

Demand For Sex Trafficking: What You Need To Know

Individuals who buy commercial sex acts create the demand for sex trafficking. [Click here](#) for a list of venues within the commercial sex industry in which sex trafficking has been found to take place.

Many sex buyers may be unaware, ill-informed, or in direct denial of the abusive realities of sex trafficking situations as they exist within the broader sex trade. When sex trafficking is present, victims are often subjected to violence, threats, controlling behaviors, false promises, lies, and manipulation perpetrated by the traffickers/pimps. Popular media, including certain books, movies, television shows, and music, sometimes glamorize and romanticize the commercial sex industry without properly acknowledging the presence of sex trafficking. This glamorization then fuels the demand for paying someone else to have sex with them. Additionally, it is common that victims of trafficking will not discuss their situation with customers or ask for help because they are trained by their traffickers to lie and keep up the act. As a result, "johns" may not fully realize the truth behind the facade, or the pain behind the smile. In places and communities where there is a demand to buy sex, sex traffickers directly respond to the demand by seeking to offer a "product" to be sold for profit. To sex traffickers, the "product" they sell are the women and children they control.