

## Human Trafficking Case Examples

Angela: Angela is a 20-year-old woman from a small village in Latin America. One of ten brothers and sisters, at a young age Angela left school and abandoned her dream of becoming a writer so that she could contribute to her family's income. Through a friend, she learned of an opportunity to pursue her studies while working in the home of a family who was working in America. **The family promised her that they would support her education.** After months of convincing her parents that this would help their economic situation, **she moved with the family to America.**

The promises that were made to Angela were illusory. For three years, she slept on a mattress in the family's kitchen. **She was not allowed out of the house.** She worked twelve hours straight, seven days a week. She **cooked, cleaned, cared for two infants and an elderly parent,** and was responsible for all the household maintenance, including **preparing large meals** for many guests. **Threats of deportation, verbal abuse, and intimidation** were constant. She was paid roughly 30 cents an hour.

The Case against Kil-Soo Lee: Kil-Soo Lee, a Korean businessman, **recruited** primarily women from China and Vietnam **to work in his garment factory** on the island of American Samoa for 1998 until the factory closed in late 2000. Kil-Soo Lee **used employment contract fees and penalties to trap** workers into remaining with the company. He kept workers locked in the factory compound, **withheld food** as punishment and authorized violent physical retaliation for resistance on the part of workers. In February 2003 Kil-Soo Lee was convicted of criminal charges of involuntary servitude, extortion, and money laundering.

The Case against Supawan Veerapool: In 1989 a Thai woman by the name of Supawan Veerapool, the common law wife of Thailand's ambassador to Sweden, **brought** a domestic worker to Los Angeles to provide **household support** in her home. On arrival in the United States the domestic worker's **passport was confiscated** and she was then **forced to work twenty-hour days, six days a week** until she escaped in 1998. Convicted on criminal charges in 1999, Veerapool was sentenced to eight years in prison.

The Case against the Satia Family: The Satias, two Cameroonian sisters and their husbands, **recruited** young Cameroonian girls, aged fourteen to seventeen, to work as domestics in their Washington, D.C. homes. The girls were recruited with the **false promise of studying in the U.S.** in exchange for **providing childcare and domestic** help. Once in the U.S., the domestic servants were **confined** to the Satias' homes, working in excess of fourteen hours a day **without pay** and under **threat of violence and threat of deportation.** The younger survivor escaped in 1999 after two years of captivity. A year later the older survivor fled, after having been exploited for five years. In 2001 the Satia sisters and their husbands were charged with forced labor. Found guilty, they received criminal sentences ranging from five to nine years and were ordered to pay their victims over \$100,000 in restitution.

Maria: My name is Maria. My story begins in May of 1997 in Veracruz, Mexico. I was approached in Mexico by an acquaintance about some jobs in the United States. She **told me that there were jobs available in restaurants or bars**. This seemed like a great opportunity for me to earn more money for my daughter and family. I accepted the job and soon was **brought by a coyote to Texas**.

I was **brought to a safe house**. Then, I was **transported** to Florida. Once in Florida, one of the leaders told me I would be **working at a brothel** as a prostitute. **He said I owed him a smuggling debt** of approximately \$2200 and the sooner I paid it off the sooner I could leave. I was eighteen years old and had never been far from home and had no money of way to get home.

Next, I was given tight clothes to wear and was told what I must do. There would be armed men selling tickets to customers in the trailer. Tickets were condoms. At the end of the night I turned in the condom wrappers. Each wrapper represented **a supposed deduction to my smuggling fee**. We tried to keep our own records, but the **bosses would destroy them**. We were never sure what we owed.

There were up to four girls kept at each brothel. We were **constantly guarded** and **physically abused**. We were transported every 15 days to another trailer in a nearby city. This was to give the customers a variety of girls and so we never knew where we were in case we tried to escape. The **brothels were often in isolated areas**. I never knew where I was.

Tina: When I was 14, I ran away from home to be with a “wonderful guy I met” that was in his mid-20’s. We **had a great plan about us living together, making money together, and becoming rich**. I thought this was everything I had always wanted; until he told me that if I loved him, I would help **make money for us by having sex with men**. By the time I thought I was in love with him, he had given me too much to go back home. I was then introduced to the other women he was pimping, who I hadn’t known about before. That’s what happens with pimps- at first it’s just you and them, but then there were four of us.

We went to Cleveland, OH, and he immediately said I was going to go “out” with the other three women, so they could show me how to make money for “us,” “for all of us together,” as if we were like a family. Later on that evening, his friends that he knew came by the motel. At first he told me to have sex with one of them, and I didn’t want to, **so his friends raped me**. Afterwards he said, “that wouldn’t have happened if I had just listened to him at first.” Right after that is when he picked my clothes out, told me what to wear, and **forced me to go out on the streets**.

When I first went out on the streets, and I had to meet my first John, I felt like this was something I didn’t want to do. I walked around the streets back and forth for hours, hiding, until the morning. Our quota was \$500 but **I had only made \$50 that night which I was forced to give back to the pimp**. So **he beat me** in front of the other girls and made me go outside until I had made the money. This is the same man that took me out to eat, listened to me when I wanted to complain about my parents, and gave me words of advice, but increasingly, I was seeing a side of him that I had never seen before- a brutal side, where **he repeatedly hit me** in front of the other girls to show us all a lesson. Not only was I shocked, I was scared. What would happen to me if I did try to leave, and who would believe me if I told them that this was going on? So I worked from

6am until 10pm that next night, **without food or sleep**. I came back with the \$500, but in his mind, I still hadn't learned my lesson. So I had to go back outside until 5am the next morning. After the second day he finally brought me something to eat, but as punishment to never do it again he **locked me in the closet to sleep**.