Courtney: So we did our research project in Janja’s class on the demand on sex trafficking. We are probably going to open with a film because the film is what encouraged us to research. What’s feeling these johns to go out and find exploited girls to act out these sexual behaviors on. So it’s about a 10 min. film. It is really interesting so it will get your blood moving.
Demand for Sex Trafficking

https://www.youtube.com/v/kvGGUsdDjB0&feature=youtu.be&autoplay=1

You Tube Video
Okay, so after watching the film, my group and I were questioning after seeing those women stories what’s making these men go out and find these exploited girls. One thing that came to my mind was pornography I have researched pornography and how it has evolved over the past couple decades. I also researched and a lot of scholars had to say that there’s a blurred line between pornography and buying sex; that is because of the live shows you see over here, live sex shows. That’s basically watching live a girl through a Webcam and you can be preforming sexual acts to yourself and that could be considered kind of like cyber buying sex, I guess you could consider it, but at the same time it’s a grey area because it could be considered watching pornography.

Later on my slides, you’ll see that I talk about how pornography is the number one gateway into buying sex. One in three prostituted victims have been used in the production of a pornography film. So that means that not only are they being exploited on the streets, they are also being exploited in a pornography film. We researched girls that had said that it was more terrifying and more self-destructive or not self-destructive, destructive to themselves being used in a pornographic film because even if they get out of the game, if they get to go to these amazing shelters and receive the help they can, that they get from great organizations like Courage House, the evidence of them still being exploited and that life that they had to live is forever on the Internet. And so they can never escape it. And that was one of the biggest things that we read in survivor stories, is that being used in a pornographic film is almost worse than working in the brothel because you can never escape it.
Okay, there's a lot of misconceptions about pornography. I remember growing up and hearing, you know, when you're going through puberty, guys saying stuff about pornography. I'm sure we all have. There's a misconception that it's considered, natural, normal, a rite of passage, that's just experimentation, and curiosity. But I don't think that I want any of the men in this generation to be learning anything involving sex through pornography because it's so skewed in what it teaches our young boys of the upcoming generations. And we've seen, we've talked about this in our class too, whether, guys, it's still common as long, at least we don't admit it is, but it is so common, where a lot of that will take their son to brothels to have their first sexual experiences. Guys, we've heard, I've read statistics about dads showing their sons porn, porn, so they can perform well in their first sexual encounter; It is just not realistic. Another misconception is that the Johns searching for the sex, are searching for the sex because they can't have sex or they can't find somebody else to have sex with them. That's usually not how it is, the majority of the Johns are going and finding these girls not because they don't have someone to have sex with.
They usually have families and they usually have partners, it's because they want to go find partners and exploited girls and boys to act out the deviant behaviors that they see in the pornographic films, which I'll go over the deviant behaviors in my next slide. Another misconception about pornography, well what pornography does that we really don't recognize is that it objectifies women. So when these young boys are going through puberty, or what not, or even men, are visualizing all these women basically get beat down and see them only being used as a sex object. This is actually a picture that I found on the Internet that's advertising extra-large condoms, extra-extra-long large condoms and as you could see she's wearing Band-Aids on her lips basically implying that she was giving oral sex and it was just too big obviously; just like an object for sex and that's it. And I don't want to live in a society where that's, that's being advertised.
So violence and sex trafficking and does pornography encourage violence in not only just relationships, but does it also encourage sex trafficking. Like I said, in the pornographic films that were seeing more today it’s a lot more violent. It’s a lot of things that you wouldn’t perform with your everyday partner. S&M which is a humiliating and degrading form of sexual violent behavior. A lot of the depictions and pornographic films were seeing are rape scenes. 80% of survivors reported that, there, the Johns come in and show them pictures and illustrations to depict a pornography that would depict what they wanted to done to them. Which shows the direct correlation between pornography and sex trafficking industry. They depict rape scenes making it seem like rape is okay, depicting that rape is no longer a crime that is actually something idolized. Our pornography industry in the United States is booming. It would be, it’s the biggest it’s ever been and if there depicting rape scenes, making it seem like that’s an idolized part of our culture; that is exactly what we expect our future generations to come into contact with and crave. I’ve saw in some of the research we did, was slapping around, hair pulling, name calling, handcuffs, and other forms of restraints being used. Forms of sex involving bodily functions like pee and poop, and sodomization. And so obviously you can’t do that to your partner so that encourages the demand to go out and find out these sex trafficked victims.
