

## **Intersections between Pornography and Human Trafficking: Training Ideas and Implications**

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*This paper discusses the intersections of human trafficking (HT) and pornography in the context of human suffering and victim-based counseling needs. To fully understand and empathize with victims, counselors need additional education and strategies for victim advocacy. To aid counselor understanding of the phenomenon, this article examines definitional variables that qualify as proper identification of HT, categories of HT from a research and analysis perspective, how trafficked persons often end up enmeshed in the pornography industry, and offers strategies counselor educators can use to instill better understanding of these issues in the classroom. The article concludes with a discussion on prevention, advocacy and restorative strategies counselor educators can teach to the next generation of counselors.*

*Keywords: pornography, human trafficking, sex trafficking, sextortion, sex trafficking, sex industry*

Pornography is the driving force behind the international sex trafficking industry (MacKinnon, 2005). Women and children devise much of the pornography industry and are often “rented” in order to produce films that flood the market (Mackinnon, 2005). Higher demands for the production of pornography have fueled the need to find individuals

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that can be used in these films. Together, pornography and sex trafficking have become an epidemic in the violation of human rights.

Human trafficking (HT) is the fastest-growing crime in the world, with over 27 million people currently enslaved (Rescue Her, 2015). These numbers are especially horrific since 99% of victims are never rescued and most victims are used sexually as part of the sex industry (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2017). The sex industry, which includes pornography, can provide wealth for perpetrators of sex trafficking and, therefore, targets all ages from whom they might profit, even children (Miller-Perrin & Wurtele, 2016). If one assumes that pornography is the experience of paying for sex, then it stimulates the need to experience sex, in the flesh, through means such as prostitution (MacKinnon, 2005). These staggering statistics are relevant to counselors and the counseling profession since they are called to appropriately assist victims and advocate against harmful practices (McRae & Brown-James, 2017). This means counselor educators need effective strategies to instill insight and understanding into the next generation of counselors. As a result, this article is divided into three sections. The first section defines human trafficking and pornography and discusses links between these issues and sex trafficking. Legislation and other relevant issues found in the literature are also discussed in this section to highlight facets relevant to the counseling profession. The second section offers media suggestions to instill student understanding in the counseling classroom. The third section discusses how counselors can impact society and serve victims through prevention, restoration, and advocacy.

## **Human Trafficking**

**Example and Definition of Human Trafficking.** The literature details an escalation of HT over the past two decades as illustrated by the discovery of 39 victims in a tractor-trailer in sweltering July heat with no ventilation or air conditioning system in San Antonio, TX (Fernandez, Perez-Pena, & Montgomery, 2017; Jarvie, 2017). All hidden in the cargo bay were undocumented immigrants. Upon discovery of their condition while parked at a Walmart parking lot, 8 were found dead, another succumbed shortly after and

20 others reported suffering from lack of access to oxygen, intense dehydration and severe heat exhaustion while being trapped inside during transport (Fernandez, Perez-Pena, & Montgomery, 2017; Jarvie, 2017). The crime was horrific.

Despite HT being commonly conceptualized, like this tragedy, in terms of people being transported forcibly against their will and used for slave labor or for sexual work (U.S. Dept. of State, n.d.). HT does not necessarily involve interstate transport, It is also important to note that HT can include factory work as well as being pimped out in remote regions, such as oil fields, where prostitution becomes highly profitable due to the imbalance of males to females (Horwitz, 2014; U.S. Dept. of State, 2017). For these reasons, HT can be defined as “. . .the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act” (Busnik, 2015, p. 336).

Further, a crime considered human trafficking must contain three elements. According to the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (2017), human trafficking must be an act (what is done), with means (how) and purpose (why). An act includes the intent to recruit, transport, transfer, harbor, or receive persons (UNODC, 2017). The act must have a means. A means can include threat or use of force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power/vulnerability, or giving payments and benefits (UNODC, 2017). The purpose of the act can include exploitation, prostitution, sexual exploitation, forced labor, slavery, removal of organs, or any other form of exploitation (UNODC, 2017). These three components of trafficking were intended to bring about a global consensus of the crime at hand (UNODC, 2017). Defining human trafficking for the global community has served as a basis to categorize types of human trafficking.

**Categories of Human Trafficking.** On a global scale, several categories of human trafficking are prevalent. Sex trafficking, forced labor, and organ trafficking are among the categories that are defined (UNODC, 2017). Of these, sex trafficking is the most common and organ trafficking is the one that is least thought of (Meyer, 2006).

