

El Dorado County Health and Human Services Agency Foster Youth and Human Trafficking (FYHT) Task Force

Don Ashton, MPA
Director

Mark S. Contois, MSW
Assistant Director



THE NEED: VICKI'S STORY

www.CaliforniaAgainstSlavery.org

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Commercial sexual exploitation (CSE) is the sexual abuse of children and youth through the exchange of sex or sexual acts for drugs, food, shelter, protection, other basics of life, and/or money. Sexual exploitation includes:

- Involving children and youth in creating pornography.
- Involving children and youth in creating sexually explicit websites.

A child identified as a victim of CSE is considered a **commercially sexually exploited child (CSEC)**. CSEC are often victims of:

- Domestic Human Trafficking
- Modern Day Slavery

Commercially Sexually Exploited Children

National Statistics

The Justice Department estimates that each year at least 200,000 children are trafficked for sex in the U.S., The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) estimates that as many as 300,000 children are at risk of becoming victims of CSE in the United States.

Approximately 83 percent of confirmed sex trafficking victims in this country are United States citizens, and 40 percent of cases involve children.

There are 399,546 Foster Youth in the United States:

- 96,809 in California
- 428 in El Dorado County

There are 494,131 Juvenile Probation Youth in the United States:

- 118,058 in California
- 375 in El Dorado County

Human trafficking, which includes commercial sexual exploitation (CSE), is a \$32 billion per year worldwide industry. After drug trafficking and counterfeiting, it is the world's most profitable criminal activity.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services , Administration for Children, Youth and Families (ACYF), *Guidance to States and Services on Addressing Human Trafficking of Children and Youth in the United States* (2014)

Child Welfare Information Gateway. Available online at <https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/factsheets/foster.cfm>

National Center for Juvenile Justice. (2013). *National Juvenile Court Data Archive: Juvenile court case records 1985-2010*

THE SCOPE

CSEC in California

Within the United States, California has emerged as a magnet for commercial sexual exploitation (“CSE”) of children (“CSEC”). The FBI has determined that three of the nation’s thirteen High Intensity Child Prostitution areas are located in California: the San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego metropolitan areas.

- Attorney General Kamala Harris stated that “Human trafficking is big business in California and is a high profit criminal industry that has expanded across the globe.”
- A report conducted by the California Child Welfare Council found that anywhere from **50 percent to 80 percent** of the victims of commercial sexual exploitation, including child sex trafficking, are, or were formerly, involved with child welfare.
- A survey conducted by the Los Angeles Probation Department revealed that **59 percent** of the 174 juveniles arrested on prostitution-related charges in the County were in the foster care system and victims were often recruited by sex traffickers and pimps from group homes.

Kate Walker, California Child Welfare Council, *Ending The Commercial Sexual Exploitation Of Children: A Call For Multi-System Collaboration In California* (2013)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children, Youth and Families (ACYF), *Guidance to States and Services on Addressing Human Trafficking of Children and Youth in the United States* (2014)

