

# HUMAN TRAFFICKING

AN EDUCATIONAL GUIDE FOR VIEWERS

OUR LIFETIME COMMITMENT

**STOP VIOLENCE  
AGAINST WOMEN**

TOGETHER: WOMEN AND MEN

*Lifetime*<sup>®</sup>

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Every day young girls  
are bought and sold.

# HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Innocence lost. Justice found.



A 2-NIGHT MINISERIES EVENT  
PREMIERES 9PM/8C MONDAY, OCT. 24

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# What you should know about human trafficking

*Based on a shared commitment to stopping violence against women and shedding light on human trafficking, Lifetime partnered with acclaimed veteran producer Robert Halmi, Sr., to create **Human Trafficking**.*

*This miniseries brings into your living room stories that represent the hundreds of thousands of women and children who live in the horror of slavery every day.*

*We hope these stories will inspire you to take a stand against human trafficking.*

## WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

Trafficking in persons is modern-day slavery involving human beings who are bought, sold, and forced into slave labor and/or sexual exploitation.

The U.S. government estimates that **up to 800,000 people** are taken from their homes and families and forced across international borders each year, while millions more are trafficked within their own countries. **Eighty percent are women and girls.**

According to the U.S. government, approximately **14,500 to 17,500** people are trafficked into the United States each year.

The sale of women and girls is becoming as common as the sale of illegal drugs and weapons. The U.S. government estimates that criminals are making **\$9.5 billion a year** from this industry.

## WHO ARE HUMAN TRAFFICKERS?

Human traffickers are criminals who violate victims' human rights.

- Human traffickers are organized criminals who deceive their victims and enslave and trade human beings for money.
- Human traffickers are unscrupulous employers in factories or on farms who use fraud and deception to force victims to work in inhumane conditions without the option to quit.
- Human traffickers make false promises of work and good pay to attract domestic workers, including nannies and maids, and then force or coerce them to work around the clock with little or no pay in the face of abuse with no chance to leave.
- Human traffickers are men who lure "mail-order brides" into their homes, only to physically, mentally and sexually abuse them.

## What has the United States government done to stop human trafficking?

In 1998, President Clinton established a U.S. strategy to combat human trafficking, which consisted of prevention, protection and support for victims, and prosecution of traffickers. Two years later, Congress passed groundbreaking anti-trafficking legislation, the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000, which requires more research on human trafficking practices and trends all over the world, enhances protection and assistance for victims, requires other countries to meet minimum standards in their efforts to eliminate human trafficking or risk losing U.S. aid, provides assistance to foreign countries in supporting victims and combating trafficking, and strengthens penalties for human traffickers. The U.S. Department of State now issues an annual report, the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report, on the status of trafficking around the world and what governments are doing to reduce this human rights abuse.

In 2003, President Bush and Congress renewed the 2000 law and allowed for a substantial increase in funding for anti-trafficking programs—raising U.S. government assistance abroad to combat trafficking to more than \$80 million each year. That same year, the PROTECT Act was signed into law, making it illegal for Americans to travel abroad in order to have illicit sex with a minor.

The U.S. government is working hard to crack down on traffickers at home, too. Between 2001 and 2004, the U.S. government initiated 340 trafficking investigations, filed 60 cases, charged 162 defendants and doubled the number of defendants convicted of trafficking from the previous four-year period—from 59 to 118.

Yet there are more laws that need to be adopted to further advance the fight against human trafficking. If passed, these laws would strengthen the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act, focus on ending the demand for sex trafficking, and protect foreign women from abuse who come to the United States as “mail-order brides.”

## WHERE ARE TRAFFICKING VICTIMS FROM?

If you look at an airline map, that is what human trafficking looks like. Trafficking victims from countries all over the globe are moved to places within their own country, to neighboring countries or to places across the world. No country is immune to human trafficking, not even the United States.

Generally, traffickers take their victims from poorer nations to those with a higher standard of living, such as the United States.

- Experts believe the largest number of trafficking victims comes from South and Southeast Asia.
- Countries from the former Soviet Union, including Russia and the Ukraine, are becoming the largest new source of trafficking for the sex industry.
- Many victims also come from Latin America, the Caribbean and Africa.