**Organ Trafficking.** It is not often that we hear stories of individuals buying and selling organs, removed from living individuals, and selling them on the black market.

Unfortunately, some believe that the trafficking of human organs is a myth (Meyer, 2006). However, it does happen more often than we know. Not long ago, National Geographic (2017), featured a series on organ trade. Traffickers exploited individuals in need of money for their family and offered to pay them for organs. Many of the stories occurred in other countries. However, one episode featured a man in the United States that sold his kidney to an organ trafficker overseas. Many of these stories were tragic and ended in death. Individuals that sell organs to traffickers often have botched surgeries which can lead to deadly infections (National Geographic, 2017). Recently, *Doctors against Forced Organ Harvesting*, an organization that raises awareness and informs the medical community of unethical organ harvesting, was nominated for the 2016 Nobel Peace Prize (Sucur, Gajovic, 2016).

***Sex Trafficking.*** Domestic minor sex trafficking, which is the trafficking of anyone under the age of 18, is creating crises within our own communities and is the primary focus of this article (Rescue Her, 2015). According to Rescue Her (2016), an organization focused on combatting human trafficking, one in three runaways are picked up within 48 hours and lured into the sex industry. The Internet compounds the problem by allowing traffickers to advertise sex slaves as being for sale within hours of abduction (Riviera, Jesko, & Hawkins, 2016).

Because of these hazards, any minor working within the sex industry, whether willing or not, is legally considered a victim of sex trafficking (US Department of State, 2008). This makes the line between trafficking victim and prostitution hazy, since 70% of adult prostitutes are coerced into the industry prior to the age of 18 (Kotrla, 2010). Yet, many are unaware that this heinous crime is occurring in local neighborhoods and that every child is a potential victim. Between 2007 and 2016, the nationally operated hotlines, operated by the Polaris Project, received calls associated with 32,2018 potential cases of human trafficking, and 10,085 cases of labor exploitation in the United States (Polaris Project, 2017).

**Trafficking Legislation.** April of 2018, marked a historic day, as President Trump signed the Allow States and Victims to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act (Samuels, 2018). This bill cuts protections from websites that enable sex trafficking (Samuels, 2018). Previous legislation, such as The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), enacted in 2000, was designed largely to prosecute persons engaged in the crime of human trafficking and as a source of protection for the victims themselves (Admans, 2015). In layman's terms, this law seems to go after the pimp and not the prostitute, the distributor and not the producer. Although the TVPA has been reauthorized four additional times since its initial approval, the success of the TVPA is questionable (Admans, 2015). Use of the TVPA for persons trafficked for the creation of pornography is an area where this act is underutilized (Luzwick, 2017). This begs the question as to how the public is to apply laws to a sector of a furtive enterprise that swims in First Amendment latitude but that successfully eschews the arm of the law when the law should be applied (Luzwick, 2017). In an industry that consumes humans for monetary profit, how does society apply a law within the framework of a seemingly lawless world, or how does society regulate within a domain that appears dysregulated? Is there a code of honor among pornographers that generates such allegiance that the industry willingly monitors itself? In the past, these were even more concerning, since Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act (1996) protected websites from being subject to civil or criminal liability to those that post third-party content (Leary, 2018). However, the new bill signed by President Trump offers promise on the legislative front.

**Trafficking Venues.** The Polaris Project (2017) identified several common sites where these trafficking victims are abducted or used for sexually related monetary gain. For example, escort services, illicit massage, nail salons, interactive sexual acts, outdoor solicitation, residential brothels, strip clubs, restaurants, personal sexual servitude, dance troupes, modeling agencies, and use of sex slaves in pornographic industry are only some of the many venues where trafficking plays a role (Polaris Project, 2017). Of the trafficking cases reported within pornography, 60% of victims were minors (Polaris Project, 2017).

## **A Sexualized Culture**

The sexualization of our culture, particularly our youth, has been an ongoing issue for decades. Teens in generation Z are participating in sexual activity at a far younger age than millennials (Humphreys, 2017). In addition, this generation participates in sexual experimentation that is more concerning and are watching pornography beginning in late elementary or early middle school (Humphreys, 2017).

