

---

The New York Times

# The Opinion Pages

Letters

## A New York Plan to Help Young Blacks and Latinos

Published: August 14, 2011

### To the Editor:

Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg's ambitious \$130 million plan to help disenfranchised black male youth deserves much praise. For too long, young men of color have grown up on the margins of our society.

But let's not forget our city's marginalized black and Latino girls, many of whom wind up in New York's expansive sex industry controlled by traffickers. According to a [state report](#), there are thousands of prostituted girls here — 67 percent of whom are African-American — and thousands more at risk.

Awaiting them are violence, pregnancy, incarceration and stigma — all which take them further away from a life of love, education, employment and safety.

Sexually exploited and trafficked young women have not been high on anyone's priority list, and little money is spent on helping them. It's time to change that.

SONIA OSSORIO

Exec. Dir., New York City Chapter  
National Organization for Women  
New York, Aug. 5, 2011