## WHERE ARE TRAFFICKING VICTIMS SENT?

Most of the women and girls trafficked are sent to Asia, the Middle East, Western Europe and North America.

Trafficking victims have been found in cities and rural areas all across the United States.

Trafficking victims may be sexually exploited in brothels, strip clubs, massage parlors or escort services. Victims may also be forced to work as virtual slaves in sweatshop factories, on farms, in people’s homes as domestic workers, on construction sites, and doing janitorial and restaurant work.

## HOW TO RECOGNIZE A TRAFFICKING VICTIM

There is no one way to recognize a trafficking victim – while she may be in plain sight, the crime against her is often hidden. Women and girls who are trafficked from other countries are often kept isolated and away from people who might be able to help them. If they are allowed to go out, they can't go very far away and they are often escorted or watched by their traffickers.

They are sometimes coached to lie and to tell strangers that they are students or tourists, and they and their families back home are often threatened with death if they try to escape. Victims often do not have any identifying documentation because their passports and immigration documents have been taken by their traffickers.

## WHAT TRAFFICKING VICTIMS NEED

When victims are rescued, they are in serious need of services in order to reenter society. Trafficked women and girls need:

- food and safe shelter
- medical and psychological care – they may be suffering from HIV/AIDS, other sexually transmitted diseases, post-traumatic stress disorder, or be pregnant
- legal assistance in order to get help with immigration rules, including a special T-visa for trafficking victims.
- money until they can find a job or way to return home safely
- long-term care to help them recover from their past horrifying experiences.

**NAME:** Maria\*

**AGE:** 14

**COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:** Mexico

**SITUATION:** Maria was tricked into coming to the United States with the promise of a well-paying job cleaning hotel rooms. Instead, she was forced to work as a prostitute in a brothel. She had been a virgin, but was forced to have sex every day. She soon became pregnant and was forced to have an abortion before going right back to work.

**CURRENT STATUS:** She has been rescued and is no longer enslaved.

*\*Names and identifying characteristics have been changed.*

**1. EDUCATE YOURSELF.** Many people are surprised to hear that slavery still exists and that it is happening within our borders. Go to [LifetimeTV.com](http://LifetimeTV.com) to learn more.

**2. TELL YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY.** Once you know the facts, educate your family and friends about this human rights abuse and urge them to join the fight to stop human trafficking.

**3. CONTACT YOUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES – THEY NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU.** While some laws do exist to combat human trafficking, more needs to be done. Contact your federal and state representatives and urge them to do more to stop human trafficking and to provide needed services and protection to victims. Your call can make a difference and will let your representatives know that this issue is important to the people they serve. Go to [LifetimeTV.com](http://LifetimeTV.com) for more information.

## What can you do to help stop human trafficking?

**4. SUPPORT ANTI-TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATIONS.** There are a number of U.S.-based and international organizations that are providing direct services to trafficking victims and are working to make our anti-trafficking laws stronger. See the list of Lifetime's partners at the end of this guide to learn more about what these organizations are doing.

**5. REPORT A SUSPECTED CASE OF TRAFFICKING.** Be alert to signs in your community that someone is being held against her will and forced or coerced to work. To seek assistance for a trafficking victim, call the Department of Health and Human Services Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888 or the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE or 1-800-787-3224 (TTY). Both hotlines are prepared to answer calls in a number of languages. To report suspected trafficking crimes to law enforcement, call the U.S. Department of Justice Trafficking in Persons and Worker Exploitation Task Force at 1-888-428-7581 or U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement at 1-866-DHS-2ICE.

## Discussion Guide

In the miniseries you saw a Filipino family sell their daughter, Jasmine, to traffickers. You saw Nadia, a girl from the Ukraine, willing to leave her father and her country in hopes of a better life in the United States. And you heard ICE Agent Bill Meehan (Donald Sutherland) talk about how the markup on trafficked humans is immeasurable—how traffickers can sell women and girls over and over again, unlike drugs and weapons, and make millions of dollars with relatively little risk of being charged with a crime.

