

SLAVERY NO MORE 2012 GLOBAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING CONFERENCE

August 10-11 ~ LOS ANGELES, CA

A Survivor's Story – Ima Matul

Jocelyn White: Why are we here? We're here at the *Slavery No More Global Human Trafficking Conference*, because we essentially want the abuse to stop. We have redefined what it means to truly love our neighbors. We believe that they in a country where freedom and justice for all is something that we strive for. That they deserve everything that God intended them to have. Their life, their liberty, their dignity, their fruits of love and their labor. That's why we're here, and we know that it's hard, that it's tedious, frustrating, discouraging so often, but we prevail.

During this there are heroes that we celebrate along the way. We talked yesterday to law enforcement, social workers, and attorneys, but I think we all have just a special kind of respect and awe for the survivors who lend their voice to be advocates to lead others and to show that restoration is possible and that they can live these amazing lives of leadership and bring inspiration to communities and people all over the world.

The *Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking* has a program for survivors. They have a survivor caucus where they can go around all over the world and share their stories and inspire other people like them. To show people that they can be advocates and use what has happened to them and not define who they are but redefine what they can do with their lives, because they can overcome. I am so blessed and thankful to have one of those people that I look up to, and I'm inspired by her courage and her tenacity and her leadership. Will you please join me in welcoming Ima Matul as she shares her story?

Ima Matul: Good morning everyone, and thank you all for coming. Thank you Jocelyn for having me here. It's really an honor to be here on behalf of the survivors. Once again, my name is Ima Matul, and I'm originally from Indonesia. I'm a survivor or minor domestic servitude for three years. I was physically abused. I did not get paid, and I finally escaped with the help of the neighbors. I wrote a letter to the neighbors, and it took me awhile to give that letter. I don't have the courage to do it, and I was so scared. I was what happens if my trafficker find out and all that, so it took me a long time. I finally have the courage to do it, and they helped me escape and took me to CAST.

Since then CAST has been helping me with everything. They helped me with life to get my life back together and to get on my own feet and to be independent on my own. Learning about skills in life that I need. They send me to school to learn English, because I don't speak much English when my trafficker brought me here. Anyway the reason I want to become an advocate, because number one I want to give back and because like all of you here are willing to help a survivor of trafficking. That's why I want to give back, because all of you organizations like CAST and the other organizations, it's helping the survivors. You don't even know us, and you are willing to help us.

SLAVERY NO MORE 2012 GLOBAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING CONFERENCE
August 10-11 ~ LOS ANGELES, CA

Number two because I want to help the other survivor giving them hope, because when I was in that situation I don't have hope. We don't know anywhere. We came to this country. We know nothing about this country, so if I escape I don't know where to go, if people are going to help me or not. I couldn't believe that all of you are here to help us. I want to give them hope not to give up. There are people out there that care so much about the issue.

One other thing is that survivors have very powerful voices, and we're here not to tell our story, and it's been since 2000 I believe that this legislation passed the law about human trafficking. I believe it's enough to tell what happened to us, and we need to go beyond more than telling our story. We have a very powerful voice. Our story can impact other people, to legislators. For example, when we go to Sacramento for a bill that have to be passed some senator or legislator don't want to support the law, because they don't think it's important. After they hear our story, we tell them that it's very important to us to have this law passed. Then they change their mind. That is great.

Also a survivor can give the courage to other survivors. For example, the Survivor Caucus at CAST, we have a shelter like once a month that we do at the end of the month to get together with the survivors and also the survivors that are in the recovery times. They're still in the process of prosecuting the trafficker. One person told me it's great to have a survivor who's already independent to come to talk with others. We're giving them courage to see us like oh wow. They were like me, and now that they have family they have a car. They know how to drive, and they have a fulltime job. It's giving the courage to do. Not to give up, because some survivors after what happened to them, they decided to go home. They think they're not worth it, but they're wrong.

Also in 2000 Survivor Caucus, in the beginning of 2011, we launch our first national network. We have our Facebook page, and it's private. It's for survivors only, and we meet once a month conference call. That was like this is a group of national network is very unique. It's like from all types of survivors that comes together. It doesn't matter the survivor of domestic servitude or sex trafficking. We all come together to talk about the issue, to work on something, to make the law better. Last year in September, we work on something we created for the first time that domestic survivor and U.S. citizen survivor come together. We wrote our first joint testimony to help pass the law.

I'm not sure if it's already passed, but you know we went to D.C. We attend the hearing, and we joined the testimony. It was the first time that foreign survivor was a U.S. Citizen survivor, because people think that some only concentrate on sex trafficking. They think that sex trafficking the story of more sad. What happens to them is worse but actually we're all the same thing. Trafficking is trafficking. It doesn't matter sex. It doesn't matter domestic worker. We all suffer the same thing, so that's why this national network is very good for us to get together not just think that sex trafficking is more important than domestic work. I think that's all that I can share, and thank you very much.

SLAVERY NO MORE 2012 GLOBAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING CONFERENCE
August 10-11 ~ LOS ANGELES, CA

Jocelyn White: Though I physically look down on you, I look up to you. I think we all do. We wanted to take the time and tell you how proud we are of you. We know how much courage it takes to share your story each time, but each time I hear you share your story you sound stronger and stronger. I just love it. I want to take the time to acknowledge and give you our *Slavery No More Acknowledgement* to Ima Matul for her courage, leadership, and advocacy for victims of human trafficking.

Ima Matul: Thank you all so much.

SLAVERY

NO

MORE