And so is watching pornography like buying sex? I talked about that gray area before, it’s becoming more and more clear that it’s the Gateway, just like you hear a lot of people, I’m sure, talk about how marijuana is the gateway drug into more severe drugs you can kind of think of pornography in the same way. It encourages it, and once you watch it and it became so normal in your lifestyle you want to go and it is no longer a right and wrong situation because it’s so primed in your brain. And so you’re gunna go out and gunna find the cheapest way to satisfy that new desire that you think is normal, but it’s not normal. As much as I love pornography to go away, it’s obvious that it’s not, I think it has to deal with the problem directly. We kinda have to talk to our youth. I went and talked a couple weeks ago at high school, talking about sex trafficking, human trafficking; I’m asking these boys you know, cause I know all they all watched pornography and girls too I’m sure, asking them what they want to see in the future generations, if they would want to see the way that they saw depicted and you’ll be shocked by how we were looking down acting like they were so innocent. That’s where we have to start with our youth, letting them know that the those sexual behaviors are not okay and that the first step that they can take into stopping sex trafficking, just as a youth or as a young person, is to stop, stop letting them think that that is okay and not letting their friends that that is okay. Katy is gunna talk more about pornography as with youth so like child pornography.
Katy: Hi, I’m going to talk a little bit about commercial sexual exploitation. It’s quickly becoming one of the biggest businesses via the Internet because it so easily accessible to Johns and producers because they can post pictures and basically sell and buy victims and view them, you can do whatever. It’s obviously the internet is very easily accessible to everybody. Watching this kind of pornography with children, it encourages johns to go out and seek young girls and to crave this.
And the reason why is because the pimps also want young girls there are in demand of young girls as well because these young girls are so easily to manipulate and to break down. It's not like a 20-year-old or 30-year-old maybe a little bit experienced you now, you've been around boys or whatever the case is. These young girls are very inexperienced; they don't have morals yet. A lot of them are in and out of foster care they don't have a support system and they get swooped in by these who come in and say they care about them, “I love you. I'll take care of you,” like you saw on that video and they just get swooped in and these pimps call it the “Braking” period. And this time during a braking period they basically try and breakdowns girls as much as they can the first time they see them or after, you know, coercing them in as their boyfriends. They will commit like such a violent act to make this girl so dependent on them, for example like gang rapes or sodomization and then basically the commercial sexual exploitation, the prime age for this, it varies. From the research it varies I mean from the researcher saw, it’s saying 12 to 16 years old. Truth is, it’s honestly a lot younger and it’s really sad because in the past it was a lot older and now that this business is getting so much bigger, the age is just to keep going down.
I mean that’s just in the U.S., I mean there’s been cases across the country or across a world, where these, there’s young babies being raped. There’s, you know, and they are put in these pornography and its people don’t realize was going on. The kind of exploitation they used for children, it varies sex shows, sex trade, basically any kind of sexual activity or sexual production for money. And what I’m referring to pornography and the US out of most of those are where you have to be 18 years old to participate, however, a lot of people don't realize when you're watching this pornography these 18-year-old actors are depicting childlike characters. They’re depicting school girls and cheerleaders doing obscene acts and I don't think anybody realizes this is what's fueling these Johns to go out and think that this is okay to do and to pursue these kind of minors. And I wanted to, Courtney is going to talk to you a little bit about some of the websites that really fuel this business.
Courtney: Okay, so when we’re doing research, let me tell you, I was doing this on the library and so it was pretty awkward searching for women on the escort page of BackTalk. Anyways, I was looking at it and basically the way you can get in the escort portion of the website is pressing you agree that you are 18 or older, which is real reliable to start off with. As scrolling through they have picture of these girls. They are not fully nude, they are barely covered if that, if you could consider that. They have things like “hot & ready” or “young & hot.” And a lot of them say such say such young ages, but after their looking at their pictures, I went through a lot of them, they are definitely not 18. And a lot of the porn made internationally use a lot of under aged girls and even the porn made in the U.S with 18 year olds or older are actually there against their will. So that puts out the statistic that 1 in 3 prostituted victims are used in pornographic films. So what you may be thinking or seeing on pornography is “oh they what to be there. This is their job career, this is their choice.” This is not their choice. So What I thought was interesting because I didn’t expect to see this, they simply have like their hotel where they are going to be on that day, the address right there on the hat. They also have phone numbers and I was tempted to call one, but I got a little nervous. But yeah, and I just thought that it was so interesting that is right in front of our faces. That’s why it’s so easy for these johns, it’s not only porn that’s fueling, it not only the child pornography that’s fueling it, it’s that’s it’s so easily accessible.
