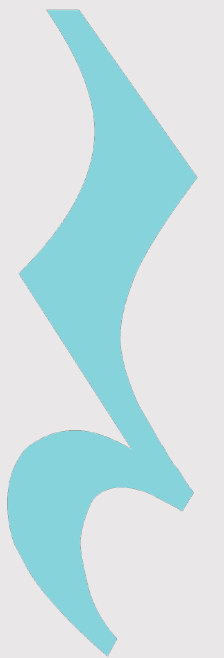




**HUMAN  
TRAFFICKING  
IS ONE OF THE  
FASTEST  
GROWING  
EPIDEMICS  
WORLDWIDE<sup>1</sup>**

**SELAHFREEDOM**

Bringing Light into the Darkness of Sex Trafficking



# About Your Speakers:

**Misty LaPerriere**  
**National Law Enforcement Liaison and Trainer**  
**Selah Freedom**

Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice with a concentration in Human Services, University of Phoenix

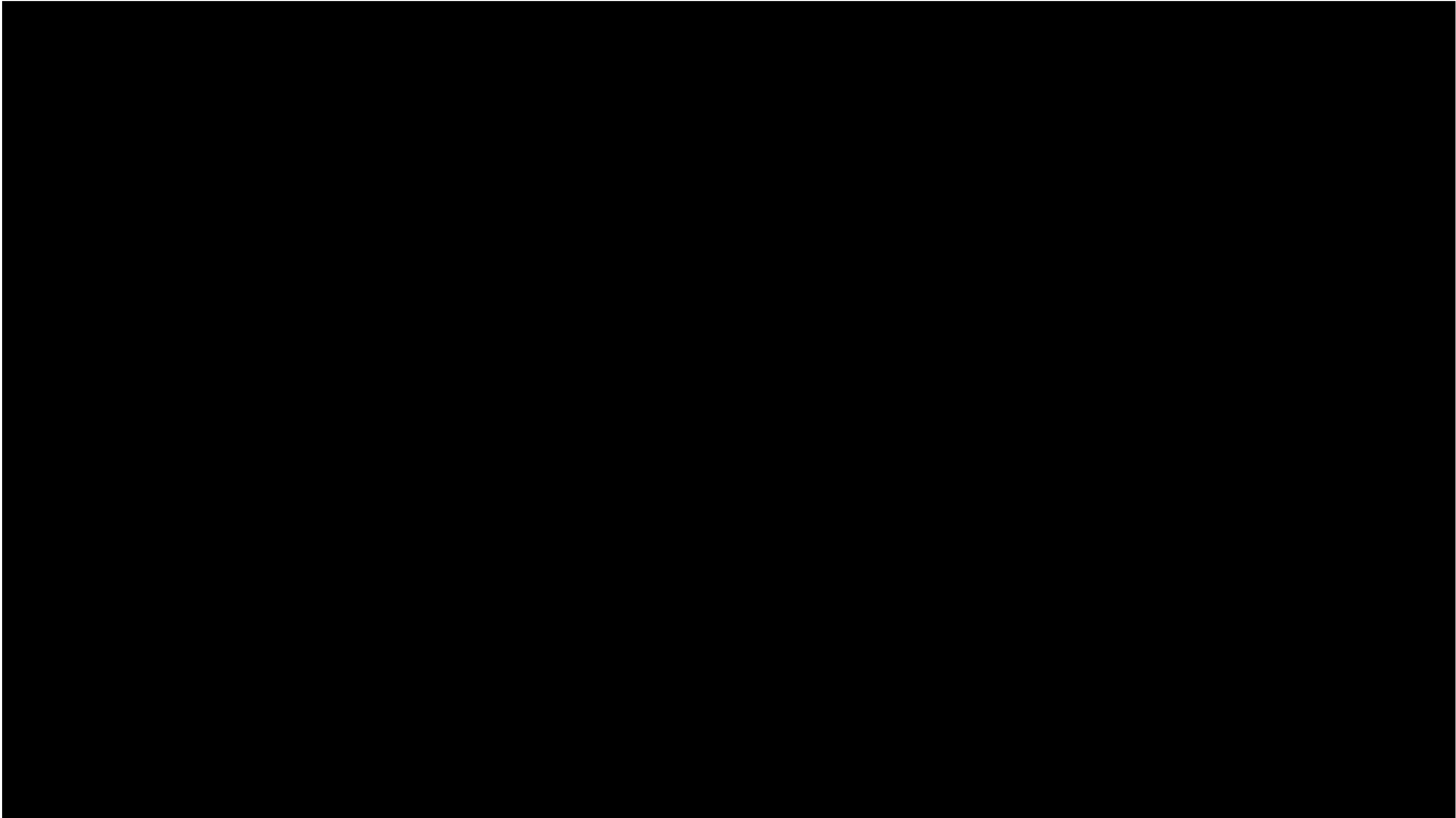
Misty LaPerriere works directly with survivors of human trafficking, trains law enforcement and the Judicial System, while also providing certificate completion for law enforcement. Misty is a survivor, and has also worked with survivors for over a decade. Misty is designated as a Victim Service Practitioner through the Florida Crime Prevention Training Institute for Human Trafficking with the Attorney General's Office. Her certifications include the following: 2023 Human Trafficking Summit from the Florida Attorney General's Office, Certified Advanced Gang Specialist from the Florida Gang Investigators Association, and she is a subject matter expert for FDLE.





# Agenda

1. Education on human trafficking
  1. Define human trafficking & share statistics
  2. Who is most vulnerable & what are the root causes?
  3. Where is this happening?
  4. The demand & traffickers
2. Working with victims of human trafficking
  1. Understanding control, coercion, & trauma bonds
  2. Best practices for trauma-informed, victim-centered interviews
  3. Selah Freedom 5 core programs





# Definition

Florida Statute 787.06 (2)(d) defines Human Trafficking as:

- transporting,
- soliciting,
- recruiting,
- harboring,
- providing,
- enticing,
- maintaining,
- or obtaining another person for the purpose of exploitation of that person.

