

## A Survivor's Story

Corina, a single mother from a small village, was barely making enough money to feed her 6 year old daughter. She often worried about their future. One afternoon a job recruiter came to her village. The man offered Corina a good paying job as a housekeeper in the United States. It was an opportunity Corina could not pass up.

As soon as Corina arrived her passport and other documents were taken by her employer. She was told that her debt originally \$4,500, was now \$15,000.

Corina worked non-stop 16 hours a day cooking, cleaning, and looking after her employer's children. After six months, Corina received her first paycheck—\$300. When asked where the rest of her money was, she was brutally beaten and warned that if she called the police or sought help elsewhere she would be put in jail without any hope of seeing her daughter again.

After two years of abuse, threats and horrible working conditions, Corina was rescued by police who were given a tip by a concerned neighbor who noticed that Corina rarely left the home and always wore the same tattered and dirty clothing.

After being notified of Corina's case, USCCB was able to locate a social service agency able to provide and coordinate Corina's much needed social services.

Today, Corina is participating in a job training program with the hope of someday becoming a caterer. While she continues to struggle with the lasting trauma of the abuse she endured at the hands of her traffickers, she tries to focus on her daughter and the hope that they will soon be reunited.

For more information contact  
USCCB's Anti-Trafficking Services Program at  
202-541-3357 or visit us on the web at  
[www.usccb.org/about/human-trafficking](http://www.usccb.org/about/human-trafficking).



**US CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS /  
MIGRATION & REFUGEE SERVICES**  
3211 4th Street, NE  
Washington, D.C. 20017-1194  
Phone: (202) 541-3357  
Fax: (202) 541-3324  
Email: [mrstvics@usccb.org](mailto:mrstvics@usccb.org)  
Website: [www.usccb.org/about/human-trafficking](http://www.usccb.org/about/human-trafficking)

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# Human Trafficking: A Response to Modern-Day Slavery



United States Conference of Catholic Bishops  
Migration and Refugee Services  
**Anti-Trafficking Services Program**

Even now in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, millions of people across the globe are enslaved. Each day thousands more are stripped of their freedom. Human trafficking, or modern day slavery, is also happening in communities across the United States.

### What is Human Trafficking?

Human Trafficking is the exploitation of a person through the use of force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of forced labor or commercial sexual exploitation.

### Human Trafficking: Key Statistics

- 12.3 million people live in forced labor, bonded labor and sexual exploitation conditions worldwide<sup>1</sup>
- Approximately 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year<sup>2</sup>
- 14,500-17,500 individuals are trafficked into the US each year<sup>3</sup>
- 100,000 US children are commercially sexually exploited in America each year<sup>4</sup>
- Profits from human trafficking are estimated at \$32 billion dollars<sup>5</sup>



(photo: David Synder for CRS)

### Why is Human Trafficking So Prevalent?

Traffickers lure vulnerable men, women and children with false promises of good jobs, an education, economic security and even love. Using various methods, such as abuse, threats of violence, confiscation of passports/ID, traffickers are able to control these individuals and in turn make enormous profits from their forced labor or sexual services.

No sector or industry is immune from human trafficking. Victims have been identified in factories, restaurants, construction work, agricultural fields, hotels, nail salons, brothels, and even private residences.

### Catholic Social Teaching and Human Trafficking

The Catholic Church has repeatedly condemned human trafficking, stating that human trafficking “constitutes a shocking offense against human dignity and a grave violation of fundamental human rights.”<sup>6</sup>

**“Traffickers promise hope, but deliver pain. They prey on the victims’ needs and aspirations – a better life, a good wage. Pimps weave a web of false promises offering glamour and even love.”**

**– Luis CDeBaca<sup>7</sup>**

### United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Combating Trafficking

For over a decade the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has been actively working to end human trafficking. Through its Anti-Trafficking Services Program, USCCB has assisted over 3,000 trafficking survivors and their family members enslaved in the United States and U.S. territories.



(photo: David Synder for CRS)

USCCB continues its decade long work of helping the vulnerable, exploited, and enslaved by:

- Providing training and technical assistance to service providers, law enforcement, attorneys, task forces and other entities on effectively responding to human trafficking in the US and abroad
- Equipping agencies with the necessary resources and tools to ensure survivors receive appropriate care and services
- Providing specialized technical assistance and training regarding child trafficking
- Advocating for national legislation and public policies that reduce human trafficking and promote the well-being of enslaved and exploited persons
- Educating Catholics and the general public about slavery and exploitation
- Facilitating the Coalition of Catholic Organizations Against Human Trafficking

1. ILO. Cost of Coercion. Geneva: International Labour Office, 2009.

2. Department of State. Trafficking in Persons Report, 2008. Washington, D.C. 2008.

3. Department of State. Trafficking in Persons Report, 2004. Washington, D.C. 2004.

4. Shared Hope International. The National Report on Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking: America’s Prostituted Children, 2009.

5. ILO. Cost of Coercion. Geneva: International Labour Office, 2009.

6. Pope John Paul II, Letter to Archbishop Jean-Louis Tauran.

7. CdeBaca, Lius. *Special Symposium: “Slavery: Through the Eyes of George Washington.”* Mount Vernon, VA. 30 September 2010. Keynote Address.