

## **Social Psychological Profiling Model of Victimization and Perpetration Processes involved in Sex Trafficking**

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### **Abstract**

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*We apply social psychology in the context of profiling explanatory victimization-perpetration processes for sex-trafficking victims and offenders. A model is proposed, substantiated with psychological principles, professional research journals, and case studies to profile victimization and perpetration of sex trafficking. We apply the tripartite of ABC (affect, behavior, cognition) to both victim and perpetrator categories as a core foundation to the development of either condition. Victimization and vulnerability risk are modeled profiling a victim's (or potential) likelihood of being sexually exploited, in sequence of stereotyping, stigmatization, and scapegoating. This was paralleled for offenders, on a continuum of offending intensity and perpetration risk through scheming, fear-of shame, and sexual predation. Our research authenticates qualitative trends in sex trafficking to be used for intervention and prevention methods. We introduce a system to facilitate effective interferences and guide public knowledge on trafficking, labeled RANK (resist, ascend, neutralize, and kickstart) substantiated by our model.*

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**Keywords:** Sex Trafficking, Victimization, Perpetration, Profiling Models, Prevention

Human trafficking has been defined as the recruitment, transportation, or harboring of an individual for reasons that benefit the person(s) in control of the victim, through threats, coercion, abduction, fraud, and different types of abuse (Belles, 2018). Human traffickers learn to spot individual vulnerability and use those adversities to manipulate future victims, making the process of trafficking and exploitation quicker and easier to achieve. As one in the same, sex trafficking occurs when vulnerable people are forced or coerced into sexual acts by the trafficker. Victims of sex trafficking lack consent and are incapable of their own choice and autonomy. Traffickers authoritatively control when and where a victim will provide sexual services, they choose who the victims must engage with, and the traffickers receive beneficial compensation for the sexual abuse (Belles). When a victim is under the age of 18, the crime devolves into child sex trafficking (CST).

Children are at a disadvantaged risk of being targeted because they are not developmentally mature as adults and rely on adults and older, parental guardians to achieve a baseline of survival. Victims and survivors of sex trafficking often develop severe and destructive psychiatric illnesses from the prolonged and aggravated trauma upon their minds and bodies; CST victims are especially at risk for suicidal ideation, developing anxiety (Wolf, 2023) and dissociative disorders, and post-traumatic stress disorder in adulthood (Antonopoulou, 2018). Child sex trafficking can be perpetrated anywhere. The United Nations protocol for sex trafficking states no requirement for traffickers to transport victims, and CST victims are frequently trafficked in the same house they were born and raised in (Belles, 2018).

Family-involved child sex trafficking is perpetrated by the minors' family members producing or selling child sexual material (CSM), or otherwise sexually exploiting the child to receive compensation or benefit (Nichols et al., 2023). Adolescents with a past of calamity and life adversity are at higher risk of being targeted for CST because their symptoms of trauma create more outlets for predators and traffickers to exploit (Gill & Gaviria, 2018).