# Sex Trafficking vs. Labor Trafficking

## Sex Trafficking

- Individuals are forced to perform commercial sex acts through the use of force, fraud, or coercion.
- Commercial sex involving persons under 18 does not need to have force, fraud, coercion to be considered sex trafficking.
- Includes prostitution, pornography, and the exchange of sex acts through anything of value.
- Most victims are between the ages of 14-16 when introduced into sex trafficking.
- Massage parlors can operate as a front for sex trafficking.

## Labor Trafficking

- Individuals are forced to perform tasks through the use of force, fraud, or coercion.
- Labor trafficking does not involve commercial sex acts.
- Includes debt bondage, forced labor, and involuntary child labor.
- Common type of labor trafficking victims include: farm workers, domestic servants, and factory workers.
- Can also include unsafe working conditions with little or no pay for work.

# THE MEANS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

**Force:** Physical restraint, physical harm, sexual assault, and physical beatings as a means to control victims. Also, includes the confinement and monitoring of victims to breakdown victim's resistance towards abuse. Often happens during the early stages of trafficking.

**Fraud:** False promises regarding work conditions, pay, love, relationship status, or even for a better life. There is no intent by the trafficker to fulfill any of these obligations.

**Coercion:** Threats of harm against the victim, the use of physical restraint, or psychological manipulation to control victim. Also includes, the confiscation of identification or the threat of releasing sensitive information about the victim.



# Coercion 787.06(2)(a)

1. Using or threatening to use physical force against any person;
2. Restraining, isolating, or confining or threatening to restrain, isolate, or confine any person without lawful authority and against her or his will;
3. Using lending or other credit methods to establish a debt by any person when labor or services are pledged as a security for the debt, if the value of the labor or services as reasonably assessed is not applied toward the liquidation of the debt, the length and nature of the labor or services are not respectively limited and defined;
4. Destroying, concealing, removing, confiscating, withholding, or possessing any actual or purported passport, visa, or other immigration document, or any other actual or purported government identification document, of any person;
5. Causing or threatening to cause financial harm to any person;
6. Enticing or luring any person by fraud or deceit; or
7. Providing a controlled substance as outlined in Schedule [I] [II] of Florida Statute 893.03 to any person for the purpose of [exploitation of that person] or [using coercion for commercial sexual activity].

**Can you think of examples?**

# Examples of Coercion

- Beating, pushing, shoving – using prior beatings as motivation (threats)
- Taking and leaving a girl in a hotel located a far walk from any place to get sustenance
- Bonding out of jail, narcotics, paying for clothes, food, rooms, nails etc.
- DL's, birth certificates
- Maxing out credit cards, taking all earned money
- “Come with me, I’ll take care of you”
- Want to be a model? Webcam only...
- Providing narcotics and then withholding them





# WHERE IT HAPPENS

The Streets

Bars & Lounges

Strip Clubs

Massage Parlors

Classified-Ad Websites

Social Media

Escort Services

Maid/Nanny Services

Conventions

Sporting Events

Gang Communities

Truck Stops



# CONCENTRATED AREAS OF SEX TRAFFICKING



ANALYSIS POWERED BY



Gulf of Mexico



# ROUTES OF SEX TRAFFICKING



Source: GEMS



# MEDIA IMAGES





# Stages of Human Trafficking

## **Luring:**

- >Assessing
- >Testing
- >Collecting Info
- >Make them feel special

## **Grooming & Gaming:**

- >Honeymoon Stage
- >In love, dreams coming true
- >Promises of family, home
- >Treating to new clothes, hair, nails
- >May begin illicit drug use

## **Coercion & Manipulation:**

- >Mixed messages
- >Withdrawing
- >Toys with emotions
- >She/He tries to get back in good graces
- >Sexual acts compliance is rewarded with drugs or money

## **Exploitation:**

- >Broken down
- >Threatens safety of loved ones
- >She/He owes a debt
- >Financial pressures
- >Emotional/physical abuse
- >Confinement & Isolation



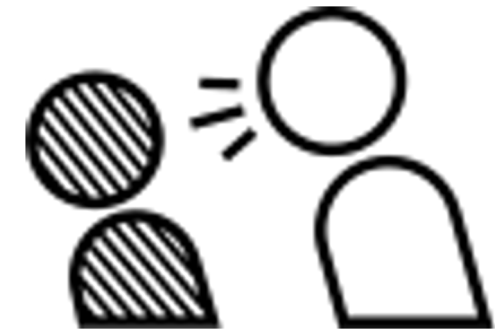
# ROOT CAUSES

## CYCLE OF ABUSE



**Abuse (96%)**

(Physical, Sexual, Emotional Abuse)



