THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A CHILD PROSTITUTE
There are only victims and survivors of child rape.

Across this country, American children are bought and sold for sex. Each year in the United States, more than 1000 victims of child sex trafficking are arrested and charged with prostitution. Many of these children experience torture and abuse at the hands of traffickers and buyers. Despite the fact that these children are too young to consent to any sexual activity, and the fact that federal law defines them as victims of a severe form of human trafficking, they are not contemplated as victims. Instead, these children, many of them girls between the ages of 12 and 16, are arrested, detained, and prosecuted.

HOW WE ARE NAMED IS HOW WE ARE TREATED
The No Such Thing Campaign seeks to eradicate the term “child prostitute” in language and in law. The term “child prostitute” trivializes the egregious abuse experienced by the most vulnerable members of our communities—our marginalized girls. Worse, it shifts culpability from adult abusers to child victims. We owe it to trafficked and exploited children to make clear that the victimization and abuse they suffer is no different or more tolerable than other forms of child abuse. We owe it to these children to hold accountable those who have purchased and raped them.

GOALS
- End the use of the term “child prostitute” and any derivations of the term by the media in its coverage of child sex trafficking issues.
- Encourage stakeholders to pass policies ending the arrest, detention, and prosecution of victims of domestic child sex trafficking.
- Urge for the treatment of trafficked and exploited minors as victims of child rape, provided with protections and services that prioritize their mental, physical, emotional safety and well-being.
- Uplift and center the experiences, stories, and recommendations of survivors.
- Promote the deterrence and apprehension of child sex buyers through prevention strategies, awareness raising, and application of laws that criminalize sex with minors.
We are able to shift culture when we use the power of authentic stories. No Such Thing did this through:

**PETITION**
There have been more than 5,000 instances in the past five years when reporters for print, wire, and online outlets have used the phrase “child prostitute,” “juvenile prostitution,” “child sex worker” or other variations on the phrase to describe these exploited children. No Such Thing worked with survivor advocate, Withelma "T" Ortiz Walker Pettigrew, to create a petition challenging the use of these terms. The online petition featured T's own words and experiences and the harm that she and all survivors experience when the term “child prostitute” is used. The petition, which received over 150,000 signatures, engaged celebrities and influencers from across the nation including: Ashton Kutcher, Diddy, Gabrielle Union, Mia Farrow, Rosie O'Donnell and T.I.

**VIDEO**
The No Such Thing Campaign produced a video featuring the powerful words of survivors of child sex trafficking. Survivor advocate Withelma "T" Ortiz Walker Pettigrew facilitated a filmed discussion with other young survivors, who shared how their experiences with foster care and homelessness rendered them especially vulnerable to child sex trafficking. The goal of the video was to amplify the authentic words and stories of survivors, the courage they have to tell their truths, and to convey the harmful impact of the term “child prostitute” in both culture and policy.

**ARTWORK**
No Such Thing collaborated with prominent artist Mayuko Fukino, to interpret the testimonies of child sex trafficking survivors into powerful and beautiful works of art. These depictions of their stories were shared throughout social media and at the launch of the campaign.

**MEMES + BILLBOARD**
The campaign created a series of memes and ads that featured statistics of child sex trafficking. The strong imagery and creative content made these memes shareable online for supporters, celebrities and influencers. During the campaign there were over 100 million impressions of this content on social media.

As the No Such Thing Campaign began in California, the focus of the campaign was to keep attention on the state. This was especially powerful given that the Super Bowl was hosted in Santa Clara County, California. The Super Bowl attracted tens of thousands of people from around the country who saw a billboard, as they drove along the freeway, with a very simple message: there is no such thing as a child prostitute.
During this campaign, Right4Girls convened various stakeholders from government and law enforcement to understand the issue and engage with those directly impacted, and to encourage internal buy-in from governing bodies and agencies. Rights4Girls worked directly with the non-profit sector (The California Endowment), The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, The Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department, the National Center for Youth Law, and Los Angeles County Probation over a period of months to ultimately bring about necessary policy change. Based on the strong partnerships with locally-based agencies and the success of this engagement process, the leaders of the Los Angeles community were willing to listen to recommendations from Right4Girls.

Rights4Girls worked with the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and a number of local partners to pass a bi-partisan resolution declaring that there is "no such thing as a child prostitute" and encouraging all law enforcement agencies in the county to approach child trafficking victims like they would any other victim of child sexual abuse.

With LA County being the largest in the country, and in a state that still allows for children to be arrested and incarcerated for prostitution, these advancements mark an important step in encouraging other jurisdictions to treat victims of child sex trafficking as survivors in need of services, rather than offenders.

The Board of Supervisors of Los Angeles County stated that "we have changed the way we treat the true victims of this crime and we continue to change the stigma surrounding this issue. We have shifted the language we use because there is no such thing as a "child prostitute," and we now, more appropriately, recognize them as victims of child abuse. We commend our County and community partners who have joined us in this fight and we are proud to be the first jurisdiction to create a national model protocol for law enforcement first responders."

LA County Sheriff Jim McDonnell and his department have stopped arresting children on prostitution charges. Law enforcement agencies throughout Los Angeles County have adopted a First Responder Protocol developed by local stakeholders that ensures that identified victims are immediately referred to services that will assist them in beginning their long journey towards healing. McDonnell stated that "They are child victims and survivors of rape, we must remember that children cannot consent to sex under any circumstance."

ANNOUNCEMENT
A coalition of law enforcement, advocacy leaders, elected officials, public health leaders and child sex trafficking survivors came together at LA’s Hall of Justice on October 21st to announce a major shift in the policy of Los Angeles County. At the event, the LA County Sheriff announced that his department would no longer use the phrase “child prostitute” and that officers would be working to get trafficked girls into treatment and victim services instead of arresting and incarcerating them. The event was attended by dozens of advocates and survivors and covered by major national media outlets.