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# Mentally Disabled Girls No Exception in Sex Trafficking

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Cambodian sex workers wait for customers at a public park in Phnom Penh. (Photo: Chor Sokunthea)

Young women fall victim to sex trafficking due to a number of dire circumstances—debt, desperation, abuse. Mentally disabled girls are not exempt.

In late 2009, to pay off his debt to smugglers, Mario Laguna-Guerrero, an illegal immigrant from Mexico, turned to his 17-year-old girlfriend for a solution.

He did not ask her for a loan.

Instead, the young man convinced his mentally disabled girlfriend to sell herself for sex.

He drove her to migrant labor camps in Hillsborough

County, Florida, where she slept with as many as 80 men.

Then Laguna-Guerrero had his girlfriend [recruit](#) (<http://attorneyinimmigration.com/discussion/tag/laguna-querrero>), a mentally disabled 16-year-old girl on the school bus—a situation that is not uncommon in prostitution rings, where victims of sex trafficking are forced to lure other victims.

In April 2010, Laguna-Guerrero was arrested and charged with sex trafficking of a minor.

According to [ABC News](#) (<http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/immigration-sex-trafficking-mentally-disabled-girl-puts-focus/story?id=11120190&page=1>), the young man said his girlfriend, who is a U.S. citizen, "agreed to help him pay off his debt by having sex for cash."

The girl told detectives separately, "I don't wanna do this."

Reported by [ABC News](#) (<http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/immigration-sex-trafficking-mentally-disabled-girl-puts-focus/story?id=11120190&page=1>), immigration critics call this case an issue of broken borders, faulting insecure border control for the crime.

Currently, the U.S. government is taking action to help prevent further instances of sex trafficking.

The Department of Homeland Security Secretary launched the [Blue Campaign](#) (<http://www.takepart.com/news/2010/07/22/department-of-homeland-security-combats-sex-trafficking-with-first-of-its-kind-campaign>) recently; Janet Napolitano [says](#) ([http://www.dhs.gov/ynews/releases/pr\\_1279813956862.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/ynews/releases/pr_1279813956862.shtm)), the campaign seeks, "to shine a light on a crime that thrives in the shadows, bring traffickers to justice, and assist victims in communities across the nation."

Also, [state lawmakers](#) (<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/07/18/AR2010071801839.html>) across the country are stepping up the fight against human trafficking—offering hope to the victims.

**Quick Study:** [Contemporary Slavery](#) (<http://www.takepart.com/issues/contemporary-slavery/12>). | [Immigration](#) (<http://www.takepart.com/issues/immigration/13>)

**Related Stories:** [New Film Sheds Light on African Sex Slaves in Ireland](#) (<http://www.takepart.com/news/2010/05/27/new-film-sheds-light-on-sex-trafficking-in-ireland>) | [State Lawmakers Stepping Up Efforts to Fight Human Trafficking in the U.S.](#) (<http://www.takepart.com/news/2010/07/19/state-lawmakers-stepping-up-efforts-to-fight-human-trafficking-in-the-us0>)

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(<http://www.somalv.org/involved/fundraisers/>) [Host a Fundraiser for the Somaly Mam Foundation](#) (<http://www.somalv.org/involved/fundraisers/>)

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Millions of USA government dollars are being spent to fight a crime that is extremely rare. The US government assumes that all prostitutes on Earth are sex trafficked slaves. Forced into it against their will. This is NOT true of MOST women. I have included in my post some very important links and information about this, that you should read. It is important to let the truth be told. The lying people get all the press. It is time for the people who tell the truth to get the press. The numbers of sex trafficking sex slaves: There is a lot of controversy over the numbers of adult woman who are forced sex slaves. The real factual answer is that no one knows. There is hard evidence that the sex slavery/sex trafficking issue continues to report false information and is greatly exaggerated by politicians, the media, and aid groups, feminist and religious organizations that receive funds from the government, The estimate of adult women who become new sex slaves ranges anywhere from 40 million a year to 5,000 per year all of which appear to be much too high. They have no evidence to back up these numbers, and no one questions them about it. Their sources have no sources, and are made up numbers. In fact if some of these numbers are to be believed which have either not changed or have been increased each year for the past twenty years, all woman on earth would currently be sex slaves. Yet, very few real forced against their will sex slaves have been found. "If media reports on sex trafficking in Nepal are to be believed, there would be no young girls left in Nepal at this time" It is not easy for criminals to engage in this activity:

