



## MANNA'S STORY

When 14-year-old Manna ran away from her abusive home in South Asia, she met a woman who offered her 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. Manna attempted to refuse the first three men who had paid to rape her. She was physically assaulted by the brothel keepers until she lacked the strength to resist. 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.

## ABOUT INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION

International Justice Mission is a human rights agency that secures justice for victims of slavery, sexual exploitation and other forms of violent oppression. IJM lawyers, investigators and after-care professionals work with local governments to ensure victim rescue, to prosecute perpetrators and to strengthen the community and civic factors that promote functioning public justice systems. IJM's local justice professionals work in 14 countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America to secure tangible and sustainable protection of national laws through local court systems.

## Sex Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation

Sex trafficking is a massive global enterprise based upon force, coercion and deception. Traffickers transport or detain their victims for the purpose of exploitation and profit through acts of sexual violence. This trade in rape for profit victimizes thousands of women and children every year.

### THE FACTS

- Human trafficking is the world's third largest criminal enterprise, after drugs and weapons. (U.S. Department of State)
- 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)

### INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION'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 work with local authorities to remove victims from forced prostitution and ensure that they have access to aftercare services to meet their vital needs. IJM lawyers work to secure the conviction and sentencing of traffickers and other perpetrators in an effort to deter future crimes.

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.

IJM works to combat sex trafficking in India, Cambodia, Thailand and the Philippines. In the 10 years since the organization's founding, IJM investigations have resulted in freedom for hundreds of girls and women held by force in the commercial sex trade.

[www.ijm.org](http://www.ijm.org)



\* In order to protect the individuals IJM serves and those who carry out the work, faces of certain victims and IJM investigators have been blurred. To further conceal the identities of victims and safeguard ongoing IJM casework, pseudonyms have been used though the accounts are real. Actual names and casework documentation are on file with IJM.

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