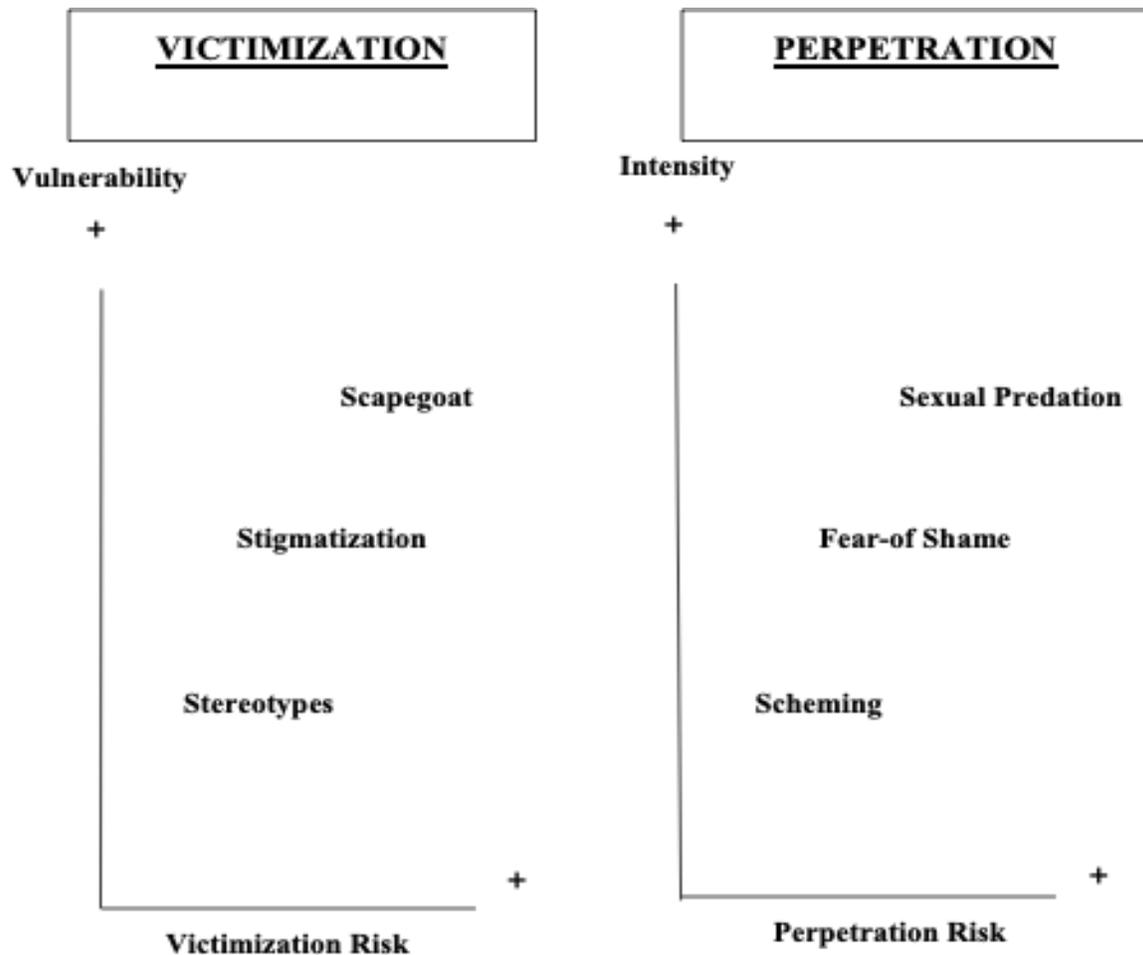
Despite society's acknowledgment of sex trafficking, the statistics of current or suspected CST victims have worsened or stayed close to the same. Figures for 2022 by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children said one out of six of a reported 25,000 cases of missing children likely fell victim to CST. In 2023, 28,800 missing children were reported and one out of six were noted as likely victims of sex trafficking (National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, 2024). Most modern research on child sex trafficking focuses on the psychological and emotional effects on victims and survivors, while the conversation concerning "what" and "why" perpetrating CST remains lacking. Traffickers are elusive; the complexity of child sex trafficking, the various ways it can be facilitated, and the motivations of the trafficker(s) make the crime extremely difficult to catch and convict perpetrators. The trafficker's goals, recruitment methods, and business model are influenced by their unique desires for exploitation and the varying intricate approaches used to gather victims. Law enforcement has not yet created a profile for sex traffickers, and no measure or model exists to assess an individual's likelihood of engaging in child sex trafficking (Sidun, 2018).

The convoluted nature of child sex trafficking requires a model of identification and analysis that goes beyond demographics or systematic risk factors and uses psychology. Societies' normalization of misogynistic ideologies, and the conditioning of harmful heuristics create a climate where victims feel stuck, perpetually blaming themselves, and unable to break the cycle of abuse. As victimization risks increase, their vulnerability to child sex trafficking increases depending on the reactions, perceptions, and beliefs of those around them. We propose a profiling model using social psychology's tripartite of affect, behavior, and cognition (ABC) to create new perspectives toward understanding causations for victimization, offending, and social influences in trafficking situations. Thus, the purpose of this paper is to propose and elaborate on a model that can help us understand sex trafficking dynamics of victimization and perpetration.

### **Creation of the Victimization and Perpetration Models in Child Sex Trafficking**

We use social psychological principles to frame a profile for victims and perpetrators, called the victimization and perpetration model. We model parallel processes for victims and offenders of CST using the ABC tripartite (affect, behavior, cognition). The model profiles victims' risk of CST on a continuum of vulnerability and victimization-risk, in an increasing order of societal *stereotyping*, *stigmas*, and *scapegoating* (ABC), resulting in re-lived trauma and a consequent lack of intervention. Parallel processes for offenders of CST involved offending intensity and perpetration risk, escalating through *scheming*, the fear-of *shame*, and eventual *sexual* predation. It should be noted, terms used in the model were picked to focus on the actions, not the persons, for both victim and perpetrator (see Figure 1).

