

SATURDAY OPINION

GUEST COLUMN

Sex trafficking victims need Safe Harbor

By Deanna Anderson

Atlanta has a growing economy, a thriving entertainment industry and a budding tech sector. Our region is home to multiple Fortune 500 headquarters and will add millions of residents in coming decades. But unfortunately, the city has earned another distinction in recent years: “sex trafficking capital of the United States.”

According to the Urban Institute, the illegal sex industry in Atlanta brings in almost \$290 million per year. That’s more than double the combined profits of the city’s illegal drug and gun trades, which is roughly \$117 million annually. The problem is staggering. Nearly 100 children are sold for sex in Atlanta every day and sex trafficking cases have been reported in two-thirds of Georgia’s counties.

The average age of recruitment into the sex trade is between 11 and 14 years old, though some victims are younger. Predators use seduction, coercion, violence or drugs to force children into a life they never imagined – a life no child should ever experience.

Child sex trafficking is considered the exploitation or selling of anyone under the age of 18 for sexual activity in exchange for cash or anything of value. Innocent children are taken from the church yard, the classroom and the house next door, often by some-



Commercial sex exploitation of children is a problem in metro Atlanta. The Urban Institute says Atlanta’s illegal sex industry brings in nearly \$290 million a year. The average age of recruitment into the trade is between 11 and 14 years old.

one they already know.

Community organizations and legislators are fighting back and asking for your help. This November, please vote “Yes” on Constitutional Amendment 2 to create a special fund – the Safe Harbor Fund – to rehabilitate the victims of sex trafficking in our state, without increasing the tax burden on Georgia citizens.

For the children who have suffered at the hands of pimps, madams and

johns, recovery is costly – up to \$80,000 per year. They have experienced sexual, physical and mental abuse. They are often malnourished and suffer from post-traumatic stress. In many cases, they’ve given up hope for a normal life and are extremely depressed. Even though they had no choice about their circumstances, child victims often feel intense guilt and shame. Without a holistic range of intensive restorative services, it

is difficult to recover and resume a normal, healthy life.

If approved, Safe Harbor will provide up to \$2 million annually. The money will come from additional penalties on convicted sex traffickers and a new fee on the adult entertainment industry. An appointed commission will distribute funds directly to the agencies, faith-based organizations and non-profits that provide safe housing, trauma counseling, med-

ical treatment and other resources to these children in need.

The Junior League of Atlanta (JLA), the Georgia Center for Child Advocacy, Street GRACE and youthSpark have partnered together to educate Georgians of all ages and advocate for Amendment 2.

JLA’s Sexual Exploitation/Human Trafficking committee is dedicated to helping Georgia’s youngest victims of sex-

ual exploitation through education and donations. Through youthSpark, a nonprofit dedicated to helping the children and families potentially most vulnerable, JLA donated \$100,000 to help fund the new Youth Services Center at the Fulton County Juvenile Court. The Youth Services Center will provide on-site screening, support and treatment for at-risk youth.

“Child sex trafficking is a scourge on our state, but it’s a solvable problem,” said youthSpark Executive Director Alex Trouteaud. “Partners such as The Junior League of Atlanta challenge and enable service providers like youthSpark to go beyond merely addressing our trafficking problem as it exists today, and instead work together strategically to reduce victimization and combat child sex trafficking before children are recruited.”

The Junior League of Atlanta asks you to help stop sex trafficking, both at the ballot box and in your communities. Please spread the word and vote “Yes” on Amendment 2 on Nov. 8. Visit safeharbor-ryes.com for more details.

Together, we can help protect Georgia’s children from commercial sexual exploitation.

Deanna Anderson is president of The Junior League of Atlanta Inc., a volunteer organization for the development of communities and women.

BALANCED VIEWS

FROM THE LEFT

Trump stumping for brand as toss-up election closes in



Gail Collins
She writes for the New York Times.

Do you think Donald Trump has given up? It was a *little* strange to see him campaigning Wednesday in that critical swing state of ... Washington, D.C.

“He’s coming to open a hotel that’s under budget and ahead of schedule,” campaign manager Kellyanne Conway told CNN’s Wolf Blitzer, insisting it was all a part of the presidential sales pitch.

Blitzer noted mildly that the hotel had actually been open for some time.

“This is the grand official opening,” Conway insisted.

Aren’t you beginning to feel a little sympathy for Conway? Until recently she was just that terrible Trump talking head, but now she seems like a woman laboring valiantly under an impossible burden.

“Saturday Night Live” recently did a parody of her day off, in which Kellyanne eagerly tried to do yoga or cook dinner but kept getting dragged back to CNN to recalibrate some new awful tweet from her candidate.

Trump is doing more last-lap rallies than Clinton. He definitely wins the stamina competition, as

long as the task at hand does not involve having to listen to anyone else or concentrate for more than about 30 seconds.

