



# 4 COMMON MYTHS ABOUT COMMERCIAL SEX

## 1. Myth: Child Sex Trafficking is not happening in the United States.

**Fact:** Domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST), which is the commercial sexual exploitation of children through buying, selling, or trading their sexual services, is happening in the United States. Forms of DMST include prostitution, pornography, stripping and other sexual acts.<sup>1</sup>

**Fact:** At least 100,000 American children are being exploited through pornography or prostitution every year.<sup>2</sup>

**Fact:** Pimps commonly sell minor girls for \$400 an hour or more on America's streets.

## 2. Myth: Women and girls choose a life of prostitution.

**Fact:** Traffickers and pimps use physical, emotional and psychological abuse to coerce young women and girls into a life in sex trafficking. They often use "lover-boys" to recruit girls from middle schools and high schools.<sup>3</sup>

**Fact:** The average age a child is first exploited through prostitution is 13 years old. If the child is a minor, they cannot legally consent to having sex.<sup>4</sup>

## 3. Myth: Only a small percentage of people view child pornography or purchase kids for sex.

**Fact:** 1 out of every 5 pornographic images is of a child; and 55% of child pornography comes from the U.S.<sup>5</sup>

**Fact:** The sale of child pornography in the U.S. has become more than a \$3 billion annual industry.<sup>6</sup>

## 4. Myth: Pornography isn't harmful to me or anyone else.

**Fact:** In a study of 932 sex addicts, 90% of the men, and 77% of the women indicated that looking at pornography "played a significant role in their addiction."<sup>7</sup>

**Fact:** According to the *Journal of Adolescent Health*, pornography use leads to: diminished trust between intimate couples, belief that promiscuity is the natural state, belief that marriage is sexually confining, and lack of attraction to family and child-raising.<sup>8</sup>

© 2012 The Defenders USA

P.O. Box 65337 Vancouver, WA 98665

1-866-HER-LIFE

[www.theDefendersUSA.org](http://www.theDefendersUSA.org)

[www.sharedhope.org](http://www.sharedhope.org)



Twitter:

@theDefendersUSA

Facebook:

/DefendersUSA

1. <http://caster.ssw.upenn.edu/~restes/CSEC.htm>

2. 28. Cite: Estes, R. & Weiner, N. "Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico." University of Pennsylvania, 2001

3. <http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/2005/61666.htm>

4. M.H. Silbert and A.M. Pines.

5. Estes, Richard J. and Neil Alan Weiner.

6. Family Safe Media, (2006). Pornography Statistics. Retrieved February 25, 2008, from Preserving Family Values in a Media Driven Society

website: [www.familysafemedia.com/pornography\\_statistics.html](http://www.familysafemedia.com/pornography_statistics.html)

7. [www.onenewsnow.com/2007/02/bill\\_tackles\\_us\\_child\\_porn\\_epi.php](http://www.onenewsnow.com/2007/02/bill_tackles_us_child_porn_epi.php)

8. Dolf Zillmann. "Influence of Unrestrained Access to Erotica on Adolescents' and Young Adults' Dispositions toward Sexuality." *Journal of Adolescent Health*, Vol. 27, Iss. 2, Supp. 1, pgs. 41-44, Aug. 2000. Abstract: ScienceDirect. Web. 25 Nov. 2009. <<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/B6T80-40RTM34-8/2/d8568349f3984dbaa02fbdd7a5f1a09>>.



## TIME TO MAN UP

*The solution to an international pandemic*

**The Defenders** are guys who have come to understand the marketplace of commercial sexual exploitation. Men who buy sex by the picture or act create the demand that results in the selling of America's children through sex trafficking. **Let's man up. Let's end demand.**

We are men who respond to the findings in *The National Report on Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking*, which reveal that over 100,000 children are exploited through prostitution in America each year — the average age of exploitation being 13-years-old.

**A Defender's first step is to take the pledge.**

### THE PLEDGE:

Today, I make the commitment to becoming a better man and my commitment is demonstrated by the following:

- I will fight against pornography, prostitution and any form of the commercial sex industry.
- I will hold my friends accountable for their actions toward women and children.
- I will take immediate action to protect those I love from this destructive market.



### HOW TO TAKE ACTION:



**Influence:** Become more informed and/or email 3 friends about The Defenders USA and the Defenders pledge.



**Give Time:** Host an awareness raising event and/or run a display booth at a local event.



**Give Money:** Donate to The Defenders USA and/or purchase Defenders gear online.



**Connect:** Get connected to other Defenders in your area or online. Share stories. Build relationships. Join the movement.

### JOIN THE CONVERSATION:

**theDefendersUSA.org**

Facebook/DefendersUSA

**@theDefendersUSA**

1-866-HER-LIFE

**SharedHope.org**



### MAN UP. END DEMAND.

