EMPOWERED EYES

Recognizing Child Trafficking in your CASA Youth



KEY OBJECTIVES

01

DEFINING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

02

RISK FACTORS + VULNERABILITIES

03

INDICATORS + RED FLAGS

04

TRAFFICKERS, BUYERS, RECRUITMENT

05

SAFETY PLANNING, ENGAGEMENT, ADVOCACY

BE MINDFUL



HUMAN TRAFFICKING DEFINED

A crime involving the exploitation of someone for the purpose of compelled labor or a commercial sex act, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion.

Trafficking Victims' Protection Act (TVPA) 2000
22 U.S.C. §7101

A-M-P MODEL

U.S. Federal Law



ACTION	MEANS	PURPOSE
Induces	Force	Commercial sex
Recruits	Fraud	Labor/Services
Harbors	Coercion	
Transports		
Provides		
Obtains		

A-M-P MODEL

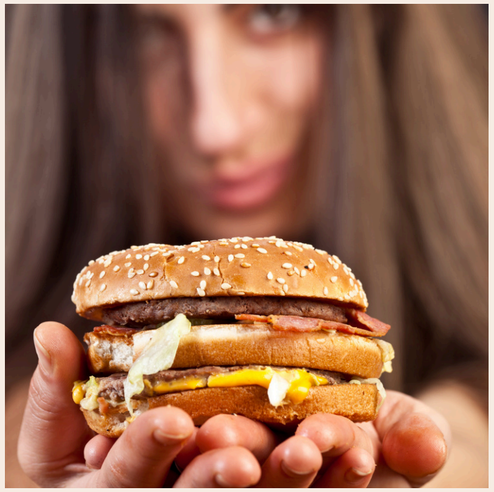
U.S. Federal Law



A child who is induced to perform a sex act for something of value



COMMERCIALLY SEXUALLY EXPLOITED CHILD (CSEC)









WHAT MAKES A SEX ACT “COMMERCIAL”

value

FOOD

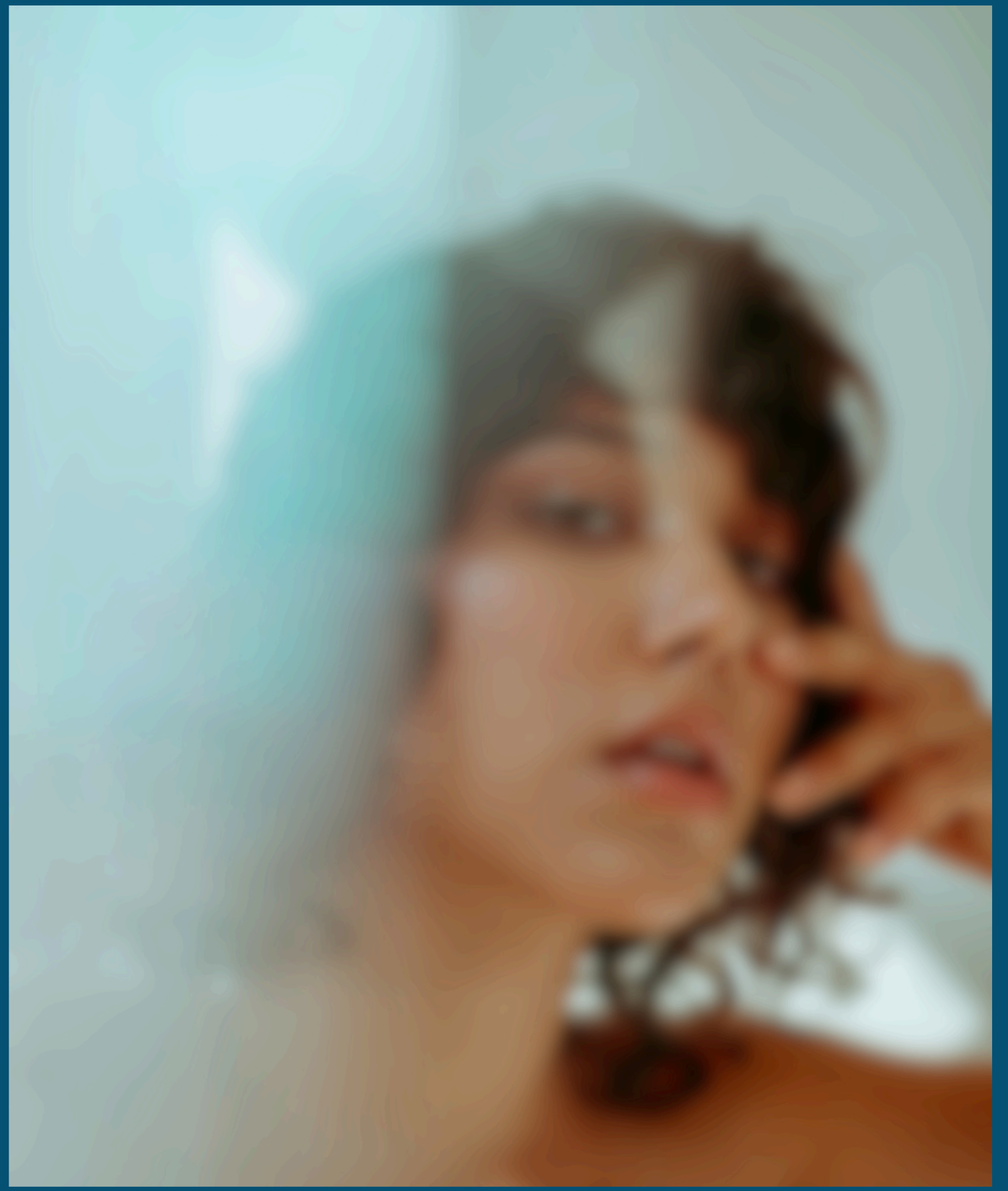
MONEY

SHELTER

DRUGS

FORMS OF CSEC

CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING
PORNOGRAPHY/CSAM
SURVIVAL SEX
CHILD SEX TOURISM
STRIPPING
EXOTIC ENTERTAINMENT





