End Trafficking in Illicit Massage Businesses Initiative

National Sexual Assault Conference
September 2, 2016

Polaris is a leader in the global fight to eradicate modern slavery and restore freedom to survivors.
Exercise #1:
What do you think are some signs of human trafficking in the U.S.?

Human Trafficking Defined

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Means</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Recruits</td>
<td>• Force</td>
<td>• Commercial sex act(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Harbors</td>
<td>• Fraud</td>
<td>• Forced labor or services</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Transports</td>
<td>• Coercion</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Provides</td>
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<td>• Obtains (or so attempts)</td>
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Exercise #2:
How do you think stereotypes and misconceptions about Illicit Massage Businesses affect the public?
The Trauma Experience (# of acts)

One Day (7)
One Month (210)
One Year (2,555)

Who Are the Victims?

Older East Asian Women
- Often in the network for years
- Average age of women in IMBs: 42, 64% over the age of 40*
- Countries include: Thailand, China, South Korea, Philippines

Younger East Asian Women
- Brought into U.S. on various visas or smuggled illegally
- Indebted from transportation costs

Other Nationalities
- These include women recruited from other countries, including Mexico, and countries in Central America and Eastern Europe

United States
- Small percentage of overall number of women in illicit massage businesses
Main Methods of Control

- Psychological Manipulation
- Financial Control
- Physical Isolation
- Controlled Movement

Estimated 6,000 – 9,000 IMBs nationwide
Exercise #3:
We have received reports of survivors going to Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence shelters or mental health providers

What would indicate a potential IMB trafficking survivor?

Illicit Massage Businesses are Networked Organizations
End Trafficking in Illicit Massage Businesses

To eliminate a trafficking network, we need to build a disruption network

Respond, Equip, Disrupt

1. Identify Challenge/Barrier
2. Develop and Test Possible Solutions
3. Document and Equip Disruption Network
Challenges for Law Enforcement

• Potential victim disengagement
  – Reactions due to trauma
  – Lack of self-identification
  – Negative views of law enforcement
  – Fear of stigma and consequences of admitting to performing commercial sex acts
• Work/immigration status
• Connecting women to services

Solutions for Law Enforcement

• Case studies and promising practices
• Trainings and consultations on:
  – Investigations
  – Prosecutions
  – Network mapping
• Connecting to service providers
Challenges for Service Providers

• Establishing trust with potential victims
• Inflicting unintended trauma – need for cultural competency and trauma-informed counseling unique to this group
• Determining victim hierarchy of needs
  – Most potential victims do not prioritize housing
  – Potential victims often want to return to NYC or LA
• Economic empowerment

Solutions for Service Providers

• National network of service providers
  – Interpreters
  – Legal Services
  – Case Management
  – Emergency Services
• Potential victim outreach materials
• Trainings and Resources
Exercise #4:
What do you need to facilitate collaboration and coordination with Polaris and the Initiative?

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