The average age of entry into pornography and prostitution in the United States is 12 and some are as young as 5 (U.S. Department of State, 2017). According to Smith (2014), movies, television, clothing ads, and other forms of media contributed to the reason why she fell victim to sex trafficking in her teenage years. She describes the idea that media contributed to her personal beliefs about the use of her body. Her views were that women's bodies were used for the pleasure of men, and thus accepted this as a norm.

## **Pornography's Role in Trafficking**

Our sexualized culture fuels the sex trafficking industry and pornography plays a large role in the demand (Busnik, 2015; US Dept. of State, n.d.). Andrew Nasalli (2015) argues that viewing pornography increases the demand for victims. Noel Bouche (2017) correlates the amount of "clicks" on pornographic sites with increases in the global sex trade. Trafficking victims are often used in the production of pornography and many are recruited into pornography at a young age (Luzwick, 2017). Bouche (2017) claims that under our federal laws, pornography is a form of sex trafficking. Federal law states that the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining persons for the purpose of sexual exploitation is trafficking (U.S. Department of State, 2017). Nonetheless, research on the intersection of HT and porn is scarce, especially among journals that seek to empower counselors (Naselli, 2015).

In an interview about her new TV series on prostitution and pornography, Maggie Gyllenhaal, commented on the effects of pornography as an expanding industry as it effected sex workers: "There is so much information about sex work that is in the dark,

because it's illegal, so how do you get that information in a reliable way?" (Mulkerrins, 2017, p. 4). Private events, such as sex, will always be a challenge for researchers. This is compounded when quantification is needed for private events that are deemed illegal. Furthermore, the legality of the issue is a balancing act between morality and First Amendment interests (Luzwick, 2017). Those using the First Amendment to validate their observation of pornography, argue that most of the sexual acts are performed between two consenting adults (Luzwick, 2017). Coupled with few laws regulating the adult film industry, it is easy for HT to imbed itself into the culture of pornography (Busnik, 2015). As a result, researchers within counselor education must find alternate means to investigate the connections of HT and pornography.

**Definition of Pornography.** Defining pornography in its relationship to HT is a necessary first step in understanding the symbiotic and expanding relationship between the two facets. Both pornography and HT can be difficult to define, because the nuances of each are constructs driven largely by society, culture and morality (MacKinnon, 2005). Grebowicz (2013) refers to pornography as sexually-oriented material “. . . specifically to aid in masturbation and circulated on the Internet largely (though not exclusively) for commercial purposes” (p. 7).

Pornography has escalated since the introduction of the Internet and the online information superhighway for several reasons. Cooper (2000) identified sophisticated computing systems and the internet as possessing and facilitating porn use through what he referred to as the Triple-A engine of pornography: anonymity, affordability and ease of access. Anderson (2014) also suggested adding the variables of access and acceptability to Cooper's heuristic.

Although human trafficking was in existence before the creation of the personal computer, the online world of pornography now overlaps with the world of HT (Busnik, 2014; Derr, 2017; Shared Hope, Int., 2018). In fact, through the use of force, coercion, and fraud, much of what is legally purchased online, is produced illegally through the use of trafficked persons (Luzwick, 2017). The use of trafficked persons in “legal” pornography is overlooked because of the lack of internet regulation in our society (Luzwick, 2017).

**Types of Internet Pornography Linked to HT.** Technology makes the exploitation of people, including children, easy and readily available (Thakor & boyd, 2013). Websites, such as backpage.com, have become well known in our society for exploiting individuals (Thakor & Boyd, 2013). In 2010, Craigslist changed its usage of the term “adult services” to “censored” because of efforts from anti-trafficking organizations such as Polaris Project and Fair Fund (Gruenwald, 2010). The most recent victory in anti-trafficking efforts, includes the closing of backpage.com, after it was seized from the FBI (Riviera, Effron, & Hawkins, 2018). These websites are more often associated with human trafficking. Pornography, is less thought of in terms of human trafficking, because it is viewed as a form of sexual liberation by our society (MacKinnon, 2005). Those in the helping profession must become more aware of the types of pornography associated with human trafficking.

