

S.F. BLACK LEADERS RALLY TO PROTEST, DISCUSS 'EPIDEMIC' OF RACIAL SLURS AGAINST BLACK STUDENTS IN SF PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

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Parents at the meeting spoke of their children as no longer feeling safe in school because of bullying and discrimination. Parents also said that reported incidents such as racial slurs and intimidation are not dealt with to their satisfaction and feel ignored. The post S.F. Black Leaders Rally to Protest, Discuss 'Epidemic' of Racial Slurs Against Black Students in SF Public School System first appeared on Post News Group.

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By Bo Tefu, California Black Media

Advocates from across California are challenging state officials and community leaders to support legislation that provides resources and services for survivors and victims of human trafficking, as well as assistance as they transition back into civil society.

Some of those advocates are also calling for more effective state policy to curtail trafficking, a crime that has an outsized impact on Black children, particularly girls.

According to the FBI, a report covering a two-year period found Black children accounted for 57% of all juvenile arrests for prostitution. In addition, 40% of sex trafficking victims were Black and 60% of those victims had been enrolled in the foster care system.

"It is time to hold the perpetrators who take advantage of our children accountable," said the Rev. Shane Harris, a San Diego-based activist, former foster youth and founder of the [Peoples Association of Justice Advocates](#), (PAJA), a national civil rights organization and policy think tank.

"It is time to send a thorough message that if you seek to buy a child for sex, you will pay the highest criminal penalties in this state," added Harris who was speaking at a rally at the State Capitol earlier this month. Harris was speaking in support of [Senate Bill 1414](#), authored by Sen. Shannon Grove (D-Bakersfield), which calls for people who buy sex from minors to be punished with a felony. The punishment includes a two-year prison sentence and a \$25,000 fine.



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Harris said the PAJA is the only civil rights organization in the state that supports SB 1414.

Harris urged other Black-led groups who favor anti-trafficking legislation more focused on criminal justice reforms (as opposed to stiffer penalties), to "join the movement."

Many of those civil rights groups fear that SB 1414 could lead to the incarceration of more Black youth.

Those sentiments were echoed in a panel discussion organized by Black women advocates on April 26 to examine the cause and effects of human trafficking in California's Black communities. The virtual event was hosted by the [Forgotten Children, Inc.](#), a faith-based nonprofit that advocates for

survivors and victims of human trafficking through anti-trafficking campaigns and initiatives.

Panelists shared the psychological impact of sexual exploitation on youth and children in the long term.

Author and educator Dr. Stephany Powell shared statistics and information revealing that African American women and girls are the most trafficked nationwide.

Powell, who serves as the senior advisor on law enforcement and policy at the National Center on Sexual Exploitation said that national data indicates that sex trade survivors are disproportionately women of color. She stated that male survivors often go unnoticed because boys rarely report trafficked crimes.

Powell said that decriminalizing prostitution in California could increase human trafficking. She argued that **Senate Bill 357**, authored by Sen. Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco), which was signed into law in 2022 and legalized loitering for prostitution, caused a surge in street-level prostitution.

Panelist and psychologist Dr. Gloria Morrow shared opposing views on decriminalizing prostitution. She said that decriminalizing prostitution could help survivors gain access to state resources and support.

Despite opposing views, Powell and Morrow agree that the Black community needs resources and educational programs to address human trafficking.



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There are no comments yet.