

APPLYING HARM REDUCTION WITH YOUTH IN THE COMMERCIAL SEX INDUSTRY

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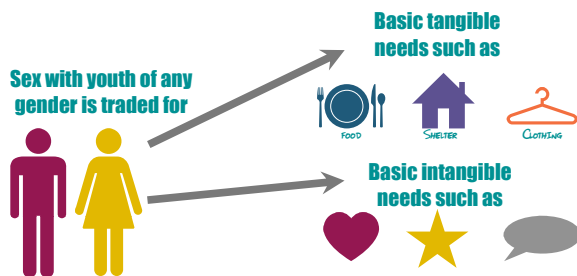
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GETTING STARTED

CARING FOR THE VULNERABLE AND MARGINALIZED TAKES A HEAVY TOLL ON US. HOW ARE YOU INTENTIONALLY CARING FOR YOU?

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SEXUAL EXPLOITATION



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COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

CSEC involves 3 categories of people



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HARM REDUCTION

What are harm reduction strategies we use regularly?



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HARM REDUCTION

HARM REDUCTION CONTINUUM



MEET THEM WHERE THEY ARE

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HARM REDUCTION

AIMS TO REDUCE THE NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES

ADDRESSES CONDITION OF THE BEHAVIOR AS WELL AS THE BEHAVIOR ITSELF

CENTERS ON THE AGENCY, DIGNITY, AND WELL-BEING OF THE INDIVIDUAL

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HARM REDUCTION



RESCUING VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE FROM THEIR ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIPS, AS A STRATEGY, IS NOW RECOGNIZED AS BEING UNLIKELY TO END THE RELATIONSHIP, NOR IS IT LIKELY TO ENCOURAGE HELP-SEEKING AND RECOVERY BEHAVIORS...WE WOULD DO WELL TO UNDERSTAND THAT CSE IS NOT A SIMPLE CASE OF RESCUE, ABSTINENCE OR VICTIM-BLAMING WHEN A YOUNG PERSON DOESN'T WILLINGLY LEAVE AN EXPLOITATIVE RELATIONSHIP. ~ HICKLE & HALLETT

Hickle, K., & Hallett, S. (2016). Mitigating Harm: Considering Harm Reduction Principles in Work with Sexually Exploited Young People. Children and Society, 30, 300-313.

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APPLYING HARM REDUCTION

ACCEPT THAT THE COMMERCIAL SEX INDUSTRY IS PART OF OUR WORLD AND WORK TO MINIMIZE THE HARM RATHER THAN IGNORE OR CONDONE IT

UNDERSTAND SE AND CSE ARE COMPLEX ISSUES AND ACKNOWLEDGE THAT SOME BEHAVIORS ARE SAFER THAN OTHERS

ESTABLISH QUALITY OF INDIVIDUAL AND COMMUNITY LIFE AND WELL-BEING – NOT NECESSARILY ABSTINENCE – AS THE CRITERIA FOR SUCCESSFUL INTERVENTIONS AND POLICIES

Harm Reduction Coalition (2018). Principles of Harm Reduction. Retrieved from <https://www.harmreduction.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Principles-of-Harm-Reduction-2018.pdf> on August 31, 2018.

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APPLYING HARM REDUCTION

- 1 ADDRESS FACTORS LEADING TO ENTRY IN THE COMMERCIAL SEX INDUSTRY
- 2 ADDRESS HARMS INTRODUCED IN THE COMMERCIAL SEX INDUSTRY
- 3 ADDRESS MUTUALLY REINFORCING FACTORS WHILE IN THE COMMERCIAL SEX INDUSTRY

Carroll, L. (2009). Withering the Harm Reduction Agenda: From Drug Use to Sex Work. *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 17, 2-11.