CSEC in El Dorado County

2010 – 2012

- Identified Child Welfare Services CSEC Cases: 3

2013 – Present

- Identified Child Welfare Services and Probation CSEC Cases: 15

THE SCOPE

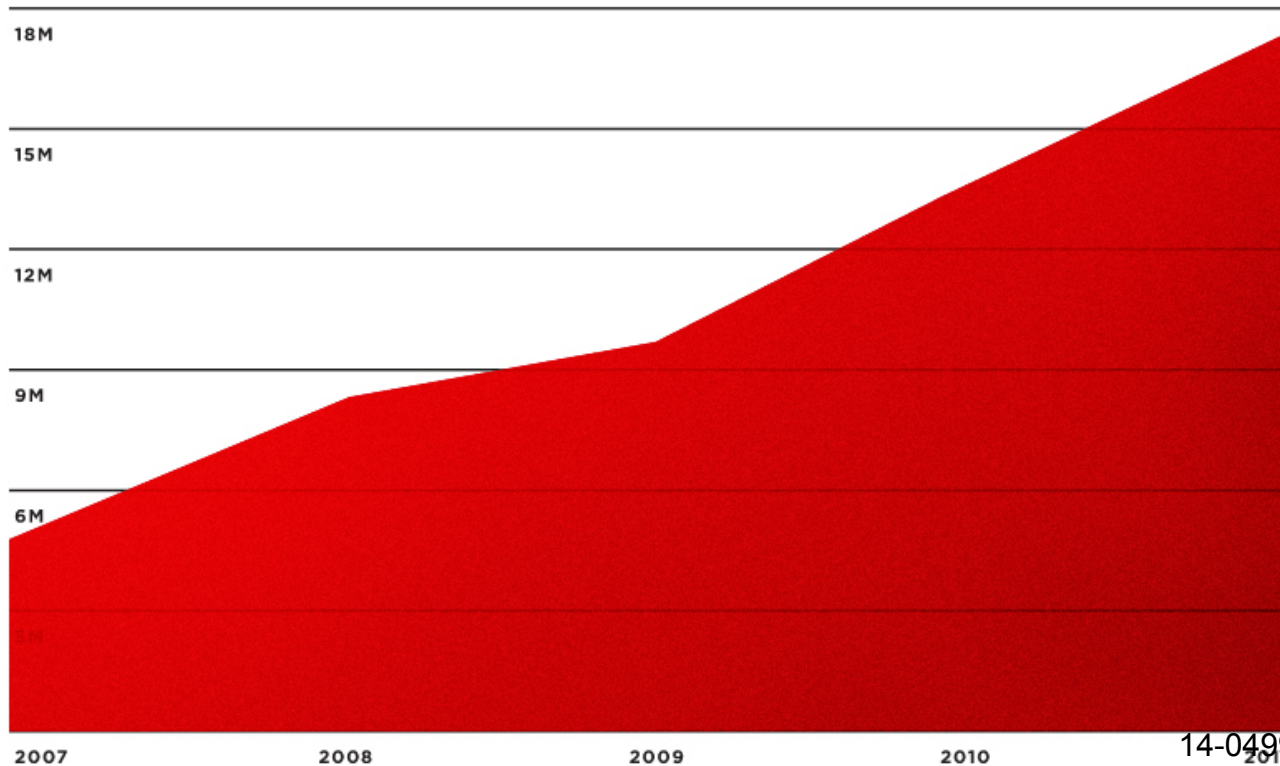
Barriers

- Technology
 - ❖ Computers and the internet (social media sites, bulletin boards, adult classifieds, escort web sites, file sharing, the deep web)
 - ❖ Mobile Devices (texting, email, Twitter, Snapchat, KIK)
- Data Collection and Sharing (Attorney General's CSEC Roundtable, Thorn)
 - ❖ Thorn drives technology innovation to fight the sexual exploitation of children. The Thorn Technology Task Force is comprised of more than 20 leading technology companies (Goggle, Microsoft, Twitter, Yahoo) that lend their knowledge, time and resources.
- Funding and Specialized Training
- Changing the Conversation

NUMBER OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY FILES REPORTED ANNUALLY

The number of images/videos submitted to NCMEC by law enforcement and reviewed by the Child Victim Identification Program has increased from 450,000 in 2004 to more than 17 million in 2011. Technology has made it easier for predators to create and share child pornography and connect with like-minded individuals. The increased availability of exploitative content has the effect of "normalizing" behaviors that are both dangerous and illegal.

Source: National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC)



3 OUT OF 4 VICTIMS ARE TRAFFICKED ONLINE

Over three-quarters of underage sex trafficking victims we spoke with said they had been advertised or sold online. The Internet simplifies illegal transactions for johns, and helps create new opportunities for pimps who profit from the sexual victimization of children.

Source: Thorn Survivor Survey



CSEC IN THE MEDIA AND THE SACRAMENTO HUB

Sacramento is a central hub for sex trafficking.

- Centrally located between Stockton, the Bay Area, and Reno.
- Major freeways intersect in Sacramento



THE SACRAMENTO BEE sacbee.com **Capitol and California**

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Thursday, April 3, 2014 KEYWORD SEARCH **SEARCH**

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Sex trade in eight cities worth nearly \$1 billion, study says

By Kevin G. Hall and Daniel White
McClatchy Washington Bureau

Published: Wednesday, Mar. 12, 2014 - 12:00 am
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WASHINGTON -- A study to be released Wednesday about the world's oldest profession concludes that the lucrative underground commercial sex economy in eight large U.S. metropolitan areas brings in anywhere from \$40 million annually to as much as nearly \$300 million.

