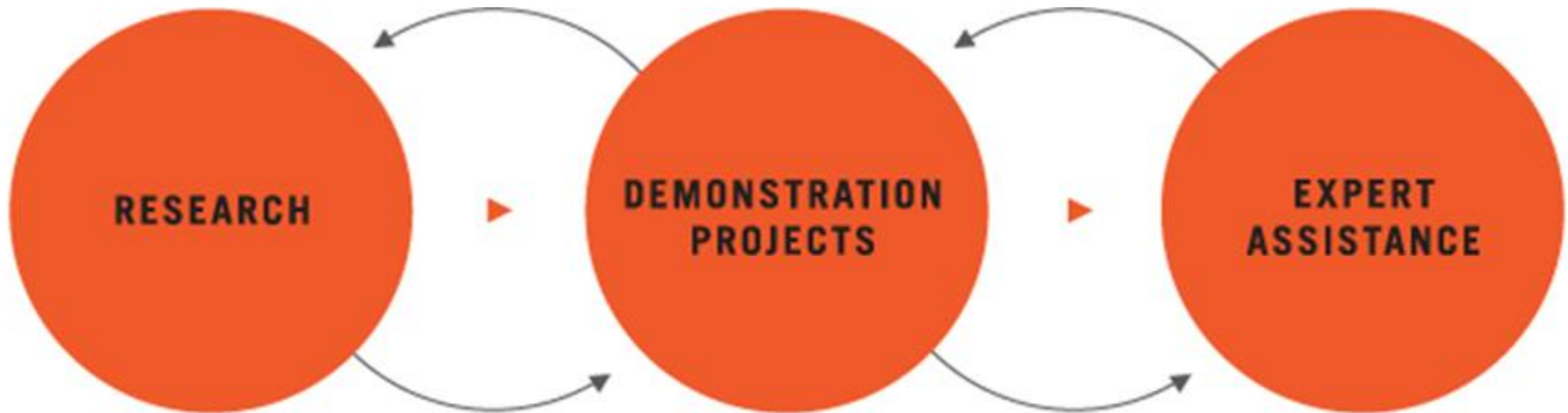


Sexual assault, sex trafficking, and prostitution

Trauma, trafficking and connection to IPV/IPSA

Miriam Goodman, LMSW

The Center's Work



Trauma: What is it and why does it matter?

- Results from an event, series of events, or set of circumstance that is experienced by an individual as physically or emotionally harmful or threatening and that lasting adverse effects on the individual's functioning and the individual's psychological, social, emotional or spiritual well-being
- Micro (interpersonal trauma) and Macro (systemic trauma and oppression) experiences

Interpersonal Trauma

Immediate Reactions

Fight

Flight

***Freeze**

Trauma Reactions:

A new lens to understand challenging behavior

▶ Intrusive thoughts/feelings

- ▶ The client who reports that she is unable to sleep/has racing thoughts
- ▶ The client who reports physical pain, but no doctor can offer a medical explanation

▶ Avoidance

- ▶ The client who never comes in to do their mandate
- ▶ The client who shows no affect

▶ Hyperarousal

- ▶ The client who cannot sit still
- ▶ The client who continuously interrupts you

▶ Reenactment

- ▶ The client who needs to talk and take control over the session

▶ Dissociation

- ▶ The client who starts talking with a different voice or attitude
- ▶ The client who completely checks out during an interview/session
- ▶ The client who shows no affect while talking about traumatic events



Secrecy

Examples of traumas:

- Childhood Sexual Abuse
- Childhood Physical abuse
- Verbal/Emotional Abuse
- Domestic/Sexual Violence
- Poverty
- Rape
- Neglect

Shame

Silence

Context of Trauma Histories



Prostitution, Trafficking and IPV

What's in a word?

Prostitute

What's in a word?

Prostitute

**Trafficking
Victim**

What's in a word?

Prostitute

**Trafficking
Victim**

**Victim of
IPV/IPSA**

-
- 1) Who's responsible?
 - 2) What's the response?

What is trafficking?

