

## Sex Trafficking

Sex trafficking is a growing global enterprise driven by deception, coercion and force. Traffickers transport or detain their victims for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation. This trade in rape for profit thrives in the absence of robust law enforcement to ensure the protection of the law for vulnerable children and women.

### THE FACTS

- After drug dealing, human trafficking (both sex trafficking and trafficking for forced labour) is tied with the illegal arms industry as the second largest criminal industry in the world today, and it is the fastest growing. (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services)
- Worldwide, there are nearly two million children in the commercial sex trade. (UNICEF)
- There are an estimated 600,000 to 800,000 children, women and men trafficked across international borders annually. (U.S. Department of State)
- Approximately 80 percent of human trafficking victims are women and girls, and up to 50 percent are minors. (U.S. Department of State)
- The total market value of illicit human trafficking is estimated to be in excess of \$32 billion. (U.N.)
- Sex trafficking is an engine of the global AIDS epidemic. (U.S. Department of State)

### IJM'S RESPONSE

International Justice Mission's first priority in its anti-trafficking casework is to secure the protection of the law for trafficked women and children forced into commercial sexual activity. IJM investigators spend hundreds of hours gathering and documenting undercover evidence of trafficking and sexual exploitation. Using this evidence, IJM staff members then partner with local authorities to rescue victims from situations of ongoing abuse and ensure that they have access to aftercare services to meet their vital needs. IJM lawyers work alongside local authorities to secure the conviction and sentencing of traffickers and other perpetrators.

Sex trafficking will endure as long as it remains a profitable criminal enterprise. By freeing victims and prosecuting their perpetrators, IJM operations increase the risk and decrease the profitability of trafficking for those who would commit this crime. IJM works to combat sex trafficking in Bolivia, India, Cambodia and the Philippines. IJM investigations have resulted in freedom for more than 1,000 girls and women held by force in the commercial sex trade.

### ABOUT INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION

International Justice Mission Canada is a human rights organization that secures justice for victims of slavery, sexual exploitation and other forms of violent oppression, in partnership with U.S.-based International Justice Mission (IJM). IJM lawyers, investigators and aftercare professionals work with local officials to ensure immediate victim rescue and aftercare, to prosecute perpetrators and to ensure that public justice systems – police, courts and laws – effectively protect the poor.

\* In order to protect this IJM client, a pseudonym has been used and the photograph has been obscured. Real name and casework documentation are on file with IJM.

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### MANNA'S STORY - INDIA

When 14-year-old Manna\* ran away from her abusive home, she met a woman who offered her a job selling fabric. She accepted the position, and the woman provided her a place to sleep for the night. When Manna awoke in the morning, the woman was gone, and Manna discovered that she was in a brothel. For the next two years, she was held in the brothel and raped by customers for the profit of the brothel owners.

She was freed when IJM investigators discovered her captivity and alerted local authorities, working with them to release her and three other young girls from the brothel. The brothel owners each received five-year sentences for their crimes, and Manna was brought to an aftercare home to heal in security.



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