The unprecedented 340-page study by the Urban Institute, a policy research group, finds _ not surprisingly _ that the reach of the Internet has facilitated the flesh trade and made it harder to combat. The report and its in-depth interviews with 73 convicted pimps and traffickers also challenges conventional wisdom on the illicit side of the sex industry.

"We often think about the commercial sex

MORE INFORMATION

- Viewpoints: Human trafficking hotlines save lives
- Viewpoints: Help needed for victims of human trafficking
- Urban Institute's The Hustle
- Urban Institute Sex report
- 031114-factbox-sextraffic

The prostitution economy

A new study examines the size and structure of the underground commercial sex economy in eight U.S. cities. Some of the findings:

City	Estimates for cities studied (except Kansas City); in millions, for 2007	Percentage of survey respondents who reported expenses in these categories
Atlanta	\$290	Cars, transportation: 67%
Miami	235	Housing: 65%
Seattle	112	Clothing, etc. for prostitutes: 46%
Washington, D.C.	103	Advertising: 46%
Dallas	98.8	Hotels, motels: 44%
San Diego	96.6	Cellphones, communication: 40%
Denver	39.9	Legal expenses: 29%
		Computers, internet: 28%

City	Average weekly take	Percentage of respondents using
Atlanta	\$32,833	Online ads: 53%
Denver	\$31,200	Online classifieds: 50%

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CALIFORNIA CHILD WELFARE COUNCIL

The Child Welfare Council was created by the California Legislature to serve as an advisory body to improve the collaboration and processes of the multiple agencies, programs and courts that serve children and youth in California's child welfare and foster care systems.

Child Welfare Council Initiatives:

- Placement: Establish safe and secure emergency and transitional placements for CSEC victims.
- Identification: Implement cross-system screening tools to identify CSEC and those at risk.
- Training: Mandate training for all professionals working with youth in child-serving systems.
- Data: Develop protocols and strategies to coordinate, collect and share data across systems.

The Foster Youth and Human Trafficking Task Force
(FYHT)

First Identified CSEC in El Dorado County: May 2010

First Task Force Planning Meeting: November 2013

First FYHT Case Staffing: November 2013

Task Force Members must have a strong working knowledge of their individual disciplines, to include the policy & procedures of their departments, the laws and regulations that govern their profession;

and

THE ABSOLUTE DESIRE TO SERVE ON THE TASK FORCE.

THE FYHT TASK FORCE

Agency Representation: Who's at the Table?

- El Dorado County Health & Human Services Agency
 - ❖ Child Welfare Services (CWS)
 - ❖ Public Health
 - ❖ Mental Health
- El Dorado County Probation
- El Dorado County Office of Education



- El Dorado County Sheriff's Office
- El Dorado County District Attorney's Office
- El Dorado County Counsel
- Placerville Police Department

The FYHT Task Force: A Victim- Centered Multidisciplinary Team (MDT)

FYHT: A MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM (MDT)

Chief Brian Richart – County Probation

- CSEC youth transition between the delinquency and dependency courts.
- Our agencies share the responsibility to provide treatment and services to the children and families of El Dorado County.
- The FYHT MDT has resulted in increased collaboration between HHS and County Probation.
- These collaborative efforts will improve the immediate and long term outcomes for the children and families we serve.

Paula Frantz – County Counsel

- MDT
 - ❖ Functions, Process, and Confidentiality
 - ❖ Lessons Learned
- The roles of the FYHT Task Force and the Child Protection Unit (CPU)

- District Attorney's Office
- LT. Kim Nida – Placerville Police Department
- Detective Netashia Gallagher – El Dorado County Sheriff's Office – West Slope
- Detective Paul Kuhn – El Dorado County Sheriff's Office – South Lake Tahoe

THE FYHT TASK FORCE: TOOLS FOR COLLABORATION

California Department of Justice Missing Persons Form (CJIS 8568)

The image displays two side-by-side screenshots of the California Department of Justice Missing Person Report form (CJIS 8568). The left screenshot shows the top portion of the form, including the title 'MISSING PERSON REPORT Pursuant to Penal Code §13519.07(e)', a header with the state seal and 'STATE OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE', and various input fields for personal information, contact details, and reporting agency information. The right screenshot shows the bottom portion of the form, including a 'CAUTION' section with specific instructions for reporting a Commercially Sexually Exploited Child (CSEC) and Human Trafficking Victim, and a section for the reporting officer's signature and date.

