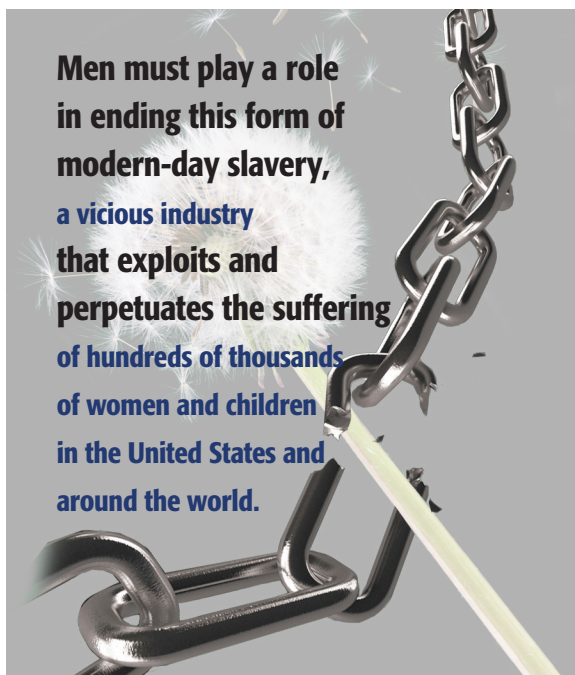


**Human Trafficking** is modern day slavery. It is the use of force, fraud, or coercion to compel another person to provide labor or commercial sex against their will, and it is one of the fastest growing criminal enterprises in the world. The Renaissance Male Project believes that men are complicit in this crime when they purchase sex because they create the demand—allowing others to exploit women and children for profit.



Men must play a role in ending this form of modern-day slavery, a vicious industry that exploits and perpetuates the suffering of hundreds of thousands of women and children in the United States and around the world.

**The United States State Department and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children estimates that:**

- 12.3 million enslaved globally
- 14,500–17,500 individuals are brought into the United States as human trafficking victims per year
- 100,000 children in the United States enter prostitution every year



**For trainings, workshops, or more information please contact:**

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### RESOURCES

- U.S. Department of State, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons: <http://www.state.gov/g/tip>
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking/index.html>
- U.S. Department of Justice: [http://www.usdoj.gov/whatwedo/whatwedo\\_ctip.html](http://www.usdoj.gov/whatwedo/whatwedo_ctip.html)
- National Center for Missing and Exploited Children: <http://www.ncmec.org>
- Polaris Project: <http://www.polarisproject.org>
- National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline: 1-888-3737-888
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/what-is-human-trafficking.html>

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## Renaissance Male Project Inc.

**A Multi-cultural & Multi-issue  
Progressive Men's Organization**

### **(1) CHALLENGE THE GLAMORIZATION OF PIMPS IN OUR CULTURE**

Mainstream culture has popularized the image of a pimp to the point that some men and boys look up to pimps as if they represent legitimate male role models and view “pimping” as a normal expression of masculinity. In reality, pimps play a central role in human trafficking and cause tremendous harm by routinely raping, beating, and terrorizing women and girls to keep them locked in prostitution. *Men can take a stand against pimps and pimping by renouncing the pimp culture and the music that glorifies it.*

### **(2) CONFRONT THE BELIEF THAT PROSTITUTION IS A “VICTIMLESS CRIME”**

Many men view prostitution as a “victimless crime.” But it is not. For example, women who are involved in prostitution are at a greater risk to be murdered than women in the general population (Potterat, 2004). Research also shows that women involved in prostitution suffer tremendous physical and mental trauma associated with prostitution. Viewing prostitution as a victimless crime or something that women “choose” allows men to ignore the fact that the average age of entry into prostitution in the United States is 13 years old, and that the vast majority of women engaged in prostitution would like to get out but feel trapped. *Men should stop viewing prostitution as a victimless crime and acknowledge the tremendous harm and suffering that their participation in prostitution causes.*

### **(3) STOP PATRONIZING STRIP CLUBS**

When men think of human trafficking, they often think of brothels in countries outside of the United States. However, strip clubs in the United States and abroad may be a place where human trafficking victims go unnoticed or unidentified. Strip clubs are places of manufactured pleasure where strippers are routinely sexually harassed and assaulted by owners, patrons, and security personnel. Men rarely consider whether women working in strip clubs are coerced into that line of work, because to do so would conflict with the pleasure of participating in commercialized sex venues. Strip clubs—like brothels—are the most popular venues where the purchase of sexual services from women occurs the most. *Men can combat human trafficking by no longer patronizing strip clubs and by encouraging their friends and co-workers to do the same.*

The following list suggests specific actions that men and boys can take to end this atrocity that is occurring here in the United States and around the world.