***Webcam Sex Trafficking.*** For a fee, people will perform progressive acts of sex via webcam and remain doing so as long as the customer is willing to pay (Mendoza & Gomez, 2017). Unfortunately, no guarantees are made that the “actors” are doing so without duress, thus, webcam pornography may fall into the category of sex trafficking (Polaris Project, 2017). On April 20, 2017, a child cybersex operator was arrested in the Philippines (Mendoza & Gomez, 2017). His webcam operation was based in a red-light district in the Philippines and was funded by buyers from the United States, Canada, Europe, and Australia. These buyers paid to have him film the sexual abuse of children (Mendoza & Gomez, 2017). During their bust, police found drugs, ropes for bondage, children and toddler clothing items, computers, and cameras. Police were led to this individual by concerns raised from an online payer system, such as PayPal.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has identified this crime as webcam sex tourism (Mendoza & Gomez, 207). The FBI believes that this crime is rapidly growing with about 750,000 child web predators online at any one time. Webcam sex tourism includes online exploitation, even live streaming, of sexual abuse to adults or, primarily, adolescents and children (U.S. Department of State, 2017). According to authorities, the



youngest reported victim, a 2-month-old infant, was recently rescued from the Philippines (Mendoza & Gomez, 2017).

**Sextortion.** Another growing crime on the FBI's radar is sextortion. Sextortion is the when a predator threatens to release personal information, harm family members, or use other forms of blackmail to obtain and distribute sexually explicit photos on the web (Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2015). Those looking to exploit young children and teens lurk in chat rooms, social media, and at times will electronically gain access to computers and webcams, with the intent to steal information. Victims are often harassed and threatened to obtain explicit content that can be used on pornographic sites (FBI, 2015).

This crime is rapidly growing because of the low risk that it poses to those who intend to exploit minors (FBI, 2015). Sextortion is an easy way to obtain sexually explicit images or video and obtain a large profit from individuals willing to spend high prices for child pornography (FBI, 2015). In 2010, the FBI ended the long running sextortion scheme by Lucas Chansler. As a pharmaceutical student, he used multiple online personas, and victimized over 300 teens (FBI, 2015). Yet, the FBI has only identified approximately one third of the victims. One of his schemes included the initiation of an online chat with a group of 15-year-old girls who were having a sleepover. The girls believed that they were chatting with a 15-year-old boy and exposed themselves on video. Chansler was taking images using his screen capture option and posting the images online (FBI, 2015).

**Massage Parlors.** Massage sites are ubiquitous and often serve as immigrant funneling systems (Kemsley & Hamilton, 2015). They are used to move and exploit victims of HT, especially from Asian countries (Kemsley & Hamilton, 2015). It is estimated that nearly 5,000 brothels are disguised as massage parlors in the United States and services can often be reserved online (Rescue Her, 2016). While touting a therapeutic purpose, such places are fronts for prostitution, and can be geographically found spread throughout both urban and suburban regions (Kemsley & Hamilton, 2015). In addition, some of the workers in massage parlors are forced to participate in the filming of pornographic videos (Lutya, 2012). Research could explore men who visit massage parlors

to seek the same services found in a brothel. This is with the notion that “therapeutic massage” quells the stigma of being a “john” who exchanges money for illicit sex. Such establishments are found throughout large cities, often in a storefront strip mall, and can be a direct conduit for trafficked humans (Charles, 2012).

There are establishments offering massage that are legitimate. In addition, it is true that some transnational massage workers seek that kind of employment voluntarily (Kemsley & Hamilton, 2015). It serves as an exit from poverty and a step towards the American dream (Kemsley & Hamilton, 2015). Chin and Finckenauer (2012) argue that variation in interpretation should be welcomed, because some sex workers leaving China for the USA, do so consensually. These individuals are not smuggled and do not fit neatly into established parameters of forced transnational sex work (Chin & Finckenauer, 2012).

For any businesses to remain solvent in a competitive marketplace, proprietors might have to submit to tactics that are more straightforward in order to generate revenue (Lutya, 2012). This is especially true in illicit sex services that are portrayed as simple therapy or spa work (Lutya, 2012). In these circumstances, it should not be considered fact that transnational masseuses choose to participate in pornography or that they knew this as a previous condition of employment (Lutya, 2012). One must consider how victims of sexual exploitation are recruited, in order to understand how a person may find themselves in a situation, where they are being used to film pornography.

## **Recruitment into HT**

For traffickers, recruiting victims is an art form, in which they are well versed (Smith, 2014). While many conceptualize trafficking victims as poor women from non-industrialized countries, it is important to note that domestic victimization is on the rise (Polaris Project, 2015). Local victims are recruited into the sex industry using a variety of tactics such as: debt bondage, violence, threats, promises of a better life, ads for “easy money”, and modeling job ads (Lutya, 2012; Polaris Project, 2015). Some victims have even been trafficked by their own family members (Wachs, Jiskrova, Vazsonyi, Wolf, & Junger, 2016).