This is the tool that has opened the doors of communication between Child Welfare Services and Law Enforcement for the identification and treatment of CSEC victims.

THE FYHT TASK FORCE: TOOLS FOR COLLABORATION

FYHT BOLO

The FYHT Bulletin was created by El Dorado County Health and Human Services Agency as a tool to be distributed to law enforcement and our task force partners. This BOLO gives a face to the victim, changes the conversation, and invests everyone in the safety of the child.



EL DORADO COUNTY
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

Donald Ashton, Director

Child Welfare Services F.Y.H.T. Bulletin:

Issue Date: 00/00/0000

AT RISK CHILD / C.S.E.C. **ACTIVE WARRANT** **W.I.C. 300 : Medical Clearance Needed**

Warrant Number: 000000

Date of Issue: 00/00/0000

Night Service Approved

Name: Jane Doe	DOB: 00/00/0000
Sex: Female	Race: White
Height: 5'6"	Weight: 110
Hair: Black	Eyes: Brown
Scars/Marks/Tattoos or Unknown: Unknown	

Jane Doe has black and brown eyes. Jane is 15 years old 00-00-00. Jane is 5'6" tall and weighs approximately 110 pounds, but may have lost significant weight recently due to significant methamphetamine and heroin use. Jane lives in a residential drug treatment facility in Any Town and is currently AWOL from her placement since December 11th, 2013 (Any Town Police Department Missing Person Report 13-00000)

Jane has been known to frequent the Placerville area and has friends and relatives in El Dorado County. Jane has been identified by the El Dorado County FYHT Task Force as a C.S.E.C. victim and may be found in the company of other C.S.E.C. or offenders. If you have any information please contact 911 or any of the following agencies:

El Dorado County Child Abuse Hotline: (530) 642-7100 or Assistant Director Mark S. Contois (24 hr.) (530) 401-0635
El Dorado Sheriff's Office: (530) 626-4911
Placerville Police Department: (530) 642-5280
South Lake Tahoe Police Department: 911 or (530) 542-6100

Foster Youth and Human Trafficking (F.Y.H.T.)

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)

Insert
Picture
Here

THE FYHT TASK FORCE: INITIATIVES, EMERGING PRACTICES AND NEEDS

- HHSA and FYHT work in collaboration with the El Dorado County Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC). CAPC sponsors the mandated reporter training in El Dorado County, and we are working with the Council to include CSEC and Human Trafficking as part of the required training curriculum for mandated reporters.
- The FYHT Task Force is one of a handful of CSEC task forces in California. The FYHT Task Force has been identified by CWDA and the State Attorney General's Office as a promising and innovative task force model.
- SB1193 makes it a requirement for specified businesses (i.e. establishments with a license to sell alcohol for off-site consumption, airports, hospital emergency rooms, etc.) to post notices advertising telephone tip lines for members of the public and victims of human trafficking. We will need collaborative support to implement this state law and potentially a similar local ordinance to include a wider range of business establishments.
- Local Needs:
 - ❖ Community Involvement
 - ❖ Care Providers

Below is a list of counties who have partnered with the Alameda County District Attorney's BAHC 2 Freedom Initiative.

- El Dorado County
- Marin County
- San Francisco County
- San Mateo County
- Santa Barbara County
- Santa Clara County
- Stanislaus County
- Los Angeles County

For more information:
BAHC2Freedom.org
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 El Dorado County.

STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING!

If you or someone you know is being forced to engage in any activity and cannot leave – whether it is commercial sex, housework, farm work, construction, factory, retail, or restaurant work, or any other activity – call the **National Human Trafficking Resource Center** at

Si a usted, o a alguien que conoce, lo están forzando a hacer algo y no lo dejan ir – ya sea sexo por dinero, trabajo de casa, campo agrícola, construcción, fábrica, en una tienda minorista o restaurante, o cualquier otra actividad – llame al **Centro Nacional de Recursos para la Trata de Personas** al

如果您本人或您认识的人被迫 从事任何活动且无法脱身 – 无论是商业性交易、家务劳动、农场工作、建筑、工厂、零售、餐馆工作还是任何其他活动 – 请打电话给**全美反人口贩运资源中心**，电话号码

1-888-373-7888

or the California Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST) at **1-888-KEY-2-FRE(EDOM)** or **1-888-539-2373** to access help and services. Victims of slavery and human trafficking are protected under United States and California law.

o la **Coalición de California para Abolir la Esclavitud y la Trata de Personas** (California Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking, CAST) al **1-888-KEY-2-FRE(EDOM)** o **1-888-539-2373** para obtener ayuda y servicios. Las víctimas de esclavitud y trata de personas están protegidas bajo las leyes de California y los Estados Unidos.