Sex trafficking is illegal and the penalties are very severe. It is very difficult to force someone to be a sex slave, they would have to have 24 hour guards posted and be watched 365 days a year, 24 hours per day. Have the threat of violence if they refused, and have no one notice and complain to the authorities or police. They would need to hide from the general public yet still manage to see customers from the general public. They would need to provide them with medical care, food, shelter, and have all their basic needs met. They would need to have the sex slaves put on a fake front that they enjoyed what they were doing, act flirtatious and do their job well. They would have to deal with the authorities looking for the missing women, and hide any money they may make, since it comes from illegal activity. They must do all of this while constantly trying to prevent the sex slaves from escaping and reporting them to the police. This is extremely difficult to do, which makes this activity rare. These criminals would be breaking dozens of major laws not just one. Kidnapping itself is a serious crime. There are many laws against sex trafficking, sex slavery, kidnapping, sex abuse, rape, sexual harassment etc. If someone is behind it, they will be breaking many serious laws, be in big trouble, and will go to jail for many long years.

While there are some women who may be true victims. And it is possible for this to happen in rare situations. This is a small rare group of people and that the numbers and scale of this crime is exaggerated. The very nature of someone pulling off a kidnapping and forced sex for profit appears to be very difficult. Since it would be difficult this makes this crime rare. Not impossible, but extremely rare. A key point is that on the sidelines the prostitutes themselves are not being listened to. They oppose laws against prostitution. But no one wants to listen to the prostitutes themselves. Only to the self appointed experts that make up numbers and stories many of which have never met a real forced sex slave or if they did it was only a few. The media and government never ask the prostitutes themselves what would help them in terms of laws. Many women in the sex business are independent workers. They don't have a pimp.

They work for themselves, advertise themselves, and keep all the money for themselves. No one forces them, because there isn't anyone to force them. They go out and find their own customers, set their own prices, and arrange everything by themselves. Sometimes they may employ others to help them, but these are not pimps. If for example, she hires an internet web design company to make a website for her, does that make the web design company a pimp? If she pays a phone company for a phone to do business, does this make the phone company a pimp? If she puts an ad in the paper, does this make the editor a pimp? If she puts the money she makes into a bank account does this make the bank a pimp? A lot of anti prostitution groups would say yes. Everyone and everybody is a pimp.

They say this because these group are not rational, and cannot think in a logical way. Instead they make up lies, and false statistics that no one bothers to check. A big reason they do this is because it provides high paying jobs for them. They get big donations, and grants from the government, charity, churches, etc. to have these groups, and pay these workers. The Sex Trafficking/Slavery idea is used to outlaw all prostitution around the world by saying that all women are victims even if they do it willing. This hurts any real victims because it labels all sex workers as victims. Everything I heard about this problem was Americans complaining about it, but I never heard from the so-called victims themselves complaining about it. Why is that? Many of the self appointed experts complaining about this have never even met or seen a real forced against their will victim. The problems I see with the sex traffic idea is that suppose some of the women were not forced into this type of prostitution, but were willing and wanted to do this type of work, and went out of their way to do this type of work. (It is a lot of fast easy money, they don't need a degree, or a green card.)

All they have to do is lie and say that someone forced them into it. When perhaps, no one did.

If a illegal allien for example is the victim all they have to do is lie and here are their benefits based on the USA anti-traffic prostitution laws:

1. They don't have to go to jail or be arrested.
2. They get to stay and live in America, and become U.S. citizens
3. The U.S. Government will provide them with housing, food, education and will cater to them since they will be considered victims. . They will be considered victimed refugees, and can become American citizens.

