



Is Sex Trafficking happening in South Dakota or on Reservations? **YES!**

FACT – In 2013 the State of South Dakota initiated a Human Trafficking Task Force with a mission to facilitate a collaborative effort to prevent trafficking of persons within the State and Tribal nations, prosecution of perpetrators, community education and awareness, and to protect and provide services to trafficking survivors.

South Dakota U.S. Attorney, Brendan Johnson's 2013 Annual Report states that South Dakota is committed to prosecuting perpetrators of these violent crimes with the maximum sentencing possible. In 2013 defendants received sentences of 33-½ years, 30 years, and 10 years. During that same timeframe, 11 more people were indicted on sex trafficking and related charges, and others were convicted and scheduled for sentencing. This was possible with the collaboration and support of federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement partners who investigate the leads and help build the cases against these perpetrators.

(Source - http://www.justice.gov/usao/sd/docs/Annual_Report_2013.pdf)

FACT – In March of 2014, South Dakota sentenced 45-year-old Mohammed Alaboudi to four life terms behind bars for sex trafficking young girls in what was called the House of Horrors.

(Source - <http://www.keloland.com/newsdetail.cfm/house-of-horror-sex-trafficker-sentenced-to-life/?id=161679>)

“Wherever you have a large gathering of men, you have a strong opportunity for prostitution and sex trafficking.” ~ U. S. Attorney Brendan Johnson (2014)

(Source: <http://watch.sdpb.org/video/2365385517/>)

FACT – South Dakota is a mecca for men coming to the State for hunting season, the Sturgis Bike Rally, and other tourist events. Traffickers routinely use casinos, truck stops, the internet and other venues through out the year. There is also the looming threat of the proposed Keystone XL Pipeline construction and the “Man Camps” that will be temporary housing for pipeline workers.

According to several news reports, including a CNN series called *This is Life* with journalist Lisa Ling, sex trafficking is an “infestation” in the Bakken oil fields in North Dakota, which have several “Man Camps”. There is also great concern of the large increase of registered sex offenders who relocated to the Bakken oil region to work.

Marla Bull Bear, executive director of the Native American Advocacy Program in Winner, SD worries about the close proximity of one of the proposed Keystone XL Pipeline “Man Camps” to be located in Colomn, SD, only 10 miles from Winner. “Due to poverty and family dysfunction, many of our youth are so vulnerable. They could present easy targets for sex traffickers,” she says.

(Source - <https://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2014/01/27/will-keystone-xl-pipeline-pump-sexual-violence-south-dakota-153280>)

FACT – “In this state (South Dakota), Native women and children are at higher risk than any other racial groups, so trafficking is actually happening on the reservations”. ~ Yumi Suzuki, USD Professor (2014)

(Source - <http://listen.sdpb.org/post/sex-trafficking-south-dakota-university-perspective>)

In a recent article the U.S. Attorney's office confirmed Suzuki's findings that in South Dakota many of the victims come from the Reservations in the state, including the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation, which straddles North and South Dakota. In one case there, a woman would offer “johns” a trade: sex with her niece in exchange for gas and beer money.

(Source - <http://www.traffickedreport.com/?p=330>)

FACT – Pimps sometimes seek out Native Americans because they can masquerade them as having exotic ethnicity—such as Polynesian, Asian, or Latino. This makes Native women more lucrative for a pimp.

(Source - <http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2012/01/17/sex-trafficking-rampant-indian-country-pimps-prowl-native-girls-72621>)

FACT – All major violent crimes, including sex trafficking, happening on the Reservations are prosecuted under federal law by Act of Congress which states - any serious offenses involving Native Americans which take place in Indian Country must be prosecuted in federal court under the Major Crimes Act, the Assimilative Crimes Act, or other federal status.

(Source - http://www.justice.gov/usao/sd/docs/Annual_Report_2013.pdf)

FACT – According to U.S. Attorney's Office, South Dakota, 40 per cent of sex trafficking victims in the state where Native women stemming from three Federally prosecuted cases; Alobhodi, Thompson, and Campbell.

(Source - <https://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2014/01/27/will-keystone-xl-pipeline-pump-sexual-violence-south-dakota-153280>)

FACT – Interstates 90 & 29, and other highways, which run through South Dakota, are part of the “Midwest Pipeline,” the superhighways used to deliver trafficking victims to cities across the country.

Human trafficking generates billions of dollars each year in illicit profits, in the United States and globally, through the entrapment and exploitation of millions of people, mostly women and children. The growing illegal trade in human beings for sex or forced labor isn't limited to either rural outposts or the world's largest cities.

(Source - <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2011/mar/27/human-bondage-hits-us-heartland/?page=all>)

FACT – Traffickers seek their victims from social media sites such as Craigslist, Backpage, Facebook, MeetMe, etc.

Other Shocking statistics for South Dakota:

- There were 30 federal sex trafficking cases since 2009.
- Two people from Minnesota were indicted for sex trafficking in 2014.
- Nine arrests are associated with the 2013 Sturgis rally.
- Two arrests were made in Sioux Falls in March 2014.
- Five indictments came from the 2014 Sturgis rally.
- Dozens of girls and women have been discovered as victims of sex trafficking in South Dakota.
- Boys and young men have also been victims of sex trafficking in South Dakota, as reported by advocates.

Young people, male and female from all walks of life and environments are vulnerable to the manipulations and violence of traffickers. Education, awareness and accountability of traffickers, including the “johns,” are key to safety and ending trafficking.

If you, or someone you know is a victim of domestic or sexual violence, including suspicion of sex trafficking, please call 911 or local Law Enforcement and report the crime. Or call the Nat'l. Human Trafficking Resource Center at 1-888-373-7888 or go to www.polarisproject.org. For Referral only, call SDCEDSV at 1-800-572-9196



This Fact Sheet is provided by SDCEDSV. Please feel free to copy this flyer for distribution or download a PDF at www.sdcedsv.org. Watch for updates.
Funded by a Tides Foundation grant



BE AWARE BE SAFE

Traffickers control their victims by:

- Force: Rape, beatings, confinement
- Mind Altering: Alcohol and Drug usage
- Fraud: False offers of caring, marriage, employment, a better life
- Coercion: Threats to harm the victim or their family & friends, debt-bondage, psychological abuse (brain washing)