FORMS OF LABOR TRAFFICKING IN CHILDREN

TRAVELING SALES CREWS
SOLICIT CHARITABLE DONATIONS
COERCED DRUG DEALING
DOMESTIC SERVANT



ILLEGAL ORGANIZED CRIMINAL *business*

$150 BILLION INDUSTRY



SRC: INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION (ILO), 2014

$99 BILLION

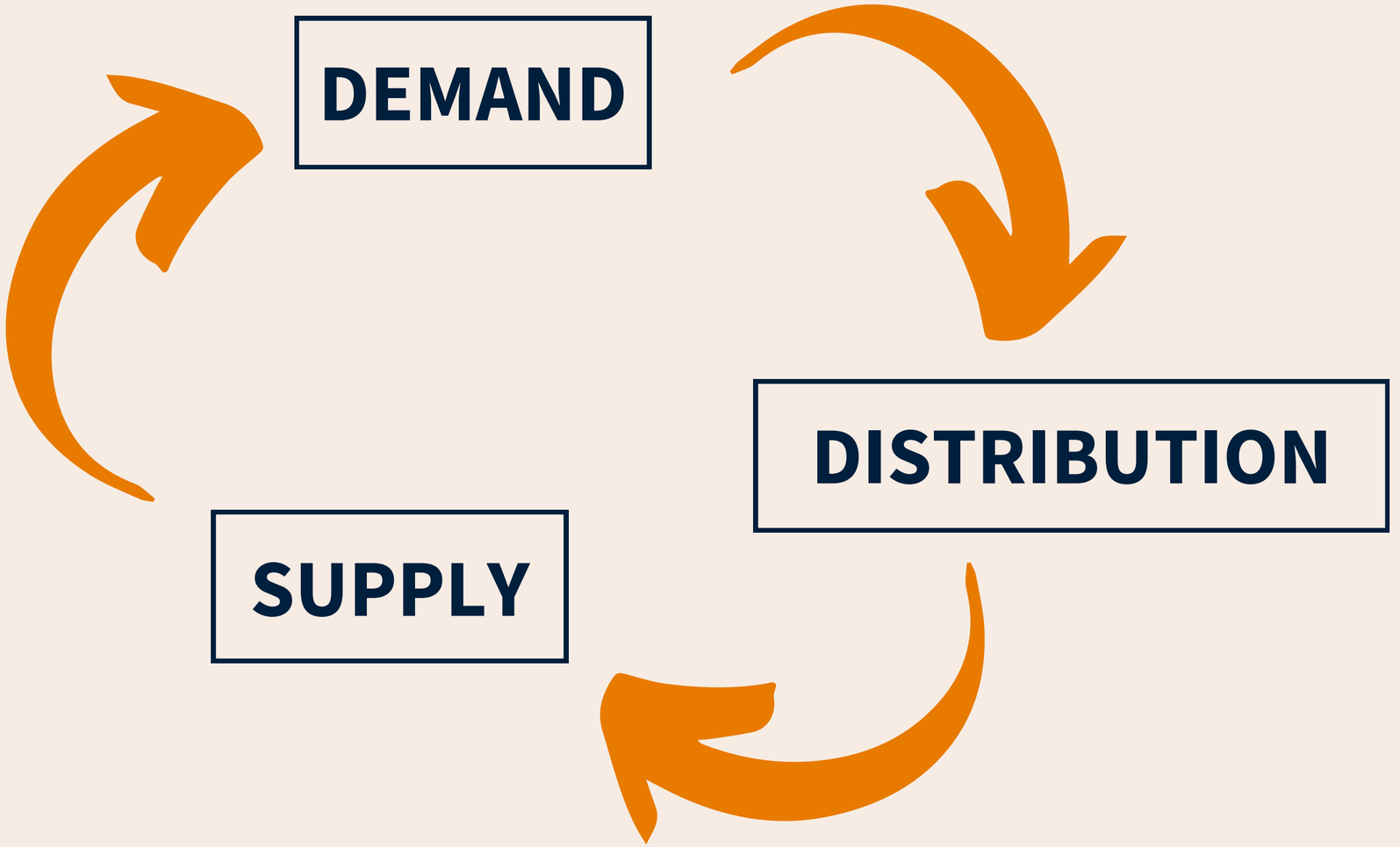


$51 BILLION



SRC: ILO, 2014

BUSINESS MODEL



trafficking BUSINESS MODEL



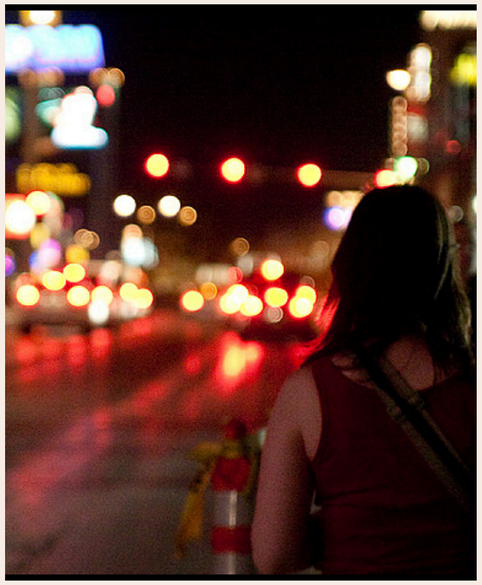


NEVADA BY THE NUMBERS

2019 - 2021



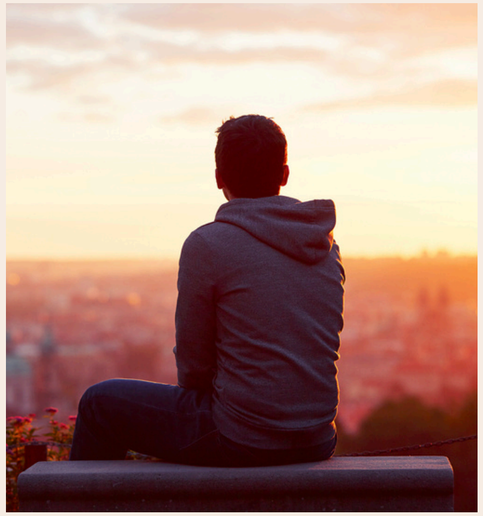
50.5% MINORS
Under the age of 18



15.9 YRS OLD
Average age of minor



12 YRS OLD
Youngest reported victim



17 YRS OLD
Youngest reported male

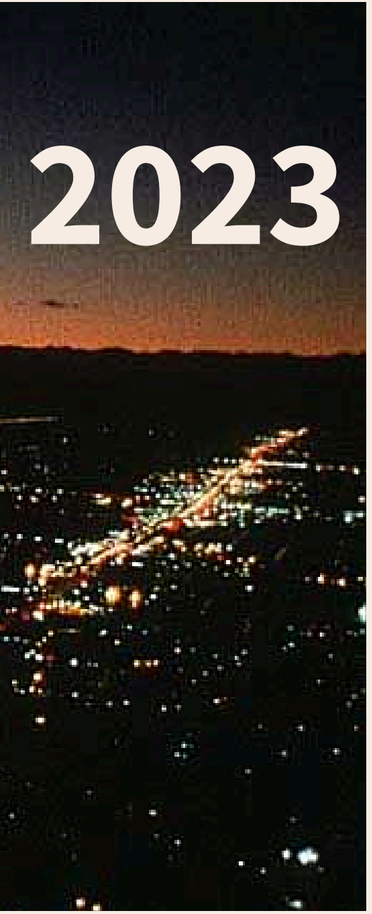


5,000 SOLD
People sold for sex in Nevada monthly



63% LARGER
Nevada's sex market compared to New York (2nd largest)

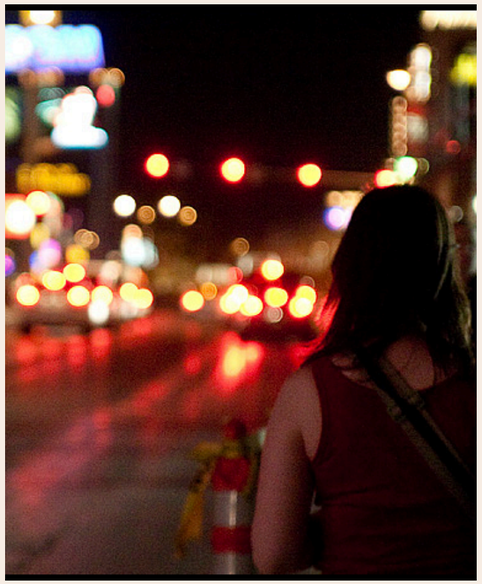
SRC: RENO DEMOGRAPHICS VIA HEAT TEAM; THE HT INITIATIVE, NEVADA'S ONLINE COMMERCIAL SEX MARKET



SRC: SNHTTF/LVMPD; THE HT INITIATIVE, NEVADA'S ONLINE COMMERCIAL SEX MARKET



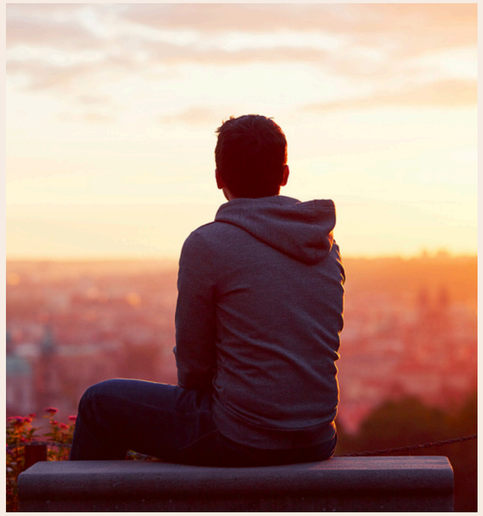
95% TEENS
Aged 14-17 years old



65% LOCAL
Minors identified



6 CHILDREN
Aged 13 years and younger



5 BOYS
Were identified



5,000 SOLD
People sold for sex in Nevada monthly



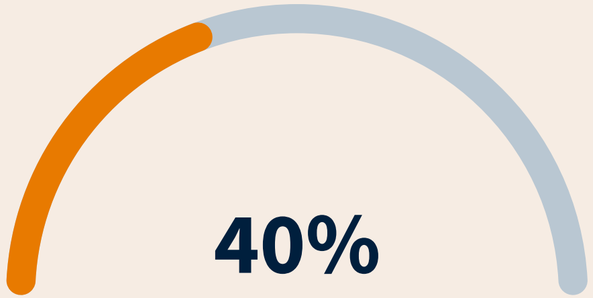
63% LARGER
Nevada's sex market compared to New York (2nd largest)



