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Marti MacGibbon, of Muncie, shares story of surviving human traffick

MacGibbon held against will in Japan



Marti MacGibbon
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Posted: 01/19/2013
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Alyssa Dailey, WCPO Digital



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CINCINNATI - A motivational speaker and standup comedian being held captive overseas to help bring awareness to the

In 1984, Marti MacGibbon, who was raised in a typical middle class comic living in San Francisco who scored an appearance with

Until then, MacGibbon said she was a recreational drug user. Carson, she spiraled out of control, becoming a full-blown addict

"I was living in my car, had a crazy boyfriend, [and I] was just

WCPO-TV in Cincinnati. "Traffickers watch for vulnerability. I wasn't in touch with my family or friends. I was isolated, of that."

It was then that she encountered the woman who changed the course of her life, an illicit distributor of young women MacGibbon said.

"I knew that's what it was, but I was told it would be in a five-star hotel and I would be in control and I could make decisions," MacGibbon said. "I was desperate enough to go, I took her up on it. I had a one-way ticket and very little cash."

For the next two months, MacGibbon said she was imprisoned in Japan, locked in an apartment and was told by the trafficker that if she didn't cooperate,

day if she didn't cooperate.

One of the businessmen MacGibbon met eventually helped her make her escape back to the United States by buying "I'm one of the lucky ones," MacGibbon said. "I wasn't supposed to even come back. The trafficker [who originally se I checked into the other girls when I got back to the U.S. I'm the only one that returned."

All the while, her family had no knowledge of her captivity in Japan. When she returned to face them, she said she di happened to her, so rather than changing her previous habits, she continued to abuse drugs in an effort to cope.

MacGibbon was addicted and homeless again until she says she met her true love and turned her life around, event professional, motivational speaker and author.

MacGibbon shared her story in her book "Never Give in to Fear: Laughing all the way up to Rock Bottom."

MacGibbon's case is one of millions around the world every day, experts say.

The human trafficking industry generates more than \$32 billion annually and is the second-most profitable criminal er the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati. The report indicates there are more than 27 millio world today.

"Facing the numbers is hard for people to wrap their heads around," said Gretchen Hunt, the training coordinator at t Program said. "The natural impulse of people is to say that human trafficking doesn't happen because it's too awful. "

In the world of human trafficking, the average age of women is between 12 and 14, with the FBI suspecting that one the United States is a child.

Hunt said law enforcement authorities should remain vigilant of the telltale signs of child trafficking, such as runaway:

"They can look for somebody with tattoos with the name of their pimp," Hunt said. "When people are dehumanized, th thing happens with girls in the sex industry."

The tattoo reinforces in the psyche of the girl slave she is property and signals to other traffickers she is already own

Trafficking exists in communities across the country, both rural and urban, experts stress.

One such case in Kentucky involved a family acquiring a Filipino woman to serve as a domestic worker. She worked the family demanded she pay the \$8,000 debt to the network that trafficked her to the states, according to the study " by T.K. Logan.

"A lot of it is being concerned about people, caring about your neighbors," Hunt said. "If something doesn't seem righ National Human Trafficking hotline. Do something to show concern for those people."

[The National Human Trafficking Hotline \(http://www.polarisproject.org/what-we-do/national-human-trafficking-hotline/gclid=CKbi46zY4LQCFQHonAodXBoAiA\)](http://www.polarisproject.org/what-we-do/national-human-trafficking-hotline/gclid=CKbi46zY4LQCFQHonAodXBoAiA) number is: 1-888-3737-888

[Click here \(http://sharedhope.org/\)](http://sharedhope.org/) to be directed to the National Policy Group.

Digital Editor Kareem Elgazzar contributed to this report.

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NormaJeanAlmodovar Edit

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NormaJeanAlmodovar

For every 'victim' of sex trafficking, there are at least 100 victims of serious rape and sexual assault. According to the US Gov domestic violence every year, adding to the vast number of victims of violence and abuse. However, despite the horrifying tale the unimaginable abuse they and their children experience, I've yet to read anything about the crusade to abolish marriage to crusade to promote awareness of the hundreds of thousands of cases of REPORTED rapes and sexual assaults and the unc 2011, there were 243,800 reported rapes and sexual assaults, and for all those rapes, the cops managed to apprehend a me

Yes, it is tragic when any man, woman or child is the victim of coercion or violence, and yes, those who commit those crimes wives, girlfriends and lovers are NOT victims of domestic violence OR rape, the majority of sex workers are not victims of sex our life situations and others may or may not agree with our choices- but just as we are able to make a choice to abort an unv choices, including selling sexual services. Either it is my body/ my choice or it is not. If and when we are victims, we must hav perpetrator, just as victims of domestic violence and rape are able to do. Unfortunately, as long as sex workers are criminals, complaints.

Many ill-informed people are demanding that we adopt the 'Swedish' model where the prostitute is no longer a victim but her employers are. This is about as logical as saying that women who have abortions won't be criminals, but the doctors, nurses the father of the fetus WILL be charged with a crime, in order to eliminate the demand for abortions. After all, there are many have abortions suffer post abortion stress disorder (the same thing as PTSD) and were coerced into having an abortion, so "t sarcastic, there really are women who suffer post abortion stress, and those who do ought to have counseling available for th women be forced to carry an unwanted fetus to term?

Of course, if we really thought that by criminalizing/ arresting/ incarcerating the non violent, non abusive, non coercive clients magically eliminate prostitution, then why would we not use the same 'solution' to deal with the horrors of domestic violence, i of victims of human trafficking are forced- domestic servitude? Shouldn't we incarcerate the men who DON'T beat their wives to prevent other men from thinking it is acceptable to engage in that behavior? Or how about the employers of domestic serv anyone to work at their hotel, office, home etc. JUST IN CASE they are complicit in human trafficking? Why not? Because it is people who have NOT harmed anyone, simply because it is someone else's opinion that the adult choices of women are not

Around the world, these ignorant policies are doing great harm to the very people that the prostitution abolitionists claim they and incarceration give law enforcement officers the ability to use those laws to extort us for sex, money and information. The Ohio State Attorney General's noted that the number one buyer of sexual services from victims was law enforcement. They a long as a prostitute 'cooperates' with the nice officer and provides him with sex, money and information, a cooperative prostitu sex with a 'suspected prostitute' to make an arrest. Is this how you help victims? By allowing the cops who should be their alli

Decriminalize consenting adult commercial sex, and then there may be sufficient resources available to assist 'survivors' like violence and child sexual abuse at the hands of priests, preachers, teachers, coaches, boy scout leaders and law enforceme Report noted that there were over 249 law enforcement agents in that year who had been caught having sex with minors. Th more cops were not reported and continue to sexually exploit minors? Send rapists and abusers to prison, not the non violent arresting prostitutes because you think you are 'rescuing' them. We promise to call you if we need your help.

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