



Awareness

Advocacy

Action

January

Human Trafficking  
Awareness Month

Stop Trafficking! Newsletter [www.stopenslavement.org/index.html](http://www.stopenslavement.org/index.html)

## The Sex Trafficking of Our American Youth

### Why Are Kids Vulnerable?

Age is the primary factor of vulnerability. Pre-teen or adolescent girls are more susceptible to the calculated advances, deception, and manipulation tactics used by traffickers/pimps – no youth is exempt from falling prey to these tactics.

Runaway or homeless youth as well as those with a history of physical and sexual abuse may have an increased risk of being trafficked. ([sharedhope.org/the-problem/faqs/](http://sharedhope.org/the-problem/faqs/))

### 'Seduced: The Grooming of America's Teenagers'

Apps, social media and online gaming allow ACCESS, GROOMING, RECRUITMENT and EXPLOITATION of our young people by total strangers. 'Seduced' is not just an Internet Safety program guide. It is a parent and grandparent empowerment tool to understand what happens when a child is handed a smart phone.

"*Internet Crimes Against Children* says that at any given time there are more than one million predators online. These predators may be seeking to lure your child. I highly recommend this book to enlighten you about how they access, groom, recruit and exploit kids!

Opal Singleton is a dedicated advocate in the fight to end child sex trafficking both domestically and abroad. With her vast knowledge of the subject, she has trained and educated thousands in this fight." Susan Figueroa, April 2015

### The 'Boyfriend'

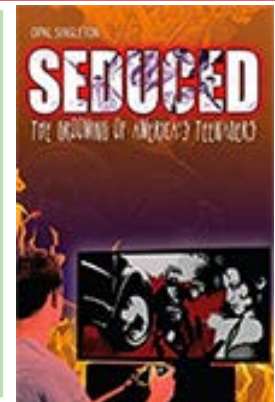
Many pimps often use a "lover-boy" technique to recruit girls from middle and high schools. A lover-boy will present himself as a boyfriend and woo the girl with gifts, promises of fulfilled dreams, protection, adventure – whatever she perceives she is lacking. After securing her love and loyalty, he will force her into prostitution.

A pimp is another name for a trafficker. A trafficker/pimp is any person who (using force, fraud or coercion) causes an adult or any minor to engage in commercial sex in order to profit from the exploitation of that individual.

Traffickers target locations youth frequent such as social media sites, schools, malls, parks, bus stops, shelters and group homes. Traffickers use social media sites to recruit teenagers. ([sharedhope.org/the-problem/faqs/](http://sharedhope.org/the-problem/faqs/))

You may order 'Seduced' at:  
<http://www.amazon.com/dp/B00VGUGUZW/>

To view a cyber safety program featuring 3rd-8th grade 'islands' that highlight various aspects of cyber security through age-appropriate games, videos, and other interactive features go to:  
<https://sos.fbi.gov>



### Shared Hope International: Take Action against Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking

**Write a letter to your local media editor or congressional representative** to inform them about domestic minor trafficking. Let them know that victims of child sex trafficking exist in every state, even your own. Ask your legislators to commit to providing safe shelters for victims, and increased penalties for buyers and traffickers. The more phone calls, letters, and emails your legislator receives, the more action will occur.

**Host or attend an awareness event in your community! How?** Host an awareness event, sports competition, fundraiser, candlelight vigil, march, movie screening, dinner, walk, run, yoga or Zumba class with free materials and information provided by Shared Hope International. (<http://www.sharedhope.org>)

**Fight for justice online!** Use social media and blogs to spread the word to your online community of friends, family and neighbors. Participate and invite your friends to Shared Hope's Facebook or Twitter accounts. Spread awareness by sharing videos, blogs, articles, pictures and other information via social media. Join the conversation on YouTube, Vimeo, Twitter or Facebook.

**Become an Ambassador of Hope or Defender!** Ambassadors of Hope go through an online or in-person training to become equipped to speak on behalf of Shared Hope International. Defenders are men who take a pledge and take action to fight against domestic minor sex trafficking and the commercial sex industry.