

# SEXUAL EXPLOITATION & TRAFFICKING OF YOUTH

## parent toolkit

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### grooming

STRATEGIC TECHNIQUES THE PIMPS USE TO DRAW YOUTH INTO SITUATIONS WHERE THEY CAN BE SEXUALLY EXPLOITED. THE PROCESS CAN TAKE DAYS, WEEKS, MONTHS OR YEARS. GROOMING CAN HAPPEN ONLINE AS WELL AS IN PERSON.

#### STEP 1

A trafficker seeks out a youth who is insecure, has low self-esteem, and/or lacks self-confidence.

#### STEP 2

The trafficker grooms the youth by constantly telling him/her how attractive s/he is, perfect in every way.

#### STEP 3

The trafficker pretends to be a boyfriend/lover, buying him/her gifts (new clothes, shoes, etc.), romanticizing him/her & ultimately deceiving the youth to get him/her to fall in love with them.

#### STEP 6

The youth truly believes that no one else will ever feel the same way about them. This bond is what the trafficker uses to further manipulate them (e.g. the youth will perform sexual acts they might not otherwise engage in because they believe that this is what love looks like.)

#### STEP 5

The trafficker gains control over the youth by telling them that no one else considers them worthy or attractive except for them. They exploit their unmet core needs, such as love, attention and belonging.

#### STEP 4

The youth's self-esteem is built up over time, believing they are attractive, wanted, & worthy. If the youth is not used to hearing this, a strong connection and bond is immediately formed.

### not what you think

ADAPTED FROM "SEXUAL EXPLOITATION & TRAFFICKING PARENT TOOLKIT", CHILDREN OF THE STREET SOCIETY

THE IMAGE OF A PIMP OR TRAFFICKER HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY GLAMORIZED THROUGH MASS MEDIA, GREATLY INFLUENCING OUR PERCEPTION OF WHO WE THINK THEY ARE. THERE IS NO SINGLE PROFILE OF WHAT A PIMP OR TRAFFICKER LOOKS LIKE. THEY CAN BE ANYONE WHO HAS ACCESS TO YOUR KIDS.

#### who they are

- RICH OR POOR
- MALE OR FEMALE
- TEACHERS
- RELIGIOUS LEADERS
- COACHES
- FAMILY MEMBERS
- YOUNG OR OLD
- STRANGERS
- ONLINE "FRIENDS"
- GIRLFRIEND/BOYFRIEND
- PEERS
- GANG MEMBERS
- EMPLOYERS
- MODEL/TALENT AGENT
- ELDERLY

#### what to watch for

- POSING AS A BOYFRIEND, GIRLFRIEND OR LOVER
- GIFTING (JEWELRY, PETS, ETC.)
- PROMISING A BETTER LIFESTYLE
- PROVIDING EMOTIONAL STABILITY, LOVE & COMPANIONSHIP
- OFFERING FREE RIDES
- PROVIDING HOUSE/SHELTER
- PROVIDING ALCOHOL & DRUGS
- POSING AS A CONFIDANT, TRUSTED ADULT, FRIEND OR PEER
- BRAINWASHING WITH ROMANTIC IDEAS
- MEETING AND BEFRIENDING THE VICTIM'S FAMILY & FRIENDS
- HOSTING PARTIES FOR YOUTH
- MAKING YOUTH FEEL LIKE THEIR PARENTS ARE STRICT & UNFAIR
- PAYING TO GET THEIR HAIR & NAILS DONE

open communication & listening are KEY

#### where it happens

PIMPS HANG OUT WHEREVER THE YOUTH ARE. HERE ARE SOME PLACES WHERE PIMPS FREQUENT:

- ONLINE (FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM, SNAPCHAT, DISCORD, ETC.)
- SCHOOL
- HOME
- APARTMENT COMPLEXES
- RESTAURANTS
- PUBLIC TRANSIT
- MOVIE THEATERS
- SHOPPING MALLS
- NAIL & HAIR SALONS
- SHELTERS
- REHAB CENTERS
- FOSTER/GROUP HOMES
- ALLEYS
- COMMUNITY CENTERS
- MASSAGE PARLORS
- TRUCK STOPS
- AIRPORTS
- MODELING STUDIOS
- NIGHTCLUBS & BARS
- STRIPCLUBS

