

In Their Own Words: The Victims Cry Out

“My husband left me when my baby was 7 months old. We had nothing to eat. These people told me they would find me cleaning work and that I would earn \$1000 a month. **If I had known that I was to be sold into prostitution in Israel, I would have preferred to die of starvation with my baby.**”

- HA from Uzbekistan, 2003

“They lined us up one after the other. **They counted us like sheep.**”

- Lena from Ukraine, 2001

“I had to work 18 hours a day. The allotment was 30 customers a day. If I received even one client fewer, **they would beat me, but in a way that I wouldn't have signs**, because clients don't like to see a woman who has bruises on her.” - CT from Moldova, 2002,

“**If I could turn back the clock, I would wish that I wouldn't have anything like this on my soul, because this thing damages your soul for the rest of your life. No one can heal it, not medicine, and not all the money in the world.**”

–EK from Ukraine, 2001

How Can You Help ?

Call or write:

**Acting Prime Minister
Ehud Olmert**
Office of the Prime Minister
Kaplan Street, Government
Campus
Givat Ram, Jerusalem
Phone: 02-675-3228
Fax: 02-566-4838

**Ministry of Defense
Shaul Mofaz**
37 Kaplan Street
Tel Aviv 61909
Israel
Phone: 03-975436
Fax: 03-6976218

**Police Commissioner
Moshe Karadi**
Salah -a - Din 29
P.O.Box 49029
Jerusalem 91490 Phone: 02-
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www.tfht.org

*For more information,
or to send a contribution:*

**Task Force on Human
Trafficking**
P.O. Box 252
Youngsville, NY 12791
02-566-7711
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Trafficking in Israel

Israel is a destination country for human trafficking. Women and children are brought into the country every year to be exploited as modern-day slaves. Once in Israel, victims are often sold and resold to pimps and brothel owners who force them to work in slave-like conditions.

Rates of human trafficking in Israel are alarmingly high. More than 3,000 women have been trafficked into Israel; nearly all of the victims come from the eastern bloc of the former Soviet Union, desperately seeking an escape from their poverty-stricken lives.

Israel has made limited progress in the fight against human trafficking. In 2001, Israel was given the lowest possible ranking for its efforts to combat trafficking, and was threatened with economic sanctions. Since then, Israel has made significant efforts to improve its policies, but **more can and must be done.**

Who is involved in trafficking in Israel?

Traffickers- Usually nationals of the FSU who have ties with organized crime—men and women responsible for the “sale” of women to brothel owners and pimps

Smugglers- Most trafficking victims are smuggled through the border with Egypt. Bedouin smugglers transport women across the Sinai desert and into the country.

Pimps/brothel owners- Not all pimps and brothel owners have criminal records; most simply see this as an “industry” with relatively low risks and very high profits.

Private industry- Hotels, newspapers, drivers and internet services who provide services to pimps and brothels

Clients – Clients of trafficking victims represent a cross-section of Israeli society. Men from all backgrounds, ethnicities and ages exploit trafficking victims every single day. Without clients, there would be no market for the exploitation of victim

Why don't the victims just run away?

Victims are often physically caged

in brothels, and guarded to prevent their escape. Pimps and traffickers threaten the lives of the victims and their families. Victims also believe they have nowhere else to turn.

Their passports have been confiscated; they have no money; they believe that they will be prosecuted as illegal aliens and put in prison if they turn to the police.

They are debilitated by severe beatings, rape and even starvation.

Victims are often sold and resold to pimps and brothel owners who force them to work in slave-like conditions. At every stage in the process, the victims are abused and exploited,

It is estimated that over 80% of the women involved in the sex industry in Israel are victims of human trafficking.