The way I see it is that this USA government system will encourage people to lie in order to receive all the benefits listed above.

While there are some women who may be true victims. This is a small rare group of people. What hard evidence does the police have that these women were forced slaves? Were all the women that the police saw in fact slaves? Did the police prove without a doubt due to hard concrete evidence that the women were victims of being slaves and forced against their will? Did they account for all the benefits they would receive if they lied?

I find it very hard to believe that most women in this business are forced against their will to do it. It would just be too difficult. There may be some exceptions but, I believe this is an attempt to over inflate an issue in order to get more government money to these organizations. As a tax payer, voter, and resident I don't want the government to mislead me. == In the United Kingdom ==

In October, 2009 - The biggest ever investigation of sex trafficking failed to find a single person who had forced anybody into prostitution in spite of hundreds of raids on sex workers in a six-month campaign by government departments, specialist agencies and every police force in the country. The failure has been disclosed by a Guardian investigation which also suggests that the scale of and nature of sex trafficking into the UK has been exaggerated by politicians and media.

Nick Davis of the Guardian newspaper writes:

Current and former ministers have claimed that thousands of women have been imported into the UK and forced to work as sex slaves, but most of these statements were either based on distortions of quoted sources or fabrications without any source at all. == World Cup 2006 ==

Politicians, religious and aid groups, still repeat the media story that 40,000 prostitutes were trafficked into Germany for the 2006 world cup – long after leaked police documents revealed there was no truth at all in the tale. A baseless claim of 25,000 trafficking victims is still being quoted, recently, for example, by the Salvation Army in written evidence to the home affairs select committee, in which they added: "Other studies done by media have suggested much higher numbers." Which has been proven by the German police to be completely false. Yet people still talk about these false numbers as if it were fact.

==World Cup 2010 ==

Again using the made up number of 40,000 prostitutes trafficked:

The behavior of fans in South Africa has run contrary to what was predicted prior to the start of the tournament after David Bayever told World Cup organizers in March it was feared that up to 40,000 extra prostitutes could converge in the host nation to meet the expected demand. Bayever, deputy chairperson of South Africa's Central Drug Authority (CDA) that advises on drug abuse but also works with prostitutes, warned: "Forty-thousand new prostitutes. As if we do not have enough people of our own, we have to import them to ensure our visitors are entertained."

But the tournament in 2010, if anything, has seen the modern-day soccer fan attracted to art galleries and museums over brothels.

A trend that has seen a drop in revenue across the board for the prostitution industry,

which is illegal in South Africa. "Zobwa," the chairperson of Sisonke -- an action group representing around 70 street prostitutes in Johannesburg -- said business had been down over the last month. "The World Cup has been devastating. We thought it was going to be a cash cow but it's chased a lot of the business away. It's been the worst month in my company's history," the owner and founder of one of Johannesburg's most exclusive escort companies told CNN. In recent years, every time there has been a major international sporting event, a group of government officials, campaigning feminists, pliant journalists and NGOs have claimed that the movement of thousands of men to strange foreign countries where there will be lots of alcohol and horniness will result in the enslavement of women for the purposes of sexual pleasure. Obviously. And every time they have simply doubled the made-up scare figures from the last international sporting event, to make it look like this problem of sport/sex/slavery gets worse year on year. Yet each year it is proved false.

This myth tries to make every sports fan a sex criminal. No matter what the sport is, or in what country it is in. These anti-prostitution groups need to invent a victim that does not exist in order to get press attention.

== In the USA ==

On August 5, 2008

U.S. Justice Department Inspector General Glenn Fine uncovered discrepancies in a program dedicated to cracking down on human trafficking, McClatchy Newspapers report. Former Attorney General Alberto Gonzales spent millions of dollars on combating the international trafficking of indentured servants and sex slaves, including by creating task forces across the U.S. that identified and helped victims. Over four years, the department paid \$50 million to the task forces and other groups. Conservative groups, who pressured the administration to go after sex trafficking more aggressively, applauded his efforts.