### **(4) DON'T CONSUME PORNOGRAPHY**

Pornography manipulates male sexuality, popularizes unhealthy attitudes towards sex and sexuality, and eroticizes violence against women. Pornography leads men and boys to believe that certain sexual acts are normal, when in fact sexual acts that are non-consensual, offensive and coupled with violent intent result in the pain, suffering, and humiliation of women and children. In addition, a disproportionate amount of mainstream pornography sexualizes younger women with such titles as “teens,” “barely 18,” “cheerleaders,” etc. Targeting younger women socializes men to develop appetites for younger and younger women and creates a “pedophile-like culture” among men. Victims of human trafficking have also been forced into pornography. *Men can stop the voyeurism of sex and sex acts that fuel human trafficking by refusing to consume pornography and encourage others to do the same.*

### **(5) TACKLE MALE CHAUVINISM AND SEXISM ONLINE**

Contrary to the myth that men do not gossip, men spend a significant amount of time online discussing their sexual exploits. The internet provides many men with the ability to mask their identities while indulging in racist, sexist, and violent diatribes against women and girls. Choosing to be a critical voice online is an extremely important way to educate and inform men and boys about their choices. *Men can change this culture by starting threads in online forums that cause men to talk about their attitudes towards women and how these attitudes and behaviors are linked to human trafficking.*

### **(6) END SEX TOURISM**

Men in the United States and other “first world” nations routinely travel overseas and have sex with women in developing countries. When men engage in these practices, they do not acknowledge the fact that many trafficked women and children come from developing countries—even in countries where prostitution is “legal.” Traveling overseas grants men a great deal of anonymity. *As men, we have a responsibility to confront the men that go overseas and participate in sex tourism.*

### **(7) TALK TO MEN AND BOYS ABOUT MEN'S ISSUES IN MALE SPACES**

The only way to change men is by engaging spaces where men and boys talk and develop their ideas and attitudes towards sex and sexuality. Males spaces such as barber-shops, locker rooms, fraternities, and union halls are the real classrooms where boys learn to become men and where men develop most of their ideas about how to interact with women. If men do not feel comfortable talking about these issues in male spaces, they can drop off informational brochures and make themselves available to talk with other men and boys when they have questions or concerns. *As men, we need to turn male spaces into circles of accountability where men learn about non-violence, social justice, and ending violence against women.*

### **(8) SUPPORT ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING POLICIES**

President Obama declared January 2010 as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month. However, more substantive legislation is required to end human trafficking. Men can educate themselves about the issues by visiting anti-trafficking organizations and by asking their elected officials what they have done to support or sponsor anti-human trafficking legislation. *One of the most important acts men can do to stop human trafficking is to support anti-trafficking legislation at the local, state or federal level.*

### **(9) SUPPORT CREATION OF “JOHN SCHOOLS”**

There would be no human trafficking if there were was no demand for it! Strategies aimed at ending human trafficking must focus on eliminating the demand. “John Schools” are education programs designed to educate customers apprehended by law enforcement who attempted to purchase sex. By teaching the legal and health effects of buying sex and the realities of prostitution, such schools impart knowledge that can reduce demand, making men conscious of how their actions can spur on human trafficking. *Learn whether or not your local community has a John School. If not, encourage your local prosecutor's office or city counsel to start one.*

### **(10) RAISE SONS AND MENTOR BOYS TO CHALLENGE OPPRESSION**

No boy is destined to be a “john”, a pimp, or a human trafficker. Raising young men in circles of accountability, to be respectful and protective of all women and children is one of the most important things men can do to stop human trafficking. *Talk about human trafficking as a modern form of slavery to help convince men and boys to become allies in the fight to end this form of oppression.*