SAGE Project, Inc. (Standing Against Global Exploitation):

A highly successful model of innovative and determined leadership and service by and for survivors of prostitution, violence, abuse, sexual exploitation and trauma. SAGE is one of the nation’s foremost organizations providing comprehensive sexual exploitation and trauma recovery services for one of the most marginalized, discarded groups of citizens.
Organized and staffed by and for Survivors
Serves more than 350 clients every week
Highly Professional Peer Education model
SAGE’s Program Mission

To improve the lives of individuals victimized by, or at risk for, sexual exploitation, violence and prostitution through:

- trauma recovery services
- substance abuse treatment
- vocational training
- housing assistance
- legal advocacy
“Johns” or “Tricks”: The demand in systems of prostitution, or individuals who provide money or other compensation in order to obtain sex acts or access to sex or sexual activities.
Recommendation

- Commercial sexual exploitation through prostitution flourishes in proportion to an increased demand.
Unfortunately, there are several ways in which we have created:

- a group of kids who it’s okay to sexually abuse and rape
- an arena for men to function as pedophiles and have their behavior ignored and/or normalized and
- normalization of adult prostitution which is comprised of the youth who have grown to untreated adults who fill our jails and often die before receiving help
Demand

- Men don’t care if trafficked or with pimps - Customer/escort website, SF, Sept. 2004

- Children exploited and raped in prostitution are:
  - Integrated into sex industry
  - Concentrated in cheaper market
Prostitution provides area where sex with minor law is evaded

Prostitution provides instant access to a selection of children
MYTH: A legalized red light district would solve the problem of prostitution.

REALITY: In areas where prostitution has been legalized, “black market” or illegal prostitution has increased, not decreased. Red light districts do not create a safe place; they create a place where crime is in control.
Public health myopic attention to risk shows overarching concern is for demand, not the individual in the sex trade.

Basis of HIV-focused research is with goal of making the supply safe for the consumer.
Recommendations

- The following are key components to the systemic change that must occur to successfully address sexual exploitation through prostitution, and the demand:
Recommendations, cont’d…

- Define the issue

- The public needs education in order to better recognize child sexual abuse in and out of prostitution
Recommendations, cont’d…

- Reform legislative, investigative and prosecutorial practice
- Build coalitions and provide training
Create a real escape for children and women through appropriate social services and recovery

Replicate programs that work

Support Survivor-Run Services
Recommendations

- Do not make services for women and girls contingent on testifying against abuser/trafficker.

- Don’t use protection and safety as an excuse to build more and better services for these youth in detention or in the adult criminal justice system.

- Victims of Violent Crimes resources need to be directed toward the rehabilitation efforts of these children and women.
Background:

Since March of 1995, the San Francisco Office of the District Attorney’s First Offender Prostitution Program (FOPP), a collaborative with SAGE and the San Francisco Police Department, has diverted over 7,000 solicitors of prostitutes from the court system and offered them a unique educational and rehabilitative experience in lieu of criminal prostitution.
FOPP is designed and facilitated by individuals formerly involved in the sex trade. FOPP is a restorative justice program designed to funnel money raised in class fees back into programs for prostituted women and girls, offering treatment, recovery and a way out.
The program represents a collaboration between:

- The Justice System;
- The Health Department (STD/HIV Education Unit);
- Domestic violence and therapeutic community;
- Concerned neighborhood groups and;
- Prostitution Survivors
FOPP’s Mission

- Reduce the number of outstanding prostitution warrants in court system
- Prevent & Intervene early with those involved in prostitution rather than relying on criminal prosecution and sanctions
- Address neighborhood crimes linked to prostitution (i.e. – drugs, violence, pimping, etc.)
- Address the root causes of prostitution such as violence, sexual exploitation, poverty and misogyny
- To focus on the highest users of the medical, social, mental health, and criminal justice systems
- Utilize prostitution survivors as peer educators to rehabilitate and reintegrate disenfranchised and disadvantaged women, girls and men
Recommendations (Men/Boys):

Develop programs that address:

- Power dynamic of male/female relationships;
- Perception of women and girls as objects;
- Physical and sexual exploitation (i.e., date rape, childhood sexual abuse, domestic violence etc.);
- Attitudes used by current prostitute users to justify their actions and;
- Increase collaboration and integration of these issues with organizations (schools, CBO’s, churches, criminal justice, etc…) to prevent men from exploiting and victimizing women.

