



THE TRAFFICK !



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**“Modern slavery.”** It sounds like a paradox. Hasn't humanity progressed? Didn't we abandon this barbaric practice centuries ago?

Didn't Christian reformers like William Wilberforce legislate against such cruelty over 207 years ago? So we had thought. But, with over 27 million enslaved people across the world, human trafficking is back and it is rife today.

Regardless of nationality, victims are systematically stripped of their identity, battered into gruesome submission, and made to perform humiliating sexual acts on up to 30 strangers every night. Most are held in makeshift jail cells, forced to take heavy doses of illegal drugs, and monitored very closely. On average, victims are thrown into such ghastly oppression at 13-years-old. Some are abducted outright, while others are lured out of poverty, romantically seduced, or sold by their families.

the main “recruitment” areas for victims of trafficking. (IOM, US Aids Research report, Die Burger, 2008)



## Global Trafficking Statistics

**27 Million** people are victims of modern day slavery (Not For Sale Campaign).

**2 to 4 Million** people are victims of trafficking at any given time. (International Labour Organization)

Most trafficking victims are **girls between 5 to 15 years of age.** (UNICEF)

**1.2 Million children** are trafficked each year. (UNICEF). Half of those children are African. (World Hope International, 2008)

It is a business that makes **49 to 70 billion Rand** every year (U.S. \$7 to 10 Billion). (United Nations)



### Trafficking in South Africa

Between 28 000 to 38 000 Children are currently being prostituted in South Africa. (National Centre for Justice and Rule of Law, 2003)

Victims are often recruited from rural areas or informal settlements and transported to the urban centres of Johannesburg, Cape Town, Pretoria, Bloemfontein, and Durban. (IOM Report on Internal Trafficking in South Africa, 2008)



### Trafficking involves the victim being:

- **Tricked** – seduced or deceived.
- **Transported** – to another city or across borders to other countries.
- **Trapped** – possibly by physical force, or by being drugged into submission, or by death threats, and removal of passports.
- **Used** – exploited, usually for the purposes of humiliating sexual acts.



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### Who are the traffickers?

**Most trafficking rings are run by gangs and organized crime. But, often it is smaller rings of people, such as brothel and strip club owners, pimps, taxi drivers and even aunts or uncles!**

Boys under eighteen are increasingly lured into sexual exploitation and used for pornography. (IOM, 2008)

West African crime syndicates operate in Pretoria, Port Elizabeth, Johannesburg, and Bloemfontein, and traffick local, black South African females into the sex trade. (IOM, 2008)

The Eastern Cape, Mpumalanga and Limpopo are



# Real Life Scenarios

**"Sometimes girls are told there are good jobs in the city."**

Women of all ages are promised good jobs by traffickers away from their homes. Often it is friends, and even family members, who offer to pay for the travelling costs, passports and accommodation.

The community allows the trafficker to take these girls because they think it is a good opportunity for the girls. The traffickers also promise nice clothes, jewellery and expensive gifts.

Some traffickers put adverts in newspapers promising good jobs, training and accommodation. The opportunity offered to the girls does not exist and they are tricked.

**"When they get to the city, their ID documents are taken from them."**

When a girl arrives at the new job, the trafficker asks her to give her ID or passport for safe keeping. The girl thinks it is the right thing to do. If the girl is from another country she can now not prove that she is legally in the country.

She is now without her papers and also doesn't have the job that she was promised. This makes her too scared to go to the police.

**"These girls are told, you owe us money."**

What the traffickers then do, is they tell the girl she owes them money because they paid for everything she needed.

**"These girls are told, you must pay the money back by working as a prostitute."**

The trafficker tells the girl that she can make the money by working as a prostitute. If she says she does not want to do it, the trafficker will beat and rape her.

The trafficker will even take away her food and water. Even if she starts working as a prostitute, the money she makes is never enough to pay back the trafficker.

**"These girls are told, if you tell the police we will hurt you and your family."**

Sometimes the trafficker tells the girl that they will hurt her family if she tells someone what they are doing.

If the girl has a child, the trafficker will keep the child from her and tell her to go to the street and work as a prostitute. The trafficker tells her that if she does not do it she will never see her child again.

**"These girls cannot do what they want anymore."**

The trafficker never takes his eye off the girl. The girl is taken everywhere and she cannot be alone. She now has to do everything the trafficker tells her to do.