Still, his schedule does seem to have more and more to do with the businesses he’d have to resuscitate as a private citizen after Nov. 8. On Tuesday, he dragged reporters off to admire one of his golf courses in Florida and listen to the workers tell their boss how much they loved him.

Do you think Clinton thinks she’s a shoo-in? Publicly, she’s not talking that way. And there’s no reason to get overconfident. Florida seems to be tightening. There’s no telling what might happen, given the fact that we live in a country where Trump is the Republican nominee.

But you’d definitely rather be the campaign with Barack and Michelle Obama rallying the troops than the one that has to rely on Rudy Giuliani, Chris Christie and Newt Gingrich. The men who give a whole new frightening image of the Three Amigos.

Of the trio, Newt is clearly the winner. Having come into the campaign as political wreckage, he’s the only one who doesn’t cause people to shake their heads and say, “My God, what happened to *him*?”

This week Newt was in the news once again when he got into a vigorous tussle with Megyn Kelly on Fox, about whether the media was devoting too much time to the Trump groping issue. Gingrich

accused Kelly of being “fascinated with sex, and you don’t care about public policy.”

At the end Kelly suggested Gingrich “take your anger issues and spend some time working on them.” And the whole world cheered.

However, Newt did have a point. Speaking on behalf of the nation as a whole, I would say that yes, we are sort of fascinated with sex.

The only issue we can really grapple with is whether a President Donald Trump might get peeved one day and drop a nuke on one of our trading partners.

If you have to ask the question, you’ve already got the answer.

On Wednesday, Trump congratulated Gingrich on his “amazing” performance. This was during the new, official ribbon-cutting at his D.C. hotel. Which he was doing not to prop up his flagging brand but just to remind people that he will run the country like his businesses. With lots of tax deductions and Chinese steel.

FROM THE RIGHT

Obama might be planning harsh parting shot at Israel



Charles Krauthammer
He writes for the Washington Post.

Last week, the U.N.’s premier cultural agency, UNESCO, approved a resolution viciously condemning Israel (referred to as “the Occupying Power”) for various alleged trespasses and violations of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. Except that the resolution never uses that term for Judaism’s holiest shrine. It refers to and treats it as an exclusively Muslim site, a deliberate attempt to eradicate its connection to the Jewish people and Jewish history.

This Orwellian absurdity is an insult not just to Judaism but to Christianity. If this is nothing but a Muslim site, what happens to the very foundation of Christianity, which

occurred 600 years before Islam even came into being?

This UNESCO resolution is merely the surreal extreme of the worldwide campaign to delegitimize Israel. It features the BDS movement (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions), now growing on Western university campuses and some mainline Protestant churches.

Bernie Sanders tried to introduce into the Democratic Party platform a plank more unfavorable to Israel. He failed, but when a couple of Clinton campaign consultants questioned (in emails revealed by WikiLeaks) why she should be mentioning Israel in her speeches, campaign manager Robby Mook concurred, “We shouldn’t have Israel at public events. Especially dem activists.”

And what to make of the White House’s correction to a press release about last month’s funeral of Shimon Peres? The original release identified the location as “Mount Herzl, Jerusalem, Israel.” The correction crossed out the country identifier – “Israel.”

Well, where else is Jerusalem? Sri Lanka? Moreover, Mount Herzl isn’t even in disputed East Jerusalem. It’s in West Jerusalem, within the boundaries of pre-1967 Israel. If that’s not Israel, what is?

But such cowardly gestures are mere pinpricks compared to the damage Israel faces in the final days of the Obama presidency. As John Hannah of the Foundation

for Defense of Democracies recently wrote, there have been indications for months that President Barack Obama might go to the U.N. and unveil his own final status parameters of a two-state solution. These would then be enshrined in a new Security Council resolution officially recognizing a Palestinian state on the territory Israel came into possession of during the 1967 Six-Day War.

There is a reason such a move has been resisted by eight previous U.S. administrations: It overthrows the central premise of Middle East peacemaking – land for peace. Under which the Palestinians get their state *after* negotiations in which the parties agree on recognized boundaries, exchange mutual recognition and declare a permanent end to the conflict.

Before the election, Obama dare not attempt this final legacy item, to go along with the Iran deal and the Castro conciliation, for fear of damaging Hillary Clinton. The one person who might deter him is Clinton herself, by committing Obama to do nothing before he leaves office that would tie her hands should she become president.

Clinton’s supporters who care about Israel and about peace need to urge her to do that now. It will soon be too late. Soon Obama will be free to deliver a devastating parting shot to Israel and to the prime minister he detests.

	FROM THE LEFT	FROM THE RIGHT
Monday	Paul Krugman	Mona Charen
Tuesday	Mary Sanchez	Ross Douthat
Wednesday	Jay Bookman	Thomas Sowell
Thursday	Nicholas Kristof	Kyle Wingfield
Friday	E.J. Dionne Jr.	Pat Buchanan
Saturday	Gail Collins	Charles Krauthammer
Sunday	Jay Bookman Leonard Pitts	Kyle Wingfield George Will