The federal definition of human trafficking defined by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) as:

- The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by **force**, **fraud**, or **coercion**;
- A commercial sex act is induced through force, fraud, or coercion
- A person induced to perform a commercial sex act has not attained 18 years of age

Root Causes/Pathways

Push Factors

- ▶ Poverty
- ▶ Lack of economic opportunity
- ▶ Migration
- ▶ Physical and/or Sexual abuse
- ▶ Trauma
- ▶ Objectification of women

Pull Factors

- ▶ Opportunity and adventure
- ▶ Promises of money
- ▶ False pretenses of love
- ▶ Hope for a better life

Three Key Elements

Force

- Physical Assault
- Sexual Assault
- Emotional Abuse
- Damage to property
- Branding

FEAR

Fraud

- Pretending to be a boyfriend
- Promise of making money for a future business that never happens
- Promise of money or earnings that never materialize
- Required to do things that were not originally planned

SECRECY

Coercion

- Exposing a secret
- Threats of violence to victim, family or friends
- Isolation
- Keeping control of documents
- Threatening to take custody
- Threatening to call authorities immigration and/or police

SHAME

IPV or Trafficking?

- ▶ Physical Assault
- ▶ Sexual Assault
- ▶ Emotional Abuse
- ▶ Damage to property
- ▶ Branding
- ▶ Pretending to be a boyfriend
- ▶ Promise of making money for a future business that never happens
- ▶ Promise of money or earnings that never materialize
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Pimp Controlled Prostitution/ Sex Trafficking/Domestic Trafficking

“Traumatic Bonding” and “Love”

- ▶ “turned out” at a young age
- ▶ Pimp provides
 - ▶ Shelter, food, clothes, basic needs
 - ▶ Sense of safety from unsafe family/community/living situation
 - ▶ Promise of future
 - ▶ Love
 - ▶ Companionship
- ▶ Psychological Abuse
- ▶ **Isolation**
 - ▶ Kept in insular community
 - ▶ Stable of folks
 - ▶ Recreation of family
 - ▶ Using other woman
- ▶ **Money/ Sense of worth**
 - ▶ Power
 - ▶ Self worth/worth of attention direct result of financial worth

RULES

- Do not talk about your pimp
- Do not talk to or look at other pimps
- Do not talk to other women who are not your wife-in-laws
- Snitches get stitches
- Pimps Up, Hoes down
- Love your daddy