**Figure 1.**  
*Victimization and Perpetration Models Using Social Psychology’s ABC Tripartite*



When looking at child sex trafficking victims, affective, behavioral, and cognitive (ABC) precursors increase the probability of victimization. Victimization risk come in the form of micro-risks (marginalization and oppression, past experiences of trauma or discrimination, and cognitive-emotional factors) and macro-risks (poverty, lack of education, healthcare, and involvement in crime), that create vulnerabilities for future exploitation (Gill & Gaviria, 2018). Figure 1 displays how CST victims are dehumanized or objectified through the process of stereotypes (Tajfel, 1981), stigmatization (Goffman, 1964), and scapegoating (Allport, 1954). The traditional fallacy of sexualizing and degrading women and girls in society denies autonomy and consent from victims, who then become emotionally tied to dehumanizing ideologies and socially ostracized through normalized victim-blaming; thus, the victim feels responsible for their pain and holds the burden, isolating and continuously losing hope. When looking at offenders, the ABC precursors map out similarly.

More specifically in relation to offenders, *stereotypes* influence their cognitions through victim-blaming and making them not perceive their behaviors as *scheming*. Traffickers’ perceptions of *stigmatization* are impacted through their *fear-of-shame* and disavowing their accountability. *Scapegoating* of victims results in behaviors that are *sexually* predatory and exploitative justified on the offenders’ own lack of self-regulation. A child sex trafficker schemes by methods of recruitment such as grooming and manipulating victims’ emotions for sexual exploitation, seeing only their own profit and pleasure. These processes are interactive with each other, and apply to external observers, victims, and offenders (Gervais, 2016). That is, when offenders manipulate the emotions of their victims, increasing their vulnerability, outsiders are responsible for condemning the trafficker otherwise the predator avoids shame and victim-blaming is perpetuated. Never feeling guilty, the traffickers will continue recruiting and trafficking accessible, vulnerable children, driven by an increasing intensity that blinds their perpetration risk (see Figure 1).

### Assessing the Victimization and Perpetration Profiling Model with Available Data

Next, we assess our model fit using existing qualitative data to show face and content validity mapping. We review cases that have been highlighted/high profile in the media: R-Kelly, Jeffery Epstein, Ghislaine Maxwell, Peter Scully, Peter Nygard, Warren Jeffs, and Josh Duggar. The following are significant because the continuum in our model is demonstrated in the way these individuals perpetrated the crime of CST. One similarity shared between the traffickers is their access to systematically vulnerable children and using economic struggle and assurance of a better future to target potential victims. These traffickers manipulated their victims using vast amounts of money, fame, authority, and reliance on their ability to present themselves as a compassionate friend or guardian before exploiting the minor. Parents can also be deceived by this “reputation of goodness,” indirectly putting their children at risk of predation. Also noteworthy is the trend of indirect or direct assistance from outsiders to further perpetrate child sex trafficking. Insidious groupthink grows, and CST victims are shamed and scapegoated using isolation and the conditioning of sexually abusive dynamics, their abuse being ignored and often furthered by observers. Instead of group condemnation, sexual predation becomes a normalized, beneficial occurrence for everyone associated with or in the orbit of the trafficker’s deeds and crimes.

**Table 1**

*Existing Evidence from High-Profile Cases in American Society*

Qualitative Evidence	
Convicted/Charged Child Sex Traffickers	Explanatory Details
<p>1. Robert Kelly “R-Kelly”  R ☒  Scheming R  Fear of Shame R  Sexual Predation R</p> <p>Scheming occurred by seeking out his minor fans, in which admiration was already achieved. For years, R. Kelly did not fear shame because his R&amp;B music influence created an environment without consequences. Sexual predation is exhibited through child sex trafficking and sexual abuse.</p>	<p>Robert Kelly preyed on minors attending his concerts and attending schools nearby because it was easy to gain their trust. He promised musical careers in R&amp;B and Rap, and groomed young, vulnerable fans with fame and expensive gifts <b>stereotyping</b> (Tsioulcas &amp; Dwyer, 2022). The victim’s families trusted him, the media glorified him, and he had social protection through security guards and intimidation <b>stigmatization</b>. Victims were kept in his home, their autonomy violated by repeated sexual assaults, rapes, drugging <b>scapegoating</b> (Bala &amp; Maquire, 2022).</p>
<p>2. Jeffery Epstein  R ☒  Scheming R  Fear of Shame ☒  Sexual Predation R</p> <p>Scheming occurred through creating a public image of “goodness” and immense wealth. Consequently, there was no fear of shame due to the realization of an opportunity for exploitation. Epstein predated his abuse by sex trafficking minor girls, molestation, and rape.</p>	<p>Celebrity status protected and normalized his predation. Used the influence of money and past success to manipulate his public image to observers, so he’d never be questioned if allegations arose <b>stereotyping</b>. Targeted adolescents with unstable homes and abusive family dynamics <b>stigmatization</b>, using lavish vacations or proposed academic opportunities. The recruited victims were used to manipulate future victims. Once isolated, victims couldn’t leave and were forced to have sex with him and others to pay their debt. The girls at this stage were made to feel like they owed it to him <b>scapegoating</b> (Garsd &amp; Romo, 2021).</p>