或打电话给加州废除奴役和人口贩运联盟 (California Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking, CAST)，电话号码 **1-888-KEY-2-FRE(EDOM)** 或 **1-888-539-2373**，获得帮助和服务。奴役和人口贩运受害者受美国加州法律的保护。

The hotlines are:

- Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Toll-free.
- Operated by nonprofit, nongovernmental organizations.
- Anonymous and confidential.
- Accessible in more than 160 languages.
- Able to provide help, referral to services, training, and general information.

Las líneas de ayuda:

- Están disponibles las 24 del día, 7 días por semana.
- Son gratis.
- Están operadas por organizaciones no de gobierno y sin fines de lucro.
- Son anónimas y confidenciales.
- Prestan servicio en más de 160 idiomas.
- Pueden brindarle ayuda, remisión a servicios, capacitación e información general.

热线电话:

- 每周七天、每天二十四小时开通；
- 免费；
- 由非营利、非政府组织运营；
- 匿名和保密；
- 可用160多种语言拨打；
- 能够提供帮助、转介服务、培训和一般信息。

For more information:
BAHC2Freedom.org
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 El Dorado County.

Report Human Trafficking. Text BeFree (233-733).

KRISTI: ONE SURVIVOR'S STORY

REAL LIFE SEX TRAFFICKING NIGHTMARE



'I AM still in shock that it happened to me, says Kristi Merrill, who was abducted and forced to become a prostitute.'

MISSING
HAVE YOU SEEN THIS PERSON?



IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION PLEASE CALL
SACRAMENTO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
(916) 874-5115
Case Number: 1265396

It's been nearly two years since Kristi Merrill, 27, was held captive and forced into prostitution. Yet she still struggles to believe the four-month ordeal that saw her turning tricks in a seedy neighborhood actually happened.

With her blonde hair and bright smile, this former high school cheerleader looks like any other middle-class California mom running around after an active three-year-old. But in March 2012 an evening hanging out with friends turned into a sex trafficking nightmare — one that the woman, after weeks in a lot of ways to fall into.

'I'm worried about what he would do to my family if he found out that I'd talked.'

For the next hour he tried to talk me into it. Suddenly I turned into not being a question anymore. It was clear that it was going to happen. He called some guys who came over and he made me go into the living room and sleep with them. Afterwards I went back into

my room. In a moment of weakness I agreed to take him down the street to another guy's house so he could buy some. I thought we were just going to get the drugs and leave, but when we got there we met Eric, who was the middle man, not the dealer. We went in and sat down, supposedly waiting for someone else to drop off the drugs. We sat there waiting for an hour when Eric came out and asked me if I wanted to smoke some crack with him. I agreed, but when I tried to leave he told me that I wasn't going anywhere. Eric asked, "Do you want to make some quick money? Have you ever slept with guys for money?" I was confused. I'd never been in that situation before. I was really hoping he was kidding. "No, I don't do that kind of thing," I said. For the next hour he tried to talk me into it. Suddenly I turned into not being a question anymore. It was clear that it was going to happen. He called some guys who came over and he made me go into the living room and sleep with them. Afterwards I went back into

my room and handed him the money, which was about \$600. I was hoping that, because he had a drug habit, he'd be satisfied with that little bit of money and let me go. But he said, "You're blonde and young. You can make more money than those others girls." Some people ask, "Why didn't you leave after the first guy that he made you have sex with come over?" There were plenty of times when I supposedly could have run away and got out, but I was terrified of what he would do to me and my family. By now Eric had my phone, which had my driving license (with my address on it) inside. He took my car keys and told me that my car wasn't home anymore. He started threatening my family, saying that he knew where my mom and my daughter lived. And he took my cell phone, giving me another one that I could only use for "business". After two days we stopped getting house calls and Eric told me I needed to go out on the street — to the truck, so they call it.



Tuesday Kristi can smile again.

