

# NMDPS - HUMAN SEX TRAFFICKING OR PROSTITUTION?

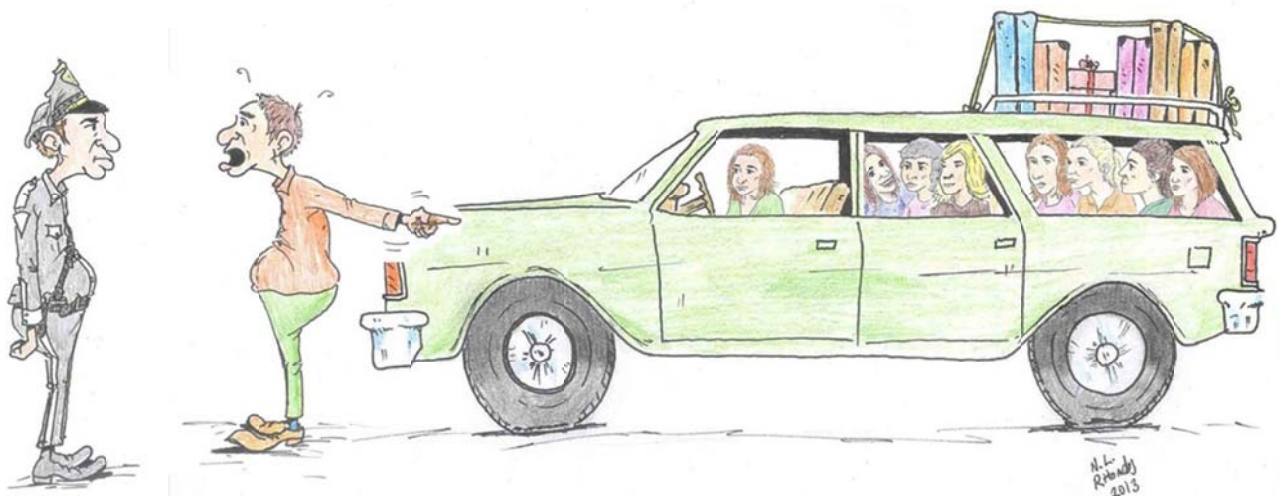
One usually thinks of trafficking as someone being smuggled across the border to work for another. But what about local prostitution where a pimp lurks in the background, pulling the strings? Human sex trafficking?

It can be. Across the country, a new trend looks at a hooker – in some, but not all cases – as a possible victim. For law enforcement, a new way to approach the world’s Oldest Profession. Perceived as a victim rather than a defendant, it offers an opportunity to change a prostitute’s lifestyle. New Mexico human trafficking laws are supportive:

Human trafficking consists of a person knowingly . . .

- Recruiting, soliciting, enticing, transporting . . . another person with the intent or knowledge that force, fraud or coercion will be used to subject the person to . . . criminal sexual activity.
- Benefiting, financially or by receiving anything of value, from the . . . commercial sexual activity of another person with the knowledge that force, fraud or coercion was used to obtain . . . commercial sexual activity. NMSA 1978, Section 30-52-1.  
(third degree felony – three years – but higher based upon age of victim)

When a prostitute is a victim, this statute can be very helpful. Victims can be eligible for benefits, regardless of immigration status, but must cooperate in the investigation or prosecution of an offender. (2013) - - - Elliott Guttman, Law Enforcement Academy



**You call them victims! You ever traveled cross country with seventeen females?!**