



OFFICE OF THE SAINT LOUIS COUNTY ATTORNEY

MARK S. RUBIN COUNTY ATTORNEY

“She’s Somebody’s Daughter” Sex Trafficking Panel Presentation and Discussion

Sponsors include the Ely Branch of AAUW and EMPOWER in cooperation with Ely Community Health Council, Ely Public Library, Fortune Bay Resort Casino, Friends of the Ely Public Library, St. Louis County Attorney’s Office and Vermilion Community College.

Do you know what’s going on in our region? Come learn more!

January is National Human Trafficking Awareness Month nationwide, and northland leaders and communities have planned events to recognize the month on a local level. Sex trafficking of women and young girls in the United States has risen dramatically, and public awareness and preventative actions have also increased. In Minnesota, 8,000 to 12,000 women and girls are currently being trafficked, kept isolated and controlled, often transported away from their region, abused, and sold for sexual purposes. And, yes, it’s happening in our area.

We invite you to join us on Wed., Jan. 29 at 6:30 pm in the Vermilion Community College Lecture Hall 104, for a panel discussion of sex trafficking in our region and throughout Minnesota to hear about the current situation and learn what the public can do to recognize and report sex trafficking when they see it.

Panel members include: St. Louis County Attorney Mark Rubin. He is personally working on this issue both statewide and locally and is committed to raising awareness and supporting efforts to protect trafficking victims. **Autumn Cole**, Ph.D., LP, LICSW. She is a recently retired clinical psychologist who worked as a therapist for over 40 years, specializing in working with survivors of sexual abuse and domestic violence. **A representative from Congressman Rick Nolan’s office.** Representative Nolan is leading a bipartisan effort to strengthen sex trafficking laws, introducing H.R.3530, the “Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act.” **Regional Director Jerry Fallos** from Senator Amy Klobuchar’s Office. Senator Klobuchar is working to combat sex trafficking on many fronts, including introducing S-1733, the “Stop Exploitation Through Trafficking Act of 2013.”

At the local level, the Ely City Council passed a resolution supporting Minnesota’s Safe Harbor Act to define all sex-trafficked children under the age of 18 as crime victims. Book clubs and individuals in the Ely area are reading *Girls Like Us* written by a young woman who was trapped “in the life”.

We hope to see you at the panel; there will be opportunity for questions and discussion.
Sincerely,

Ely Trafficking Task Force

Note: For more information about sex trafficking go to <http://www.wfmn.org/mn-girls-are-not-for-sale/> or <https://www.facebook.com/MNGirlsNotForSale>.

For more information on the Ely Trafficking Task Force, call 365-8801.