

Victim's stories

“Neary grew up in rural Cambodia. Her parents died when she was a child, and, in an effort to give her a better life, her sister married her off when she was 17. Three months later they went to visit a fishing village. Her husband rented a room in what Neary thought was a guesthouse. But when she woke the next morning, her husband was gone. The owner of the house told her she had been sold by her husband for \$300 and that she was actually in a brothel and now she has to pay off the price the hotel owner had paid for her.” ([Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000: Trafficking in Persons Report, U.S. Department of State, 2005](#)).

A Czech woman with hopes of making money as a waitress travels to Amsterdam only to be forced to work in a brothel.

An Albanian mother receives a color television in exchange for one of her sons.

To feed the demand of the sex industry and take advantage of exploitable labor, slave traders prey on vulnerable woman and children. Traffickers gain the trust of women and children through coercion and trickery. “Very often these ruses involve promises of marriage, employment, educational opportunities, or a better life” ([Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000: Trafficking in Persons Report, U.S. Department of State, 2004](#)).

The supply and demand of the modern day slave trade is a multifaceted threat to all nations. Human trafficking is not only a human rights abuse, but it promotes the breakdown of family and community support, fuels organized crime, deprives countries of human capital, undermines public health, creates opportunities for extortion and subversion among government officials, and imposes large economic costs. “Fundamentally, trafficking in persons violates the universal human right to life, liberty, and freedom from slavery in all its forms” ([Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000: Trafficking in Persons Report, U.S. Department of State, 2005](#)).