Critics have questioned whether the problem was being hyped. Fine found in an audit issued that the task forces and other groups set up to help were 'significantly' overstating the number of victims they served. By examining a sampling of cases, Fine found the task forces had exaggerated by as much as 165 percent. Making matters worse, the inflated numbers were included in annual reports to Congress. ===In India and Nepal=== If media reports are to be believed, there would be no young girls left in Nepal. Oft-quoted figures such as 5,000-7,000 Nepali girls being trafficked across the border to India every year and 150,000-200,000 Nepali women and girls being trapped in brothels in various Indian cities, were first disseminated in 1986, and have remained unaltered over the next two decades. The report that first quoted these statistics was from the Indian Health Association, Mumbai, written by AIDS Society of India secretary general, Dr. I S Gilada, and presented in a workshop in 1986. Subsequently, a version of this report was published as an article in The Times of India on January 2, 1989. To date, the source of this figure remains a mystery. Unfortunately, such a lack of clarity is more the norm than the exception when it comes to reporting on trafficking in women and girls. There needs to be a distinct separation of

1. Child sex trafficking
2. Adult sex Trafficking
3. Adult consensual prostitution.

4. Sex Slavery They are not the same. Adult Women are NOT children.

Media coverage of trafficking and adult women's migration and sex work is confused and inaccurate. The media wrongly uses the terms 'sex work' and 'trafficking' and adult sex work and child sex trafficking synonymously, perpetuating stereotypes and stigmatization, and contributing to the violation of women's right to free movement and livelihood options. They assume that if any woman moves from place to place for sex work that they are being trafficking. The media, politicians, aid groups, feminist, and religious organizations does not take into account that she may do this of her own free will. Too often women are treated like children. Adult women are not children. Most migrant women, including those in the sex industry, have made a clear decision, says a new study, to leave home and take their chances abroad. They are not "passive victims" in need of "saving" or sending back by western campaigners. Sex Trafficking/Slavery is used by many groups as an attempt to outlaw all prostitution around the world by saying that all women are victims even if they do it willing. This hurts any real victims because it labels all sex workers as victims. This is done by the media, aid groups, NGO's, feminists, politicians, and religious organizations that receive funds from the government. There are very strong groups who promote that all adult women who have sex are victims even if they are willing, enjoy it and go out of there way to get it. These groups try to get the public to believe that no adult women in their right mind would ever go into the sex business unless she was forced to do so, weather she knew it or not. They say that 100% of all sex workers are trafficking victims. They do this in order to label all men as sex offenders and wipe out all

consensual prostitution. Which is what their real goal is. There is almost no one who challenges or questions them about their false beliefs. Therefore, the only voices you hear are of these extreme groups. These groups want to label all men as terrible sex offenders for seeing a willing adult sex worker. No one stands up to say this is foolish, the passive public says nothing. These groups even say that all men who marry foreign women are terrible sex predators who take advantage of these "helpless foreign women wives". These groups believe that two adults having consensual sex in private should be outlawed. Since they believe that it is impossible for a man to have sex with a woman without abusing the woman in the process. This is an example of feminists and other groups exploiting the suffering of a small minority of vulnerable and abused women in order to further their own collective interests. For example, getting money from the government and Charity into their organizations. Rather than wanting to find the truth. The following links will give you more information about sex trafficking especially the Washington post article and the Guardian and BBC links. Washington post article:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/09/22/AR200709...>

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/09/22/AR2007092201401.html>) News night BBC video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PtaEdl3aiwg> (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PtaEdl3aiwg>)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6rvA60zdkD8> (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6rvA60zdkD8>)

<http://mensnewsdaily.com/glennsacks/2009/10/30/more-on-the-great-sex-tra...>

<http://mensnewsdaily.com/glennsacks/2009/10/30/more-on-the-great-sex-trafficking-scam-in-the-u-k/>) Guardian

newspaper:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2009/oct/20/government-trafficking-enquiry-...>