<p>3. Ghislaine Maxwell  R ☒  Scheming R  Fear of Shame ☒  Sexual Predation R</p> <p>Working alongside Epstein, scheming occurred using falsified altruism and manipulative femininity. Avoided shame due to the same factors above, and never faced consequences. Sexual Predation presents itself through the recruitment and molestation of the CST victims.</p>	<p>Influential, rich, and famous with ties to the British Royal Family and various U.S. politicians and public officials. Established trust with future victims because she was a woman <b>stereotyping</b>. Acted like a “big sister–” to potential CST victims, proposing academic and career opportunities. Alongside Epstein, targeted minors in poverty and adolescents who wanted “easy” money <b>stigmatization</b>. Gifted shopping sprees before introducing them to Epstein and others. The girls are made to feel indebted and obligated to engage with Epstein, given their relationship with Maxwell <b>scapegoating</b> (Garsd &amp; Romo, 2021)</p>
<p>4. Peter Scully  R ☒  Scheming R  Fear of Shame R  Sexual Predation R</p> <p>A pattern of scheming occurred in victimizing children using systemic vulnerabilities. Fear of shame materialized by traveling to another country with language barriers to commit CST and using women to easily exploit families. Sexual predation happened to children as young as eight months old and included torture and commercialized neglect.</p>	<p>Peter Scully victimized impoverished communities in the Philippines not fluent in the English language. He offered families money, education, shelter, and food for their children <b>stigmatization</b>. Used women as accomplices to assist in manipulating observers and Scully’s social image <b>stereotyping</b>. Created an international pedophile ring, in which customers would spend up to \$10,000 to watch violent child sexual material, capitalizing off this disgusting market and abusing the same children multiple times <b>scapegoating</b>. Families typically stayed silent if their children went missing (Tinning, 2023).</p>
<p>5. Peter Nygard  R ☒  Scheming R  Fear of Shame ☒  Sexual Predation R</p> <p>Scheming was present in confidently exploiting victims using his business empire. Nygard had no fear of shame, doing what he wanted and legitimately normalizing the sexual abuse. The occurrence of sexual predation is not limited to child and adult sex trafficking, forcible sexual assault and rape, and confinement.</p>	<p>Peter Nygard, a Canadian fashion designer and millionaire spent 25 years trafficking vulnerable women and girls using his enterprise. Wealth and fashion influence <b>stereotyping</b> made it easier to target minors in poverty and abusive situations <b>stigmatization</b>, offering to pay for their necessities and providing modeling jobs as their boss (Li &amp; Winter, 2020). Would coerce and force the girls into sexual acts with him and his friends once on the payroll, or at his “Pamper Parties”, where victims were drugged and raped by Nygard and associates <b>scapegoating</b>. Victims were confined in Nygard’s house to be repeatedly sexually exploited (Nuyen, 2020)</p>