**Repeatedly**

**Sold**

Can't get out

**False Promises**

"Romeo," Security,  
Money,

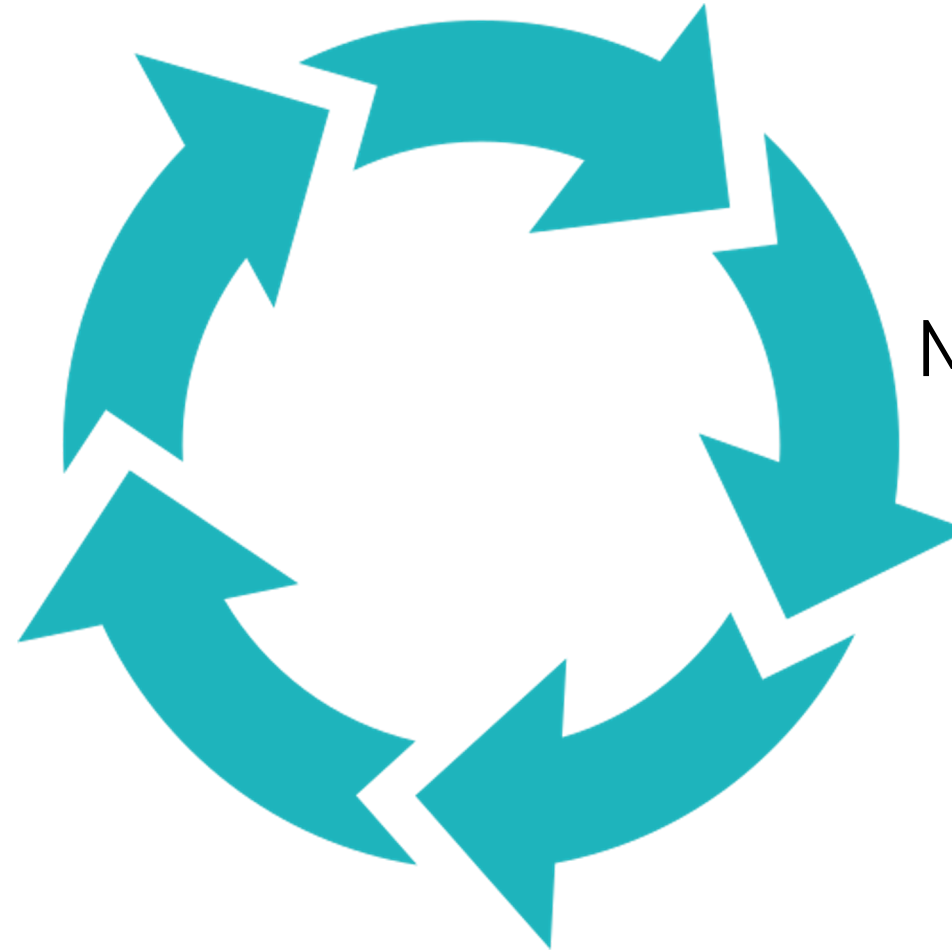
Protection

**Shame, Low Self-Esteem**

Mental Health or Substance Issues  
(93%)

**Run Away (68%), Lured**

(12-14 years old)





