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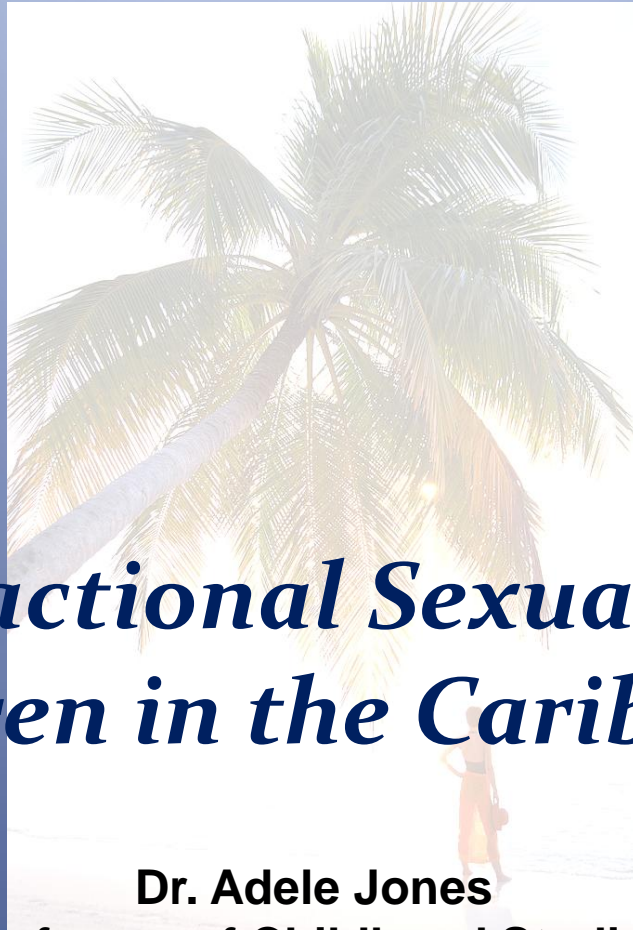
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