

DID YOU KNOW?

- An estimated 240,000–325,000 youth in the United States are at risk for commercial sexual exploitation annually.
- Adolescent girls, particularly those abused, neglected, or exposed to family violence and addiction, are especially vulnerable to recruitment by pimps.
- The most frequent ages for girls recruited into prostitution are between 12 and 15 years old—middle school age.



My Life My Choice is working to stem the tide of commercial sexual exploitation in the United States by harnessing girls' strength, resilience, and outrage.

Our Impact

- MLMC reaches more than **200 girls annually** in the Greater Boston area through prevention and mentoring initiatives.
- Mentees get a glimpse of life beyond exploitation and an **unwavering support system**. They go on to higher education, careers, and **leadership roles** in the fight against sex trafficking.
- Participants in MLMC prevention groups learn to avoid exploitation and **share knowledge** with friends.
- Since 2002, **MLMC has trained over 3,000 youth service providers** in MA and nationally.
- As a result of our trainings, **hundreds of youth across the nation** will connect with trained providers who can spot exploitation and intervene.
- Massachusetts communities learn to **take action against exploitation** through MLMC outreach.
- MLMC helped draft Massachusetts' **Safe Harbor legislation**, which will ensure that exploited minors receive critical services, not jail time.

MLMC leads the fight against exploitation through

PREVENTION

10-week girls' groups

IDENTIFICATION

Training to help service providers identify victims

INTERVENTION

Case coordination and survivor mentoring

AWARENESS & ADVOCACY

Changing community understanding and response

In 2006, the United States Department of Justice recognized our program as a national model for sex trafficking prevention.



The difference we make...

...to a child

“My Life My Choice is the gold standard in prevention and mentoring programs for commercially sexually exploited and trafficked girls.”

—Rachel Lloyd, Executive Director of the New York-based
Girls Educational and Mentoring Services

Born to a mother who had been exploited through prostitution from a young age and who struggled with drug addiction, Marie ran away from home at age 14. She was quickly lured into prostitution by a pimp who promised he'd take care of her. Identified by law enforcement and placed in a group home by child protective services, Marie continued to run, seeking what she believed to be her only source of love. When she was 15, Marie began working with a My Life My Choice Survivor Mentor. Through their relationship, Marie learned about love that didn't hurt and how to love herself. Now 20, Marie is living on her own, working, and making plans for her future. She credits her relationship with her mentor as the most important factor in helping her find safety.

“Having someone not judge me and just be there for me, that is the best thing I have ever had in my life.”

—Marie, MLMC mentee

“Today was great in girls' group; I remembered all the memories, and how strong I am, and how I keep my head up. I know it's not my fault and I'm not alone.”

—MLMC prevention group participant

...in Massachusetts

“We rely upon My Life My Choice in the fight to combat commercial sexual exploitation of children.”

—Sergeant Detective Donna M. Gavin, Boston Police Human Trafficking Unit,
Massachusetts Task Force to Combat Human Trafficking

As a result of MLMC's collaboration with law enforcement and youth service providers, girls who previously would have been prosecuted or ignored in Massachusetts are now getting intervention and treatment.

...in national efforts to combat human sex trafficking

“The [MLMC] curriculum embraces an empowerment approach and blends a variety of activities which foster self-reflection, understanding about the issue, and knowledge to help young women identify potentially exploitive situations.”

—Rachel Durchslag, Executive Director of the Chicago
Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation

My Life My Choice's 10-week prevention group model has been replicated in states including Minnesota, Connecticut, Illinois, and California.