19% OF MISSING CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE IN 2023 WERE LIKELY SEX TRAFFICKING VICTIMS

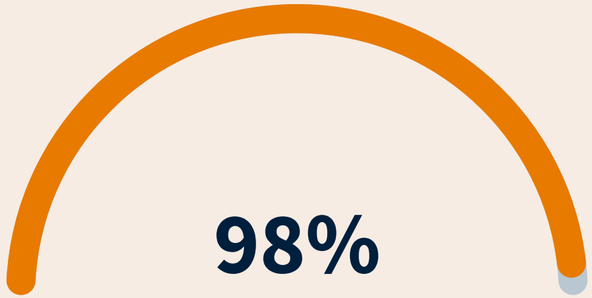
-National Center of Missing and Exploited Children

AT-RISK YOUTH IN CHILD WELFARE



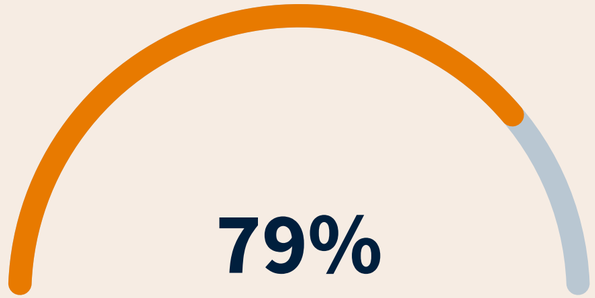
40%

TRAFFICKED PRIOR TO AGE OF 18



98%

SEX TRAFFICKING CASES



79%

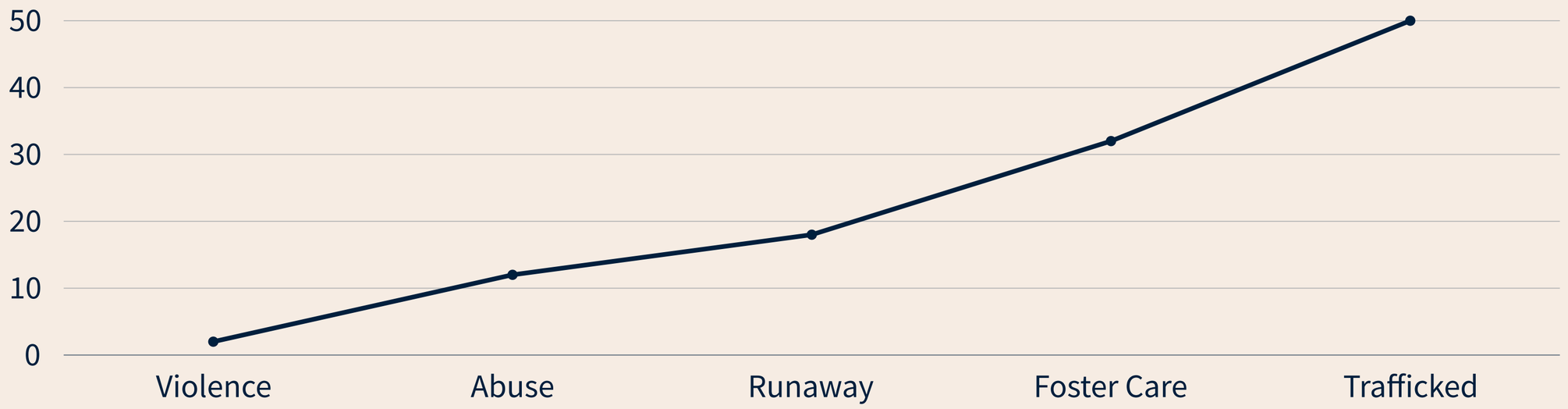
OCCURRED WHILE IN CHILD WELFARE PLACEMENT

SRC: SURVEY OF YOUTH TRANSITIONING FROM FOSTER CARE (SYTFC), 2022


RISK FACTORS
+
VULNERABILITIES

CHAINS-OF-RISK MODEL

Explains how people become victims of sex trafficking



RISK FACTORS

=

LESS CHOICES

=

MORE VULNERABILITY

MOVING HURTS

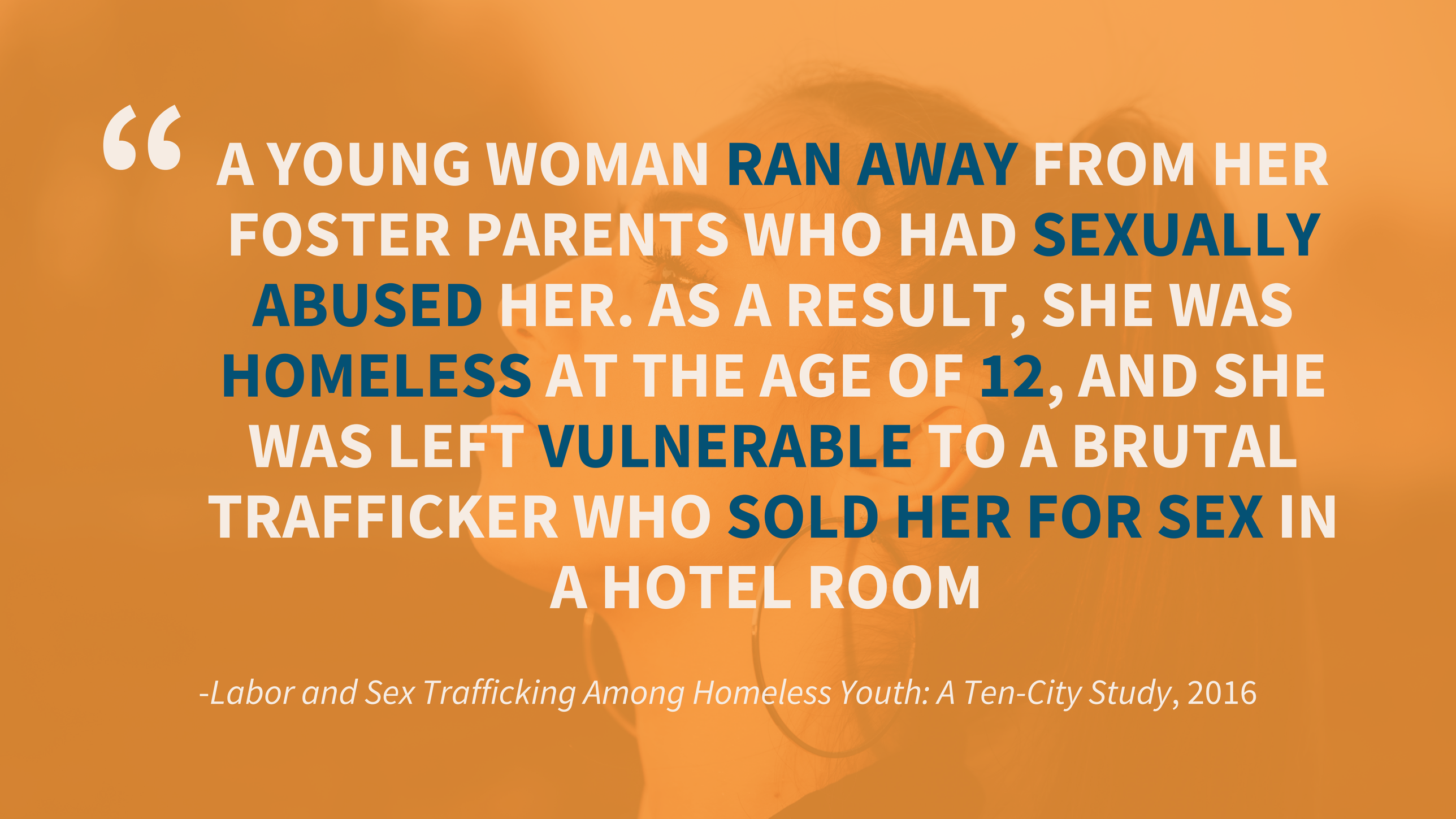
Frequent moves harm kids emotionally & hinder bonding

FALLING BEHIND IN SCHOOL

These moves often lead to educational struggles

LIMITED OPPORTUNITIES

Traps youth in poverty & housing insecurity



“A YOUNG WOMAN RAN AWAY FROM HER FOSTER PARENTS WHO HAD SEXUALLY ABUSED HER. AS A RESULT, SHE WAS HOMELESS AT THE AGE OF 12, AND SHE WAS LEFT VULNERABLE TO A BRUTAL TRAFFICKER WHO SOLD HER FOR SEX IN A HOTEL ROOM

