeich, Stark, (2012), "Early Intervention to Avoid Sex Trading and Trafficking of Minnesota's Female Youth: A Benefit-Cost Analysis." Report produced for the Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center with funding provided by the Nathan Cummings Foundation.

ⁱⁱⁱ Edwards et al., (2006), "Prevalence and Correlates of Exchanging Sex for Drugs or Money Among Adolescents in the United States." *Sexually Transmitted Infections*, 82 (5): p. 354-358.

^{iv} ^{iv} Martin, (2010), "The Prostitution Project: Community-Based Research on Sex Trading in North Minneapolis." *CURA Reporter*, Fall/Winter 40 (3-4). See also, Martin et al. (2010), "Meaningful Differences: Comparison of Adult Women Who First Traded Sex as a Juvenile Versus as an Adult" *Violence Against Women* 16: 1252.

^v Saewyc et al., (2008), "It's Not What you Think: Sexually Exploited Youth in British Columbia." Report.

^{vi} Salfati, C. G., et al. (2008). "Prostitute homicides - A descriptive study." *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 23(4): 505-543.

^{vii} Ernie Allen, National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, [Testimony at Victims' Rights Caucus Human, Trafficking Caucus, U.S. House of Representatives](http://www.mngirlsnotforsale.org/educate/get-the-facts/), July 19, 2010. (Retrieved from <http://www.mngirlsnotforsale.org/educate/get-the-facts/>).

^{viii} Duren Banks and Tracey Kyckelhahn, “[Characteristics of Suspected Human Trafficking Incidents, 2008-2010](http://www.mngirlsnotforsale.org/educate/get-the-facts/),” U.S. Department of Justice. (Retrieved from <http://www.mngirlsnotforsale.org/educate/get-the-facts/>).