*More research is needed on men as prostitute users.
Recommendations (Women/Girls):

Create an infrastructure of services that work to rehabilitate and reintegrate the most disadvantaged, disenfranchised, and exploited individuals back into society:

- Emergency shelters, safe houses, and supportive housing;
- Utilize prostitute survivors as peer educators;
- Establish data bank of resources;
- Medical care and vocational training;
- Conduct research on the harm of prostitution;
- Media campaigns to raise public awareness;
- Change social, economic and political structures which generate prostitution;
- Increase women’s and girls’ employment opportunities and;
- Improve educational levels and eradicate illiteracy.
Pimping: The act of controlling and selling access to other human beings in systems of prostitution, in order to make a profit.
Pimps and Recruiters

- A pimp can be from any culture, any income level, and any social background.
- A pimp can be a street hustler, a madam, a strip club owner, a drug dealer, a cab driver, a boyfriend, a husband, or a parent.
- There is no typical pimp.
Pimps prey on women and children who have often suffered incest and previous violence

Pimps season their victims by wearing them down and making them psychologically, emotionally, chemically, and financially dependent
Recruiters:

- Gain trust by becoming friends or “boyfriends”
- Entice with stories of excitement and glamour
- Entice through pretend love
- Force through violence, kidnapping, and threats
- Gradual introduction to the sex trade (spotting)
- Recruiter then introduces the pimp, who then takes control
The Long term effects of Commercial Sexual Exploitation

Emotional Effects

- Anger and rage
- Deep emotional pain and grieving
- Distrust and hatred for men
- Feelings of humiliation, dirtiness and shame
- Loss of sexual desire, feelings or response
- Stigma
The Long term effects of Commercial Sexual Exploitation, cont’d…

Physical effects
- High rate of exposure to STD’s and HIV
- High rate of positive pap smears
- High risk of pregnancies and infertility
- Homicide
- Injuries from repeated physical attacks
- Organ damage from drug and alcohol addiction
- Persistent bladder infections
- Miscarriages from violence
- Forced Abortions
Psychological effects

- Clinical depression
- Dissociative disorders
- Drug and alcohol abuse
- Generalized anxiety
- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
- Self-injurious and suicidal behavior
Social effects

- Difficulty establishing intimate relationships
- Educational deprivation
- Isolated from mainstream society
- Isolated from peer group
- Lost career building years
- Missed normal socialization process
Bonding With Perpetrator

- Disloyalty will cause retaliation
- Isolation
- Alternating violence and kindness
- Shame and stigma associated with prostitution, rape, losing virginity
Major Indicators of Traumatic Bonding

- Symptoms of trauma or PTSD
- Victim bonded to trafficker
- Intensely grateful for small kindness
- Denies violence and threats of violence are actually occurring
Rationalizes violence
Denies anger
Hyper vigilant to trafficker’s needs
- Seeks to keep trafficker happy to decrease violence and increase chance of staying alive
New and more effective policies and legislation created to combat trafficking, prostitution, child commercial sexual exploitation, sexual slavery and the demand for bought sex and forced labor
2005 Trafficking Victim Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA) Co-sponsored by California Senator Tom Lantos

- Co-sponsored and supported by San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom
Commission on the Status of Women adopted U.S. Human Trafficking Resolution Eliminating the Demand for Trafficked Women and Girls for All Forms of Exploitation

50 Countries signed the resolution
Assembly Bill 3042 – Assemblyman Leland Yee 2004

- Signed into CA law, January 2005 and is a systemic shift in how we approach the sexual exploitation of children.
- Provides vital tools for prosecutors to ensure that the perpetrators of paid child sexual abuse & rape are held accountable
Assembly Bill 3042

- Represents a fundamental shift from treating sexually exploited children as “prostitutes” to protecting them as victims.
- Result of 12 years of advocacy by Norma Hotaling and SAGE to look at “child prostitution” as child rape and sexual abuse.
Assembly Bill 22

- Assembly Woman, Sally Lieber sponsored
  San Francisco District Attorney, Kamala Harris
- Recently signed into law
- Comprehensive anti-trafficking bill designed to protect victims, prosecute traffickers, and prevent human trafficking in California
A Survivor Centered Approach to Trafficking