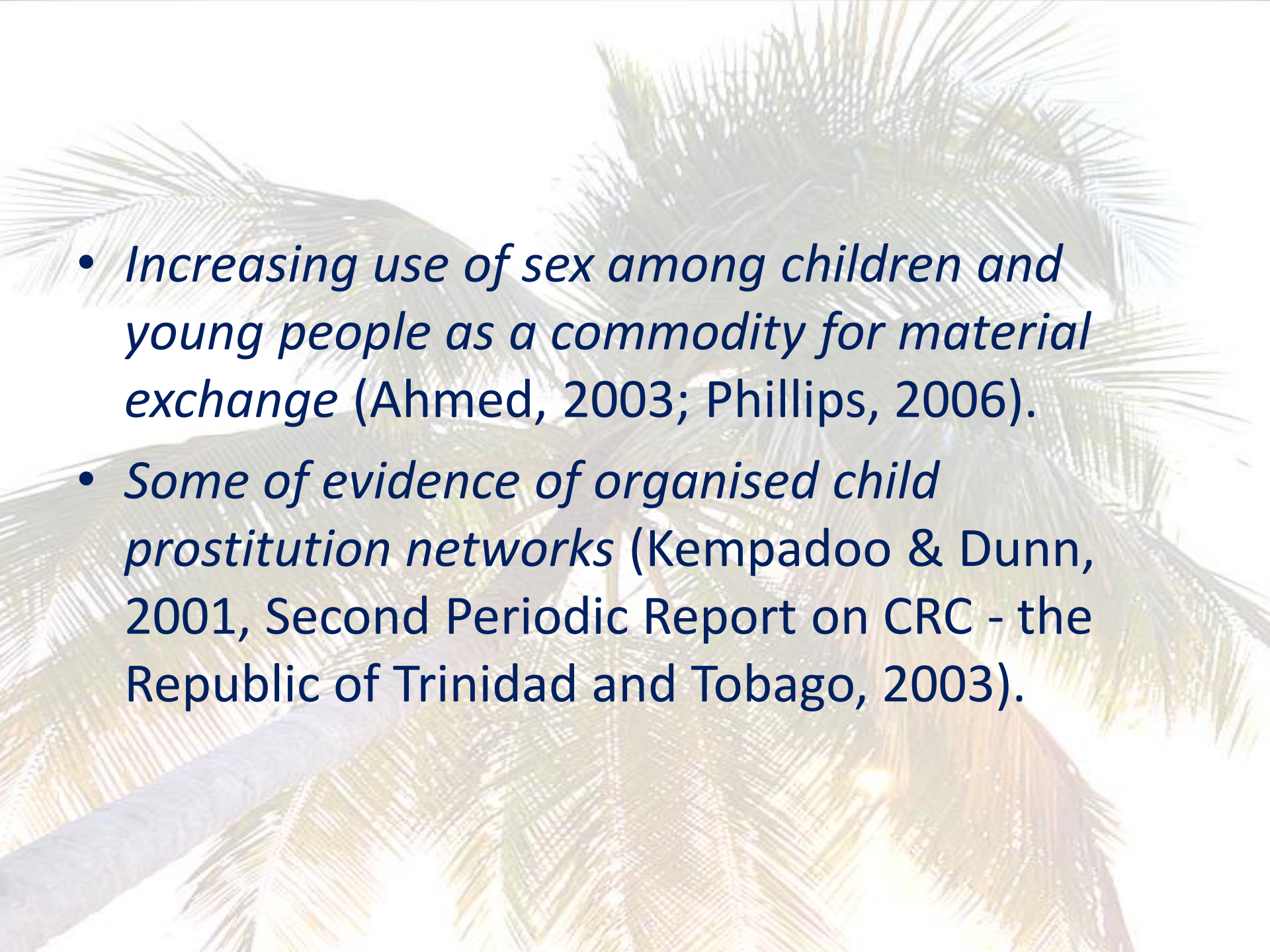
The Transactional Sexual Abuse of Children in the Caribbean

