

# HISTORICAL TIMELINE

## PROTECTING OUR DAUGHTERS

**AUTHORS**  
MEASURE

**WORKS CITED**  
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1600

### ENFORCEMENT OF CHATTEL SLAVERY SYSTEM



Universal History Archive/Universal Images Group/Getty Images

The **chattel slavery system** relied on the separation of family units during auctions and trading of enslaved people.

This pattern of fracturing families and communities has led to an unjust overrepresentation of Black individuals in other systems, like prisons, runaway, and homeless youth services, and foster or institutional care, that **exacerbate the social isolation and vulnerability on which traffickers prey.** (1,2)

### JEZEBEL STEREOTYPE ENDORSEMENT

The manner in which Black women are sexually objectified and presented as hypersexual (Jezebel, Thot) and lazy (Welfare Queen) are prominent stereotypes that originated during slavery in the United States and continue in modern society. Conversely, Black women have also been inappropriately branded as emasculating (Sapphire, Matriarch) and self-sacrificing, asexual (Mammy, Superwoman). Each stereotype has negatively affected the depiction of Black women in society and has been assimilated into the Black culture, to the point that these stereotypes have been internalized by Black women in shaping how they view their sexuality and overall identity. The stereotyping of Black girls and women as Jezebels enticing white slave masters to rape them, making them inherently “rapeable,” meaning that it was impossible to violate them in the eyes of the law.” (3,4)



1910

### WHITE-SLAVE TRAFFICKING ACT, (MANN ACT)

When Congress passed the Mann Act it was advertised as a solution to keep young women from entering into prostitution. But as a result, it created a path to make a crime out of consensual sexual activity as the outrage over sex work began to increase.

Anti-sex trafficking positions create the image of an “innocent victim” who is forced into prostitution against her will and the assumption that these victims (and not women who “choose” to participate in the sex industry) are the only ones deserving of help.

This framing excludes Black girls and women who are over-represented in the criminal legal system and are assumed as prostitutes by choice. (5,6,7)



1930

### JIM CROW ERA

During the Jim Crow era, white men used rape and rumors of rape not only to justify violence against African American men but also to remind African American women that their bodies were not their own.



On February 10, 1930, in New Orleans, a 14-year-old African American girl named Hattie McCray repeatedly fought off a police officer attempting to rape her. In response to her bravery, he shot and killed her. Patricia Hill Collins observed this continuing practice, “No longer the property of a few white men, African American women [and girls] became sexually available to all white men.” (8)

2017

### THE ADULTIFIED BLACK GIRL

A study by Georgetown Law Center on Poverty and Inequality concluded that “**Black girls were more likely to be viewed as behaving and seeming older than their stated age**; more knowledgeable about adult topics, including sex; and more likely to take on adult roles and responsibilities than what would have been expected for their age.” (9)



### U.S. DEPT OF STATE ACKNOWLEDGES HISTORICAL & ONGOING HARM

In 2021, the U.S. Department of State **acknowledges the connections between systemic racism and human trafficking** and urges the country to grapple with its past and confront its history of chattel slavery, indigenous dispossession, and the centuries-long racial campaigns of violence, fear, and trauma that followed. (10)

2020

### THE INNOCENCE INITIATIVE LAUNCHED



The Innocence Initiative was launched, in 2020, as a community coalition working to disrupt adultification bias and eliminate harmful, stereotypical perceptions of Black girls. (11)

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