For the next four months I worked, having sex for money that I gave to Eric. In the beginning I thought someone would come and find me, but as the days went on I started losing hope. I lived at the house with Eric and Jerry — the other girl who had been there that first night. On average we saw around 12 girls a day. We had sex working all day, even at four in the morning. It was rare that we slept. There were many times when we'd both try to leave by getting enough money together and hiding from him. We'd agree to meet up somewhere on the street, get a hotel room and go to leave without Eric knowing. But he'd find us because he was always watching us. But there was one house in the neighborhood where I felt relatively safe. It was where a waitress called Jada lived. He was about 40 and a drug user, but he wasn't the type who would give girls a job. Instead he'd let us stay there for about half an hour and get some rest before going back on the street.

I was with Jada on July 11, 2012 when Corina — one of the older prostitutes in the neighborhood — came looking for me. She was really friendly and always told me, "This isn't the right place for you Kristi. You need to get out of here". On this particular day, she came into Jada's house and grabbed me by the hand. She was crying and shaking. I was scared. I didn't know what was going on, but she said, "Just grab my hand and don't let go. Trust me!". Corina took me out onto the street to a where a big SUV was parked. There was a woman inside who I didn't know, but she told me: "Look, your mom and dad are down the street. They've been looking for you this whole time. We're sorry it took so long. You need to get in the car."

The woman was a private investigator and she had been working with a Christian group. My mom had been reaching out to people — the police and the authorities, anyone — saying that she was trying to look for her daughter. I was the victim of sex trafficking. They were driving around Oak Park when they saw Corina, showed her my picture and asked if she had seen me. She took them right to me. But even though I had waited months for someone to find me, I took the private investigator an hour and a half to convince me to get in the car. I was terrified of what Eric would do if I escaped.

You don't understand the guy who we're dealing with. I kept saying, "He's going to let my daughter and my mom". That's what was on my mind as we drove to the restaurant where my parents were waiting for me. "When they see me they were crying. Mom said, 'I knew something wasn't right. I knew I'd find you. I knew you would never leave Addison with me and not come back home'". Four months doesn't seem like a long time to have been away, but I think me much longer — a total of eight months in a treatment centre that provided trauma counselling — to deal with and process what happened to me. For a long time I blamed myself believing that if I hadn't been out there partying, looking for drugs, this would never have happened to me. It took a lot of people to finally convince me that doesn't matter. It doesn't mean Eric had the right to keep me against my will. The authorities would like me to testify against Eric, but — although I'm working with the California Department of Justice to try to break that sex trafficking ring — I'm worried about what he would do to my family if he found out that I'd talked. Instead I'm focusing on raising my daughter, Addison, who's now three. These days I'm volunteering with organisations to advise other young girls about the dangers out there. I'd like to watch you hang out with and who your friends are. My message to girls who do fall into sex trafficking is don't ever give up. There is always hope that someone you're going to get out of, whether you've received or you walk off and the traffickers don't come after you. Whatever the case may be, just don't give up."

The Fact Is...

BY WARREN ROBERTSON

INTERESTING facts about the world we live in.

JUST when you think you know it all, someone will surprise you with something you didn't know.

- According to Saudi Arabian law, women are not allowed to drive cars, but they are allowed to fly airplanes.
- Amazon.com is the world's largest online retailer, making about \$11,000 a second.
- Video games can help boost one's problem solving ability. Gamers tend to absorb information more quickly and make accurate decisions faster.
- One teaspoon of Botulinum toxin has the potential to kill 2-3 billion people. This chemical is most commonly used in Botox.
- Studies show that stimulus fees actually taste better when other people make them for you. When we make food, we become desensitized to the taste.
- The word "bride" was derived from an old English word meaning "book".
- A North Korean "researcher" have concluded that North Korea is the second happiest country after China.
- A man who grows balds early and earlier in life, are more likely to go bald.
- A billionaire Chuck Feeney gave away more than 99 percent of his \$630-million to help underprivileged kids go to college. He's now worth \$2.1 million.

NEWS FACTS

According to one interview, **Jacob Zuma** has had more than 750 corruption charges laid against him.

Australian cricketer **Steve Waugh** is the only captain to have been given out "handled ball".

The rand is the currency of the Common Monetary Area between South Africa, Swaziland and Lesotho. Although Namibia withdrew from the Common Monetary Area, the rand is still legal tender there.

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CSEC WORD CLOUD: SOUND LIKE ANYONE YOU KNOW?