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Caribbean Studies Association Annual Conference, May 2010
Barbados

Literature review – the context

- *CSEC in the Caribbean is a persistent and growing problem (IOM, 2005).*
- *Child abuse is a problem in both Latin America and the Caribbean (PAHO, 2001).*
- *Sexual abuse and exploitation is one of the more common types of abuse in the Caribbean (PAHO, 2001).*

- 
- *Increasing use of sex among children and young people as a commodity for material exchange (Ahmed, 2003; Phillips, 2006).*
 - *Some of evidence of organised child prostitution networks (Kempadoo & Dunn, 2001, Second Periodic Report on CRC - the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, 2003).*

Inequality

- *The Caribbean has many of the negative social and economic characteristics generally associated with CSEC, (high unemployment rates, poor levels of education in deprived communities, social class & gender inequalities and social deprivation) (UNICEF, 2007).*

ECONOMIC, POLICY & LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

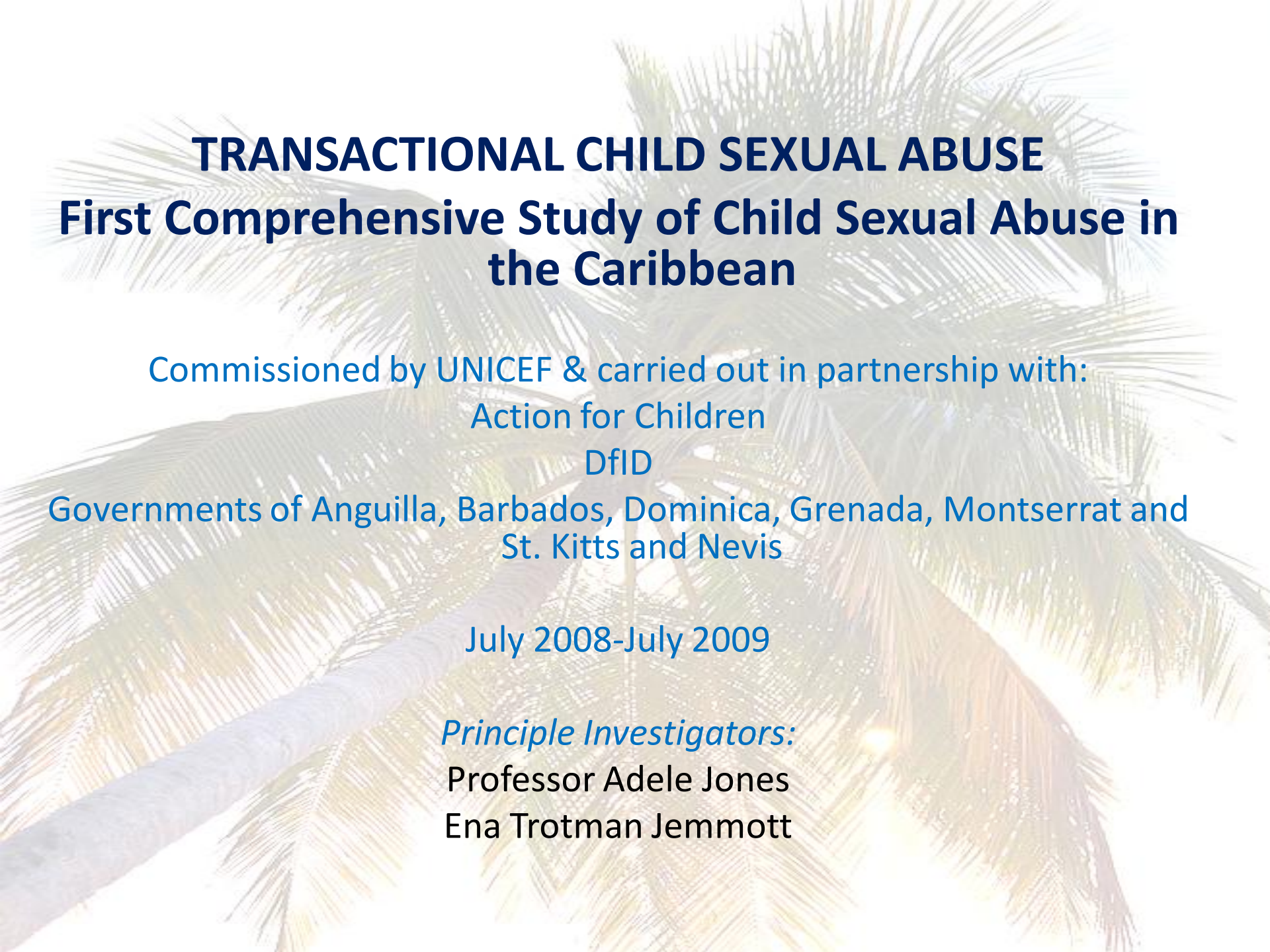
- *Globalisation, trade liberalisation, tourism, economic recession, travel, computer technology and industrial development (ECPAT, 2008, Kempadoo, 1999).*
- *Weak domestic, regional and extra-territorial legislation (ECPAT, 2008)*
- *Poor infrastructure, surveillance and investigative systems*
- *Ineffective implementation of international agreements*

CSEC especially serious for several key reasons

- Children increasingly targeted for sex
- Number of children involved on increase.
- CSEC does not have a distinct pattern - constantly changing. Difficult for legislators to keep pace with the activities of child exploiters.
- The most vulnerable of children at greatest risk (poor children, street children, child refugees, orphans) are key targets for traffickers and paedophiles.
- Linked to other global phenomena such as HIV-AIDS and poverty, CSEC threatens to set back developmental progress especially in relation to human rights and the creation of healthy societies.
- Effects are profound for the individual – entrapment often includes use of violence & drugs

CSEC includes:

- Street Prostitution
- Pornography
- Stripping
- Erotic/nude massages
- Escort services
- Phone sex lines
- Private parties
- Gang-based prostitution
- **INTERFAMILIAL PIMPING**
- Forms of internet-based exploitation