Katy: I wanted to add to that as well, a lot of those the reason why you’re wondering why doesn’t law enforcement go after these people. The reason is a lot of the time they’re changing their numbers every day, they changing locations every day, and to use this lingo on these postings of these girls. They will say things like “Siu Yung” “innocent.” Oh and they’ll say that the girl is 23 and johns knows and pimps know that they have this underground kinda lingo that a lot of the time means it’s a minor and they have this going on all the time and they’re always changing up. So it is little bit more difficult for law enforcement to get involved and Backpage and Craigslist or websites like that that honestly fuel this kind of business. When I was researching these kinda stuff, I came across the Polaris project. It’s a nonprofit organization that works towards the prevention of modern-day slavery and human trafficking and if you check it out they have a lot of survival stories so I came across one I wanted to tell you guys about. It was this girl named Keisha put into foster care at age of 10 years old, she’s from Florida. Unfortunately, she was set with a family, a foster family’s relative who assaulted her, raped her for many years. At age of 14 she had enough; she ran away, no one was helping her, she had no support system; she had no real family. As she was running away she met a 26 man named “Master D.” That’s what his name was or was went by and this guy somehow convinced her that he would help her find her biological family and that if she sold her body and had sex with his friends, that they could fund him and herself to go find her biological family.
So as you can imagine, she was physically beaten, assaulted, raped, and she went through that braking point where she depended on him. All she had was him at this point. She didn’t want to go back to her foster family, she didn’t want to back into the system; they obviously didn’t help her the first time and this man was her only hope of finding her biological family. Unfortunately, she was put into juvenile center when she’s on the streets. So, she got in trouble for, for this and was put back in the foster family again, the same exact foster family. Again assaulted, again raped by the same exact relative. Same situation happens, same cycle; she ran away. She had no one. She called this “Master D” guy again because she still thought this guy was going to help her and find her biological family. Went through the same stuff, went back in the detention center and luckily this time the social worker, who was working with this amazing nonprofit organization, finally heard her voice. And was able to help her and put her into residential program with other sex trafficking victims and she’s about 16 years old now. She’s was a lot of emotional support. The only thing that's happened with either of those men, she has a protection order against the “Master D” guy; there’s no consequences he has to deal with. The foster family relative is out of the picture, nothing has happened to him. I think we really take a step back and, and realize that these girls are on the streets, they are being forced into this and that they shouldn't be suffering, like, these consequences going to juvenile center. We should really be thinking about, you know, who is behind this and what, really who's really fueling it. And now I'm then pass this on to Alena who is going to talk about prostitution.
Alena: Okay, so there are a couple of misconceptions about prostitution. There are three main ones that I found. The first one being women become prostitutes because they want to. The majority of these women who are prostitutes are enslaved and are actually working for little to no money at all. I know personally that when I was younger I didn't grow up dreaming that I'd be able to sell my body for sex exchanges every day and I'm sure that most of you didn't as well. The second one I found was a lot of women they actually enjoy prostitution. When we were researching this we didn't find any evidence to support this claim, but we did find that 90% of prostitutes want out of the business and they don't want to be a part of it anymore. The third misconception that we found was prostitutes cannot be raped because it is their job is to have sex. This is completely false because most of these women are enslaved and are incapable of consenting to sex. As well as the underage children who are legally incapable of consenting.
There are just a couple of statistics we want to share with you. In the United States, in Minnesota, we found that on back page you can pay on average $60 for oral sex with a minor. Studies also revealed that one in 10 men in the world have purchased a prostitute. And with men demanding these women and children, it’s almost becoming socially acceptable to partake in these kinds behaviors. Right now there are 40 million prostitutes at work and of course this number varies because there is not exact estimate of world.
Courtney: Okay so given the information about pornography and misconceptions on prostitution, it make sense why the Johns are going out to get these girls. “Prostitution is easy, it is happening all over the world.” There is misconceptions about prostitution, so it may take the blame off of the Johns that the prostitutes want there to be, therefore they are not really committing a crime. So just think twice when you think about the demand, I know that I was really interested in what was demanding and appealing these Johns. I hope those answered a few of your guys’ questions. Thanks for listening.