



Awareness

Advocacy

Action

January

Human Trafficking
Awareness Month

Stop Trafficking! Newsletter www.stopenslavement.org/index.html

Little Understood Forms of Human Trafficking

The Plight of Zubaida

Zubaida was brought here from overseas as part of an arranged marriage to an American man. She thought her life in the U.S. would be wonderful. It wasn't.

Her in-laws, who lived with her and her new husband, beat and taunted her — particularly after each of her three miscarriages. And after her third miscarriage, Zubaida's mother-in-law knocked her to the ground, where she lay bleeding. Zubaida's husband finally took her to the hospital for medical attention, but immediately upon her discharge, he announced that she was no longer his wife. He took her to the airport and left her there.

Zubaida was barely strong enough to stand. She spoke very limited English. She did not have a penny with her. She stayed at the airport until her only relative in the U.S. learned where she was and rescued her.

Unchained At Last helped Zubaida rebuild her life. The organization matched her with a volunteer psychotherapist, offered assistance to help her become financially independent — and found Zubaida a team of attorneys who represented her pro bono through her divorce proceeding and got her the financial settlement she deserved.

(<http://www.unchainedatlast.org/about-arranged-forced-marriage/zubaidas-story/>)

Forced Marriage

A 2011 national survey found 3,000 cases of forced marriage in just a 2-year period. Thousands of women and girls in the U.S., and also men and boys, may be at risk each year. It's happening in families of many different cultural, religious, and socio-economic backgrounds. Victims may be forced into marriages here in the U.S. at a local courthouse or may be taken (tricked or forced) to another country for the ceremony. These young people face severe and lifelong consequences — including physical, psychological, sexual, and economic abuse, medical and mental health problems, loss of education, and a loss of freedom to choose and make their own futures.

Professionals to whom victims reach out for help — including teachers, counselors, social workers, domestic violence advocates, police and child protection officers — may not believe what they're told or appreciate the seriousness of the situation. They may not understand the problem or know how to help or feel they shouldn't get involved in a "family" or "cultural" matter. Professionals may also face roadblocks or dead-ends as they try to help victims. Only 16% of national survey respondents felt their agencies were equipped to help individuals facing forced marriages.

Call on President Obama to create a national action plan to protect all individuals at risk and to support survivors of forced and child marriage. (<https://www.change.org/p/president-of-the-united-states-end-forced-marriage-in-the-united-states>)

Human Organ Trafficking

Organ trafficking and illicit transplant surgeries have infiltrated global medical practice. But despite the evidence of widespread criminal networks and several limited prosecutions in countries including India, Kosovo, Turkey, Israel, South Africa and the U.S., it is still not treated with the seriousness it demands.

Since the first report into the matter in 1990, there has been an alarming number of post-operative deaths of "transplant tour" recipients from botched surgeries, mismatched organs and high rates of fatal infections, including HIV and Hepatitis C contracted from sellers' organs.

Living kidney sellers suffer from post-operative infections, weakness, depression, and some die from suicide, wasting, and kidney failure. *Organs Watch* documented five deaths among 38 kidney sellers recruited from small villages in Moldova alone.

Distressing stories lurk in the murky background of today's business of commercialized organ transplantation, conducted in a competitive global field that involves some 50 nations. The *World Health Organization* estimates 10,000 black market operations happen each year. (<http://theconversation.com/organ-trafficking-a-protected-crime-16178>)

Prices of Organ Trafficking:

Average paid by kidney buyer \$150,000
Average paid to seller of kidney \$5,000
Kidney broker in the Philippines \$1,500
Kidney broker in Yemen \$60,000
Kidney traffickers in Turkey \$10,000 profit
Kidney Transplant Operation, China \$15,200
Kidney Transplant Operation, Europe \$32,000
(For references, see: <http://www.havocscope.com/black-market-prices/organs-kidneys/>)