TRANSACTIONAL CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

First Comprehensive Study of Child Sexual Abuse in the Caribbean

Commissioned by UNICEF & carried out in partnership with:

Action for Children

DfID

Governments of Anguilla, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat and
St. Kitts and Nevis

July 2008-July 2009

Principle Investigators:

Professor Adele Jones

Ena Trotman Jemmott

Methods

- **Multiple mixed methods participative approach** (Community survey, Focus Groups, Policy-focused Interviews, Practice-focused Interviews, Narrative Interviews with Survivors, Legislative & Policy Analysis)
- **Wide-ranging** –Caribbean researchers working in six countries gathered data from over 1,400 men and women from all social backgrounds and levels of education



Main forms of CSA

- Intra-familial abuse (including incest)
- Non-family abuse
- Transactional sexual abuse

Findings both universal and specific

Transactional child sexual abuse

Transactional child sexual abuse is the sexual abuse of a minor which involves the exchange of money, goods, or favours in return for sex

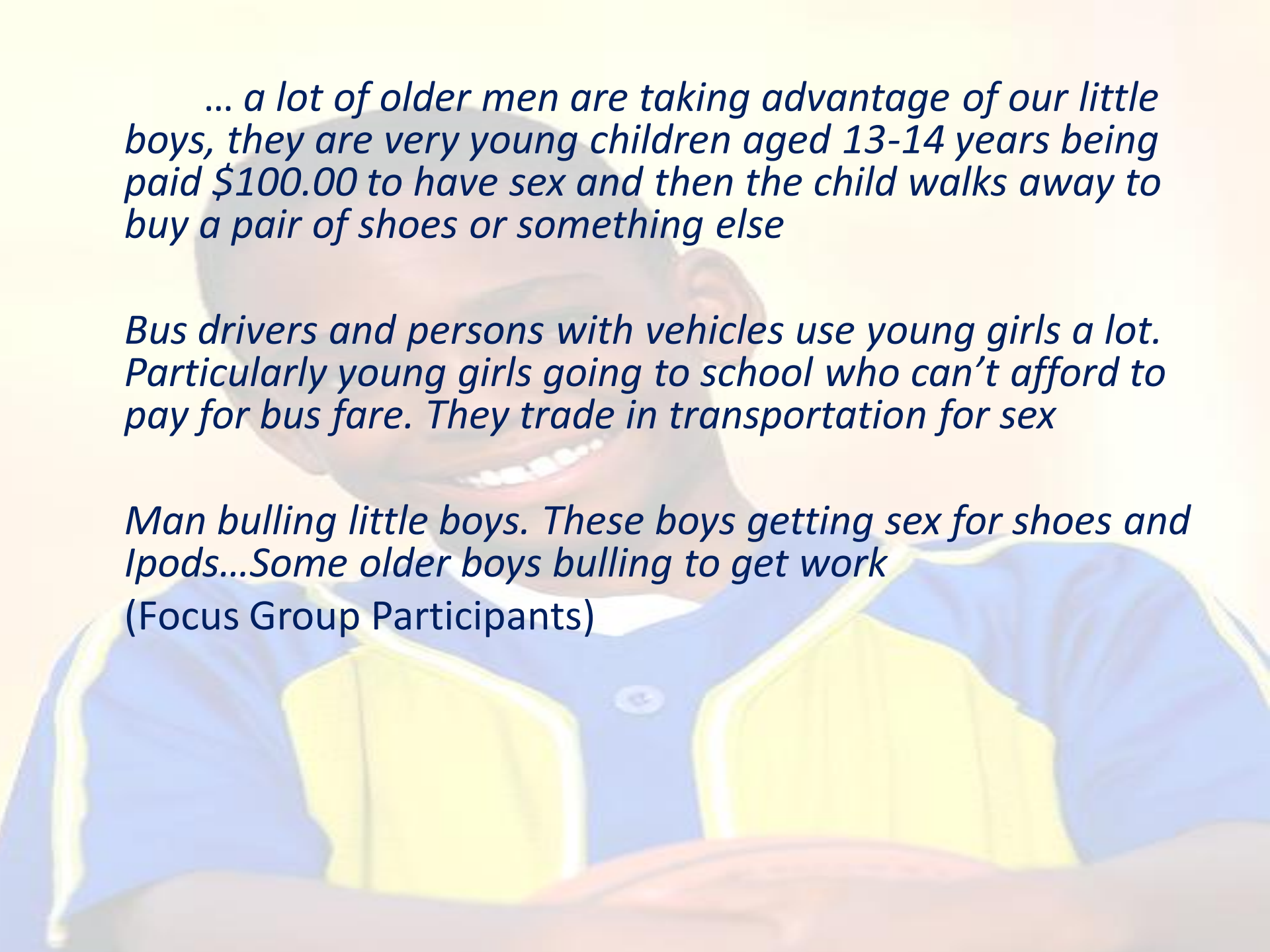
Commercial sexual exploitation more usually applies to persons who make money or derive income from the sexual exploitation of children. In transactional sexual abuse men do not make money out of sex with children, it is the young people themselves or their families (mothers) who derived income or goods through the prostituting of children. It is important to ensure that primary responsibility for this form of abuse is laid at the feet of the abuser. **'Transactional sexual abuse'** places the responsibility for this behaviour with the men who engage in sex with girls (and boys) in return for material goods while 'commercial sexual exploitation' focuses attention also on those who derive material benefit.