# VULNERABILITIES



**Homeless or  
Runaway**



**Mental or  
physical health  
concern**



**Recent  
Migration  
Status**

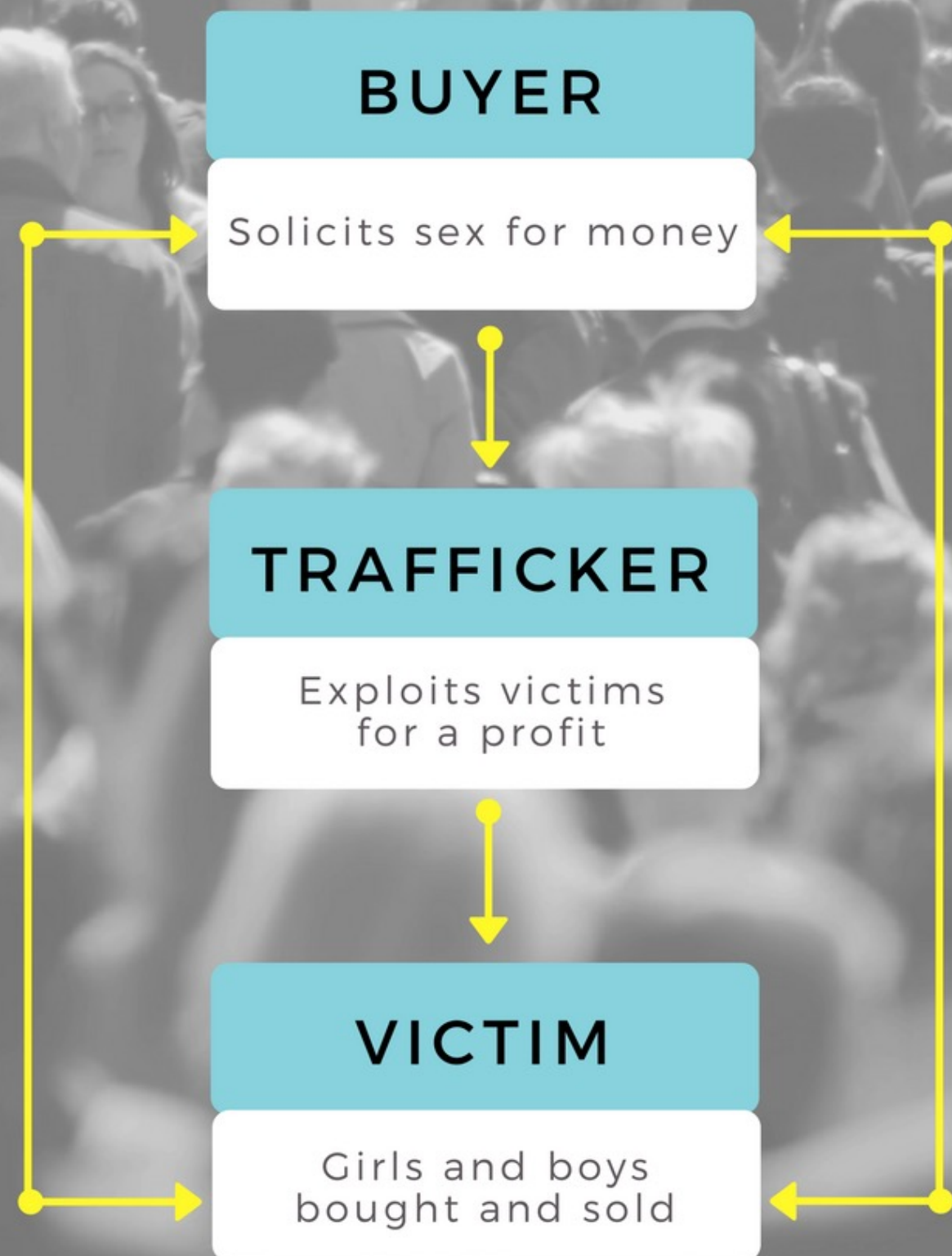


**Drug or Alcohol  
Addiction**

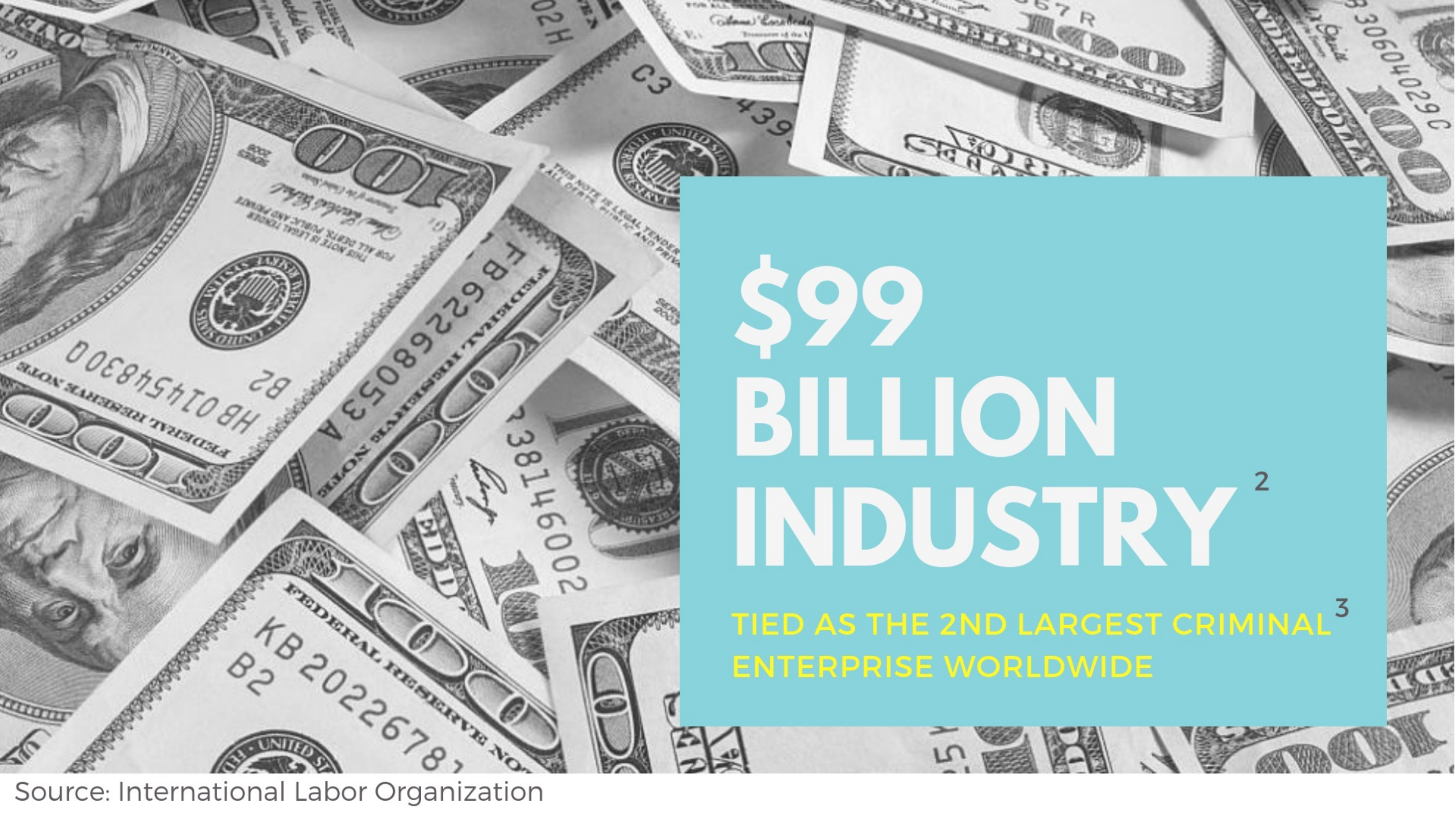


**Unstable Housing  
Foster Care**

# FUELED BY DEMAND







**\$99  
BILLION  
INDUSTRY<sup>2</sup>**

**TIED AS THE 2ND LARGEST CRIMINAL<sup>3</sup>  
ENTERPRISE WORLDWIDE**

# Restitution Breakdown

## Rates

| Time        | In Call | Outcall |
|-------------|---------|---------|
| QV (15 min) | \$100   | \$120   |
| HH (30 min) | \$120   | \$160   |
| HR (60 min) | \$180   | \$200   |

## Dates Per Day

5-6

**Average date per day: 5.5**

## Wages Per Day

**5.5 dates x \$146.67 rate = \$806.69**



# Restitution Continued

## Days of Labor

### Time period

June 3, 2020- November 9, 2020 (23 weeks- 159 days)

December 10, 2020- January 7, 2021 (4 weeks- 28 days)

