

The Super Bowl and Sex Trafficking

The Super Bowl is the number-one event for sex trafficking in the United States, and not just in the city where it happens. It is the cause of house parties, where men take over an apartment, and tell their spouses they are going over to watch the game. Then someone procures young girls, and boys, for a night, or a week, of sexual assault. The average age of the victims when they start in this life is 14.

Minneapolis is, year round, the number ten sexual slavery town in the United States. You can learn more about that with the Presbytery's mission with Rev. Arika Galloway and the Liberty Community Church. The Presbytery has sponsored this front line effort for quite a while. There is nothing new about this.

The profile of the Johns, the perps, the criminals, the rapists, are White men, who make \$100,000 a year, and live in the suburbs. Does that sound familiar?

No one in their right mind would say that there are no sexual predators in any faith community. We know better. The recent rash of women announcing they are Survivors has opened a lot of eyes. But there's more to be seen.

The following three questions are a starting place. From the Ethics Committee:

Why should our congregations care about sex trafficking?

Because the Christian Church is famous for letting perpetrators go, and we owe it to people who want to be in a faith community to assure them that we care about this, and are working to bring justice to our homes.

Because the perpetrators are overwhelmingly white men, and those victimized overwhelmingly women and children of color. It is our people, in the church and those outside of it, that we know, who are doing this, and it is our responsibility to fight it. Because if we don't do it, who will?

What can congregations do within their own walls?

First, we must not be squeamish about talking about this in church. We say virgin this and circumcised that, and Jacob had two concubines, etc. But as long as it was happening 2,000 years ago, we are okay talking about it. But sex slavery is happening now, in our cities.

Second, recognize that trafficking can be spotted and stopped. There are amazing stories about flight attendants, who see a young girl with an older man on an airline, and somehow their eyes connect, and the attendant glances at the bathroom, and leaves a notepad. The girl writes down that she is being trafficked, and the cops are ready when the plane lands.

And we have to watch out for it in our schools too. Talk to your kids. Make sure they know how to tell if their schoolmates, junior and senior high, are also being trafficked.

And finally, put the word out: if someone offers you Ten Thousand Dollars to rent your downtown apartment or a house for Super Bowl Week, just stall them and call the cops.

How can congregations advocate or take action in the community?

Check the resources in the report on pages 28-29:

<http://ptcaweb.org/images/Documents/Packets/Presbytery-Packet-2017-11-06.pdf>