Automatic: When a pimp/trafficker is out of town and a prostitute is working while he is gone.

Bag Up: To be caught/arrested by the police.

Bottom: The appointed female to supervise the trafficker’s other girls. Usually has been with the trafficker/pimp the longest. May be instructed to train new girls, including punishment, advertisement, and recruitment.

Branding: Using a special mark or tattoo to show ownership by a trafficker/pimp.

Break Yourself: What a pimp tells a prostitute when he wants her to make money.

Broke Luck: Phrase referring to when a prostitute makes money. If a prostitute has turned a trick for money she is said to have “broke luck” for that day.

Brothel: Building where sex acts are performed.

Buster: A person who tries to act like a pimp, but is not really a pimp.

Caught a Case: When a prostitute or pimp has been arrested and charged with a crime.

Choose Up: A prostitute having to pick a new pimp. This can be done either voluntarily or by looking another pimp in the eyes. In the latter case, she has “chosen” that new pimp even if she didn’t want to.

Circuit: All of the tracks in the country. When a prostitute works the circuit, her pimp takes her from city to city, or track to track. The female will work a certain track until she stops making money or the police begin paying too much attention to that prostitute.

CSEC (Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children): When people buy, sell or trade sexual acts with a child under the age of 18.

Coercion: When a pimp/trafficker uses threats of harm or physical constraints against a person or their family. Used to control and keep victims.

Daddy: The name that most pimps are called by their prostitutes.
Date: Can be used to describe the act of prostitution or the client itself.

DMST (Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking): The commercial sexual exploitation of American children within the U.S. border.

Escort Service: A business that coordinates sexual transactions between a victim and purchaser by scheduling and sending the victim to the purchaser or a chosen location. Escort services tend to be more expensive.

Force: Physical force used to take or control a victim.

Fraud: The promise of employment or goods used to bait a victim and move him/her away from their familiar environment and later the promise is taken away and the reality of being forced to perform sex acts is revealed.

Gorilla Pimp: The most violent type of pimp who uses violence and force to control the victims. In charge of victims schedule and daily routines; meals, showers, sleep, etc.

Grooming: Taking the time to build a relationship and trust between a trafficker/pimp and a new or potential victim. Tends to purchase many gifts or shower the victim with attention and promises.

John: A slang term for a man who pays for the services of a prostitute. A client of prostitution or a child victim.

Lot Lizard: Derogatory term for any individual prostituted at truck stops.

Mack (Man Acquiring Cash through Knowledge): An “upper level” pimp. Will supposedly take money from any female, not just a prostitute.

Minor: Anyone under the age of 18 years old, regardless of the state’s legal age of consent.

National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC): Monitors the 24/7 National Hotline (1-888-373-7888).

Out of Pocket: When a victim breaks the code of ethics and usually results in harm or punishment.

Outlaw: A prostitute without a pimp.

Party: The act of prostitution. Example: A prostitute may ask a client if he wants to “party.”

Peel a Trick: Phrase used to describe the act when a prostitute steals something from her client.

Pimp/Trafficker: A person who persuades, compels, or entices an individual to become a prostitute or continue to commit acts of prostitution. The pimp takes all, or a portion, of the money from his prostitutes and usually has no legitimate source of income. Pimp is an acronym for “Provided Income from Managing Prostitutes.” He/She manages prostitutes by scheduling their “dates” and profiting from their earnings.

Pimp Circle: Describes a situation where pimps circle around a victim to intimidate and discipline them, using verbal and physical threats/actions.

Pimp Party: When several pimps “unite” to abuse a prostitute for either being disrespectful, trying to leave “the game,” or reporting a pimp to the police. It usually consists of several pimps gang-raping the prostitute, beating her, urinating and/or defecating on her, and other forms of abuse.
Quota: The designated amount of money a victim must earn each day.

Romeo Pimp: A pimp/trafficker who at first is very loving and showers victims with gifts to gain their trust, and make the victim dependent upon them. They then exploit the victim and threaten violence if they do not cooperate.

Seasoning: The process of breaking a victim’s spirit and gaining control over her, using rape, beating, manipulation, and intimidation.

Sex Industry: Composed of the businesses that provide sex-related products and/or services (adult entertainment stores, strip clubs, massage parlors, street prostitution, etc.).

Sex Tourism: A trip planned for the purpose of purchasing sex.

Sex Trafficking: When force, fraud, or coercion is used to cause someone to perform a commercial sex act. Any commercial sex act with a minor is sex trafficking. A commercial sex act is sexual activity in which there is the promise of something valuable in return.

Sextortion: The act of an individual befriending young girls or boys and convincing them to send sexual photos or videos of themselves and then using the images and videos to blackmail the girls into the sex trade.

Stable: Group of victims who are under the control of the same pimp/trafficker.

Staying in Pocket: A slang term for the practice of forbidding prostituted women from observing street or establishment names or general surroundings during “dates” in order to keep them isolated.

The Life: The culture of the commercial sex economy, including the code of ethics, hierarchy and lingo.