

Just Love Worldwide

Shiloh Chapel

Agenda

5 minutes | Introduction to JLW

20 minutes | The Facts

10 minutes | What can you do? What does God say?

Remaining time | Q&A

3 FOCUS AREAS

- Policy
- Education
- Survivor Care

What is Trafficking & Commercial Sexual Exploitation

-What can you do about it?-

Definitions

- Sex Trafficking

- Maine law considers it illegal to cause, manage, or make a person engage in prostitution against their will or under coercion.

- The focus is on any involved action that promotes, profits from, or involves compelling a person to engage in sexual exploitation or other forms of labor through illegal means.

- Commercial Sexual Exploitation

- Commercial Sexual Exploitation of adults refers to a situation where an adult is engaged in commercial sexual acts as a result of an abusive pursuit by another party, often involving elements of manipulation, control, or dependency.

- This includes adults who may engage in sex acts not entirely consensually but due to exploitation from traffickers or controlling influences that render them unwilling participants, often seen in forms of prostitution under duress.

Definitions cont.

- **Prostitution**

Prostitution, in legal terms, generally refers to the act of engaging in sexual activity with another person in exchange for money, goods, or services. It often involves the exchange of sexual acts, which can include intercourse, or other lewd acts, for compensation. Many jurisdictions criminalize prostitution, including solicitation, procuring, and operating or assisting in the operation of brothels.

Vulnerable Populations

- Minors, especially runaways and homeless youth.
- Those with a history of abuse or neglect.
- Individuals with disabilities or from marginalized communities.
- Individuals experiencing poverty or economic hardship.

Signs & Red Flags

1. Behavioral Indicators:

- Sudden changes in behavior or relationships.
- Seeming fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, tense, or nervous.
- Reluctant to explain tattoos or branding, controlling, or emotionally abusive behavior from companions.

2. Situational Indicators:

- Inconsistencies in stories.
- Poor living conditions or living with their employer.
- Lack of personal possessions, money, or identification documents.
- Frequent unexplained absences from school or workplace.

3. Physical Indicators:

- Signs of physical abuse, restraint, or malnutrition.
- Younger individuals involved in relationships with significantly older partners.

Where does all this happen?

- Strip clubs
- Escort services
- Pornography
- Only Fans
- Massage parlors
- Truck stops
- Street Exploitation
- Hotels/Motels
- Residential Properties
- Trap House
- Brothels

Vicious
Circle



Basic Data

- 186-Billion-dollar industry
- 90% dependent on a procurer
- Majority is women selling sex and men buying sex
- 75% between 13 and 25 years old
- **Only 3-5% of individuals are in it voluntarily (1)**

Policy Work

- LD 1435/1436 passed in 2023
- Testify for/against bills both here in Maine and nationally
- Partner with organizations all over the world
- Support other survivors to testify

Possible Solutions?

Legal Frameworks to approach the commercial sex industry

Criminalization

- Prohibits the buying and selling of sex

Legalization

- Removes criminal penalties (for all) and attempts to regulate industry as a business.

Decriminalization

- Removes all criminal penalties related to the sex trade; no regulations put into place.

Partial-Decriminalization*

- Decriminalizes individuals in the sex trade; Criminalizes sex buyers, traffickers, brothel owners

4 Pillars of the Equality Model

DECRIMINALIZE

those who are
trafficked and
exploited

Provide **EXIT
STRATEGIES** and
support for those
who wish to exit the
sex trade

CRIMINALIZE

pimps, brothel
owners, and sex
buyers; hold them
accountable for the
harms they cause

Create
AWARENESS and
education for the
public and
professionals

Education

- Law Enforcement
- Medical professionals
- Churches
- Schools
- Chambers of Commerce/Rotary's/Hospitality Industry
- Political Spaces
- SSEM

