



SEX TRAFFICKING GLOSSARY

COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN (CSEC): an act of abuse and violence against children and adolescents (minors); refers to any crime of a sexual nature committed against juvenile victims for financial or other economic reasons. Crimes include forced prostitution, survival sex, sex tourism, mail-order bride trade, early marriage, pornography, stripping or performing in sexual venues such as peep shows or clubs. Minors who are commercially sexually exploited are victims and should not be considered criminals.

COMMERCIAL SEX ACT: any sex act for which anything of value is given to or received by any person.

DOMESTIC MINOR SEX TRAFFICKING (DMST): as defined by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), sex trafficking is the act of recruiting, harboring, transporting, providing, or obtaining a person for commercial sex acts. "Domestic Minor" refers to the age and citizenship of the victim; it is not used as a term to convey lesser importance; ie "minor" does not mean "negligible". *DMST is also referred to as sex slavery, sexual servitude or sex trafficking.*

EXPLOITER, OFFENDER, TRAFFICKER: various terms used to describe a person who uses someone selfishly or unethically; in this case one who sexually exploits children for profit. The individual may be a family member, intimate partner, a friend or a stranger. Compare to **pimp**, the use of which is discouraged.

MINOR: does not refer to the degree of the crime, it refers to age of victim. Any individual under the age of 18 is a minor; other terms used interchangeably are child, adolescent, youth, juvenile.

PIMP: originally used to describe an individual who prostitutes women or children (ie an exploiter, trafficker or offender). The term's use is discouraged as it has become a slang term to describe something as positive or glamorous. As there is nothing positive or glamorous about trafficking and exploitation, the use of this term is strongly discouraged by anti-trafficking advocates. A person may be prostituted (or sexually exploited) by family members, friends or intimate partners, as well as strangers. Compare to *exploiter, offender and trafficker.*

PROSTITUTED CHILD: referring to victims of sexual exploitation as *child prostitutes, juvenile prostitutes or adolescent prostitutes* is incorrect. Prostitution is illegal and individuals who engage in such are considered criminals. These terms suggest that prostituted children are criminals instead of victims that have been exploited and prostituted by someone else.

SEXUAL ABUSE: the involvement of dependent, developmentally immature minors in sexual activities that they do not (cannot) fully comprehend, to which they cannot give informed consent or that violate social taboos of family roles.

SEX TOURISM: travel to engage in sexual activity. Evidence suggests that minors and victims of sex trafficking are particularly vulnerable to this activity.

SEX TRAFFICKING: as defined by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), sex trafficking is the act of recruiting, harboring, transporting, providing, or obtaining a person (of any age) for commercial sex acts through use of force, fraud or coercion.

SOLICITORS, PURCHASERS, BUYERS, TRAFFICKERS, JOHNS: a person who solicits or engages in, or attempts to engage in, commercial sex acts.

SURVIVAL SEX: exchanging sex or sexual acts—including, but not limited to, pornography & stripping—for money or something of value; e.g. shelter, food, drugs etc.

TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION ACT (TVPA): US Federal legislation to protect trafficked victims and prosecute offenders. An act to combat trafficking in persons, especially into the sex trade, slavery, and involuntary servitude, to reauthorize certain Federal programs to prevent violence against women, and for other purposes.

VICTIM VS SURVIVOR: an individual who has been subjected to commercial sexual exploitation or sex trafficking; also referred to as *slaves, or prostitutes (these terms are strongly discouraged)*. Each term could be applied to the same individual at different points along a recovery continuum and they should be free to indicate which term they prefer be used. *Victim* indicates that a crime has occurred and that assistance is needed. *Survivor* has therapeutic value and generally refers to someone further in the recovery process; it also recognizes that the label *victim* may be counterproductive at times.