Whose Daughter Next? Children abused through prostitution (report and video)

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‘Men across the country are selling, controlling and abusing children without fear of prosecution. When that happens in the home, it is called child abuse. When it happens in bedsits and flats and payment is involved, it is called prostitution.’ Whose Daughter Next?

Changing attitudes
This ground-breaking report and video, which was part of Barnardo’s campaign to raise awareness of the plight faced by children abused through prostitution, succeeded in influencing government policy. The report calls for adults who abuse and exploit children for sex, power or money to be prosecuted in a way that reflects the seriousness of the crime. As a result, the government now recognises that men who buy and sell sex from children should be called into account for breaking the law, while children abused in this way should be treated as children in need.

Pattern of abuse
During the course of its work with young women, Barnardo’s has recognised a pattern of control and abuse, outlined in the report:
• ensnaring, where a young man between 18 and 25 meets a girl, usually between 12 and 14, and impresses her with his maturity, money and good looks. They begin a sexual relationship and she falls in love
• creating dependency, where he becomes very possessive and destroys her ties to friends and family
• taking control, where he begins to control all aspects of her life and becomes violent
• total dominance, where she agrees to have sex with someone else, often one of his ‘friends’, without realising that money has changed hands.
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