**Total weeks: 27 weeks**

**Average days of labor: 4 days per week**

## Wages Per Week

**4 x \$806.69 = \$3,226.74 per week**

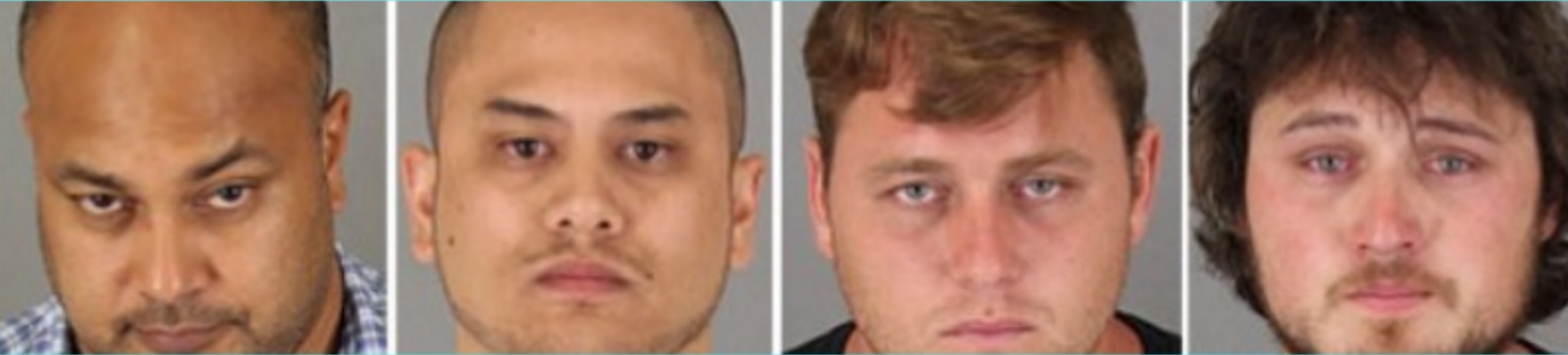
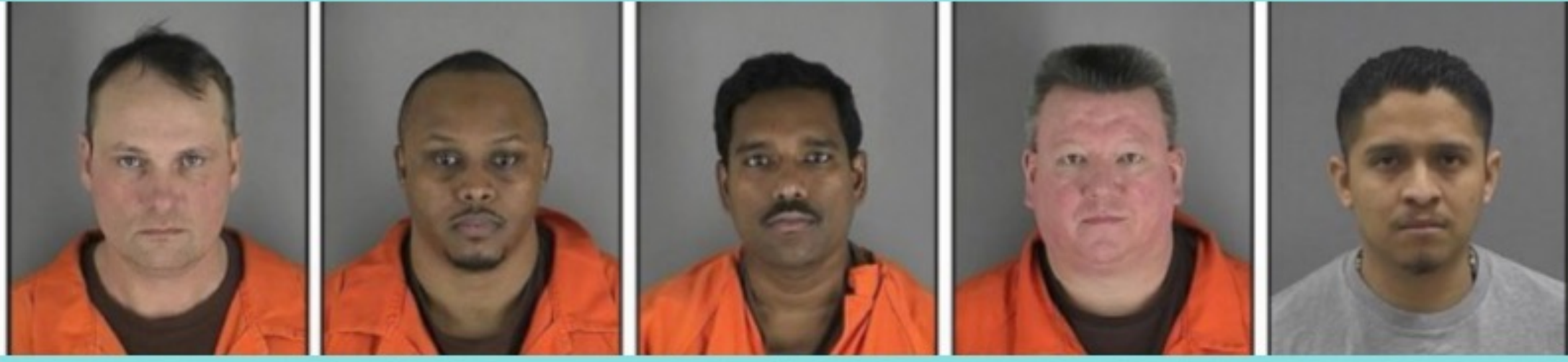
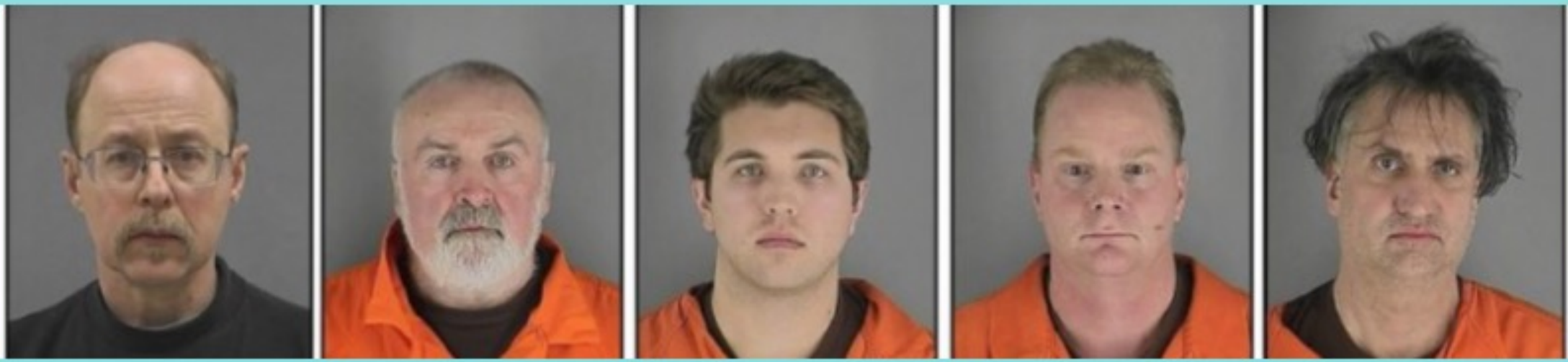
## Total Restitution

**\$3,226.74 per week x 27 weeks = \$87,121.98**



**WHAT  
DOES A  
JOHN  
LOOK  
LIKE?**





# THE REALITY



A woman in high heels walking on a city street at night. The background is filled with bokeh lights from buildings and streetlights, creating a vibrant, out-of-focus atmosphere. The woman's legs and high-heeled shoes are in the foreground, walking on a cobblestone or paved surface.

