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Trafficking: Reaching the Boys and Men?

In the past twenty years there has been increasing concern from the global church on the issue of sexual exploitation and trafficking. Different faith based organizations and denominations have taken this issue seriously and as a result a number of women and girls have come to faith. The process is not straightforward. The understanding of the father heart of God can be unhelpful to those who have had a negative experience with older male predators who have sexually abused or exploited them. Sadly, there have been several gaps in the missiology of reaching out to this vulnerable group of victims. One is the sexual abuse and exploitation of boys and men. The church has been largely silent to the abuse of this gender. Young men who have experienced abuse can also come to a saving knowledge of their saviour. Another is the sexual abuse and exploitation of transgender. The 'gay debate' has left many who need our help 'out in the cold' without support or help. The LGBT community should not be excluded from the church who should welcome all. Sexual abuse and trafficking will never be addressed without the issue of demand being addressed. The church needs to wake up to wider sexual issues than just pornography and challenge men in the church to be protectors of women, men, girls and boys. Even predators need the Lord and those whose lives are turned around through the gospel will stop abuse and begin living changed lives.

Abstract for the Genderin mission Study Group