



IJM CASEWORK SERIES

# SEX TRAFFICKING

Every year, millions of vulnerable children and women are trafficked for sex around the world.

Pimps and brothel owners often lure impoverished women with promises of a proper job, but then force them to sell their bodies over and over again. At other times, these traffickers trick families into giving up young girls, or they kidnap them to fetch a high price in the sex trade. Cybersex trafficking is on the rise as internet access increases everywhere. Now, pedophiles anywhere in the world can direct live sexual abuse of boys and girls hidden in private homes or internet cafes.

Controlled with fear and violence, trafficking victims are left vulnerable to repeated abuse and disease. Many lose hope of ever getting help.

## OUR IMPACT AROUND THE WORLD



3,603

Children and women rescued from trafficking since 1998



79%

Drop in number of minors available for commercial sex in Cebu, Philippines, after four years of IJM's work



2,340

Pimps and traffickers arrested since 1999

## QUICK FACTS



3.801 million children are exploited in sex trafficking<sup>1</sup>

In IJM cases, sex trafficking survivors have described **being beaten, forcibly injected with narcotics, and forced to watch** their own children be physically abused.

697 Pimps and traffickers **convicted** since 2002.<sup>2</sup>



## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC PREVALENCE STUDY, 2015

An investigation of sex trafficking in 20 towns in the Dominican Republic found that **one in ten** people in commercial sex is a minor; prevalence jumps to one in four when focusing solely on public areas, like street corners, parks and beaches.



“I want to help, rescue others like how I was rescued.”

—Sani, rescued from sex trafficking, pictured with her social worker

## Meet Sani

**SANI\* WAS DRUGGED BY A TRAFFICKER AND SOLD** to a brothel in one of India's largest red-light districts, 600 miles from her home.

Up to 25 men a night paid as little as \$5 to abuse and exploit her. She tried to run away, but every attempt failed. She was engulfed in the dark world of sex trafficking for three years.

Our team worked with police in Mumbai to rescue Sani and three other girls in a joint operation. We found them in one of the seediest brothels we have ever seen. Sani's remarkable courage and resilience soon emerged. She told us she wanted to lead us back to find other girls who were still trapped.

Sani led us to find six girls hidden behind a trap door. “Don't be afraid,” she told the girls, “I am here to rescue you.”

Today, Sani has completed therapy with IJM and is studying to become a nurse—a job she chose because she loves helping people.

### WHERE WE WORK AGAINST: SEX TRAFFICKING



#### LATIN AMERICA

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic



#### SOUTH ASIA

Kolkata, India • Mumbai, India



#### SOUTHEAST ASIA

Cebu, the Philippines  
Manila, the Philippines

### JUSTICE SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION

#### Cambodia

When IJM opened our office in Cambodia, the prevalence of children exploited in the sex industry ranged from 15%–30%. A 2015 study showed a dramatic reduction in the region where we worked for 12 years: less than one-tenth of one percent (0.1%) of people in the sex trade are children under 15.

### JOIN US

Help us prove justice for the poor is possible. Use your time, talents and passion to help protect the poor from violence today.

Join us at [IJM.ca/Get-Involved](https://www.ijm.ca/Get-Involved)



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**INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION CANADA** is part of a global organization that protects the poor from violence throughout the developing world. IJM partners with local authorities to rescue victims of violence, bring criminals to justice, restore survivors, and strengthen justice systems.

\*A pseudonym. All text and images © 2019 International Justice Mission