-Labor and Sex Trafficking Among Homeless Youth: A Ten-City Study, 2016





RISK *factors*

HOMELESSNESS

POVERTY

NEGLECT

SEXUAL ABUSE

SYSTEM-INVOLVED

CHRONIC RUNAWAY

HISTORY OF VIOLENCE

SUBSTANCE USE/ABUSE





RISK *factors*

LGBTQ+

TEST BOUNDARIES + TAKE RISKS

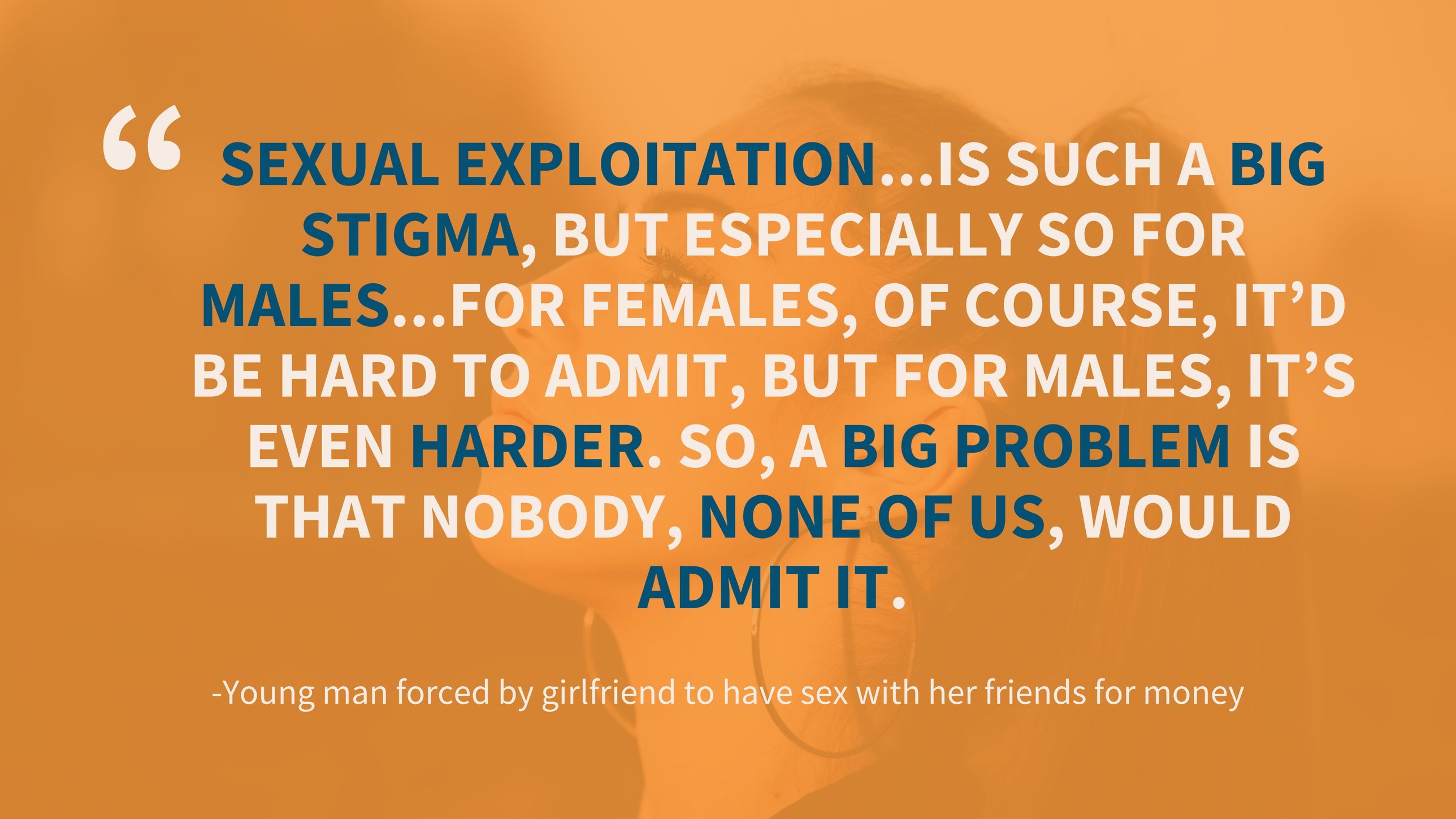
WANT MORE INDEPENDENCE

FEEL LIKE FOSTER PARENTS DON'T CARE

FEEL MISUNDERSTOOD

MINIMAL SUPERVISION

PERCEIVED AS BEING OLDER THAN THEY ARE

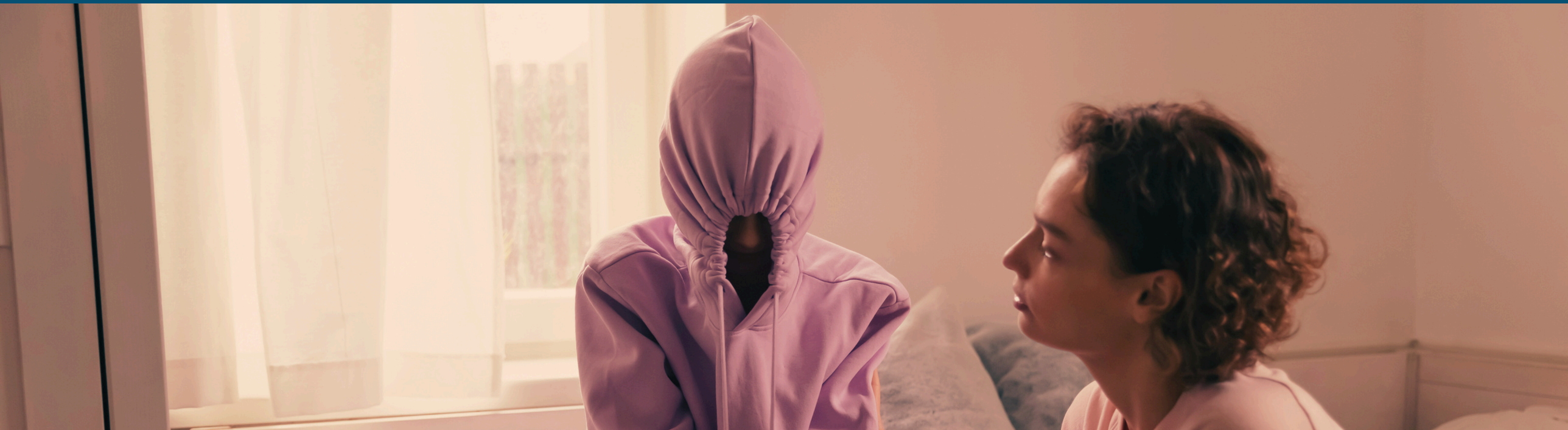


“SEXUAL EXPLOITATION…IS SUCH A BIG STIGMA, BUT ESPECIALLY SO FOR MALES…FOR FEMALES, OF COURSE, IT’D BE HARD TO ADMIT, BUT FOR MALES, IT’S EVEN HARDER. SO, A BIG PROBLEM IS THAT NOBODY, NONE OF US, WOULD ADMIT IT.