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2009/oct/20/government-trafficking-enquiry-fails>)

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2009/oct/20/trafficking-numbers-women-exagg...>

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2009/oct/20/trafficking-numbers-women-exaggerated>)

[http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/10/22/gov\\_proposals/print.html](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/10/22/gov_proposals/print.html)

[http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/10/22/gov\\_proposals/print.html](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/10/22/gov_proposals/print.html)) [www.spiked-](http://www.spiked-online.com/index.php/site/article/9843/)

[online.com/index.php/site/article/9843/](http://www.spiked-online.com/index.php/site/article/9843/) (<http://www.spiked-online.com/index.php/site/article/9843/>) Sex

Trafficking in Sports Events:

<http://www.dallasobserver.com/2011-01-27/news/the-super-bowl-prostitute-...>

<http://www.dallasobserver.com/2011-01-27/news/the-super-bowl-prostitute-myth-100-000-hookers-won-t-be-showing-up-in-dallas/>) Human traffic website:

<http://traffickingwatch.org/node/18> (<http://traffickingwatch.org/node/18>)

<http://www.justice.gov/oig/reports/OJP/a0826/final.pdf>

<http://www.justice.gov/oig/reports/OJP/a0826/final.pdf>) India newspaper:

<http://www.thehoot.org/web/home/story.php?storyid=3622&mod=1&pg=1&sectio...> Other

sources: <http://mensnewsdaily.com/glennsacks/2009/10/30/more-on-the-great-sex-tra...>

<http://mensnewsdaily.com/glennsacks/2009/10/30/more-on-the-great-sex-trafficking-scam-in-the-u-k/>)

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1227418/SPECIAL-INVESTIGATION-Th...>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1227418/SPECIAL-INVESTIGATION-The-myth-Britains-foreign-sex-slaves.html>) [http://www.bayswan.org/traffick/Weitzer\\_Criminologist.pdf](http://www.bayswan.org/traffick/Weitzer_Criminologist.pdf)

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<http://edition.cnn.com/2010/SPORT/football/07/09/prostitute.gallery/inde...>

<http://edition.cnn.com/2010/SPORT/football/07/09/prostitute.gallery/index.html?iref=allsearch&fbid=00x1WH9NNpl>)

<http://www.spiked-online.com/index.php/site/article/8324/> ([http://www.spiked-](http://www.spiked-online.com/index.php/site/article/8324/)

[online.com/index.php/site/article/8324/](http://www.lauraagustin.com/debunking-the-40-000-prostitutes-story-again...)) <http://www.lauraagustin.com/debunking-the-40-000-prostitutes-story-again-south-africa-world-cup>)

<http://bristolnoborders.wordpress.com/2009/04/30/more-evidence-that-sex-...>

<http://bristolnoborders.wordpress.com/2009/04/30/more-evidence-that-sex-trafficking-is-a-myth/>)

<http://www.smh.com.au/news/opinion/michael-duffy/much-ado-about-a-small-...>

<http://www.smh.com.au/news/opinion/michael-duffy/much-ado-about-a-small-segment-of-the-global-sex-industry/2008/06/13/1213321616701.html>)

<http://mensnewsdaily.com/glennsacks/2009/10/30/more-on-the-great-sex-tra...>

<http://mensnewsdaily.com/glennsacks/2009/10/30/more-on-the-great-sex-trafficking-scam-in-the-u-k/>)

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1227418/SPECIAL-INVESTIGATION-Th...>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1227418/SPECIAL-INVESTIGATION-The-myth-Britains-foreign-sex-slaves.html>) <http://www.angryharry.com/reHappyhookersofEasternEurope.htm>

<http://www.angryharry.com/reHappyhookersofEasternEurope.htm>)

<http://www.thescavenger.net/people/numbers-of-sex-trafficking-victims-ar...>

<http://www.thescavenger.net/people/numbers-of-sex-trafficking-victims-are-exaggerated-13456.html>

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