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APPLYING HARM REDUCTION



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APPLYING HARM REDUCTION

- PROVIDE NON-JUDGMENTAL, NON-COERCIVE SERVICES AND RESOURCES TO INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN SE AND CSE TO ASSIST THEM IN REDUCING HARM
- ENSURE INDIVIDUALS WITH A HISTORY OF SE AND CSE ROUTINELY HAVE A REAL VOICE IN THE CREATION OF PROGRAMS AND POLICIES DESIGNED TO SERVE THEM
- RESPECT INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES INCLUDING THEIR CULTURE AND TRADITIONS

Harm Reduction Coalition (2018). Principles of Harm Reduction. Retrieved from <https://www.harmreduction.org/our-work/2018/08/31/2018-principles-of-harm-reduction/> on August 31, 2019. Reiter, M. L. (2008). Sex Work Harm Reduction. *Sex Justice*, 2(2), 21-34.

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APPLYING HARM REDUCTION

RECOGNIZE YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS IN SE AND CSE ARE THE PRIMARY AGENTS OF REDUCING THE HARMS OF THEIR CIRCUMSTANCES, AND SEEK TO EMPOWER THEM TO SHARE INFORMATION AND SUPPORT EACH OTHER IN WAYS THAT MEET THEIR ACTUAL CIRCUMSTANCES

ACKNOWLEDGE THE REAL AND TRAGIC HARM AND DANGER ASSOCIATED WITH SE AND CSE RATHER THAN MINIMIZE IT

FOCUS ON THE YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT'S CAPABILITIES – BUILD OFF THEIR STRENGTHS

Harm Reduction Coalition (2016). Principles of Harm Reduction. Retrieved from https://www.harmreduction.org/Portals/0/Documents/Principles_of_Harm_Reduction.pdf on August 31, 2016. Hicks, K., & Hallett, S. (2016). Mitigating Harm: Considering Harm Reduction Principles in Work with Sexually Exploited Young People. *Children and Society, 31*, 302-319.

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APPLYING HARM REDUCTION

BECOME AWARE OF THE REALITIES OF POVERTY, CLASS, RACISM, SOCIAL ISOLATION, PAST TRAUMA, SEX-BASED DISCRIMINATION AND OTHER SOCIAL INEQUALITIES AFFECT BOTH PEOPLE'S VULNERABILITY TO AND CAPACITY FOR EFFECTIVELY REDUCING HARM RELATED TO THE COMMERCIAL SEX INDUSTRY

ACKNOWLEDGE THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN RISKY BEHAVIORS CAN BE AN ATTEMPT AT EXERTING CONTROL AND POWER IN WHICH THEY OFTEN HAVE VERY LITTLE

Harm Reduction Coalition (2016). Principles of Harm Reduction. Retrieved from https://www.harmreduction.org/Portals/0/Documents/Principles_of_Harm_Reduction.pdf on August 31, 2016. Hicks, K., & Hallett, S. (2016). Mitigating Harm: Considering Harm Reduction Principles in Work with Sexually Exploited Young People. *Children and Society, 31*, 302-319.

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APPLYING HARM REDUCTION

ACKNOWLEDGE UNHEALTHY COPING CAN BE USED TO MINIMIZE HARMS WHILE BEING EXPLOITED

SEE THE BELIEFS AND BEHAVIORS AS DEVELOPMENTALLY AND PRACTICALLY NECESSARY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WHO HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO OTHERWISE GET THEIR NEEDS MET

FOCUS ON THE INDIVIDUAL'S MOST PRESSING NEEDS

FOCUS ON INCREMENTAL GAINS THAT CAN BE BUILT ON OVER TIME

Hicks, K., & Hallett, S. (2016). Mitigating Harm: Considering Harm Reduction Principles in Work with Sexually Exploited Young People. *Children and Society, 31*, 302-319. BC Harm Reduction Strategies and Services. (2011). *Harm Reduction Training Manual: A Toolkit for Frontline Staff involved with Harm Reduction Strategies and Services*. Retrieved from https://www.harmreduction.org/Portals/0/Documents/Harm_Reduction_Training_Manual.pdf on Aug 20, 2017.