Key features

- Committed by men at all levels of society, including politicians and senior professionals.
- Primarily older men and teenage girls
- Increasingly boys are involved
- Isolated examples of women targeting young girls and boys
- High rates of transactional sex *between* young people mirroring adult behaviour and also making children more vulnerable to being targeted by adult men

An Open Secret

- Often happens with the full knowledge of parents, communities and officials.
- A firmly entrenched and established pattern of behaviour that does not need to be hidden since it is very common and is considered unlikely to attract penalty or even disapproval.



... a lot of older men are taking advantage of our little boys, they are very young children aged 13-14 years being paid \$100.00 to have sex and then the child walks away to buy a pair of shoes or something else

Bus drivers and persons with vehicles use young girls a lot. Particularly young girls going to school who can't afford to pay for bus fare. They trade in transportation for sex

*Man bullying little boys. These boys getting sex for shoes and Ipods...Some older boys bullying to get work
(Focus Group Participants)*

Sex for money

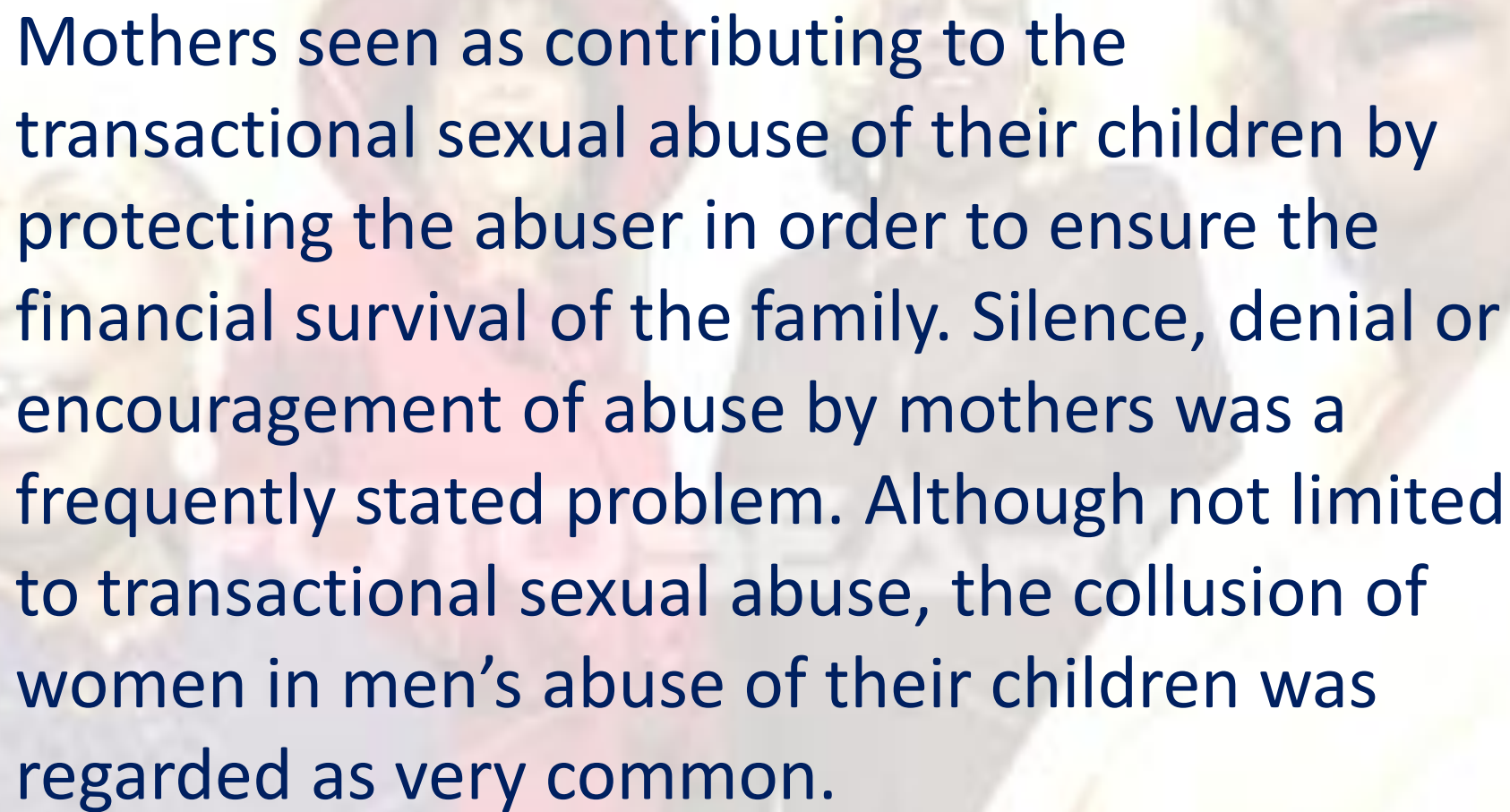


“Where prostitution is concerned, them girls ain’t easy. The child may not see it as such, having sex for material gains...to get mobile telephones, brand name things or top-up may not be seen as prostitution but it is...” (Focus Group participant)

Some parents allow their children to be with an older man because the man is giving the mother money.

