

## UNDERSTANDING THE TERMINOLOGY

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- TRACK: a place where prostitutes gather to find clients.
- BOTTOM "B\*TCH": The one girl the pimp reserves for himself, or the player's favorite girl. Often times she is responsible for training and keeping the other girls in line for the pimp.
- PIMP: a person, who solicits customers and maintains controls
- JOHN: A man who is a "prostitute's" customer
- BACKPAGE: Online ad company where often girls are "sold" and solicited for service
- BRANDING: A tattoo or carving on a victim that indicates ownership by a trafficker/pimp/gang
- BROTHEL (a/k/a Cathouse or Whorehouse): These establishments may be apartments, houses, trailers, or any facility where sex is sold on the premises. It could be in a rural area or nice neighborhood. Most brothels have security measures. The security is two sided—to keep the women and children in, as well as robbers out. Victims may be kept in this location for extended periods of time, or rotated frequently.
- CIRCUIT: A series of cities among which prostituted people are moved. One example would be the West Coast circuit of San Diego, Las Vegas, Portland, and the cities between. The term can also refer to a chain of states such as the "Minnesota pipeline" by which victims are moved through a series of locations from Minnesota to markets in New York.
- DEBT BONDAGE: Under the TVPA, debt bondage means the status or condition of a debtor arising from a pledge by the debtor of his or her personal services or of those of a person under his or her control as a security for debt, if the value of those services as reasonably assessed is not applied toward the liquidation of the debt or the length and nature of those services are not respectively limited and defined.
- FAMILY: Referring to other girls under the same pimp's control. Usually they work and live together.
- STABLE: Referring to other girls under the same pimp's control. Usually they work and live together.
- EXIT FEE: The money a pimp will demand from a victim who is thinking about trying to leave. It will be an exorbitant sum, to discourage her from leaving. Most pimps never let their victims leave freely.
- THE LIFE/ THE GAME The subculture of prostitution, complete with rules, a hierarchy of authority, and language. Referring to the act of pimping as 'the game' gives the illusion that it can be a fun and easy way to make money, when the reality is much harsher. Women and girls will say they've been "in the life" if they've been involved in prostitution for a while.
- TRICK: Committing an act of prostitution (verb), or the person buying it (noun). A victim is said to be "turning a trick" or "with a trick."
- GROOMING: the process by which an offender draws a victim into a sexual relationship and maintains that relationship in secrecy.