

DOMESTIC TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN FOR PROSTITUTION BACKGROUND INFORMATION

NYS passed strong Anti-Trafficking last June, one of the best in the nation. AAUW helped secure passage of this vital law that went into effect November 1, 2007. It provides access to social services and strong penalties for traffickers. However, the law failed to address children 16 and younger in NYS who, though born here, are the victims of sex trafficking.

Child prostitution is domestic trafficking in its most insidious form. These children are charged as Juvenile Delinquents and incarcerated. They are really victims of domestic Human Trafficking and need to be rehabilitated, given their childhood back. The average age is 14. There are believed to be between 500,000 and 10 million involved annually. This sex industry has a monetary value of \$14-20 million. Society is in a state of denial that these children are trafficked. They have run away from abusive deprived homes. They arrive in bigger cities, are vulnerable and easy targets for traffickers. The chances of a child being sexually exploited are greater than the risk of death by firearms, accident, homicides and suicides.

Early in April the NYS Senate passed the Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Act (S6746). It provides that children under 16 picked up for prostitution be provided social services. It provides strong penalties for those who exploit and rape these children. Please contact Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver and Assemblyman Keith Wright, Chair of the Social Services Committee and ask them both to take action on this Act.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Nancy Mion, AAUW NYS Public Policy Director