

GROUPTHINK

Instructions: Separate the three notecards (Agree, Disagree, Debatable) and lay them flat on the table. Have a volunteer from your group read each statement to the group. Each person should consider the statement and state whether they agree or disagree with it before moving on to the next statement. Attendees are encouraged to respond honestly but aren't expected to provide justification for their response at this time. If each person in the group agrees (or disagrees) with the statement, it will be placed in the appropriate pile. If group consensus is not reached regarding a statement, the statement will be placed in the "Debatable" pile for discussion with the large group later. The small groups should save all discussion or debate about their responses until the exercise is complete. The training instructor will review each statement and open the floor for large group discussion regarding the "Debatable" points. Some statements have no clear 'right' or 'wrong' answer. All of these statements are debated by professionals and it is essential to hear various viewpoints in order to build a more informed perspective.

The "bottom" should be charged for his/her role (along with the pimp) for the trafficking of the child.

If a minor "willingly" engages in commercial sex acts, states that he/she "chose" to do so, or acknowledges no third party control, the minor should be charged as a delinquent for prostitution or related offenses.

Penalties against the trafficker, buyer or facilitator should be less severe if a minor "willingly" engaged in the commercial sex act, or states that he/she "chose" to do so.

Victims will heal as long as their basic needs are met (security, shelter, clothes and food). Specialized care is not imperative.

Survivors are an essential component of program, policy and training development.

Whether the sex buyer had knowledge of the minor's age should be a factor when considering charges or sentencing for sex buyers.

The best way to successfully prosecute a case is by relying on victim testimony.

Juvenile detention is the best alternative if other protective placement cannot be located.

If one agency can meet the needs of the victim, collaboration is less important or unnecessary.

Bringing charges or threatening to bring charges against victims is an appropriate tactic to ensure their cooperation in the investigation and prosecution of the traffickers.