# WHY IS THE DEMAND SO HIGH?

*contributing factors*







# WHAT DOES THE DEMAND SAY?

*They must like it, or else they wouldn't do it.*

*It's just getting her through college.*

*It's her choice...she can stop anytime she wants.*

*It's a victimless crime.*

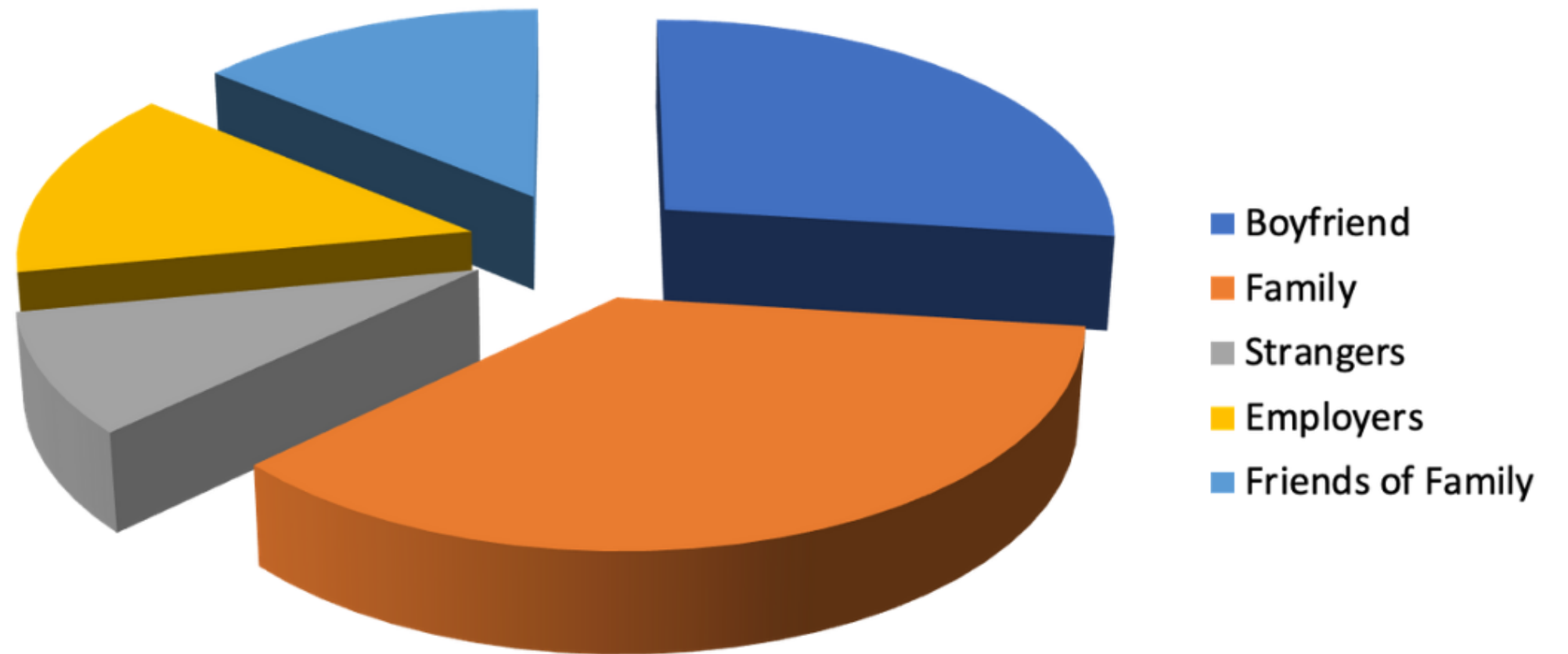
*She wants me, I can tell.*

*It's a right of passage.*

*Everybody does it (porn/strip clubs/buying a girl).*

*They're only prostitutes.*

# WHO ARE TRAFFICKERS?





**WHAT DOES A  
PIMP LOOK  
LIKE?**

# THE STEREO- TYPE





# THE REALITY





Love



Security



Home

TRAFFICKERS USE  
**PROMISES**  
TO LURE VICTIMS



Opportunity



Adventure



Protection



# TRAFFICKERS CONTROL WITH

VIOLENCE

THREATS

DRUGS

INTIMIDATION



**IF IT'S SO BAD  
WHY DON'T  
THEY JUST  
LEAVE?**



# THE SIGNS OF TRAFFICKING

## CAN'T GET THEIR STORY STRAIGHT

- Can't clarify where they're staying
- Lacks knowledge of whereabouts.
- No sense of time.
- Rehearsed or inconsistent story.
- Lying about age.
- Unexplained expensive gifts.

## POOR HEALTH OR BEHAVIOR

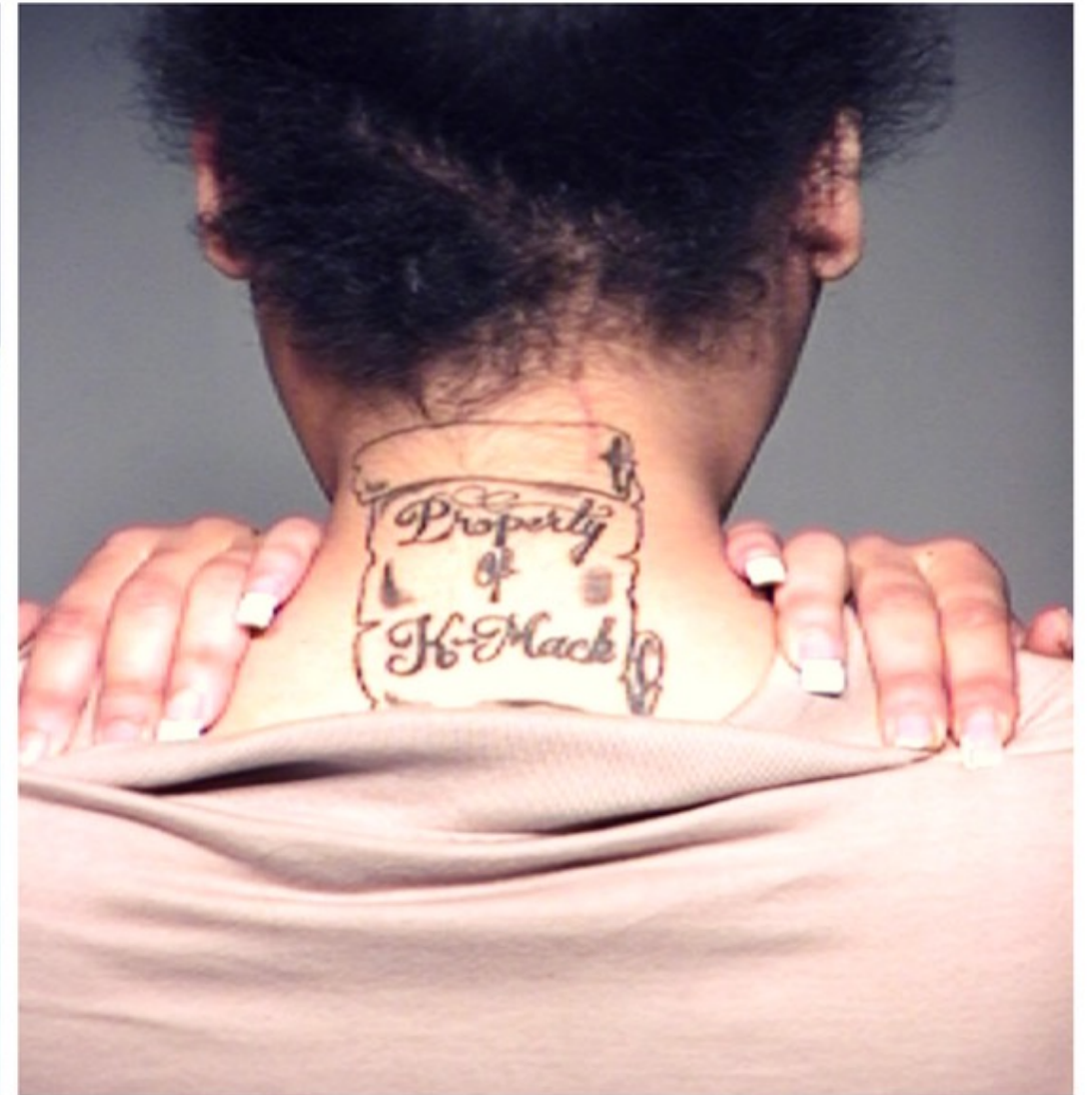
- Fearful, anxious or depressed, especially around law enforcement.
- Avoids eye contact.
- Poor physical health or malnutrition.
- Signs of physical or sexual abuse.