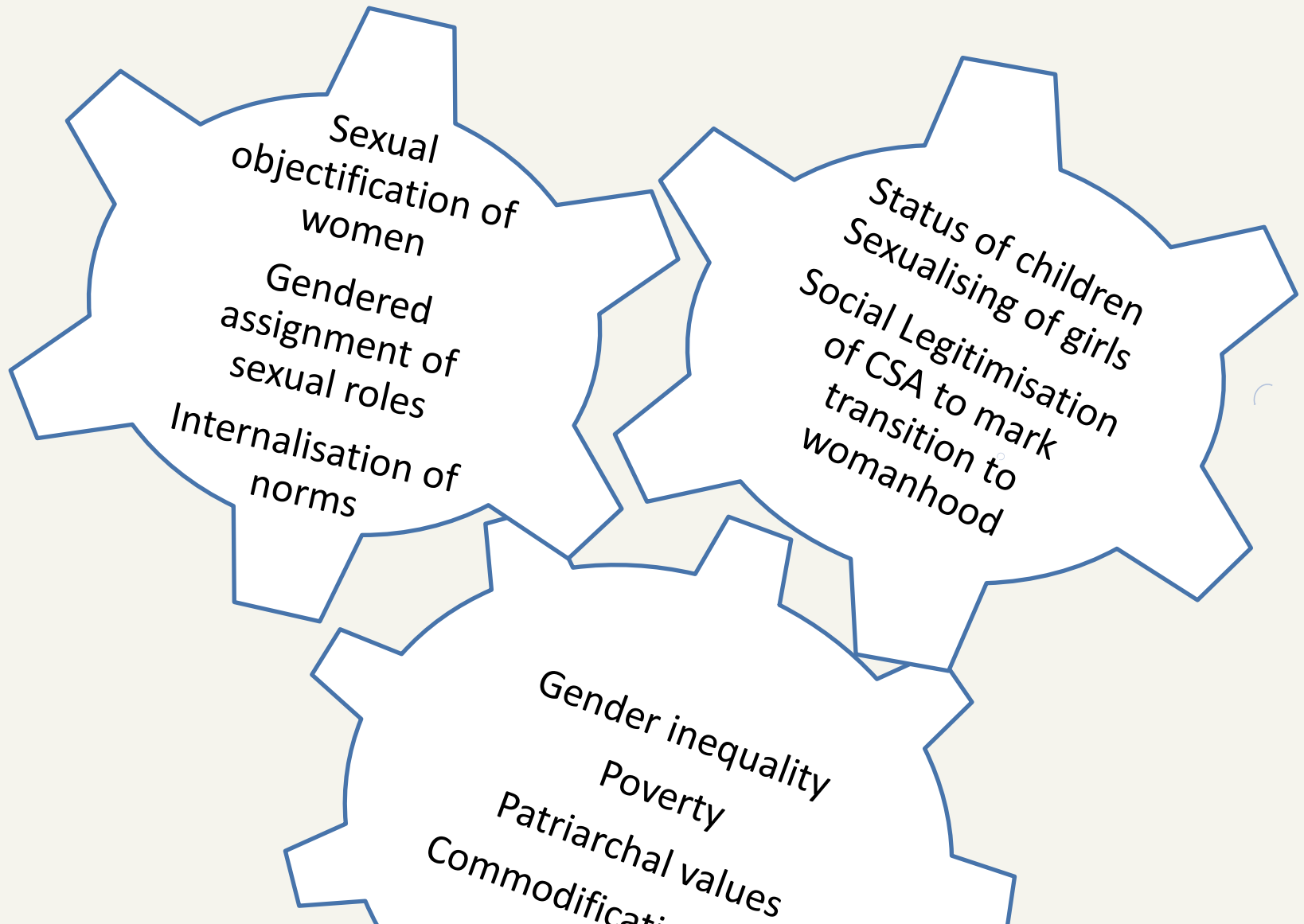
Some parents know that their children are engaging in sex with an adult and may be gaining or getting things for themselves from the same relationship.

