



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Woman purchased for \$2,000 and prostituted on Craigslist First Human Trafficking Conviction Under New Law

New York, NY, December 3, 2009 — David Brown of Queens was convicted last night of sex trafficking, second-degree kidnapping and third-degree promoting prostitution in connection with making a troubled young woman have sex with about 3 men a day for 12 straight days in August of 2008. He faces up to 25 years in prison.

Brown found his customer base on Craigslist, where he posted nude photos of the 19-year-old woman and prostituted her to men for \$60 to \$200 a sex session. Brown originally paid \$2,000 to a former girlfriend for access to the woman. Brown then informed the victim that she was now his “bitch” and that she had to earn him money through prostitution. He was able to keep her from leaving by threatening to cut up her body to make sure no one knew she was dead.

“This scenario is not unique,” said Sonia Ossorio, president of NOW-NYC. “Women and girls as young as 12 are being prostituted in New York City and the suburbs from Syracuse to Spring Valley. There are few states that have as compelling and immediate a need to make human trafficking a priority. New Yorkers have waited a long time to see progress on this front. This conviction should only be the first of many.”

“I applaud the dedicated prosecutors at the Queen’s District Attorney’s Office who are leading the way in the fight to end human trafficking in our communities,” Ossorio said. “This is a rallying call for all District Attorneys throughout New York to go after traffickers and johns who create the demand.”

NOW-NYC and the New York State Anti-Trafficking Coalition lobbied for a strong, comprehensive anti-trafficking law. The new law was passed in 2007 and includes a comprehensive definition of trafficking, tough penalties for traffickers, comprehensive services for victims, clearer laws on sex tourism operations, and increased penalties for patronizing prostitution from a B to an A misdemeanor.

“We have to start asking the question, “Who are the men paying for sex with a troubled, scared young woman who is being guarded?” Ossorio said. “Trafficking will never subside until we address demand.”

The National Organization for Women is the nation’s largest organization working to advance women’s rights and improve women’s lives. The New York City Chapter of NOW, founded in 1966, is the largest chapter in the country with over 5,000 members locally and 35,000 statewide. NOW-NYC works to protect women’s reproductive choices, end violence against women and eliminate sex discrimination in our schools, workplaces, and the justice system in New York.

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