**Discuss why you think human trafficking exists. While human trafficking is not new, how do you think these stories help to highlight why sex trafficking in women and girls has become so widespread?**

Many factors help explain why human trafficking exists:

- Many trafficking victims face **poverty, unemployment, war and discrimination in their home countries**. Economic desperation causes many women to look for work opportunities outside their own countries, opening the door for them to be trafficked into the sex industry or into positions where they may be forced to work as a slave in someone's home or business, or causes families to sell their daughters to brothels or traffickers for the immediate payoff.
- The **high demand all over the world for women and children as sex workers, cheap sweatshop labor and domestic workers** has allowed trafficking to continue to grow. Selling women and girls has become a very lucrative business, run by organized criminals who go to great lengths to dodge law enforcement scrutiny. In many cases, when law enforcement does uncover a sex trafficking ring, the victims, who have been told by the traffickers that they will be punished by authorities if caught, fear that they themselves will be blamed. In other cases, it may be hard to prove that a woman is being forced to work in appalling conditions in someone's home or in a factory against her will.

- Many countries either have **laws that are inadequate at stopping human trafficking or have no specific laws aimed at trafficking in humans**. Oftentimes, law enforcement lacks the tools and resources necessary to crack down on trafficking in their communities, and in some places police and other government authorities are corrupt and collude with traffickers, helping them and allowing them to get away.

**FIRST NAME:** Jane\*

**COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:** Ghana

**SITUATION:** In 2000, Jane was forced into domestic servitude in the United States by a relative, a prominent political figure, who deceived her into thinking that she would be taking care of that relative's granddaughter. However, soon after arriving in the U.S., her passport was confiscated and she was forced to work 17 hours a day, seven days a week, cooking, cleaning and serving the family, for only \$37.50 per week. Constantly demeaned and threatened with deportation and imprisonment, Jane was allowed only limited interaction and communication with those outside the home, including her children, who were still living in Ghana at the time.

**RESCUE DATE:** In July, 2001, with the help of concerned neighbors, Jane fled the residence.

**CURRENT STATUS:** At the insistence of Jane's neighbors, federal organizations initiated an investigation into Jane's situation. At the conclusion of the criminal trial that ensued, Jane's traffickers were found guilty of forced labor, document misconduct, conspiracy and harboring an illegal alien for financial purposes. Jane is currently living in the United States.

*\*Names and identifying characteristics have been changed.*

Most of the victims portrayed in the miniseries were brought to the United States. They were not only forced into prostitution, but also forced to work as strippers at clubs and private parties.

**Were you surprised to see women trafficked into the United States? Under what types of conditions do you think trafficking victims live?**

**Every year, approximately 16,000 people from other countries end up in slavery in the United States.** Hundreds more American girls are forced into the sex industry here at home, where they are raped and mentally and physically abused.

Trafficking victims have their human rights violated and are often held in slavelike conditions—they may be imprisoned, raped, beaten and starved. Some victims are forced to work in restaurants, farms, hotels and domestic service, while many others—like the women and girls in the miniseries—are forced into prostitution and other parts of the sex industry. They are also psychologically abused and made to believe that they are to blame for the torture they are enduring and that they owe it to their traffickers to work for them. When victims are rescued or discovered, they are often reluctant to trust law enforcement, to reveal who their traffickers are, to tell what happened to them or to ask for help—all for fear that they or their family members will be harmed.

**NAME:** Namwaan\*  
**COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:** China

**SITUATION:** Namwaan thought she was going to Thailand to work as a housekeeper, but instead she was locked in a brothel and forced to work as a prostitute. She wanted to escape, but she and the other victims were afraid of being beaten if they were caught.

**CURRENT STATUS:** She was eventually rescued, received vocational education and has returned to live with her family in China.

## MAKING THE MINISERIES

*Human Trafficking* is a web of fictional stories of modern-day sexual slavery and trafficking.