<p>6. Warren Jeffs                  R ☒                  Scheming R                  Fear of Shame ☒                  Sexual Predation R</p> <p>Scheming was involved in Jeff's dehumanizing purity culture to create an environment of silent, scared victims. Despite the FLDS heavily criticizing sex and sexuality, the continued assurance of his actions and delusions of prophecy has created a cognitive dissonance avoiding the feeling of shame. Jeff's benefited from the above and acted out sexual predation by obtaining over 20 minor brides, some from other towns, and impregnating many, while observers in and outside the community did nothing.</p>	<p>Current Prophet/Leader of Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Chris of Latter-Day Saints, governing everyone in the FLDS community with hellish threats and abusive, authoritarian religious teachings nobody dared questioning <b>stereotyping</b>. Normalized child marriage and incest, daughters married to Jeffs were seen as honorable to their families and girls had to comply <b>stigmatization</b>. Also sexually abused minors under the guise of being closer to God, threatening their entry into Heaven if they spoke about the sexual abuse/if they didn't complete orders <b>scapegoating</b> (Lantry et al., 2023). Despite the shame and sin surrounding sex in the FLDS, there is video evidence other members perpetrated the CST alongside Jeffs (Conan &amp; Driggs, 2011).</p>
<p>7. Josh Duggar                  R ☒                  Scheming R                  Fear of Shame R                  Sexual Predation R</p> <p>Scheming was shown in his ability to exploit his sisters and future victims, a predator hidden beneath a community's godly perception. Fear of shame is visible in his attempts to keep his predation hidden and the ideologies around him. Sexual Predation was displayed by being an active consumer of infant-child sex trafficking material, fueling the criminal network.</p>	<p>Featured on the successful TLC network show <i>19 Kids and Counting</i>, big focus on their conservative Fundamentalist Christian beliefs and family values <b>stereotyping</b> (Fallert, 2021). The show was canceled when reports of Duggar having molested four sisters and a past baby sister emerged <b>stigmatization</b>. (Press, 2022), and the family emphasized that Duggar wasn't a danger. Arrested in 2021 after CSM files were tracked from his business computer, featuring children from 18 months to 12 years old <b>scapegoating</b> (Alonso, 2021). Judge later described Duggar as having a pervasive, deep, and violent sexual interest in minors (Press, 2022).</p>

Table 1 presents information from seven child sex trafficking cases that fit well with the profiling continuum model of perpetration shown in Figure 1. The act of *scheming* can be applied to all seven CST perpetrators. Identifying the vulnerabilities of a potential victim and creating a persona of safety and benevolence using fraud, lures, and glamor, is a pattern each offender participates in. Fear-of *shame* was evoked in two out of seven offenders. One difference between those who displayed shame and those who did not was the environment in which they existed, that is their ability to repeatedly perpetrate child sex trafficking over lengthy periods confidently without being criticized or punished by the law or society. Duggar and Scully conducted many of their crimes online, the anonymity allowing them to access and create child sexual material with less shame due to hiding their identities (Alonso, 2021; Tinning, 2023). Kelly, Epstein, Maxwell, Nygard, and Jeffs were disgustingly skilled at recruiting and abusing victims in front of external observers without consequence. All displayed sexual predation, hence, their inclusion in this research. Although the manner of perpetration varies, themes of manipulation, intimidation, and victim-blaming through repeated, nonconsensual assaults are shown; all while the trafficker's heinous actions are validated and normalized.

Our next set of data is shown in Appendix A, in which 15 articles are summarized to illustrate varying universal elements of child sex trafficking, including psychological principles applicable to our victimization and perpetration model in Figure 1, which we have highlighted with concepts from our model. Several themes manifested themselves. Relying only on quantitative data to learn about CST victims would be a mistake, and this is mirrored for perpetrators. Generalized quantitative data obscures the dynamic, interrelated social and emotional processes sustaining the progression of vulnerability to becoming a victim. Likewise, there is little quantitative information regarding offender development and mechanisms, considering the challenges in accessing CST perpetrators.

Our sources stress the necessity of using qualitative data in understanding the process of vulnerability to sex trafficking. Victimization (Gill & Gaviria, 2018), offending (Sidun, 2018), and the norms and ideologies bolstered by society (Finigan-Carr et al., 2018), function in tandem, collectively rather than objectively.

The data review ( $N = 15$ ) points to a lack of effective strategic and programmatic approaches discouraging the perpetration of CST, despite the social awareness rising in the last several years. Like so, our victimization and perpetration model functions to personalize, address, and operationally define the issues in child sex trafficking unacknowledged by modern prevention and intervention efforts. Traces of the psychological principles (*stereotypes, stigmatization, and scapegoat*) imposed on sex trafficking victims within our model, can be seen in an examination of both Table 1 and Appendix A, as marked in our detailing of offenders.

### **Generalizing Implications of Modeling Victimization and Perpetration in Sex Trafficking**

One important point displayed through our *victimization* and *perpetration* profiles is that social psychology's ABC tripartite intermingles together within our categories. Our profiles model the encompassing, underlying mechanisms of trafficking and their synchronicity in the way they alter a victim's vulnerability and a perpetrator's likelihood of predation. A CST victim's affect, behavior, and cognition (ABC) are affected at the same time and not mutually exclusive from each other, children can be victimized through a plethora of factors, and vulnerability in one area can further the depletion of another. These processes of stereotyping, stigmatizing, and scapegoating occur all at once to keep trafficking victims in a perpetual cycle of sexual abuse and exploitation. In the same way, perpetrator ABC is altered concurrently and molded together to amplify predatory perceptions and their opportunities for abusing children. The child trafficker schemes, avoids, or fears shame, and preys simultaneously. This intensifies the difficulty of saving victims of child sex trafficking because intervention attempts must address all factors and conditions exacerbating how vulnerable a child is to CST, as well as confront the forces child traffickers use to exploit and how they capitalize on them.

