

University of Minnesota

Driven to Discover™

Five Things You Can Do RIGHT NOW to Help Stop Sex Trafficking

- 1. **Keep Talking about It!** This exploitation thrives on silence, shame and stigma. Talk to boys and men. It might be uncomfortable, but keep talking.
- 2. Stay on Top of Community Efforts

City of Minneapolis:

http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/crimeprevention/sextrafficking Hennepin County efforts to improve victim services:

http://www.hennepin.us/residents/public-safety/juvenile-detention-alt-initiative
State Legislature: Safe Harbor for Youth and No Wrong Door laws
recommendations. More info provided by the Women's Foundation of
Minnesota, at: http://www.mngirlsnotforsale.org/

- 3. **Learn More**. Explore and share the e-case *Safe Harbor: Minnesota's Effort to End Child Sex Trafficking:* http://www.hubertproject.org/hubert-material/226/
- 4. Host a Screening of one of these documentaries:
 - a. Invisible, TVbyGirls, a documentary filmed by female youth at Kwanzaa's Northside Women's Space, http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hNGWOaXCKyl
 - b. **Not My Life**, a documentary probing the hidden and often unspoken realities of modern slavery on a global scale, www.notmylife.org (discussion guide available at http://www.incommons.org/node/6704)
 - c. What I've Been Through Is not Who I Am, a 20 minute documentary on the human rights violations of children being commercially sexually exploited in the U.S: http://ecpatusa.org/what-we-do/helping-children-in-america/witness-video-project/
 - d. *Very Young Girls*, an exposé of the commercial sexual exploitation of girls under 18 in New York City: http://www.gems-girls.org/get-involved/very-young-girls
- 5. Keep Your Eyes Open. Here are some signs a child may be in trouble:
 - a. Multiple unexplained absences from school.
 - b. A repeated tendency to run away from home.
 - c. Frequent travel to other cities.
 - d. Older boyfriends or girlfriends.
 - e. A sudden ability to have expensive items.
 - f. Appearing depressed or suffering physical injuries.