sexual exploitation can happen ANYWHERE

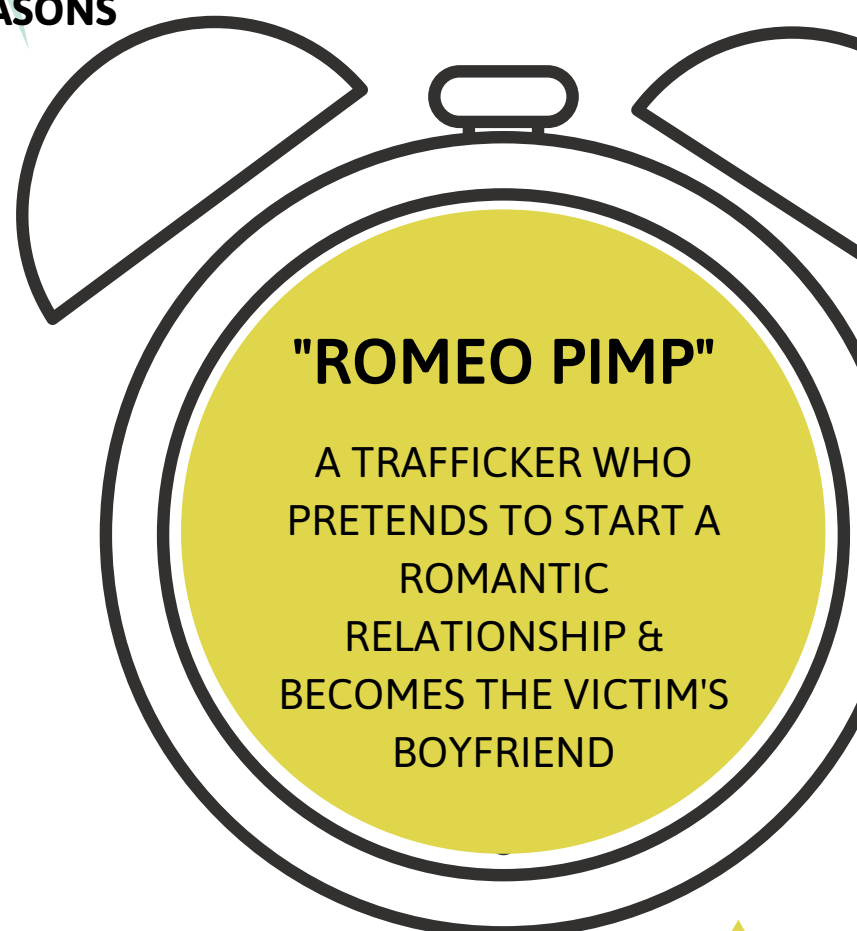


SRC: "SEXUAL EXPLOITATION & TRAFFICKING PARENT TOOLKIT", CHILDREN OF THE STREET SOCIETY

## warning signs

IT'S CRUCIAL TO HAVE A COMPREHENSIVE VIEW OF THE YOUTH'S SITUATION IN ITS ENTIRETY BEFORE JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS. THIS NOT AN EXHAUSTIVE LIST, BUT DOES POINT TOWARD SOMETHING WORTH LOOKING INTO.

- **YOUNG GIRL W/ADULT BOYFRIEND**
- HAS DESIGNER OR EXPENSIVE ITEMS FROM BOYFRIEND
- **STRONG OBSESSION W/ADULT BOYFRIEND**
- HAIR & NAILS ARE ALWAYS DONE
- **BOYFRIEND CONTROLS TEEN'S APPEARANCE AND/OR SOCIAL LIFE**
- BOYFRIEND CONSTANTLY CHECKS UP ON YOUTH
- **YOUTH IS AFRAID OF CONSEQUENCES OF NOT MEETING BOYFRIEND'S DEMANDS OR EXPECTATIONS**
- YOUTH HAS UNEXPLAINED INJURIES
- YOUTH SUDDENLY HAS A DIFFERENT SOCIAL GROUP
- **DEFENSIVE, SECRETIVE OR DEFIANT WHEN CONFRONTED**
- IS FREQUENTLY ABSENT FROM SCHOOL OR DISAPPEARS FOR EXTENDED PERIODS OF TIME
- **COMES HOME LATE OR PAST CURFEW FOR UNEXPLAINED REASONS**
- EXHAUSTED AT ODD TIMES
- **USES NEW LANGUAGE**
- HAS A NEW TATTOO
- **GRADES DROP SUDDENLY**
- HIGH LEVELS OF SECRECY



**"ROMEO PIMP"**  
A TRAFFICKER WHO PRETENDS TO START A ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIP & BECOMES THE VICTIM'S BOYFRIEND

## clues

**UNEXPLAINED MONEY**  
LONG-DISTANCE PHONE BILLS

**DRUG PARAPHERNALIA**  
PRE-PAID CALLING CARDS

**HOTEL ROOM KEYS**  
HAS A CELL PHONE NOT PURCHASED BY PARENTS

**BUSINESS CARDS OR MATCHBOOKS FOR UNUSUAL INDIVIDUALS OR PLACES (E.G. TALENT AGENT, NIGHTCLUBS, STRIP CLUBS, ETC.)**

these are possible indicators your child may be a prime target or victim of sexual exploitation

## life-saving tip

IF A YOUNG PERSON DISCLOSES TRAFFICKING OR ABUSE TO YOU:



**STAY CALM**  
BE SUPPORTIVE

**BELIEVE THEM & SAY SO**  
TELL THEM THAT WHAT HAPPENED IS NOT THEIR FAULT

**CONTACT ONE OF THE RESOURCES IN THIS KIT FOR NEXT STEPS**

## safety planning

YOU CAN HELP THE CHILD IN YOUR LIFE STAY SAFE BY DEVELOPING A BASIC SAFETY PLAN TOGETHER, WHICH CAN BE USED IN A CRISIS.



**IF YOU OR YOUR CHILD IS IN IMMEDIATE DANGER, CALL 911**

## resources

**NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE**

**1-888-3737-888**

**NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING & EXPLOITED CHILDREN**

**1-800-THE-LOST**

### services

**THE EMBRACING PROJECT**  
\*drop-in center for youth\*

702-463-6929

**RISE (FORMERLY SEEDS OF HOPE)**

\*services for ALL trafficking victims\*

702-756-4499

**THE RAPE CRISIS CENTER**

702-366-1640

### information

**NEW HOPE FDN INT'L**  
nhfinternational.org

**ENOUGH ABUSE**

enoughabuse.org

**TEEN DV RESOURCES**

loveisrespect.org & breakthecycle.org