Executive producer Robert Halmi, Sr., and screenwriters Agatha Dominik and Carol Doyle met with experts in human trafficking to ensure that the stories you see are as accurate, relevant and realistic as possible. They went to Washington, D.C., to hear directly from experts at nongovernmental organizations and from government agencies such as U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons at the State Department. As part of its Emmy® Award-winning campaign, *Stop Violence Against Women*, Lifetime has been researching the issue of trafficking since 2003 and is active in Washington, D.C., to help stop this human rights abuse.

*Human Trafficking* is presented by Robert Halmi, Sr., as a Muse Entertainment Production for LIFETIME Television. Christian Duguay directs from a teleplay by Carol Doyle & Agatha Dominik. Story by Carol Doyle.

**THANKS TO THE MANY HEROES WORKING TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING  
AT HOME AND AROUND THE WORLD, INCLUDING:**

American Bar Association Commission on Domestic Violence [www.abanet.org/domviol/home.html](http://www.abanet.org/domviol/home.html)  
Amnesty International USA [www.amnestyusa.org](http://www.amnestyusa.org)  
Asia Foundation [www.asiafoundation.org](http://www.asiafoundation.org)  
Break the Cycle [www.breakthecycle.org](http://www.breakthecycle.org)  
Emancipation Network [www.emancipationnetwork.org](http://www.emancipationnetwork.org)  
Entertainment Industries Council <http://eiconline.org/>  
Equality Now [www.equalitynow.org](http://www.equalitynow.org)  
Family Violence Prevention Fund <http://endabuse.org/>  
Freedom Network (USA) [www.freedomnetworkusa.org](http://www.freedomnetworkusa.org)  
Feminist Majority Foundation [www.feminist.org](http://www.feminist.org)  
Geneva Global Inc. [www.genevaglobal.com](http://www.genevaglobal.com)  
Girls Inc. [www.girlsinc.com](http://www.girlsinc.com)  
International Justice Mission [www.ijm.org](http://www.ijm.org)  
Men Can Stop Rape [www.mencanstoprape.org](http://www.mencanstoprape.org)  
National Center for Victims of Crime [www.ncvc.org](http://www.ncvc.org)  
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) [www.ncadv.org](http://www.ncadv.org)  
National Council of Jewish Women – Los Angeles [www.ncjwla.org](http://www.ncjwla.org)  
National Council of Women's Organizations [www.womensorganizations.org](http://www.womensorganizations.org)  
National Domestic Violence Hotline [www.ndvh.org](http://www.ndvh.org)  
National Latino Alliance for the Elimination of Domestic Violence [www.dvalianza.org](http://www.dvalianza.org)  
National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) [www.nnedv.org](http://www.nnedv.org)  
National Organization for Women (NOW) [www.now.org](http://www.now.org)  
Polaris Project [www.polarisproject.org](http://www.polarisproject.org)  
RAINN (Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network) [www.rainn.net](http://www.rainn.net)  
Tahirih Justice Center [www.tahirih.org](http://www.tahirih.org)  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services [www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking)  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security [www.dhs.gov](http://www.dhs.gov)  
U.S. Department of Justice [www.usdoj.gov/](http://www.usdoj.gov/)  
U.S. Department of State Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons [www.state.gov/g/tip/](http://www.state.gov/g/tip/)  
V-Day [www.vday.com](http://www.vday.com)  
Vital Voices Global Partnership [www.vitalvoices.org](http://www.vitalvoices.org)  
WITNESS [www.witness.org](http://www.witness.org)  
Women's Edge <http://womensedge.org>  
Women's Funding Network [www.fundforward.org](http://www.fundforward.org)  
WomensLaw.org [www.womenslaw.org](http://www.womenslaw.org)  
YWCA USA [www.ywca.org](http://www.ywca.org)  
Zonta International [www.zonta.org](http://www.zonta.org)

THE RESEARCH AND EXPERTISE OF MANY OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS HELPED CONTRIBUTE  
TO THE CONTENTS OF THIS EDUCATIONAL GUIDE ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING.  
GO TO [LIFETIMEV.COM/OLC](http://LIFETIMEV.COM/OLC) FOR MORE INFORMATION ON LIFETIME'S CAMPAIGN TO STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN.