**“Know the Language of Human Trafficking: A Glossary of Sex Trafficking Terms”**

**By Leischen Stelter,** *editor of In Public Safety*

**Here is glossary of sex trafficking terms and slang phrases commonly used by traffickers:**

**Bottom** or **“Bottom Bitch”**: A female appointed by the trafficker/pimp to supervise the others and report rule violations. Operating as his “right hand,” the Bottom may help instruct victims, collect money, book hotel rooms, post ads, or inflict punishments on other girls.

**Branding**: A tattoo or carving on a victim that indicates ownership by a trafficker/pimp/gang.

**Caught A Case**: A term that refers to when a pimp or victim has been arrested and charged with a crime.

**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 in 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.

**Cousin-in-Laws**: Victims of pimp partners who work together.

**Daddy**: The term a pimp will often require his victim to call him.

**Date**: The exchange when prostitution takes place, or the activity of prostitution. A victim is said to be “with a date” or “dating.”

**Family/Folks**: The term used to describe the other individuals under the control of the same pimp. He plays the role of father (or “Daddy”) while the group fulfills the need for a “family.”

**Finesse Pimp/Romeo Pimp**: One who prides himself on controlling others primarily through psychological manip­ulation. Although he may shower his victims with affection and gifts (especially during the recruitment phase), the threat of violence is always present.

**Gorilla (or Guerilla) Pimp**: A pimp who controls his victims almost entirely through physical violence and force.

**Head Cut**: A victim getting beaten down by their pimp.

**Kiddie Stroll**: An area known for prostitution that features younger victims.

**Loose Bitch**: Pimps call a loose bitch a victim who keeps choosing different pimps.

**Lot Lizard**: Derogatory term for a person who is being prostituted at truck stops.

**Quota**: A set amount of money that a trafficking victim must make each night before she can come “home.” Quotas are often set between $300 and $2000. If the victim returns without meeting the quota, she is typically beaten and sent back out on the street to earn the rest. Quotas vary according to geographic region, local events, etc.

**Reckless Eyeballing**: A term which refers to the act of looking around instead of keeping your eyes on the ground. Eyeballing is against the rules and could lead an untrained victim to “choose up” by mistake.

**Renegade**: A person involved in prostitution without a pimp.

**Squaring Up**: Attempting to escape or exit prostitution.

**Stable**: A group of victims who are under the control of a single pimp.

**The Game/The Life**: 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.

**Track (a/k/a Stroll or Blade)**: An area of town known for prostitution activity. This can be the area around a group of strip clubs and pornography stores, or a particular stretch of street.

**Trade Up/Trade Down**: To move a victim like merchandise between pimps. A pimp may trade one girl for another or trade with some exchange of money.

**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.”

**Turn Out**: To be forced into prostitution (*verb*) or a person newly involved in prostitution (*noun*).

**The Wire**: (1) A pimp hotline, like a phone tree pimps use to get the word around, to find out which city is on/off. (2) Wiring money from victim to pimp in different cities/states (“put it on the wire”).

**Wifey/Wife-in-Law/Sister Wife**: What women and girls under the control of the same pimp call each other.