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GENERAL HARM REDUCTION STRATEGIES

- IDENTIFY ESCAPE STRATEGIES IN HOTEL ROOMS, CARS, HOUSES, ETC.
- HAVE KEY DOCUMENTS ON HAND OR KEEP A COPY WITH A TRUSTED PROVIDER
- MEMORIZE CONTACT INFO FOR KEY PEOPLE
- DEVELOP A CODE WORD SO TRUSTED PEOPLE KNOW YOU ARE IN DANGER AND NEED HELP
- SHARE YOUR GPS LOCATION WITH A TRUSTED PROVIDER

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HARM REDUCTION STRATEGIES ON APPEARANCE

- WEAR SHOES YOU CAN RUN IN
- AVOID SCARVES, NECKLACES, AND BAGS THAT CAN BE USED TO CHOKER YOU
- WEAR CLOTHING THAT CAN BE LEFT ON DURING SEX IN CASE YOU HAVE TO RUN AWAY

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HARM REDUCTION STRATEGIES ON NEGOTIATIONS

- STICK TO A PRICE LIST AND TIME LIMIT
- PICK YOUR OWN PARKING SPOT OR HOTEL
- HAVE A SUPPLY OF CONDOMS AND LUBRICANT
- CONDOM NEGATING SKILLS
- GET MONEY UP FRONT
- IF WORKING THE STREET, USE THE SAME TRACK

Reuter, M. L. (2005). Sex-Work Harm Reduction: The Laxart (2005). 21232134

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HARM REDUCTION STRATEGIES ON NEGOTIATIONS

- APPROACH FROM THE DRIVER'S SIDE**
- ARRANGE SERVICES AND LOCATION WHILE OUTSIDE CAR**
- CIRCLE THE CAR LOOKING FOR OTHER PASSENGERS**
- TAKE DOWN THE LICENSE PLATE OR PRETEND TO**
- DO NOT FASTEN THE SEATBELT**
- MAKE SURE THE CHILD LOCK IS NOT ON**
- WAVE GOODBYE TO SOMEONE (OR PRETEND TO) AND SHOUT THE TIME OF YOUR RETURN**

Palmer, M. L. (2005). *Drug Work Harm Reduction: The Lancet*, 265(9212), 1314.

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MANAGING PROGRAM RISK

- TALK AND EDUCATE STAKEHOLDERS ABOUT HOW HR FITS INTO REGULATIONS**
- INTEGRATE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**
- SIT AT THE TABLE TO MAKE DECISIONS IN YOUR COUNTY AND STATE**
- APPLY "SAFER VS SAFEST" LENS IN FORMAL AND INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS**
- BE CLEAR WITH RISK LEVELS IN TREATMENT TEAMS AND WITH STAKEHOLDERS**

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ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP

- TRAIN AND COACH YOUR STAFF**
- HIRE ACCORDING TO TIC PRINCIPLES**
- BE TRANSPARENT, PATIENT AND OPEN WITH STAFF**
- ALIGN YOUR POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

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HARM REDUCTION PRACTICE

TAMERA HAS BEEN COMMERCIALY SEXUALLY EXPLOITED FOR 2 YEARS AND HAS REPEATEDLY RETURNED TO HER PIMP. IN A RECENT DISCUSSION, YOU WERE TALKING WITH TAMERA ABOUT WHAT SHE WANTS TO BE WHEN SHE GETS OLDER. WITHOUT HESITATION, SHE STATES, "I'M GONNA BE A STRIPPER JUST LIKE CARDI B!"

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CLOSING

TO BE RESILIENT IN THIS WORK WE MUST PRIORITIZE OUR WELL-BEING, INTENTIONALLY INVEST IN OURSELVES AND DO THINGS THAT BRING US LIFE. WHAT WILL YOU TODAY TO INVEST IN YOU?



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