-Young man forced by girlfriend to have sex with her friends for money

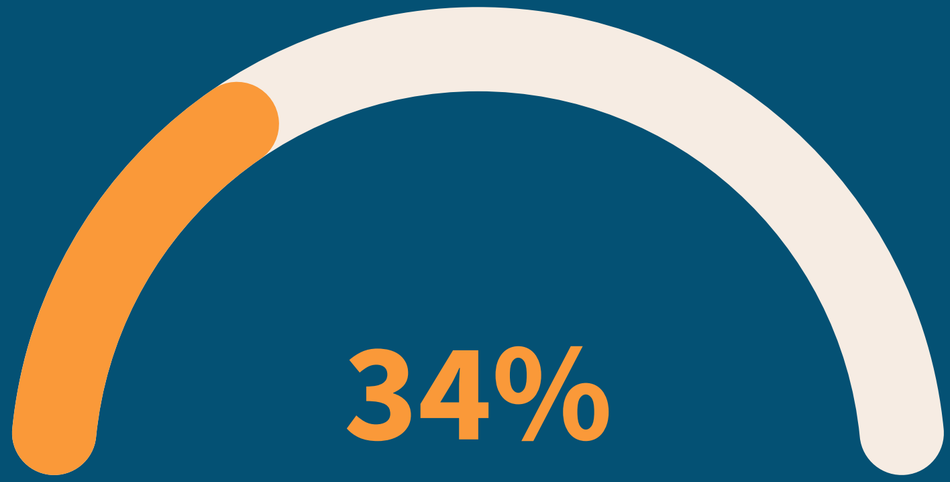
HIGH CORRELATION

Children exploited through prostitution were also victims of child abuse



VULNERABILITY *factor*

LEAVING HOME INCREASES RISK OF SEX TRAFFICKING



SRC: SURVEY OF YOUTH TRANSITIONING FROM FOSTER CARE (SYTFC), 2022

VULNERABILITY *factor*

UNSTABLE + UNATTACHED

01

FOSTER CARE

Frequent moves + lack of stability + no long-term support = high vulnerability

02

YOUTH WANT “THEIR PERSON”

They crave a stable, caring adult - a lasting connection.

WHY YOUTH RUN FROM FOSTER CARE

01

RULE PUSHBACK

Dislike of rules of their placement

02

ANGRY AT THE SYSTEM

Anger at CPS or the child welfare system

03

CRAVING FREEDOM

A desire to be on their own

04

CAREGIVER CONFLICT

Frustration or anger with caregivers

WHY YOUTH RUN FROM FOSTER CARE

05

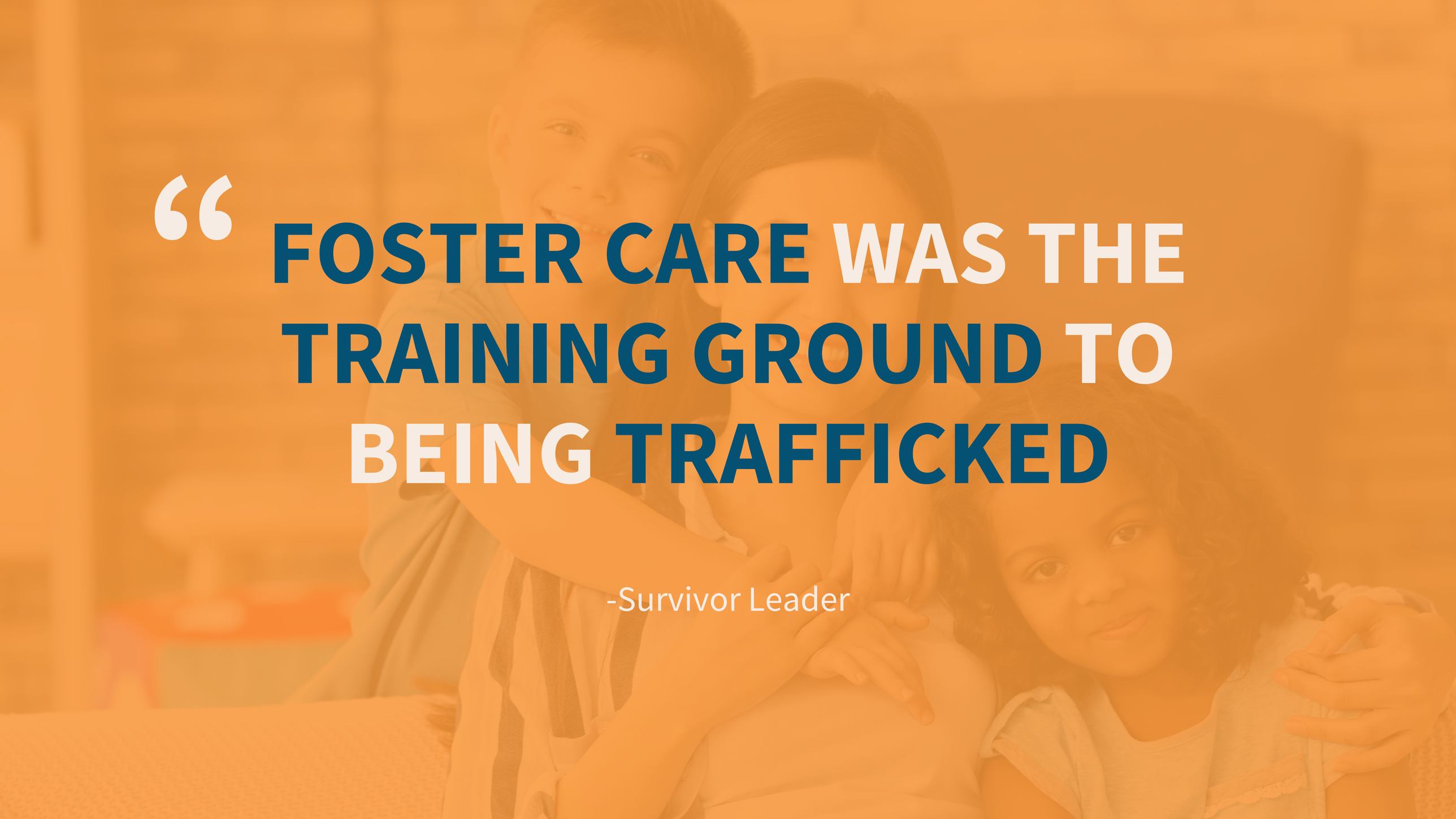
MISSING FAMILY

They desire to see family

06

ROMANTIC PULL

They desire to be with a romantic partner



“FOSTER CARE WAS THE TRAINING GROUND TO BEING TRAFFICKED

-Survivor Leader

TRANSACTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS NORMALIZED



Youth believe they are being USED for FINANCIAL GAIN

Your involvement is time-limited



YOU ARE THE EXCEPTION



INDICATORS

+

RED FLAGS



INDICATORS *red flags*

NEW ITEMS THEY DON'T HAVE THE MEANS TO PURCHASE

MORE SECRETIVE AND DEFIANT

GONE FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME + VAGUE ABOUT WHEREABOUTS

CHRONICALLY RUNS AWAY

A DIFFERENT SET OF FRIENDS

NOT IN SCHOOL/SIGNIFICANT GAPS IN SCHOOLING



INDICATORS

red flags

LOOKS TIRED AND SLEEPS AT UNUSUAL HOURS

SUDDEN CHANGE IN DRESS OR HOBBIES/MUSIC

DISPLAYING INAPPROPRIATE SEXUALIZED BEHAVIOR/POSTINGS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

SIGNS OF MALNOURISHMENT

REFERENCES TO FREQUENT TRAVEL TO OTHER CITIES

UNEXPLAINED PHYSICAL INJURIES

LIVING AT PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT



INDICATORS *red flags*

HAS AN OLDER FRIEND OR ROMANTIC PARTNER

EXPRESSES INTEREST IN OLDER ADULTS

PARTNER APPEARS OVERLY CONTROLLING & ABUSIVE

NEW TATTOO (BRANDING)

TRAUMA BONDING WITH TRAFFICKER

USE OF SLANG/EXPLOITATIVE TERMINOLOGY

SPEAKING OF MAKING MONEY FOR THEIR S.O.