Survivor Care

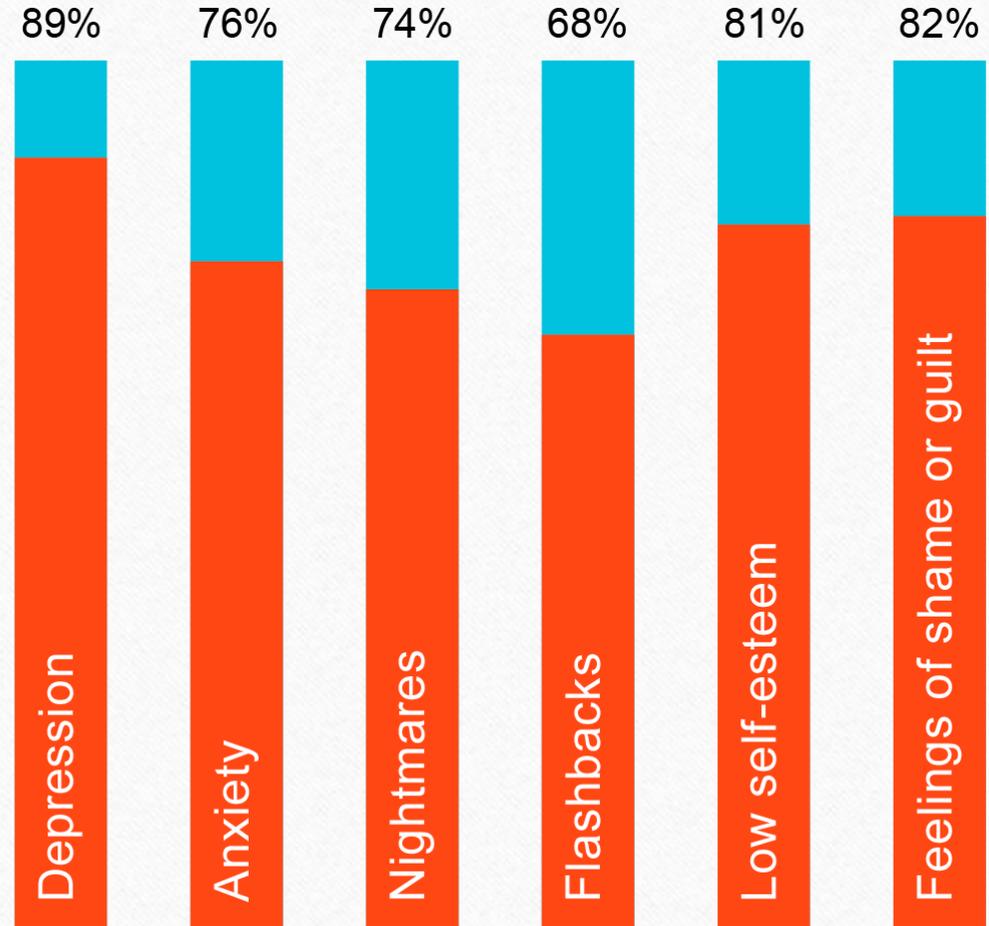
98%

of those in the life, and even 96% of those who have left the life, report at least one psychological issue.

55% report suffering from PTSD

42% had attempted suicide at least once

<https://www.equalitymodelus.org/the-issue/>



Action Steps

1. If You Suspect Trafficking:

- Do not intervene directly: It could endanger the victim and yourself.
- Contact law enforcement or experts: Provide as much detail as possible.

2. Reporting and Resources:

- National Human Trafficking Hotline: 1-888-373-7888 (Available 24/7, confidential support)
- Text: "HELP" or "INFO" to 233733 (BEFREE)
- TTY: 711
- Maine Sex Trafficking Hotline: 1-888-818-4673

3. Engaging with Potential Victims:

- Approach with empathy, avoid judgmental language.
- Ensure confidentiality and foster a sense of trust.
- Provide information about resources quietly and privately.

More Actions YOU Can Take:

- Break the silence! -- Educate others, raise awareness amongst peers, create healthy dialogue
- Examine your own bias and judgements and talk about it
- Promote safe and supportive environments for vulnerable populations
- Post on social media – Talk about what you learned here today, share information about our organizations
- When media or an entertainment source inaccurately presents on the exploitation, write or call them and let them know why their statements are problematic!

How you can support JLW

- Join our mailing lists and social media
- Volunteer
- Donate one time or monthly, start a fundraiser
- Pray, pray, and ask friends and family to pray!
- Host a viewing of The Right Track
- Invite us to speak at other events

THANK YOU!

If you have additional questions, please reach out to Tricia via email: tricia@justloveworldwide.org or phone: 207-212-0036