On this same note, influencing the schemas of society to create push back on victims' micro forces will be a key point in ending the perpetuation of the crime itself. Acts and beliefs involving discrimination, oppression, normalized objectification, and dehumanization escalate a minors' vulnerability to CST while also supplementing the motivations and deviance of traffickers. This hateful rhetoric set the basis for excusing predatory behavior and victim-blaming. Communal stereotyping and the stigmatization of women and girls work to create unsafe environments in which victims feel they cannot speak out and get help, instead being forced to internalize their suffering and becoming a scapegoat to their abuse.

Ending the cycle of objectification of women and focusing on principles of autonomy and inherent worth and continuing an exploration into using social psychology to examine cases of CST could produce valuable information for easier identification of how interrelated social processes perpetuate CST, such as the case with our current profiling model.

We must also address the situational contexts and socio-economic circumstances creating and escalating the opportunities for child trafficking. Ignoring problematic macro forces such as poverty, homelessness, and lack of healthcare and education (Gill & Gaviria, 2018) among others, will result in responses and interventions largely unsuccessful in ending the crime of sex trafficking. We must strive to diffuse the large, systematic risk factors holding the basis for the capitalization and commoditization of vulnerable populations (Finigan-Carr et al., 2018). If the conditions for victimization exist, child traffickers will continuously find ways to access children within those conditions. Governing policy and law have begun to address macro issues and prosecute individuals trafficking minors more effectively. In September 2023, California Governor Gavin Newsom signed law SB 14, which made child sex trafficking a felony with harsher sentences and punishments for convictions. The law received an astonishing 80-0 vote, emphasizing collective acknowledgement and societies' harbored responsibility to stop CST at social and institutional levels. Nearly \$280 million has been invested into various programs and services to benefit victims and survivors, and in 2022 California created the Human Trafficking Task Forces to fight trafficking state-wide (California, 2023). Nonetheless, of imperative importance is that we establish a proactive campaign to tackle CST rather than relying on isolated, reactive prevention methods.

## **A Proactive, Preventive, and a Priori Interventional Approach to Sex Trafficking**

We introduce a formula for future prevention and intervention of child sex trafficking, called RANK, Resist, Ascend, Neutralize, Kickstart. RANK is a four-step guideline to intercepting current victimization, addressing the needs of victims and survivors, and a way to begin conversations about effective CST repression and extermination. RANK was created after reviewing the sources in Table 1 and Appendix A and recognizing several effective strategies for helping and rehabilitating victims of sex trafficking. The methods used in RANK are generalizable to different contexts, as some steps are dependent on what we know about the CST victim and their situation.

*Resist*-ing vulnerability in child sex trafficking encompasses the identification of risk-factors creating a more likely environment for abuse to occur. This first step acknowledges elements contributing to people trafficking children and addresses the macro and micro forces involved in current and potential victimization, such as in our review above identified and discussed.

*Ascend*-ing, or elevating in priority, issues of victimization involve responding to and rescuing children in the trafficking cycle. Tools such as tip lines are put in place to increase awareness and possible red flags of CST. Rescued survivors should be placed in facilities such as SAFE HOUSE established in 2014, to separate them from their traffickers. Mental health professionals and medical clinicians are employed at a SAFE HOUSE to provide immediate support. These places are extremely important in providing a safe and protected transition from victim to survivor of sex trafficking and facilitating the renewal of body autonomy for victimized women and children (Gopal, 2018).

*Neutraliz*-ing the risk of future victimization can be described as a continuation of step two, with an increased emphasis on long-term care to undo trauma and provide food, housing, and other necessities that traffickers must use for manipulation and control. On December 3rd, 2021, the National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking (NAP) was enacted in the United States to address the needs traffickers frequently exploit, using contexts of gender and racial equity to provide victims and families with the best care (White, 2021). Therapy and addressing mental health concerns are critical if we are to promote the healing and resilience of survivors.