INDICATORS *red flags*

SHARP, SEVERE MOOD SWINGS

DEMEANOR IS DIFFERENT/PERSONALITY CHANGES

FEARFUL

ANXIOUS, NERVOUS, TENSE

DEPRESSED

LACK OF EMOTIONAL RESPONSIVENESS

SUBMISSIVE



INDICATORS *red flags*

NIGHTMARES, FLASHBACKS, PHOBIAS, PANIC ATTACKS

FEELINGS OF SHAME/GUILT

LOW SELF-ESTEEM

ACUTE STRESS

SELF-HARM

SUICIDAL IDEATION/MULTIPLE ATTEMPS

PTSD/COMPLEX TRAUMA



INDICATORS *red flags*

HYPER-VIGILIANCE OR HYPER-ALERTNESS

EMOTIONAL NUMBING

DISSOCIATION

LOSS OF INTEREST IN ONCE-ENJOYED ACTIVITIES

WHAT TRAUMA CAN LOOK LIKE

Kids may come across as:

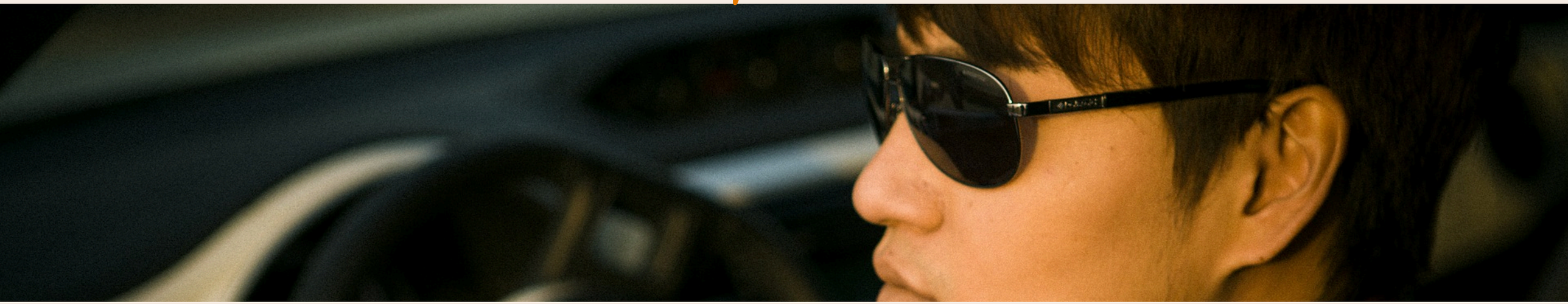
- Deceptive
- Manipulative
- Uncooperative
- Protecting the perpetrator




TRAFFICKERS
BUYERS
RECRUITMENT

TRAFFICKERS

"honest heroes"



Traffickers see themselves as RESCUING youth from their circumstances

PREDATORS IN DISGUISE

TARGET VULNERABLE YOUTH

Runaways, foster youth, in shelters/group homes, etc.

EXPLOIT BASIC NEEDS

Food, shelter, clothing, love, friendship

CREATE OBLIGATION

make youth feel they “owe” them

WHO THE TRAFFICKERS ARE

01

ROMANTIC PARTNER

Someone they have a romantic relationship with

02

OLDER ADULT FRIEND/MENTOR

A young adult who appears to befriend or mentor them

03

PEER

A child their age or in the same grade

04

FAMILY MEMBER

Someone from their family or who have access to them

05

GANG MEMBER

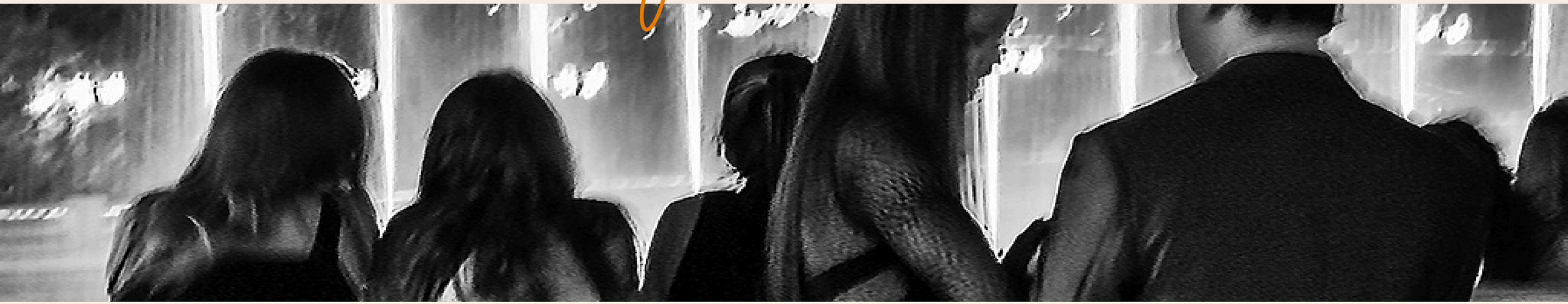
Wanted as a way to make money for the gang family



“ YOU *control* DESTINIES, *own* SOULS, AND *guide* LIVES.

SRC: “THE PIMP GAME,” PAGE 93-94

BUYERS ARE DRIVEN *by demand*



High US demand for sex trafficking FUELS child exploitation

DEMAND DRIVEN BY

LARGE ADULT INDUSTRY

Sex sells is true - it’s a billion dollar industry

SOCIETY THAT SEXUALIZES YOUTH

A culture that objectifies bodies & commodifies sex

MEDIA INFLUENCES

Societal factor that encourages consumerism of sex

“

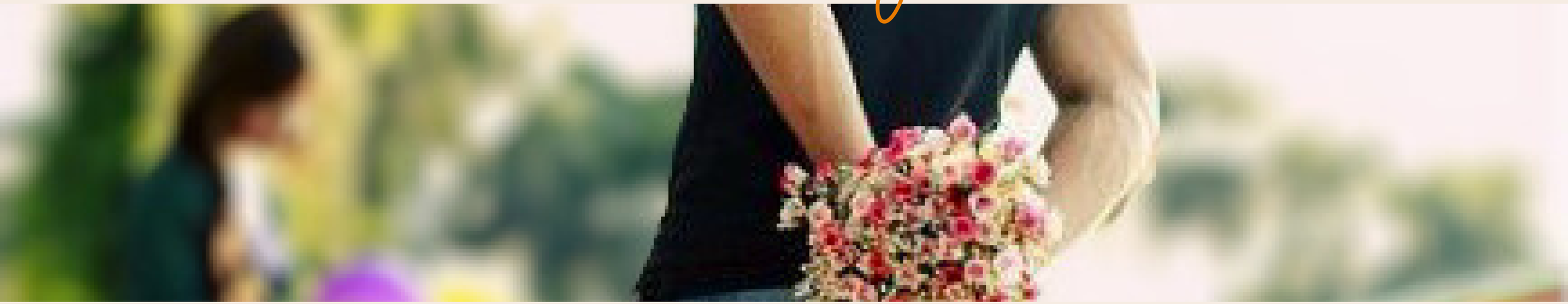
...SHE GAVE UP HER *rights* WHEN SHE ACCEPTED MY *money*



SRC: RACHEL DURCHSLAG & SAMIR GOSWAMI, “DECONSTRUCTING THE DEMAND FOR PROSTITUTION: PRELIMINARY INSIGHTS FROM INTERVIEW WITH CHICAGO MEN WHO PURCHASE SEX,” CHICAGO ALLIANCE AGAINST SEXUAL EXPLOITATION, 2008.

GROOMING

"seasoning"



Progression of POWER to CONTROL victims

TRAFFICKERS ENSNARE



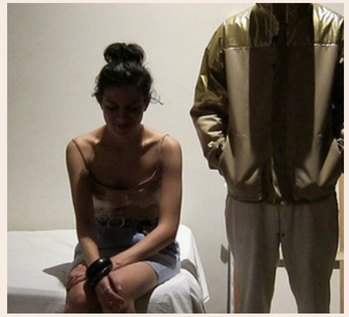
LURE

How traffickers deceive & manipulate to recruit



TRICK

“Love bombing,” affection, false promises



TRAP

Flipping the switch, turning into dominance

SRC: O’CONNOR, M., & HEALY, G. (2006) “THE LINKS BETWEEN PROSTITUTION AND SEX TRAFFICKING: A BRIEFING HANDBOOK



“I TELL HER *what* SHE *wants* WHAT SHE’S *dying* TO HEAR

“HE *sees me.* HE *gets me.* HE *listens.*



DEPENDENCE

isolation

Family + Friends = ENEMIES





“I convinced HER *family & friends* THAT I WAS THE *good one.*

“HE MET MY *parents* AND THEY *really liked* HIM.



