Strand² Squared
A Paradigm Shift Solution

Sexual Assault Culture Change - Building a World That Doesn't Exist

We live in a world where sexual violence is "normal". Sex offenders thrive in this rape-prone, rape myth-accepting culture. This presentation will explore many societal myths and bias that enable sex offenders to operate successfully without suspicion and detection.

We will discuss the strategies they use to deceive us, why they do what they do and how we can peer through the fog and identify them to expose their horrific acts.

This session will take what we've been taught about typical offender typologies and compare what we think we know with empirical research and current state of knowledge. Participants will be presented with up-to-date research, case studies, and strategies on understanding sex offenders from a criminal justice viewpoint.

Evidence on how offenders, not only groom and manipulate victims, but also their own community: coworkers, friends, relatives, neighbors--- **and the professionals** who are charged with catching them.

Media and entertainment also shapes our beliefs and values. This presentation will also take a critical look at the impact of media and the entertainment industry that promulgates many cultural beliefs surrounding the issue of sexual violence.

Sexual assault victims don't witness sexual assault, they experience it, and the impact can be significant. We will explore what we now know about the neuroscience of sexual trauma and suggest better response modalities. We can do better.

We will build on education, theories, promising best practices, and research to actively and intentionally change our culture to reduce—with a vision, to possibly eliminate the likelihood of sexual assault in our society.

Learning Objectives
- Identify rape myths that enable sex offenders to thrive in our society
- Explore the mainstream cultural messages around sex and hooking up
- Understand the impact and neuroscience of sexual assault
- Improving Media Literacy
- Define culture change and implement actions to create positive change