## SHOWS A LACK OF CONTROL

- Few or no personal belongings.
- Not in control of their money or ID.
- Not allowed to speak for themselves.
- In presence of older boyfriend / girlfriend.
- Minor in company of controlling individual.



# TRAFFICKERS BRAND WOMEN TO CLAIM OWNERSHIP



BRANDING – 787.06 4(b) - Any person who permanently brands, or directs to be branded, victim of an offense under this section commits a second degree felony.



# **VICTIMS SUFFER FROM TRAUMA BONDING**

- **HYPERS VIGILANT TO  
EXPLOITER'S NEEDS**
- **TRIES TO GET INSIDE PIMP'S  
HEAD**
- **SEES WORLD FROM EXPLOITER'S  
PERSPECTIVE**
- **EXPERIENCES SENSE OF SELF  
THROUGH PIMP'S EYES**
- **SEES AUTHORITIES/PROVIDERS  
AS BAD GUYS**
- **SEES PIMP AS GOOD GUY,  
PROTECTOR**
- **SEES EXPLOITER AS VICTIM**



**BECAUSE OF THIS  
CONTROL, HOW CAN WE  
BEST UNDERSTAND &  
SERVE SURVIVORS?**

**victims don't self-identify**

---



# Remember

- No two H.T. victims will have had the same experience-EMPATHIZE
- Do NOT judge
- Do NOT challenge or question the veracity of the victim – You will alienate or re-traumatize the victim
- Be mindful that your victim may NEVER be able to testify
- Eye to eye (do not hover)
- Do NOT make promises you can't keep
- Be aware of cultural differences – eye contact; hand shaking; It may not be what you think

# Approach the Victim this Way:

- EMPATHIZE-Acknowledge their trauma/pain/situation
- What are you able to tell me about your experience?
- Tell me more about...?
- Help me understand...?
- Tell me about your thought process during...?
- Ask about sensory details
- Tell me about the most difficult part?
- What can't you forget?



# Triggers of Re-Traumatization

In order to avoid re-traumatizing the victim, we must understand the physical, social and emotional impact cooperation will have on the victim and must avoid triggers such as:

- Lack of Control
- Unexpected Changes or Circumstances
- Feeling threatened or attacked
- Feeling vulnerable or frightened
- Feeling shame

# THROUGHOUT HER JOURNEY, WE OFFER SOLUTIONS

**bringing light into the  
darkness of sex trafficking**

---





# THE FIVE PROGRAMS OF SELAH FREEDOM



**Outreach**



**Residential**



**Awareness**



**Prevention**



**Consulting**





# OUTREACH

*Providing Survivor Services Outside of the Residential Program*

- Services include: victim advocacy, case management, and trauma resolution therapy
- Sex Trade Support Group and educational classes
- On the Streets and in the Jails
- Turn Your Life Around (T.Y.L.A.)
  - Prostitution Court Diversion Program

## OVC (OFFICE FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME)

- *Serves labor and sex trafficking survivors by providing comprehensive case management, assistance with documentation, therapy, victim advocacy, and more.*
- Tampa Bay Human Trafficking Task Force
  - Eight counties in Florida: *Sarasota, Pasco, Hillsborough, Pinellas, Manatee, Hernando, Hardee, and Polk.*