TAKING CONTROL

"flipping the switch"

Trafficker behavior goes from CARING + SUPPORTIVE to CONTROLLING + POSSESSIVE





“I *told* HER THAT I’D *never* LET HER *go.*

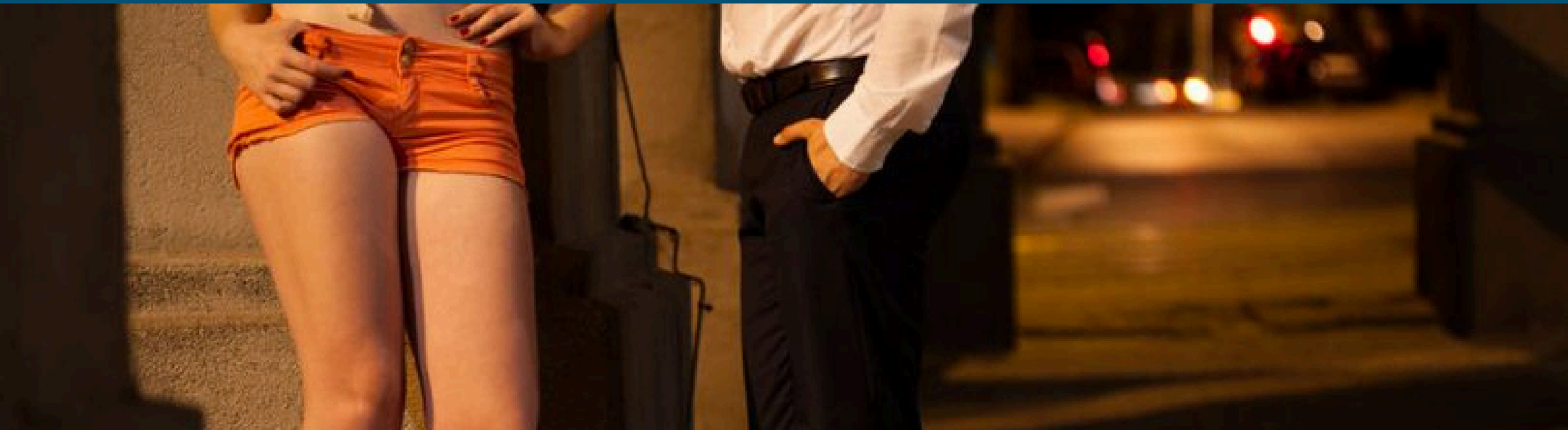
“I THOUGHT, HE *loves me* THAT MUCH THAT *nothing* CAN SEPARATE *our love.*



TOTAL DOMINANCE

complete dependence

Trafficker controls the victim and selling sex is “supporting” the relationship





“I’D GIVE HER A *night off* AND RENT *movies* AND SPEND *quality* TIME TO *convince* HER THAT I *cared.*

“I THOUGHT, THIS IS HOW *life* WILL BE WHEN WE *finally* HAVE ENOUGH *money.*





SAFETY PLANNING ENGAGEMENT ADVOCACY

KEEP *in mind*



Your GOAL with your child



CONNECTION

NOT

DISCLOSURE



“ BE SOMEONE THAT THEY CAN TURN TO…CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT THEY FEEL SAFE COMING BACK TO

-Mentor of Dr. Anish Raj



WHAT SURVIVORS *revealed*

FEAR IS A SIGNIFICANT BARRIER

BE TRANSPARENT & CLEAR ABOUT YOUR LIMITATIONS

BE NICE = NONJUDGMENTAL, INQUISITIVE, COMPASSIONATE, EMPATHETIC

THEY DO WANT TO TALK ABOUT THEIR SITUATION & IT'S NOT HARMFUL TO DO SO

DON'T MAKE PROMISES

WHAT KIDS REALLY WANT

01

ACTIVE LISTENING

02

ENCOURAGE-MENT

03

ACCEPTANCE OF WHERE THEY'RE AT

04

RELIABILTY

FAILURE TO DISCLOSE

- FEAR OF ARREST
- FEAR OF OR LOYALTY TO TRAFFICKER
- FEELINGS OF SHAME OR HUMILIATION
- DO NOT SELF-IDENTIFY AS A VICTIM



IF THEY DO DISCLOSE

REASSURE YOUTH

Believe them, thank them, & focus on safety

NO PRESSURE

Don’t press for details

REPORT MANDATORY

You are a MANDATED REPORTER. Ask if they want to make the report or if you should



WHAT YOU SAY + HOW YOU SAY IT MATTERS

LANGUAGE MATTERS

01

CHOOSE RESPECTFUL LANGUAGE

Don’t imply they are to blame

02

AVOID “PROFESSIONAL” TERMS/JARGON

e.g. trafficking, exploitation, CSEC

03

BE VICTIM-CENTERED + SHIFT BLAME

Highlight exploiter’s actions

04

HAVE A PERSON-FIRST FOCUS

People first, not labels

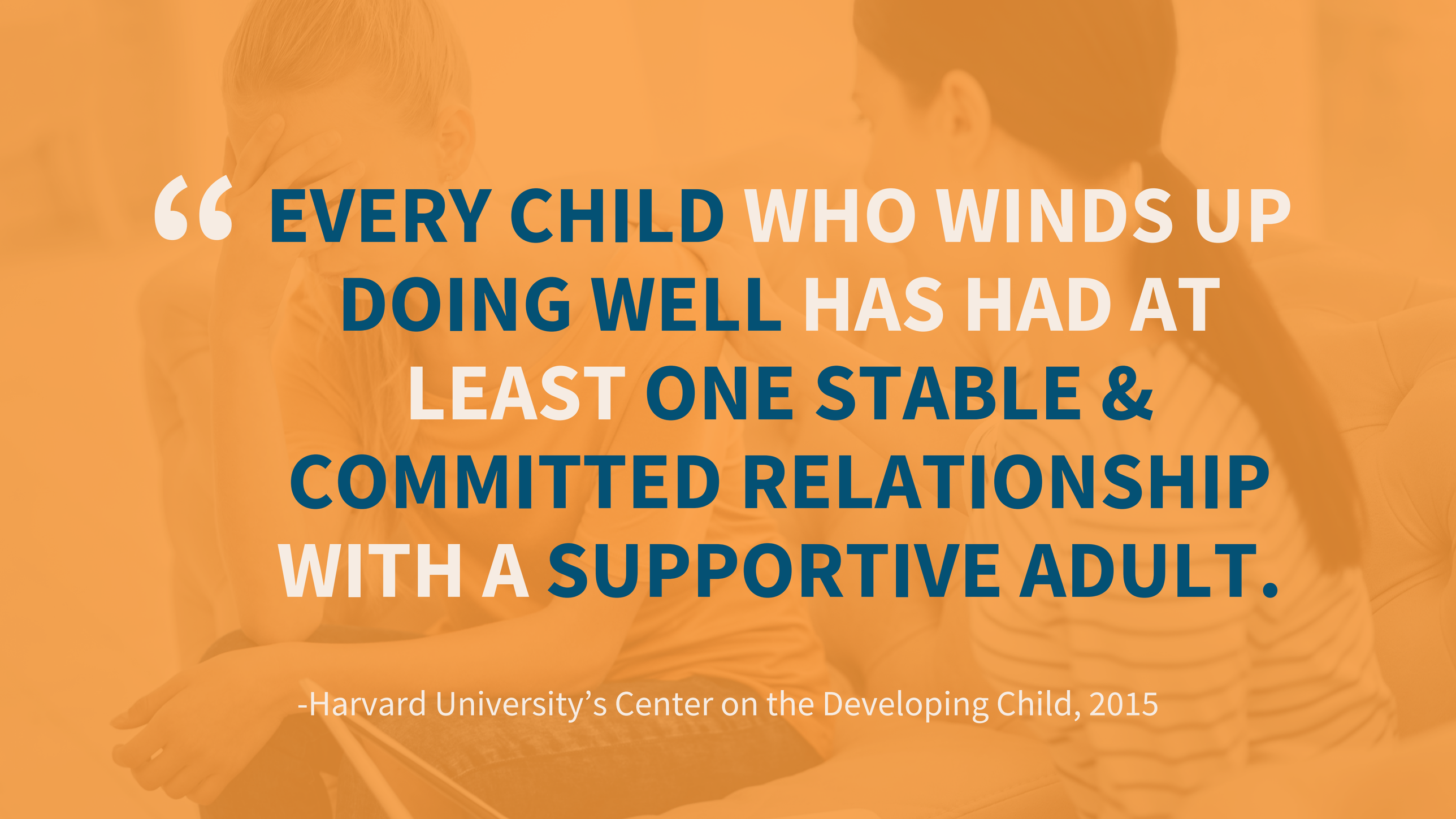
FOLLOW THE YOUTH'S LEAD

INSTEAD OF...

- Child pornography
- Pimp
- Prostituted
- Case
- Child Sexual Assault Victim
- Brothel
- Prostitute
- John/Trick

USE...

- Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM)
- Trafficker
- Exploited
- Child/Parent/Family
- Child
- Illicit Massage Business
- Victim/Survivor/Overcomer
- Buyer



“EVERY CHILD WHO WINDS UP DOING WELL HAS HAD AT LEAST ONE STABLE & COMMITTED RELATIONSHIP WITH A SUPPORTIVE ADULT.

-Harvard University’s Center on the Developing Child, 2015

PROTECTIVE *factors*

GOOD COPING SKILLS + PROBLEM-SOLVING SKILLS

ENGAGEMENT + CONNECTIONS IN TWO+ CONTEXTS: SCHOOL, WITH PEERS, ATHLETICS, EMPLOYMENT, RELIGION, CULTURE

PRESENCE OF MENTORS + SUPPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF SKILLS & INTERESTS

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT WITHIN SCHOOL + COMMUNITY



SRC: O'CONNELL, BOAT, & WARNER, 2009

RESILIENCY *factors*

DESIRE TO LIVE

POSITIVE THINKING

MOTIVATION FOR CHANGE

ABILITY TO “BORROW STRENGTH FROM RISKS”

PRESENCE OF SUPPORT



SRC: NCFY.ACF.HHS.GOV

BUILDING TRUST WITH YOUTH

01

MEET THEIR BASIC NEEDS

Food, shelter, & safety come first

02

SLOW + STEADY

Be patient, trust takes time

03

HONESTY IS KEY

Explain confidentiality limits clearly

04

WORK TOGETHER

Empower them, don’t control them

05

STRENGTH + AGENCY

Help them believe in themselves

BUILDING TRUST WITH YOUTH

06

NOT THEIR FAULT

Reassure them they’re not to blame

07

SENSITIVE TO FEAR

Support them + understand their anxieties

08

POSITIVE APPROACH

Don’t speak ill of the trafficker

09

REAL + CARING

Be genuine and present

10

EMPOWER THEIR VOICE

Listen actively & build their confidence

BUILDING A SAFETY PLAN TOGETHER

RESPECT THEIR CHOICES

They know their situation best

OPEN + SAFE COMMUNICATION

Let them know you're always there to listen (without judgment)

SAFETY WORDS (IF ALONE)

Create secret code words for danger & what to do (e.g. stop talking, call for help)

LISTEN TO THEIR CONCERNS

Understand what scares them

HELP THEM PLAN AHEAD

What resources do they need (shelter, services, etc)?

STAY SAFE

tips for youth

01

TRUST YOUR GUT

If something feels off, it probably is

02

TELL SOMEONE YOU TRUST

Talk to a friend, family, or CASA about suspicious situations

03

SAFETY WORDS

Set secret words with loved ones to signal danger or safety

04

KEEP YOUR STUFF

Don’t let anyone take your documents or ID

STAY SAFE

tips for youth

05

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Have a list of safe contacts without your phone

06

BE PREPARED

Have a phone, money (if possible), & medicine on hand

07

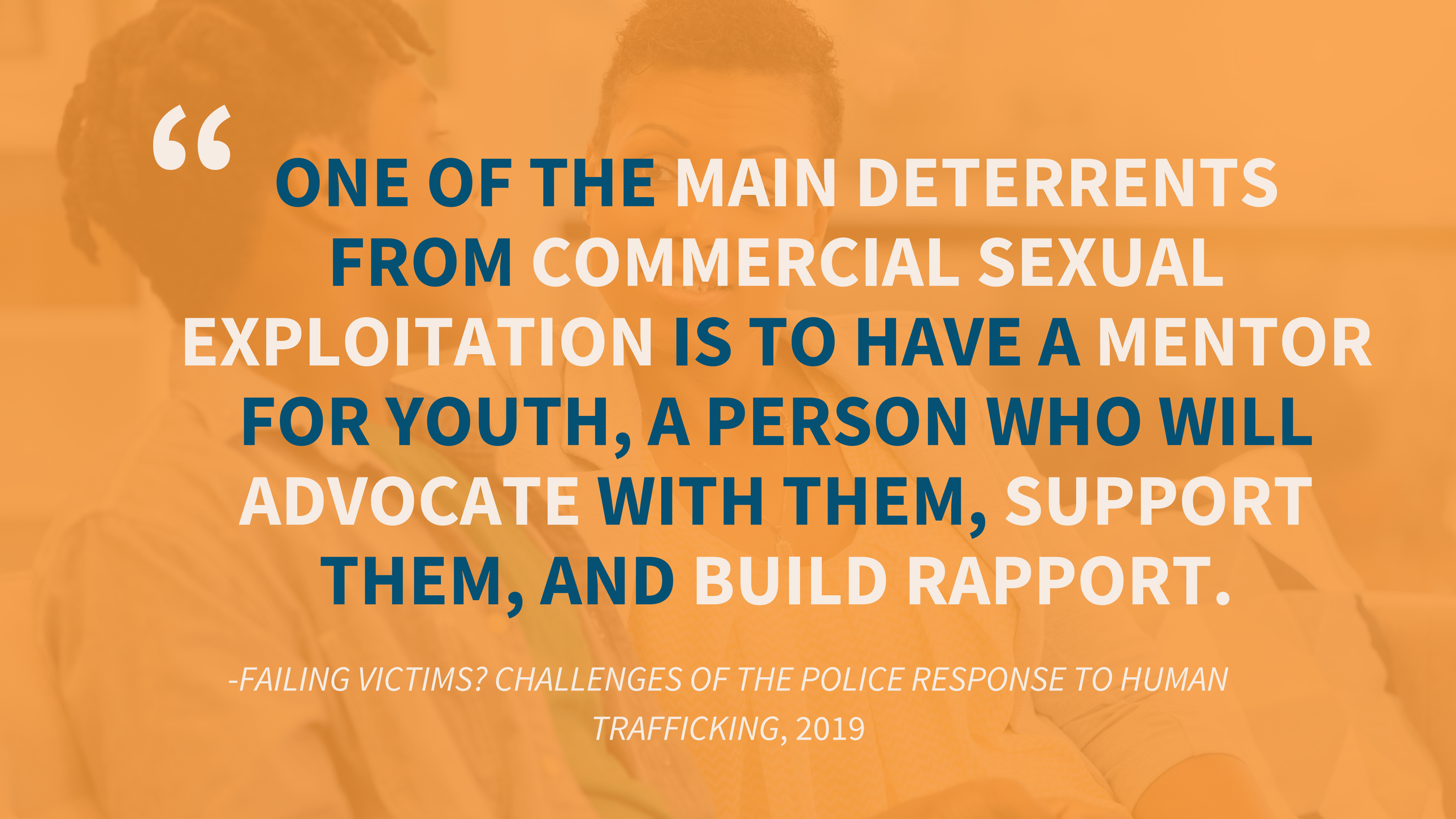
NEED A PLACE TO STAY?

Call 1-800-RUNAWAY (24/7 confidential support)

08

EMERGENCY?

Call 9-1-1 immediately



“ONE OF THE MAIN DETERRENTS FROM COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION IS TO HAVE A MENTOR FOR YOUTH, A PERSON WHO WILL ADVOCATE WITH THEM, SUPPORT THEM, AND BUILD RAPPORT.

-FAILING VICTIMS? CHALLENGES OF THE POLICE RESPONSE TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING, 2019

LOCAL HOTLINES

Northern Nevada

AWAKEN RENO

Phone: **775-393-9183**

Drop-In Center: **433 Spokane St. Reno 89512**

Email: **infonv@awakenjustice.org**

REPORT CHILD ABUSE + NEGLECT

Washoe County (Reno/Sparks)

833-900-SAFE

REGIONAL HUMAN EXPLOITATION & TRAFFICKING UNIT (HEAT TEAM)

Office: **775-325-6470**

Email: **heat@reno.gov**

XQUISITE 24/7 HOTLINE

Phone: **775-434-7070**

Text: **504-434-7255**

Email: **info@xquisite.org**

LOCAL HOTLINES

Southern Nevada

VICE LOCAL HOTLINE

702-828-3455
(not monitored 24/7)

RISE ALERT HOTLINE

775-352-5081 (24/7)
**for trained professionals only*

S. NEVADA HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE

snhttf@lvmpd.com

REPORT CHILD ABUSE + NEGLECT

Clark County
(Las Vegas/Henderson)
702-399-0081

*****All other counties
Afterhours + Weekends, call local LE to make report
833-571-1041



CASA HT *resources*

THANK *you*

702-305-5197

adia@onefamproject.org

onefamproject.org