Smith (2014), was victimized by several individuals who were looking to exploit her. A brief meeting at the mall, with a handsome older boy, was the beginning of her journey into slavery. The man she met was able to convince the young, teenage girl to give him her number. Later, she began a long phone relationship with what she thought was the same individual. Instead, she was speaking to a second trafficker, who was specifically used to bond with her and convince her to run away from home (Smith, 2014). This form of recruitment is often referred to as “grooming” (Wachs, et al., 2016). Traffickers are willing to take their time during the grooming process. Sophie Hayes was groomed by her trafficker for four years (Hayes, 2013). The trafficker met her with the intent to groom her and spent four years becoming her best friend (Hayes, 2013). Hayes and Unwin (2016), describe how groomers imbed themselves within an individual’s life, in order to create an attachment that cannot be easily broken.

Traffickers are smart about their recruitment strategies and play on a person’s “psychological variables” or vulnerabilities (Lutya, 2012, Ch. 5). Specifically, children and young teens have specific desires for acceptance, love, recognition and money, which makes them an easy target (Sager, 2012). Recruitment strategies often incorporate use of the Internet. For example, *cybergrooming* is a form of grooming done online, with the intent to sexually exploit an individual (Wachs, et al., 2016). A predator no longer must physically lure and kidnap a teen, they are able to sit behind the comfort of a key board and exploit anyone available online (Humphreys, 2017).

### **Media Teaching Suggestions**

Counselors remain uninformed about current issues surrounding human trafficking and need platforms to better understand the phenomenon (McRae & James-Brown, 2017). Since media has been used to explain difficult concepts and create realistic firsthand understandings (Emory, 1988; Caldeira & Ferrante, 2012) it may be an appropriate format to enhance counseling student understanding of this phenomenon. For this reason, two specific media examples are given in this section to assist counselor educators as they seek methods to teach the difficult, dangerous, and often conflicting opinions associated with

the use of pornography, Internet pornography, and other mediums linked with various types of trafficking. These examples intend to provoke discussion and thought regarding difficult concepts.

### **Boogie Nights**

A prime example of an unrecognized victim of HT is the Heather Graham character of “Rollergirl” and the Mark Wahlberg character “Dirk Diggler” in the 1980’s Mark Wahlberg/Burt Reynolds hit movie “*Boogie Nights*” (Anderson, 1997). This film portrays a character which represents exploited young women who are trying to escape marginalized lives. Heather Graham’s Roller girl character, is a teenage female who was lured and groomed for adult films while in high school. In the film, Burt Reynolds’ character uses new technology, which prompts him to “bait” or pimp Rollergirl out to a male on the street. He offers him a chance to sleep with the famous starlet, with the condition that their encounter be filmed. The footage would be used to sell product on VHS tapes.

These characters are rarely interpreted from the point of view of being trafficked. Mostly because the public carries the untrue notion that trafficking must involve physical force and a transport of people against their will (Rocha, 2012; Luzwick, 2017). For this reason, clips from this movie might be helpful examples when teaching the covert consequences involved in sex trafficking. Students might discuss questions such as, is this trafficking? Is anyone being harmed? How might counselors appropriately advocate in this type of issue?

### **Film: Hot Girls Wanted**

Another example where HT may cross tracks with the porn world is documented in Netflix’s film “*Hot Girls Wanted*” (Huckabee, 2015). This film documents the pursuits of Riley Reynolds who lures young girls to his home by promising them the fame and fortune associated with on-camera work. Reynolds’ charm, benign coercion, and the promise of

money convinces these girls to participate. He places classified ads on Craigslist, seeking young women who wish to enter the entertainment industry, and receives responses from many across the country. They are trafficked, voluntarily, arriving at his home in Florida by bus or plane. On-camera, the girls submit to degrading forms of verbally-abusive and violent sex, rape scenes, gag/vomit takes and are exposed to STDs and HIV. Throughout the film, his good looks, assertiveness and insistent promises of making them famous all manipulate the girls' decision to submit to dangerous and high-risk sex work.