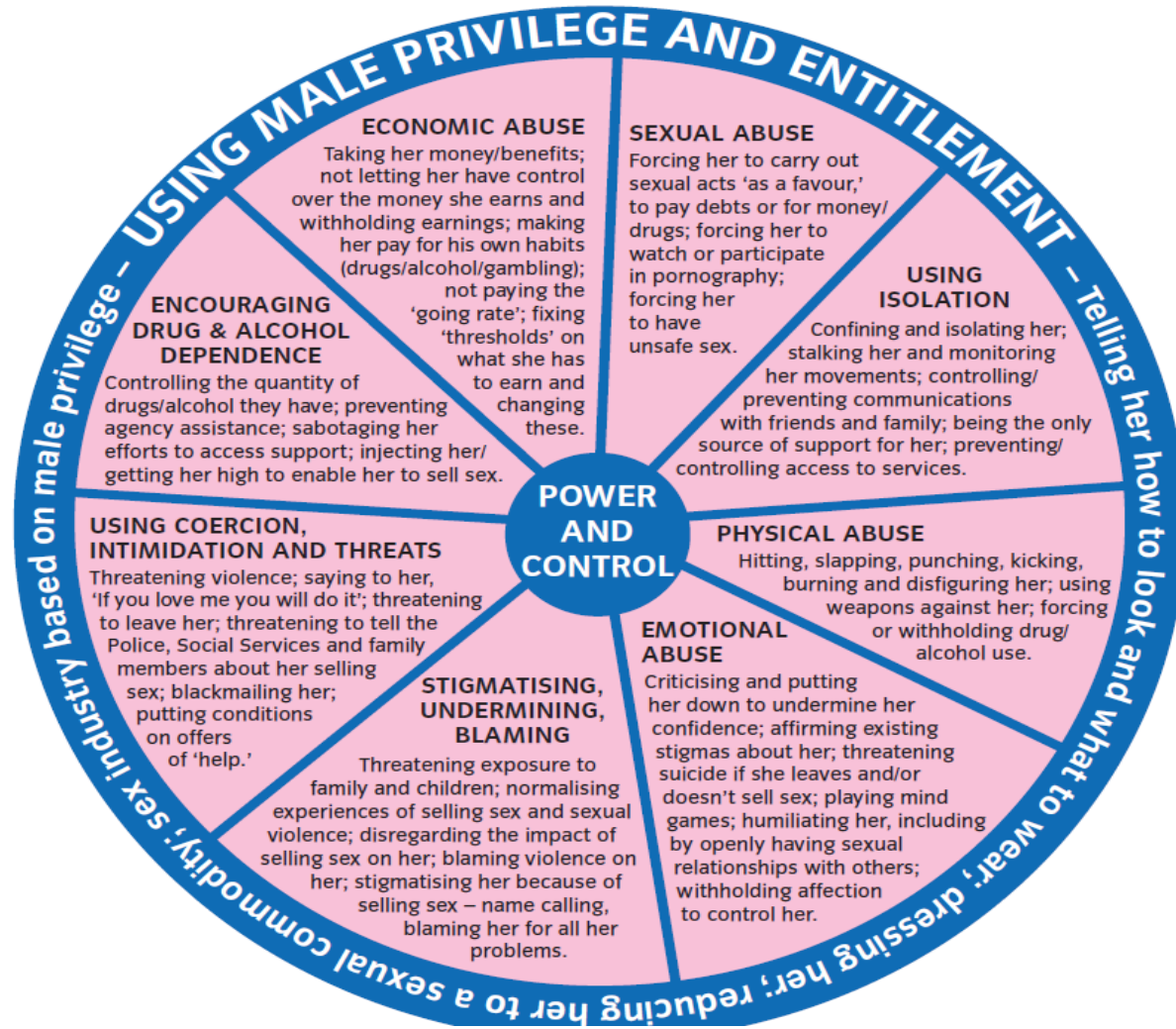
LANGUAGE

- ▶ **The Life or The Game:** The life of prostitution
- ▶ **Daddy:** The pimp
- ▶ **P.I.:** In reference to another pimp
- ▶ **Stable:** A group of women/girls under pimp control
- ▶ **Bottom Bitch/Bottom Girl:** The head girl
- ▶ **Breaking:** To give all your money to your pimp
- ▶ **Choosing:** To choose another pimp
- ▶ **Folks/Family:** Your pimp or the person for whom you work
- ▶ **Gorilla Pimp:** A pimp who uses force to get a woman
- ▶ **Suave Pimp:** A pimp who uses sweetness and kindness to seduce women
- ▶ **Track/Stroll:** A street location for prostitution
- ▶ **Turnout:** Someone who recruits you into “the life”
- ▶ **Wife-in-Law:** A group of women who work for the same pimp
- ▶ **Dates/Johns/Trick:** Buyers/ Clients
- ▶ **In House:** Someone who works from inside a house
- ▶ **Out of Pocket:** To look at or talk to another pimp
- ▶ **Stay in Pocket:** To play by the rules of “the game”
- ▶ **Renegade:** To work for oneself or to not have a pimp
- ▶ **Pimps Up, Hos Down...** A reference to power and status or a rule of standing in the street and not being allowed on the sidewalk
- ▶ **Pimp Circle...** A group of pimps surrounding a girl for purposes of intimidation
- ▶ **Square:** Those who were never in “the life”
- ▶ **Squaring Up:** To get out of the game

The Overlap

- ▶ Intimate partner violence: Pimp = Intimate partner
- ▶ Power and Control > Coercive Control
 - ▶ Sexual, physical, emotional abuse
 - ▶ Control over actions
 - ▶ Control over money
 - ▶ Isolation
- ▶ Stigma:
 - ▶ Being a victim
 - ▶ Staying with perpetrator
- ▶ Contact with criminal justice system
- ▶ Orders of protection
- ▶ Victims of IPV/DV/SA separate from trafficking experiences

POWER & CONTROL WHEEL FOR WOMEN INVOLVED IN STREET PROSTITUTION



Copyrighted to Safe Exit at Toynbee Hall, with thanks to the London Borough of Tower Hamlets Domestic Violence Team and the Stella Project.

Inspired and adapted from the "Power & Control Equality Wheels" developed by:
Domestic Abuse Intervention Project, 202 East Superior Street, Duluth, MN 55802 USA

The Differences

- ▶ Stigma: “prostitute”, “criminal”, “choice”
- ▶ Victim/Defendant
- ▶ Traditional DV/SA providers do not ask questions
- ▶ Don't exactly fit in to traditional programming and services
 - judgment from other survivors/staff
- ▶ Response from law enforcement/judicial system
- ▶ Response from staff: judges, attorneys, probation, service providers
- ▶ SHAME

Case Example: Alice

- ▶ With her pimp for over 20 years
- ▶ Multiple hospitalizations for wounds
- ▶ Contact with DV advocates
- ▶ Arrested for prostitution
- ▶ Engaged with court based DV advocate
 - ▶ Trained in working with trafficking victims

Q and A

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