Lastly, *Kickstart*-ing the creation of new preventative measures against child sex trafficking, while establishing a society with reduced dehumanization and normalized sexual objectification. Educating young children about the importance of gender equality, teaching professionals who engage with minors such as care providers and educators the symptomology of trafficked children, creating PSAs (public service announcement) and commercials to incentivize outsiders to recognize the indicators, and pushing for legislative support and acknowledgement (Williams, 2018) are examples of implementing step four in RANK Beginning to dismantle social constructs keeping victims isolated and traffickers protected are key to ending child sex trafficking.

## **Conclusion**

Reports in 2022 state 115,324 victims of human trafficking were identified and rescued, a small number compared to the approximately one million people estimated to be affected by trafficking worldwide (Dyvik, 2023). Sex trafficking and human trafficking are not new issues within our societies, and their prevalence again highlights our inability to stop the crime from occurring. We must discuss failed strategies and lack of action. Is current legislation effectively helping and supporting victims and survivors of CST? Are we effectively teaching our youth the importance of autonomy and gender equality? Are we sufficiently prosecuting traffickers when they are caught, with punishments that are deterrent and rehabilitative? If we want to eradicate human trafficking, we cannot look at this issue through a one-dimensional lens, we must seek to understand how multiple processes and conditions happening to and around a potential victim and perpetrator contribute to either development. The amalgamation of psychological processes, micro- and macro-dynamics, as well as political/economic investment and will for advocacy must all be considered. We hope our victimization and perpetration profiles can be used as future tools for modeling how social processes accompany and sustain the normalization of abuse and victim-blaming in child sex trafficking. We have offered our RANK formula as a starting point to guide the next steps.

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**APPENDIX A***Supporting Evidence Quantifying Child Sex Trafficking Worldwide*

<b>Existing Evidence</b>	
<b>Source</b>	<b>Supplementing Data</b>
Gill, K. A., & Gaviria, G. (2018). Vulnerability factors when women and girls are trafficked. In <i>Handbook of Sex Trafficking: Feminist Transnational Perspectives</i> (pp. 63–71). Springer International.	<p>“...Many of the methods of recruitment utilize society’s glamorization and degradation of women that continue to plague our society”</p> <p>“Majority are recruited through...enticements that exploit basic and social needs” (p.64)</p>
Conley, A. H., Carlyle, K. E., Cuddleback, G., & Kornstein, S. G. (2023a). Working with survivors of sex trafficking: Mental health complications. <i>Psychiatric Clinics of North America</i> , 46(3), 597–606. <a href="http://doi.org/10.1016/j.psc.2023.04.013">http://doi.org/10.1016/j.psc.2023.04.013</a>	<p>“...Most common form of trafficking is commercial sexual exploitation of children...” (p. 599)</p> <p>“Impoverished communities...are vulnerable...searching for a better life...stigma, lack of resources...contribute to underreporting of human trafficking.” (p.598)</p>
Belles, N. (2018). Defining sex trafficking. In <i>Handbook of Sex Trafficking: Feminist Transnational Perspectives</i> (pp. 3–9). Springer International.	<p>“...Woood using lures...who pretends to care about the potential victim” (p.5)</p> <p>“...May not admit they are being forced... the victim ... through continual force, fraud, or coercion that they are willingly participating.” (p.4)</p>
National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. (2024, March 1). <i>Child Sex Trafficking Overview</i> . National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. <a href="https://www.missingkids.org/theissues/trafficking#bythenumbers">https://www.missingkids.org/theissues/trafficking#bythenumbers</a>	“Traffickers...masters of manipulation... prey upon vulnerabilities using psychological pressure, false promises actions of perceived love/support... intimidation to control and sexually exploit the child for their benefit”
Sidun, N. M. (2018). Traffickers: Who are they? In <i>Handbook of Sex Trafficking: Feminist Transnational Perspectives</i> (pp. 99–110). Springer International.	<p>“...Risks of being arrested... less...not always recognized...poor witnesses” (p.104)</p> <p>“Different methods of control...violence...isolation...religious beliefs...threats of law enforcement...to manipulate...not all methods openly coercive...sometimes extremely subtle or absent” (p.103)</p>

