

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Woman Pleads Guilty To Transporting Minor For Sex

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ST. THOMAS -- Jennifer Bowen-Dodoo, 51, pleaded guilty on Friday, April 1, 2016, in District Court on St. Thomas to one count of transportation of a minor for sex, United States Attorney Ronald W. Sharpe announced today.

According to the plea agreement, Ms. Bowen-Dodoo admitted that she aided and abetted an adult male to transport her minor daughter for the purpose of sexual activity. District Court Judge Curtis V. Gomez remanded Ms. Bowen-Dodoo into the custody of the United States Marshals Service. Sentencing is scheduled for August 4, 2016. Ms. Bowen-Dodoo faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years in prison and a maximum sentence of life in prison. She also faces a fine of up to \$250,000.

"Sex trafficking is a deplorable crime, especially when it involves underage victims who are particularly vulnerable," said Ricardo Mayoral, Acting Special Agent in Charge of Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) San Juan and U.S. Virgin Islands. "Prostituting young girls is a growing threat worldwide, and we encourage anyone with information about this activity to call law enforcement. Your call could save a girl from sexual slavery."

Suspected child exploitation or missing children cases may be reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children via its toll-free 24-hour hotline at 202-514-5678 or Homeland Security Investigations at (340) 693-2250.

The case was investigated by HSI, the Virgin Islands Police Department, and the Virgin Islands Department of Human Services. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Everard E. Potter.