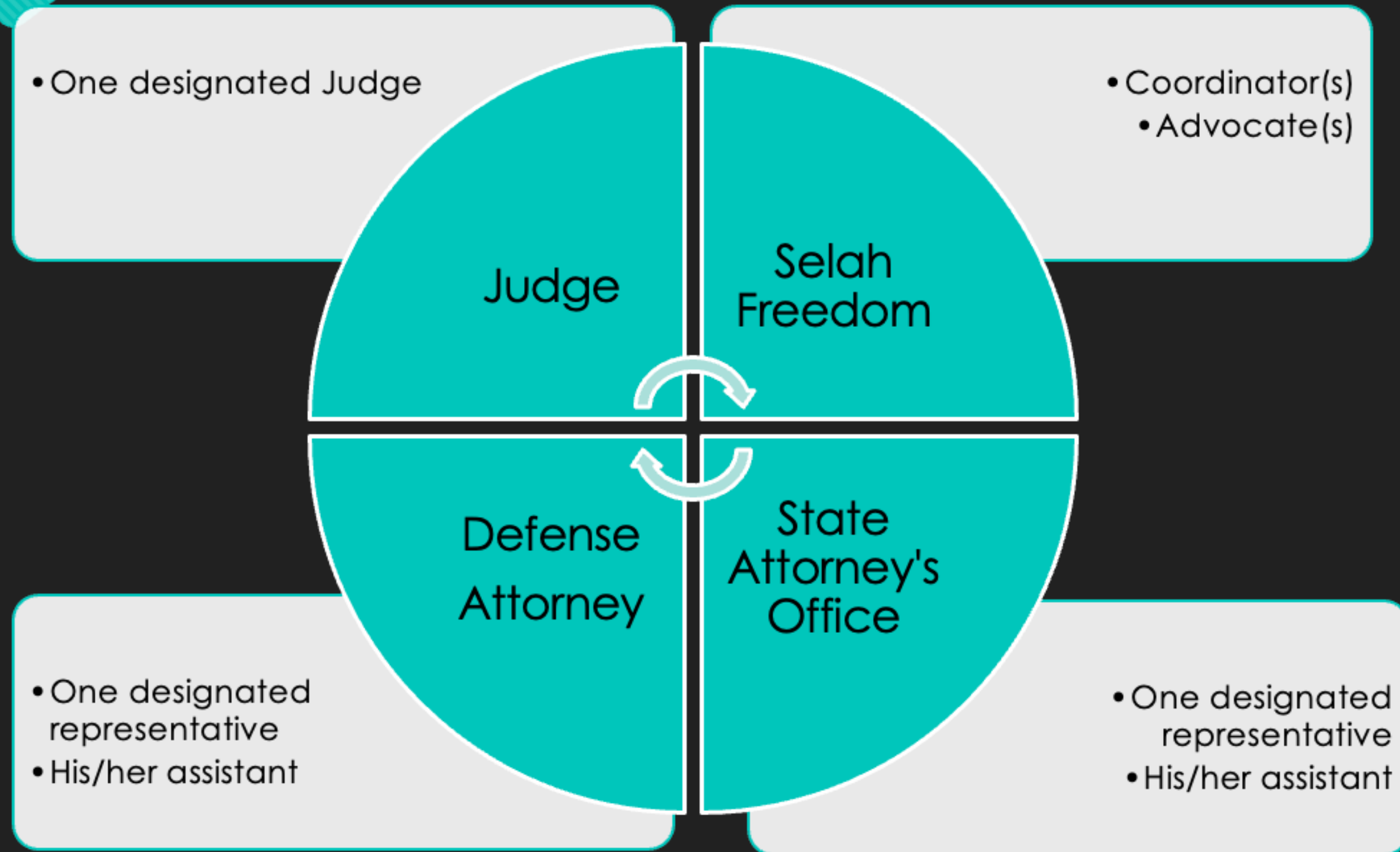


# TYLA Court

"After a few years [of partnering with Selah Freedom], prostitution dropped by 40% and is down 90% as of 2019," Deputy Chief Pat Robinson, Sarasota Police Department.

- Turn Your Life Around (TYLA) Court is a treatment court
- Goal is rehabilitation, not punishment
- TYLA Court recognizes that some charges are a symptom of trauma
- Historically, TYLA was a prostitution diversionary program comprised of Selah Freedom, Sarasota Police Department, First Step (detox), and State Attorney's Office of the 12<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit of Florida
- Branched out to Manatee County and to include charges other than only prostitution

# Briefing with Treatment Team





# Conclusion

## Opt out of TYLA before plea

- Face charges on criminal line for sentencing

## Dismissal

- Cases sentenced by TYLA Judge if pled into TYLA

## Graduation Options

- Charges administratively dismissed
- Adjudication withheld
- Termination of probation (if applicable)



# TOP 3 OUTREACH/OVC VICTORIES

## IN 2023



6 survivors in our OVC Program entered Residential programs. 3 of them entered Selah



Assisted 10 foreign national human trafficking survivors from Cuba and Turkey



A survivor testified against his trafficker who was found guilty of five felony charges including Human Trafficking of a minor.



# TOP 3 OUTREACH VICTORIES

## IN 2024



Survivor received her T-Visa after waiting 17 years



Survivor was first ever to have her rights to her daughter reinstated, due to the passing of a new law



Two survivors received full sets of donated dentures after years without dental care





# RESIDENTIAL

*Providing the Tools and Environment for a Successful Future*

## HOW WE DO IT

- Trauma Therapy
- Medical and Legal Aid
- Personalized Education Plan
- Job Placement
- Life Skills





# AWARENESS

*Raising Our Voice For The Voiceless*

## HOW WE DO IT

- Educational Awareness Training
- Marketing & Social Media
- Fundraising & Development
- Volunteer Management
- Media Press Releases
- Community Engagement





# PREVENTION

*Getting Ahead of Sexual Exploitation by Working with Schools, Children, Teachers & Coaches*

## HOW WE DO IT

- Educates Youth and Adults
- Trainings in schools and online
- Mentorship Program for youth
- Age appropriate curriculum includes:
  - Sex, Lies & Media
  - Freedom for Teens
  - Not so Sweet
  - Little Red
  - P.A.U.S.E.
  - S.A.F.E.-T





# CONSULTING

*Empowering Organizations to Empower Survivors*

## HOW WE DO IT

- Training and Mentorship
- Staff Development
- Program Curriculum
- Online Courses



# OUR IMPACT

87%

of survivors who have graduated our Residential & Outreach Programs have not returned to the streets.

100%

of survivors in our Residential Program are pursuing their educational and career goals.

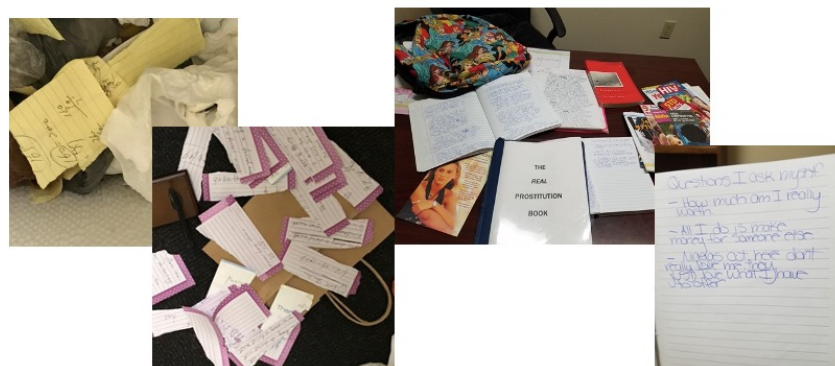






Full LEO training available

BUILDING A STRONG CASE  
**IMAGES OF SEX TRAFFICKING**



# CONNECT



[www.SelahFreedom.com](http://www.SelahFreedom.com)

[info@SelahFreedom.com](mailto:info@SelahFreedom.com)

# GIVE

Text "free" and donation amount to 50155

# REPORT

National Hotline

**888-373-7888**

Selah Freedom

**888-8-FREE-ME**