

PRESS RELEASE



For Immediate Release:

OPERATION RUNWAY GETS SUPPORT FROM ACTRESS DARYL HANNAH

National (April 30, 2013) – “These modeling scams prey on the hope of young girls. In hopes of becoming an actress I nearly fell victim to one of these cons at 17, when I first left home for college. I feel extremely lucky I recognized the suspicious behavior and escaped. Finally there’s NWCAVE whose task force ‘Operation Runway’ will help to investigate and prevent this atrocious victimization & exploitation of young women and girls.” – **Daryl Hannah**, Actress and Activist

The National Women’s Coalition Against Violence & Exploitation (NWCAVE) and All We Want is Love organizations joined in partnership earlier this year in an effort to bring more attention to the much-needed issue of missing and exploited women and girls associated with some modeling websites that seem to be the common denominator in many cases.

“This past month our organizations created a national task force ‘Operation Runway.’ The task force is comprised of educators, healthcare professionals, governmental agencies, Internet specialists, private investigators, organizations, survivors and families whose children had fallen prey to these sites,” said Michelle Bart, President and Co-Founder of NWCAVE.

“Operation Runway’s mission is to investigate online modeling sites that have resulted in criminal activity,” said Shelley Shaffer, Director of NWCAVE’s Missing Persons Division. “There are many cases we have become aware of that involved rape, trafficking, kidnapping, murder and other violence and abuse towards women and girls; if no one else will investigate these cases, our task force will,” said Shaffer.

Professional model **Jillian Mourning**, 25, says she learned firsthand the dangers of modeling websites when she was 19. Mourning connected with a “manager” on Model Mayhem and was sexually assaulted during a shoot in Arizona.

"He came into my room with three guys, and they [all] proceeded to rape me," said Mourning. "They took pictures of it, and would even show me pictures of things that I was doing, and videotaped the whole thing."

Mourning says at 19 years old, she felt trapped. She said she was trafficked and forced to have sex with men for six months until her manager went to prison for an unrelated crime.

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“As many as 2.8 million children run away each year in the United States. Within 48 hours of hitting the streets one-third of these children are lured or recruited into the underground world of prostitution and pornography,” said Mourning. Today, Mourning is the founder of All We Want Is Love organization.

The task force is asking anyone in the public who has been a victim or knows someone that has been a victim of any online modeling sites to contact them at 360-852-8019 or email them at info@operationrunway.org.

About NWCAGE: The National Women’s Coalition Against Violence & Exploitation (NWCAGE) is a volunteer operated non-profit organization located in the pacific northwest of the United States of America. We continue working to inform, educate and prevent violence and exploitation against women and children nationally and internationally. Whether human trafficking, domestic violence, sexual assault, kidnapping/abduction, sexual violence, stalking, bullying, hate crimes and all other forms of violence and exploitation against women and children, NWCAGE strives to keep the public informed and educated on how we can live in a more civilized society free of violence. www.NWCAGE.org

About All We Want Is LOVE: aims to fight the injustice of modern day slavery through education and liberation. We want to rid the response of “I didn’t know” to the question of modern day slavery, especially in the United States. Through community education programs and training, the community can better protect themselves from being victimized and has a responsibility to hold those responsible who victimize others. We strive to create a culture that does not criminalize victims and glorify predators. www.allwewantislove.org

About Operation Runway: Operation Runway is a task force under the Missing Persons Division of the National Women’s Coalition Against Violence & Exploitation. The National Women’s Coalition Against Violence & Exploitation and All We Want is Love have launched the national task force to investigate the ongoing epidemic of online modeling websites that have hidden agendas that result in criminal activity; whether kidnapping, rape, murder, trafficking, prostitution, or any form of violence or abuse toward the victims just looking to be the next runway model. www.operationrunway.org

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