<p>Finigan-Carr, N. M., Johnson, M. H., Pullmann, M. D., Stewart, C. J., &amp; Fromknecht, A. E. (2018). A Traumagenic social ecological framework for understanding and intervening with sex trafficked children and youth. <i>Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal</i>, 36(1), 49–63. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1007/s10560-018-0588-7">https://doi.org/10.1007/s10560-018-0588-7</a></p>	<p>“Unique to ...sex trafficking is the stigma assigned to those who... violate social norms about sexuality and sexual behaviors.” (p.50)</p> <p>“...Social norms related to trafficking influenced by myths and moral ideologies...attribute blame to victims” (p.50)</p> <p>“Commoditization... the idea women’s bodies are commodities subjected to the rules of the market” (p.53)</p>
<p>Baron, I. M., &amp; Frost, C. (2018). Men, boys, and lgbtq: Invisible victims of human trafficking. <i>Handbook of Sex Trafficking: Feminist Transnational Perspectives</i> (pp. 73–84). Springer International.</p>	<p>“Males are often discounted as victims and prevented from seeking help due to overgeneralization and stereotyping” (p.74)</p> <p>“Stereotyping...wrongly viewing females as only victims and never perpetrators”</p>
<p>Tajfel, H. (1981). <i>Human Groups and Social Categories—Studies in Social Psychology</i>. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.</p>	<p>“We are then confronted with a spiral effect...the existence of prejudice...provides additional support and rewards for hostile judgments...removes the possibility of a ‘reality check’...which then feed upon each other...strongly entrenched in the form of powerful social myths” (p.134)</p>
<p>Lantry, L., Drymon, V., &amp; Morris, K. (2023, June 22). <i>Former FLDS members fear their children’s disappearance is part of Warren Jeffs’ prophecy</i>. ABC News. <a href="https://abcnews.go.com/US/former-flds-members-fear-childrens-disappearance-part-warren/story?id=99943910">https://abcnews.go.com/US/former-flds-members-fear-childrens-disappearance-part-warren/story?id=99943910</a></p>	<p>“Women are viewed... second-class and subservient to men.”</p> <p>“...Stigma attached to investigating or intruding upon freedom of religion.”</p>
<p>Sarachaga-Barato, N. (2018). Forced child and arranged marriages. <i>Handbook of Sex Trafficking: Feminist Transnational Perspectives</i> (pp. 85–96). Springer International.</p>	<p>“...Consistent with gender roles and collectivist assumptions...reluctant to voice objections...reinforcing dependency” (p.90)</p> <p>“...Fear of discussing their emotional experience...may be met with social approbation or judicial action” (p.89)</p>
<p>Baron, I. M. (2018). Human trafficking prevention efforts for kids (NEST). In <i>Handbook of Sex Trafficking: Feminist Transnational Perspectives</i> (pp. 139–154). Springer International.</p>	<p>“Traffickers know children are the most vulnerable...American schools are major targets for traffickers” (p.141)</p> <p>“Unbridled sexual passion fueled by mass media, and/or who are vulnerable to...conditions that American culture has created...to feel valued, are caught in the web: the supply and demand of sex trafficking.” (p.143)</p>

<p>Sarachaga-Barato, N., &amp; Walker, L. (2018). Victims becoming victimizers.  <i>Handbook of Sex Trafficking: Feminist Transnational Perspectives</i> (pp. 121–129). Springer International.</p>	<p>“Female traffickers may be given the role of recruiters... able to establish trust quicker...perceived to be more credible...” (p.124)</p> <p>“...Sexual slavery, abuse, and violent behavior...daily norm for prolonged amount of time...alters their ability to determine normal behaviors” (p. 122)</p>
<p>Nichols, A. J., Oberstaedt, M., Slutsker, S., &amp; Gilbert, K. (2023). Practitioners’ perspectives of family involved sex trafficking of minors: Implications for practice. <i>Journal of Family Violence</i>. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1007/s10896-023-00644-1">https://doi.org/10.1007/s10896-023-00644-1</a></p>	<p>“Lack of self-identification and disclosure is often rooted in a trajectory of trauma...abuse and neglect, as well as dynamics of intimidation, control...”</p> <p>“Family involved trafficking...they enable exploitation by looking the other way...”</p>
<p>Antonopoulou, C. (2018). Symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder in victims of trafficking. In <i>Handbook of Sex Trafficking: Feminist Transnational Perspectives</i> (pp. 273–286). Springer International.</p>	<p>“...Survivors of sex trafficking...likely to experience ...power-related issues...sexual abuse...”</p> <p>“Considerable evidence...children who are sexually abused ...difficulties as adults” (p.281)</p>
<p>Gervais, S. J. (2016). A social interaction approach to objectification: Implications for the social psychological study of sexual violence. In A. Miller, (Ed), <i>The social psychology of good and evil</i> (2nd ed., pp. 224-248). New York: Guilford Press.</p>	<p>“Social and organizational norms regarding the permissiveness of sexual harassment... cause sexually harassing behaviors...Perceived peer norms regarding sex are strong predictors of sexual aggression” (p.231)</p>