

Atiyah Edited · Fri Feb 4, 2022 at 3:41 pm

This is a UN Women article about the survival story of three human trafficking victims and what I gathered from all three stories is the fact that their circumstances in their countries led them to leave their homes and countries in hopes of a better future (good paying jobs, salaries and education). Their want and drive for better coupled with their poor living conditions made them vulnerable and susceptible to human trafficking with the purpose of sexual exploitation. They were raped, forced to work at nightclubs and sell themselves and were “pimped out.” Let’s look at each case.

Story #1

Luiza Karimova left her home in Uzbekistan to Kyrgyzstan with the intention of findig employment. Without any documents it was difficult for her to find work and a woman approached her with a waitressing job that she took but little did she know she was signing her contract as a sex slave. Her passport was taken away she was given fake ID cards and passports and sent to Dubai to work as sex slaves in a nightclub. She was forced to com up with $10,000 US every month and she did that that for 18 months until she purposely got arrested and sent to prison. Due to this she was deported and three of her traffickers were arrested.

Indicators of trafficking of adults for sexual exploitation.

**Indicators of deceptive recruitment**

Strong indicator

- Deceived about the nature of the job, location or employer, "*They told us that we'd be photographed again for our new employment documents, to be registered as waitresses. It felt strange, but we believed them."*

Medium Indicators

- Deceived about conditions of work
- Deceived about content or legality of work contract

**Indicators of recruitment by abuse of vulnerability**

Medium Indicators

Abuse of illegal status

Abuse of lack of education (language)

Abuse of lack of information

Control of exploiters

*I didn't have a Kyrgyz ID, or a university degree so it was hard to find work, until a woman told me about a waitressing job in Bishkek."* "*When I arrived in Bishkek, it wasn't as it seemed. They held us in an apartment and took away our passports. They told us that we'd be photographed again for our new employment documents, to be registered as waitresses. It felt strange, but we believed them."*

**Indicators of exploitation**

Strong Indicator

- Excessive working hours and exorbitant fees to be paid to traffickers *"Karimova and the other women were put on a plane to Dubai, handed fake passports instead of their real ones, and shepherded to an apartment after landing. "We were to be sex slaves and do whatever the clients wanted. The next day I was sent to a nightclub and told that I would have to earn at least 10,000 USD by the end of the month,"*

Medium Indicators

- Bad living
- Low or no salary
- signed No social protection (contract, social insurance, etc.)
- Very bad working conditions

Wage manipulation

*"For 18 months, this is all I did. We were never allowed to go anywhere unaccompanied. I could not bear it anymore."*

**Indicators of coercion at destination**

Strong Indicators

- Withholding documents for e.g. Passports *"They held us in an apartment and took away our passports.*
- Issuing fake documentation to travel to another country.

**Psychological and emotional damage**

- Even after escaping she was so ashamed and didn't know who to turn to that she returned to the sex industry. "*Once I was out of jail, I was on the streets, ashamed, and unemployed. I went back to the sex industry."*

Story #2

Khawng Nu from Kachin is 24 years old and grew up in Myanmar, a very poor state with little resources and poor living conditions. Due to the little job opportunities in this part of the world when she was given the chance to work at a Chinese factory, she took it. When she arrived in China she realised she was misled and lied to.

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**Indicators of deceptive recruitment**

Strong Indicator

Deceived about the nature of the job or location. She was told she was going to work at a Chinese factory, but she was trafficked to give birth to babies. "*Khawng Nu recalls seeing more than 40 women on the floor of the building where she was kept, some as young as 16."*

Medium Indicator

- Deceived about wages "*Once the baby was born, the women would supposedly receive 1 million MMK (USD 632)."*

**Indicators of coercive recruitment**

Strong Indicators

- Threats of violence against victim
- Violence on victims

*"They give pills to women and inject them with sperm for them to carry babies for Chinese men," explains Khawng Nu. They were beaten and bullied at any sign of resistance."*

She was able to send a message home to her family about what was going on and the person trafficking the girls were held but refused to let Khawng Nu's family know where she was. Her family was able to get the money for her ransom and she was returned home. She was able to rescue 5 other girls she met in China.

Story #3

Mary from Nigeria was trying to escape the terrible living conditions in Nigeria when she fell into contact with someone who promised to send her to Italy to work in a restaurant. Little did she know she was being held as a sex slave and was raped. When she was sent to Italy, she was left in a camp to work as a prostitute where she stayed there for months and was emotionally abused because they were threatening to harm her mother back home in Nigeria.

**Indicators of deceptive recruitment**

Strong Indicator

- Deceived about the nature of the job, location or employer "*She was put into contact with a man, Ben, who promised to pay her way to Italy and use his connections to find her a restaurant job."*

Medium Indicators

- Deceived about conditions of work "*Ben took two of us girls one night. He gave the other girl to another man, and he said to me if I didn't sleep with him, he would give me to another man and not bring me to Europe. He raped me," Mary says."*

**Indicators of exploitation**

Strong Indicator

- Excessive working days or hours

Medium Indicators

- Very bad living conditions *""I had to stay there for months until they called me to go on the boat," she says."*

**Indicators of coercion at destination**

Strong Indicators

- Confiscation of documents
- Isolation, confinement or surveillance
- Violence on victims

*"When she was finally put on a boat to Italy, Mary was informed she would be living in a camp and work as a prostitute—unjust conditions that she had never agreed to and couldn't escape."*

Medium Indicators

- Forced into illicit/criminal activities
- Threat to impose even worse working conditions
- Threats of violence against victim

Weak Indicator

Violence on family (threats or effective)

*"Now, the people who paid Mary's way to Italy are demanding money and threatening her mother back in Nigeria. Her voice falters as she explains that, "they said they would do something very bad to her if I don't send money."*

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