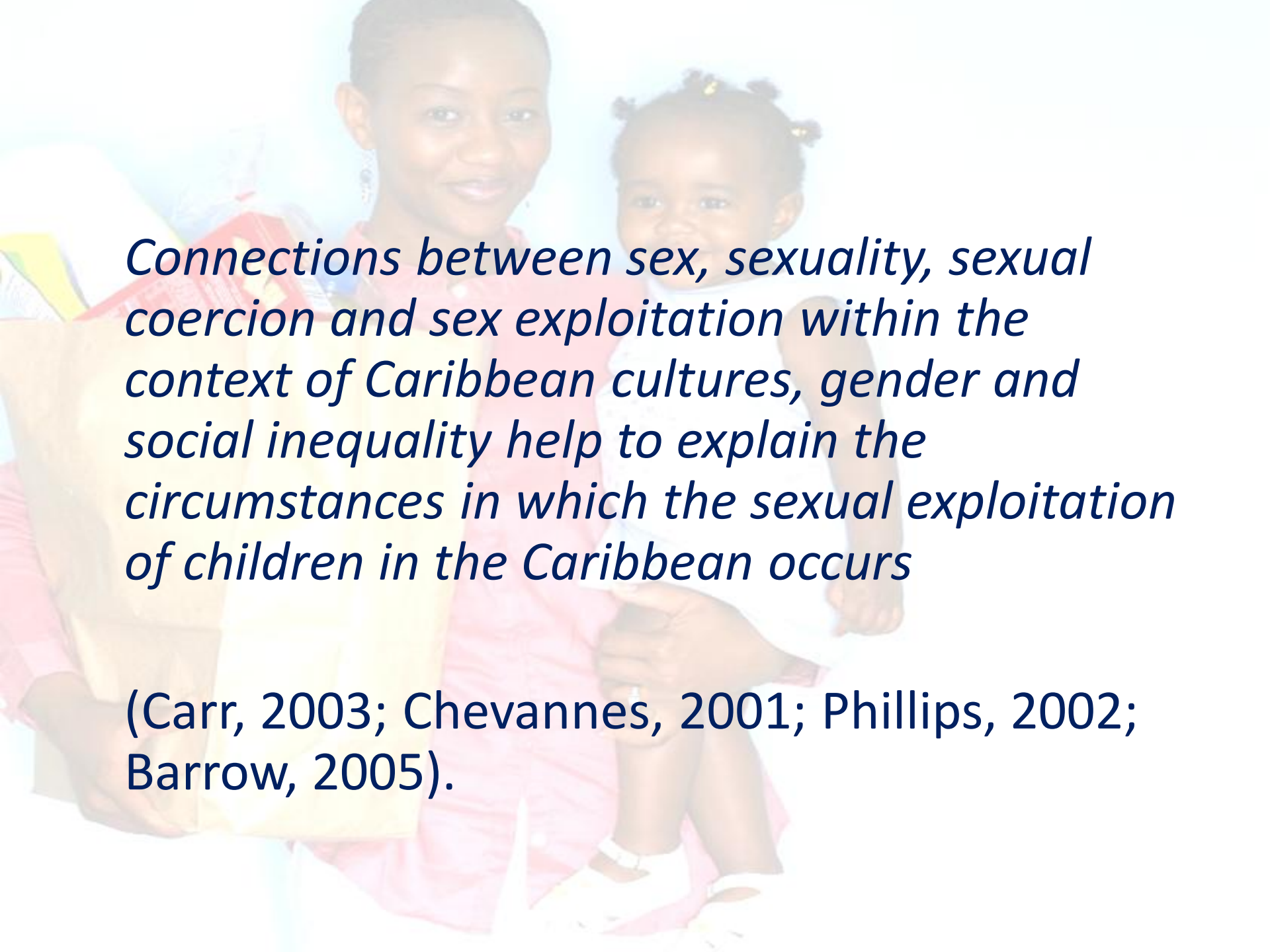
Children and teenagers appear over-sexed...and it's not from interaction with their peers...this must be coming from the home



Mothers seen as contributing to the transactional sexual abuse of their children by protecting the abuser in order to ensure the financial survival of the family. Silence, denial or encouragement of abuse by mothers was a frequently stated problem. Although not limited to transactional sexual abuse, the collusion of women in men's abuse of their children was regarded as very common.

Interlocking Factors



A photograph of a woman with dark hair, wearing a pink dress, smiling and holding a young girl in a white dress. The woman is holding a large, light-colored bag. The background is a soft, light blue and white gradient.

Connections between sex, sexuality, sexual coercion and sex exploitation within the context of Caribbean cultures, gender and social inequality help to explain the circumstances in which the sexual exploitation of children in the Caribbean occurs

(Carr, 2003; Chevannes, 2001; Phillips, 2002; Barrow, 2005).

Consequences

- Teen pregnancy and associated consequences
- Abortion complications *
- Drug and alcohol abuse*
- Transmission of STIs and HIV*
- Crime and violence*
- Cycle of devastation
- Economic consequences of the above- major problem for fragile economies*
- Emotional, psychological, behavioural problems
- Physical problems: injuries to reproductive organs; STIs, HIV, abortion and associated risks



Recommendations

www.unicef.org/barbados

Thank You

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