The Founding Members of SSEEN
(Survivor Services Education and Empowerment Network)

- Norma Hotaling, SAGE Project, Inc. www.sagesf.org

- Vednita Carter, Breaking Free www.breakingfree.net (website currently under development) Contact number: (651) 645-6557

- Kristy Childs, Veronica’s Voice www.veronicasvoice.org

- Kathleen Mitchell, Dignity (Catholic Charities Community Services) www.catholiccharitiesaz.org/dignity.aspx
The True Experts:

- SSEEN is a Network of experts who have worked for decades designing, implementing and providing outreach, advocacy, prevention, early intervention programs and long-term supportive, highly effective and innovative trauma, mental health, substance abuse and housing services.

- SSEEN provides services that offer a variety of options to those with similar histories and backgrounds.

- SSEEN is a network dedicated to the voiceless, and the disappeared and it is built by sheer will of its founding members and members. That “will” that exists in this group of providers is what kept them alive in the most desperate and life-threatening situations and is now present in their daily lives fighting for their sisters and brothers.
SSEEN is an unprecedented collaboration of survivor-operated service providers and educators formed to create a strong foundation for a national movement of commercial sexual exploitation survivors combating commercial sexual exploitation by using their experiences for good, having their experiences inform the work they do to help others like themselves.

SSEEN will continue building on the work of the individual organizations by contributing to the design and implementation of policies and procedures for effective treatment as well as legislation that will compassionately address the needs of victims of commercial sexual exploitation and target the real perpetrators of sexual exploitation—the demand side, violent pimps and traffickers.
Suggested URL’s

- SAGE Project, Inc. (Standing Against Global Exploitation) : www.sagesf.org
- Oprah’s Angel Network Use Your Life Award: http://www.oprah.com/uyl/angel/uyl_angel_20010409.jhtml
- Peter F. Drucker Award for Nonprofit Innovation, 2000 Award Recipient: http://www.drucker.org/award/winners/winners2000.html
Suggested URL’s, cont’d…

- Helsinki Commission Hearing Testimony, Norma Hotaling, Founder & Executive Director of the SAGE Project, Inc. (United States Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe)
  
  [http://www.csce.gov/index.cfm?Fuseaction=UserGroups.Home&ContentRecord_id=348&ContentType=H&ContentRecordType=H&UserGroup_id=69&Subaction=ByDate&CFID=21406954&CFTOKEN=70175429](http://www.csce.gov/index.cfm?Fuseaction=UserGroups.Home&ContentRecord_id=348&ContentType=H&ContentRecordType=H&UserGroup_id=69&Subaction=ByDate&CFID=21406954&CFTOKEN=70175429)
Suggested URL’s, cont’d…

- 1st World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children
  
Domestic Trafficking

- ABC News Primetime: “Teen Girls Tell Their Stories of Sex Trafficking and Exploitation in U.S.”
  http://abcnews.go.com/Primetime/story?id=1596778&page=1
- Toledo Blade: “Crackdown exposes Toledo as a hub of teen prostitution”
International Trafficking

Frontline “Sex Slaves”

http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/slaves/etc/script.html

VICTOR MALAREK, Author, *The New Global Sex Trade*: These women are being trafficked to the West. In the United States, they figure 20,000, 25,000 a year. But Europe is the major destination, Germany, upwards of 80,000, 40,000, 50,000 in the Netherlands, Spain and Italy and Turkey. All of these countries are getting trafficked women. We have laws in every country on the planet that say you can’t abduct people, you can’t kidnap, you can’t force them into prostitution, you can’t assault them. the laws are there, but they’re not being enforced.
Germans reconsider Legalized prostitution

“Stopping human trafficking was one of the reasons that Germany legalized prostitution. The logic was that by legitimizing the trade, it would become safer and healthier. But a United Nations report on human trafficking released last month still rated Germany ‘very high’ as a destination for women forced into sex work, and some of those who supported legalization are reconsidering. ‘I was with my party, the Greens, when we pushed for legalization,’ said Hiltrud Breyer, a German member of the European Parliament. ‘We really believed it would bring the profession out of the shadows and improve lives. I'm rethinking that position.’ ”