Human Trafficking at Asian Massage Parlors

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Is this trafficking?
Who are Traffickers?

- Parents and other family members
- Boyfriends/husbands
- Pimps
- Other women
- Smugglers
- Agencies- Adoption, employment
- Strangers
- Drug dealers
- Gang members (street/local/international)

Tactics

Vulnerability

- Poverty
- Misogyny
- Prior physical or sexual violence
- Exploited cultural norms
- Lack of opportunities in home country
- Personal or family debt

What is debt bondage?

Cultural Considerations & Debt Bondage

- Family responsibility
- Shame
- Spiritual beliefs

Networks

Networks

• Street gangs
• Collaborations
• International Criminal Enterprises

Fujian Provence, China -> Flushing, NY -> Eastern United States

Fujian Provence, China

Flushing, NY

Eastern United States

Exteriors

Possible signs of fronts for sex trafficking

- Hours of operation
- Girls living on premises
- Back entrances
- Privacy from other patrons
- Frequent change in girls
- Unable to understand English
- Girls do not leave premises
- Featured on hobbyist websites
- All male clientele
- Covered windows
- Unadvertised location
- Cameras and buzzers at front door
- Connection with Flushing, NY
- Advertisements mention ethnicity, new girls, or level of attractiveness of workers

Purchasers of sex trafficking victims

- www.Eroticmp.com
- www.Ratemyspa.com

Methods to control victims of human trafficking

• Physical abuse
• Sexual abuse
• Emotional control-
  Victims believe they have no where else to go or they owe the trafficker/pimp for “helping” them
• Black mail
• Starvation
• Isolation
• Psychological control/abuses
• Document withholding
• Debt bondage
• Threats of deportation
• Threats against the victim’s family or friends

Social Indicators

- Victims rarely come and go as they please. If they do there are rules they must follow
- Victims may be taken with parents/adults when they buy drugs
- Victims are often isolated from the community
- Victims who are minors may not be attending school
- Victims rarely are allowed to freely contact friends and family, including their children
- Victims may live where they work
- Victims may be driven to work and from work as a group

Societal Bias

Societal Acceptance

Locating Victims

Victim Interview & Cultural Considerations

• Family responsibility

• Shame

• Spiritual beliefs

Focus of questions:

Flip the Investigation

Labor trafficking
  Forced to perform labor
  Forced to work in certain location/venue
  No/restricted access to documents
  Payment is exploitive

Victim Self-care & Agency

Hotlines

• Polaris 24-hour Tip Line: 1-888-373-7888

• Covenant House- 24-hour Tip Line: 1-800-999-9999

• DHS- Human Trafficking Hotline- 866-347-2423

• FBI’s Innocence Lost Initiative, 1800-THE-LOST www.missingkids.com

• Call PA State Police Terrorism/Fugitive Tip Line – 1-888-292-1919

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