

October 9th, 2018

Dear School Administrators and Educators,

Re: A Reminder for Your Students: Choose Appropriate Halloween Costumes

With Halloween fast approaching, Children of the Street Society would like your assistance in reminding students, parents and caregivers about inappropriate Halloween costumes which sexualize children and youth and glamorize sex trafficking (forced prostitution), sex exploitation, and gang lifestyles.

This year, the media has been filled with stories of the devastating impact that sexual assault and sexual exploitation has on victims and, yet the costume industry continues to put out costumes such as “prisoner of love” and “pimp and ho”. These costumes perpetuate and, glamorize sexual exploitation and minimize the lifelong pain of victims. The reality for those trapped in exploitive situations is far from glamorous.

In fact, annually sexual exploitation affects 300,000 children and youth in North America. Victims endure barriers and challenges like addiction, mental illness, homelessness, and lifelong trauma from physical, emotional and sexual abuse.

Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking are crimes that rely on individuals being unaware or misinformed on the issue. Wearing Halloween costumes that stereotype or make light of these harmful forms of exploitation, only contributes to the problem.

Please encourage your students to avoid glamorizing sexual exploitation by refusing to wear Halloween costumes that revictimize those who have suffered the devastation of this crime.

On Behalf of Children of the Street Society,



Diane Sowden Executive Director, Children of the Street Society