People of color and LGBTQ+ people as targets

According to a 2016 journal article from Yale’s Journal of Law & Feminism

- “Racism and structural oppression trap a disproportionate number of women and girls of color into prostitution.”
- “The commercial sex industry uses the racial sexual stereotypes and other strategies to intentionally exploit, oppress, and demoralize people of color in prostitution.”
- “Contrary to the pervasive narrative about prostitution as a form of sexual liberation and economic freedom, an alternative narrative exposes prostitution in America as a form of structural oppression in which race, gender, and class intersect.”
- “In particular, the role of the State in supporting laws and policies that coerce people of color into prostitution and otherwise make them vulnerable to sexual abuse and exploitation must remain a continued focus on critical race feminist scholarship and legal interventions.”

According to an April 2019 Washington Post article

- 128 transgender or gender nonconforming people have been killed in the US since 2013

According to a recent report by the Polaris Project

- Up to 40% of homeless youth identify as LGBTQ+; 46% of these people have run away due to family rejections
- Homeless LGBTQ+ youth are 7.4 times as likely to experience sexual abuse than their heterosexual counterparts
- Traffickers may seek to meet the youth’s needs as a way to build rapport and dependency.
- LGBTQ+ youth face higher rates of discrimination, violence, and economic instability than their non-LGBTQ+ peers. When faced with fewer resources, employment opportunities, or social supports, LGBTQ+ youth who are away from home must find ways to meet their basic needs and may therefore enter the street economy, engaging in commercial sex to meet these needs.