Counselor educators might use this film to engage students in discussions leading to understanding of links between the porn industry and trafficking. Students might discuss questions such as, "Are people truly consenting if they are being exposed to STDs? Should the porn industry be required to offer informed consent? What is the counselor's role in this? To help in answering these and other issues, the following section offers insight into how counselors might become involved in preventing or advocating against trafficking.

### **Implications for Counselors**

According to the American Counseling Association (2014), counselors serve as advocates for their clients. The professional identity of a counselor encompasses the idea that each client has a unique set of needs and that counselors are to advocate for those specific needs. As a result, counselor educators might also include within their courses specific actions counselors can take to fight HT and assist victims. The Alliance for Freedom, Restoration (AFRJ), and Justice (2016) founded a model for combatting sex trafficking in our communities. Their model includes categories such as prevention, identification, rescue, restoration, and reforms (AFRJ, 2016). Their belief is that everyone, in every community, falls into one of these categories, regardless of community status. Following is additional information on the counselor's ability to make an impact when considering these roles and other relevant client issues.

### **Counselors and Prevention**

Counselors in communities and schools are in a logical place for prevention. Creating awareness by providing information to community agencies, such as schools, aids in the prevention of sex trafficking (AFRJ, 2016). Counselors that work within school systems are particularly able to provide awareness within the community. They have access to administrators, teachers, students, and parents daily. Creating awareness within school communities could be beneficial in preventing young children and teens from falling victim to sex trafficking (Humphreys, 2017).

### **Client Vulnerability**

Vulnerabilities such as substance abuse, family violence, sexual assault victimization, poverty, and self-esteem issues are often seen in counseling and may be linked to sex trafficking (Humphreys, 2017). Addressing such vulnerabilities and offering resources may save clients from future victimization. For example, school counselors might address student issues such as lack of money for school lunches while also implementing programs to improve student self-esteem. Clinical mental health counselors can help clients locate community services that assist the entire family.

### **Counselors and Identification**

Counselors should continue to educate themselves on the signs of potential human trafficking. Educated counselors can bring awareness to their community so that others can identify potential victims. Becoming aware of businesses in the community that potentially house trafficking victims or watching for signs of trafficking in clients may help those needing rescue. Simply being aware of surroundings can save the life of a victim. In 2015, a truck driver saved a victim of sex trafficking by calling the police after he saw a young girl peering out the window of a dark, out of place RV (Macguire, 2017).

### **Counselors and Restoration**

An obvious role for counselors within trafficking is the restoration of victims (AFRJ, 2016). The restoration of such victims is complex, as they have an abundance of needs. Trafficking victims may have medical and psychological needs in addition to lack resources and knowledge o how to reintegrate themselves into society (Smith, 2014). Counselors must be aware that clients are not only battling the psychological and physical results of physical abuse, manipulation, isolation, and sexual abuse, but they may lack the ability to see the future because of brain development (Varma, Gillespie, McCracken, & Greenbaum, 2015). A vast array of mental health needs, including Posttraumatic Stress Disorder, must be addressed in these victims (Hardy, Compton, & McPhatter, 2013). However, once the integration back into society becomes the focus, counselors should consider using their career counseling techniques to help victims find and achieve goals pertaining to their career (Humphreys, 2017). Counselors have long been imbedded in career counseling and are in a unique position to provide victims with a sense of self-worth and the development of future goals through career counseling techniques.

### **Counselor Education**

Sex trafficking is a growing epidemic and must be addressed during the education of our counselors. Victims of sex trafficking are often in a state of crises and require extensive and diverse forms of treatment (Humphreys, 2017). The Counsel for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educations programs (CACREP) requires that counselor educators address crises and trauma related interventions (CACREP, 2015). Because victims may have mental health and physical concerns, counselors must learn how to help integrate them back into society. Societal integration should include addressing health risks and goals that provide self-worth and empowerment of the client (Hardy, et al., 2013). Counselor educators must instill the knowledge and desire needed to address the diverse concerns of these victims. With an education that promotes advocacy and diversity, counselors will have the tools necessary to treat human trafficking victims and utilize their community resources to address their needs.

**Summary**

The continued growth of human trafficking poses a threat to society and results in innocent and scarred victims. The demand for pornography has led to an inextricable link between human trafficking and porn that is fueled by the demand for and purchase of sex. Counselors owe it to victims and their profession to become educated on the phenomena, assist victims, and train the next generation of counselors to advocate for societal change.



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