The trafficker makes the girl so scared that she becomes afraid to talk to anyone about the problem she has.

**"They start taking drugs to forget what is happening to them."**

The life of being a prostitute is very hard. The trafficker gives the girl drugs so that she will do what they tell her to do.

She starts taking drugs all the time to take the pain away. Now the girl becomes addicted to drugs.

**Do you know one of these girls?**

## Jesus Came to set the Captives Free!

**"Jesus said... 'The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.'"** John 10:10

Are you bound by compulsive lusts and destructive habits? Have you ever told a lie? Have you ever stolen anything? Have you ever looked with lust? The Bible says that we are all guilty of breaking God's Commandments and are slaves to our sinful nature. Jesus came to set the captives free! Call on Him and He will enable you to Repent; to turn away from your sin and put

your Faith in Him as your Lord and Saviour. He will set you free from being a slave to your sinful nature and will give you a new heart, with new desires. A new life to start and a new start in life.

**"Jesus said: 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the Gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.'"** Luke 4:18-19

# What Can I Do?

**Who can I call if I am in danger?**

Salvation Army Helpline: 08 000 73728

International Organisation for Migration: 0800 555 999

**What can I do to stop human trafficking?**

**Educate** your community on how to avoid being trafficked. **Invite** STOP Trafficking to present the **Traffick Proof** presentation to your school, church group. **Contact:** 082 456 2459.

**Report Brothels to the Vice Squad**

The Vice Squad are a unit of the Cape Town Metro Police, tasked specifically with cracking down on the exploitative practice of prostitution.

Over the last few years they have conducted numerous raids on brothels in the Cape Town area, and have helped to uncover several cases of trafficking and child prostitution. They have been able to shut down some brothels for not having a business licence. Trafficked victims are taken to shelters and child prostitutes are restored to their families where appropriate.

Prostitution is still illegal in South Africa according to the Sexual Offences Act, although the act is rarely enforced by SA police.

If you live in Cape Town, and suspect that a house in your area may be operating as a brothel, or if streets in your neighbourhood are effected by prostitution, please report this to the Metro Police.

Contact Assistant Chief: Nathan Ladegourdie  
021 980 1404 or 073 709 3963,  
Nathan.ladegourdie@capetown.gov.za.

**Invite a Speaker**

Invite a speaker from **Africa Christian Action** (021 – 6894480), **Christians for Truth** (072 673 9234) **STOP Trafficking** (082 456 2459), or **Straatwerk** (021 – 930 8055) to motivate and mobilise your congregation to prayer and action on this issue.

**Make a difference in your community**

Network with other ministries in your area reaching out to prostitutes and trafficked victims in SA. Visit <http://projectcare.wordpress.com/> for details of outreach teams in Musina, Johannesburg, Pretoria, PE, Durban and Cape Town.

**Volunteer or Support a Shelter**

Volunteer at, or support, the **Doctors for Life** outreach centre to prostitutes in Durban - **Life Place** by contacting them on: 032 - 481 5550 or [mail@dfli.org.za](mailto:mail@dfli.org.za), [www.doctorsforlifeinternational.com](http://www.doctorsforlifeinternational.com).

**STOP Trafficking** runs a shelter for victims of trafficking in the **Cape Town** area. You can support them by volunteering, giving skills training to the residents, or by donating toiletries, cleaning products, or food such as rice and sugar.

One of the greatest challenges in South Africa at the moment is the shortage of safe houses that are willing to give care and protection to trafficked victims. STOP has the opportunity of greatly expanding and improving their current shelter. They have received a piece of land that they can build on, as well as architects and builders who have made their services available at a reduced cost.

The house would sleep 30 and will also include counselling rooms, office space, a conference and recreation room, as well as separate quarters for the housemother.

Victims will receive care and discipleship and, by partnering with other organisations, they will be repatriated, or reintroduced into society. This house will serve its part in filling a much needed gap in the fight against trafficking.

To support or volunteer at the shelter contact: STOP Trafficking 082 456 2459,  
[info@stoptrafficking.org.za](mailto:info@stoptrafficking.org.za),  
[www.stoptrafficking.org.za](http://www.stoptrafficking.org.za).



**"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves."** Proverbs 31:8

For **resources** for making a difference in your community, contact:

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