



Like 13K

Home | News | Sports | Photos | Video | Shows | Podcasts | Events | Contests | Links |

Search/Keyword



Local | US | World | Business | Entertainment | Traffic | Weather | Health | Tech | Odd | Silent Witness | Cheap Gas

Former congresswoman challenging Arizona laws on youth prostitution

by Jim Cross/KTAR.com (August 31st, 2011 @ 3:14pm)

PHOENIX -- A former Washington state congresswoman thinks child sex trafficking is far more prevalent in Arizona than most believe.

Linda Smith with Shared Hope International says the public's mindset about this crisis needs to change.

"I have not found, in 12 years of working on this and here over the last two or three years, a child or a woman that willing said 'send me, I want to be a prostitute,'" she said.

Smith feels Arizona needs to toughen up the laws against men who go after these young girls.

Girls as young as the age of nine can be lured into the world of prostitution and have a difficult time getting out.

One example was of a young girl who was told she had to do this for the safety of her younger sister. She was being stalked at a coffee house.

"Three little brothers and sisters, an ill dad and a mom who worked double shifts," Smith said. "This 12 year old was caring for the kids. They got her and for 18 months they were selling her with this over her head."

The penalty ranges quite a bit depending on the age of the girl.

If they are under the age of 15 one could spend up to 21 years in prison while if they are older than 15 the punishment is up to 180 days.

"That is putting them up for sale," Smith says. "They are for rent without much penalty in Arizona."

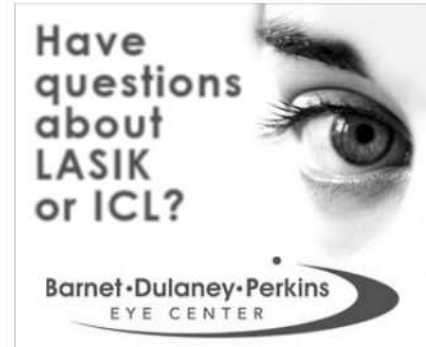
The average age of a teenage prostitute is 13 according to Smith.

Comments: 4 [Policy >>](#)

[Post Comment](#)

[f](#) [t](#) [in](#)

Recommend Be the first of your friends to recommend this.



Ask About An Advertiser

Most Viewed Stories

- Gilbert man coaches sons in fight
- 2 detention officers attacked
- Run-off likely in mayor's race
- Female inmate found dead in jail
- Prop to build QuikTrip rejected

Most Read On ArizonaSports.com

- McFadden is type of corner for Cards
- Kevin Kolb is 18th best quarterback in NFL
- Insider picks D-backs to win NL West
- D-backs just aren't attractive to most fans
- Cardinals add cornerback Bennett

Last 4 Comments

Really? [Reply](#) [Abuse](#) [Vote](#)
 Arizona Native
 I thought our biggest, prominent and priority issue here here from illegal's. You mean that there is child sex crimes happening in the dusky areas of truck stops and unincorporated areas in this county?

..... [Reply](#) [Abuse](#) [Vote](#)
 Solitaire
 Also the internet.

You Need To Wake Up....Trache [Reply](#) [Abuse](#) [Vote](#)
 Solitaire
 Try the downtown area, truck stops and VanBuren. It is prevalent in most cities.

Where did this come from? [Reply](#) [Abuse](#) [Vote](#)
 trahe
 Where did this come from? Maybe it's not as well known around here because the concept came with her from wherever she's from?

[Read More Comments](#)

Phoenix Business Directory

Business Location

Blinds	Home Theater
Bonds	Kitchen Cabinets
Buffet	Lamps
Cabinets	Nanny
Camp	Nursery
Candles	Outlet
Clothing	Party Supplies
Condos	Preschool
Cookies	Shoes
Curtains	Skin Care
Gift Baskets	T Shirts
Gift Shops	Theater
Home Decor	

by MojoPages