

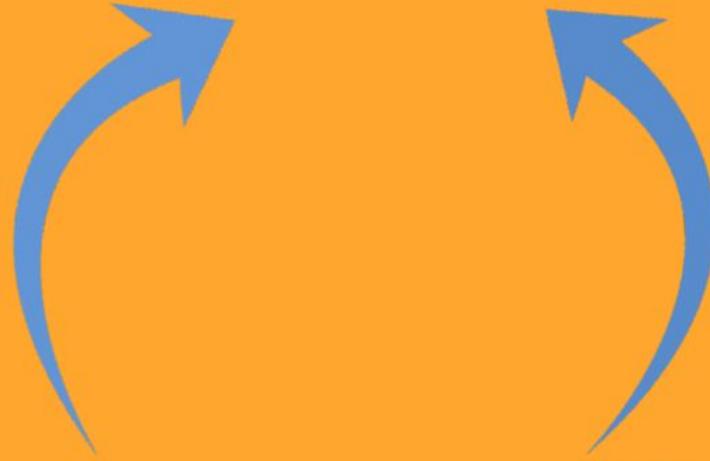


Sexual Abuse to Prison Pipeline

Actions for NOW



Justice Centers



School

**Child
Prostitution**



- Gender-specific physical and mental healthcare

Justice Centers



- Train teachers and staff
- Provide appropriate referrals

- End arrest of youth prostitution
- Criminalize men who seek prostitutes

School

**Child
Prostitution**

Point 1: Schools

Goal: Teacher and staff training

The Problem

- Crimes girls are commonly arrested for are symptoms of trauma
 - Running away, substance abuse, truancy
- Without sufficient counseling, an abuse victim may only receive the school's attention after "acting out"
- Punitive school policies are linked to involvement with the justice system
 - Girls penalized for defending themselves
 - Especially girls of color



Possible Areas of Focus

- Mandate training for teachers and staff on how to recognize signs of sexual abuse and respond to young girls appropriately
- Increase funding for counseling staff, and establish protocols to make sure that students are referred to counselors when needed
- Review and revise school policies to ensure that punishments for victimized girls are modified appropriately
 - Abandon zero-tolerance disciplinary policies



Point 2: Child Prostitution

Goal: End arrest of children and/or decrease demand

The Problem

- Victims of child sex trafficking / minors are being arrested, detained, and prosecuted for prostitution, prostitution-related offenses, and other acts related to their sexual exploitation
 - Many jurisdictions still view victims of child sex trafficking as perpetrators. These girls are arrested on charges of prostitution even though they are too young to legally consent to sex
- Laws that criminalize the act of sex with minors are too rarely enforced in the context of child sex trafficking. In many cases, child-sex buyers escape with little or no accountability, despite the traumatic effect of their acts on the victims



Possible Areas of Focus

- State laws and delinquency codes should define children under the age of 18 who engage in commercial sex acts as victims of trafficking and prohibit their arrest, detention, and prosecution
 - Consistent with state laws that declare minors to be legally incapable of consenting to sex
- Educate the public on the role of buyers in perpetuating systematic violence against underage girls and other vulnerable youth
- Increase training of law enforcement and prosecutors on investigations and prosecutions of child-sex buyers and redirect resources to scale up operations against buyers rather than criminalizing victims
- Instruct federal and state anti-trafficking task forces throughout the country to target buyers of child sex in their operations
- Encourage the use of federal anti-trafficking statutes and state laws that criminalize sex with minors to prosecute buyers of underage girls



Point 3: Justice System

Goal: Gender-specific physical and mental health care

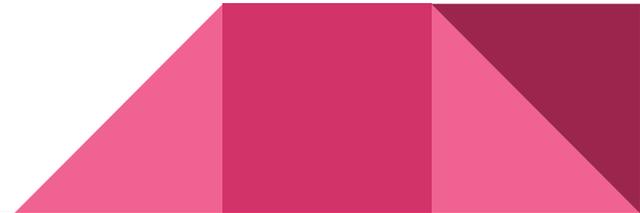
The Problem

- Limited access to services to address trauma
 - Mental health counselors rarely licensed professionals
 - Many girls not evaluated for mental health symptoms at all
- Limited access to gynecological and pediatric care
 - Includes pregnancy testing and prenatal care/education
- Routine processes can re-traumatize victims
 - Use of restraints, strip searches, isolation
- Possibility of continued abuse while on the inside



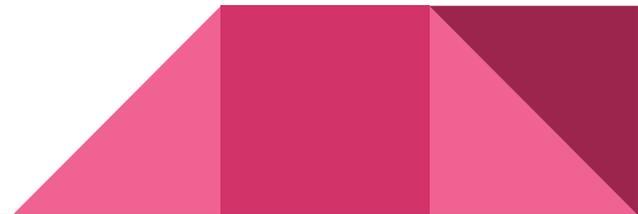
Strong link between abuse and mental health problems for females:

- Traumatic conditions in detention centers lead to...
 - Higher rates of depression for girls
 - Higher rates of self harm
 - Exacerbation of existing trauma
- Mental health treatment leads to...
 - Reduced recidivism
 - Lower pregnancy rates



Possible Areas of Focus

- Reauthorize and strengthen the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP A)
 - Increase funding to cover gender-specific, trauma-focused care
 - Require states to screen for trauma and sexual exploitation at entry
 - Increase metrics and data collection
- Require juvenile detention facilities to comply with standards for healthcare set forth by National Commission on Correctional Healthcare, and meet guidelines established by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists



Additional Items for Discussion

- Use of Title IX to improve resources in schools (*See additional info sheet*)
 - Use of Medicaid funds to enhance mental health systems
 - Nationwide webinar on the Sex Abuse to Prison Pipeline
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Additional Information

[The Sexual Abuse to Prison Pipeline: The Girl's Story](#) by the Human Rights Project for Girls, Georgetown Law Center on Poverty and Inequality, and the Ms. Foundation

[Black Girls Matter: Pushed Out, Over policed, and Unprotected](#) by the African American Policy Forum and the Center for Intersectionality and Social Policy Studies

[Kept Out](#) by Georgetown Law Human Rights Institute

[SOS Project: Girls, Status Offences, and the Need For a Less Punitive and More Empowering Approach](#) by Coalition for Juvenile Justice

[Understanding and Responding to Girls' Delinquency](#) by U.S. Department of Justice

[Effects of Sexual Abuse](#), the [Aftermath of Sexual Abuse](#), and [Recovering from Sexual Abuse](#) by the Rape, Abuse, & Incest National Network (RAINN)

[State Policies, Federal Laws, Court Decisions, and Issues Backgrounds on Sexual Abuse](#) by RAINN

Media Responses to The Sexual Abuse to Prison Pipeline

[How Girls of Color Are Unjustly Arrested and Incarcerated](#) from The Root

[Girls Are The Fastest Growing Group In The Juvenile Justice System](#) from Mother Jones

[The Sickening Realities of the Sexual Abuse to Prison Pipeline](#) from NY Magazine

[The Sexual Abuse to Prison Pipeline](#) from MSNBC

[The Girls Matter Too](#) from The Huffington Post

[My Brother's Keeper](#) by The White House; programming that excludes young girls of color

[My Brother's Keeper, but Maybe Not My Sister's](#) by The Atlantic

[Why Are There So Many LGBT Youth In prison?](#) by attn