

**“Defining the Crime”**  
**The Crime of Human Trafficking: A Law Enforcement Guide, Segment 1**  
**Written Transcript**  
**International Association of Chiefs of Police**

**Edwin Chapuseaux (Deputy, Harris County Sheriff’s Department):**

Imagine being 15 and forced to work in a brothel from 2 pm to 2 am and then I’ll take you to another one till 5 in the morning every single day and you’re a 15-year-old girl. Imagine that, if you can.

**Lou de Baca (Involuntary Servitude and Slavery Coordinator, U.S. Department of Justice):**

Human trafficking, when it really comes down to it, is simply the holding of another person in a condition of compelled service. In other words, it’s modern day slavery.

**Roseline (human trafficking survivor):**

I grew up in Cameroon. I was 14 years old. When I came to the States, I was told that I was going to go to school when I came here, but unfortunately when I get here it didn’t happen that way. I was taking care of kids, cooking, doing laundry. I had to make sure I’m doing something so that I wouldn’t get yelled at or hit.

**Thomas Anello (Group Supervisor, Hostage Rescue Team, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement):**

We see it all across the country, people are promised better lives. They’re told that they’ll come here to the land of opportunity, you can make your money, you can feed your family and when they get here they’re placed into a role they can’t get out of.

**Maria (human trafficking survivor):**

First thing, he raped me and that’s when he told me that he had bought me for 200 dollars, that I was his slave, and I was not going anywhere.

**Kyle Jackson (Captain, Los Angeles Police Department):**

They don’t know where they are, and they have no clue as to how to communicate or how to move forward or, if they were to escape, where to go.

**Hilary Axam (Federal Prosecutor, U.S. Department of Justice):**

The overwhelming image you get is of just being worked to the bone. Once the trafficker has this victim dominated, they exploit and exploit and exploit the victims.

**Lou de Baca (Involuntary Servitude and Slavery Coordinator, U.S. Department of Justice):**

There could be beatings, it could be psychological manipulation, it could be taking their documents. Forced fraud and coercion are... really, it’s a psychological web that traffickers weave around their victims to overbear their will, to make them think they have no reasonable alternative but to continue in service.

**Maria (human trafficking survivor):**

A lot of people probably wonder why don’t you escape, why don’t you ditch, why don’t you run?

**Suzanne Bradley (Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation):**

That'll be like taking you or me and putting us over in Moscow, and we don't speak the language, we don't know the geography, and then somebody says, oh no, this is what you are going to be doing instead of what you thought you were going to be doing. And I know where your family is. And they'll beat you, rape you, and what choice do you feel you have? How are you going to escape? Do you know how to contact the police over there?

**Esperanza (human trafficking survivor):**

My trafficker said, "If you call the police, no one can believe you. First, you have no documents, second, you don't speak English, and you don't have money." And I'm sorry to say in my country only people who have money have justice.

**Bill Rule (Commander, Collier County Sheriff's Department):**

In many different countries law enforcement and governments are corrupt. And the people from those countries don't expect anything better over here.

**Roseline (human trafficking survivor):**

She was telling me that if the police catch you on the road they're going to lock you up and then have you sent back home. I can't do anything, because I don't have nobody here, I'm here alone.

**Esperanza (human trafficking survivor):**

She said that in this country dogs have more rights than you have, and I believed everything she said.

**Lou de Baca (Involuntary Servitude and Slavery Coordinator, U.S. Department of Justice):**

Traffickers are starting to use means that are much more violent. Their threats are greater. Their use of weapons has increased.

**Esperanza (human trafficking survivor):**

The coercion they use – "I will tell your family," "I will tell your children," "your mother." Who, who cannot be afraid?

**Laura Germino (Coordinator, Anti-slavery Campaign, Coalition of Immokalee Workers):**

In that case, you don't even need an actual weapon; you've got this weapon of fear over people that can be just as or more effective.

**Wan Kim (Assistant U.S. Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice):**

The data on human trafficking is extremely high. Hundreds and thousands of people are being trafficked internationally every year, tens of thousands within the United States of America. I'm positive that that number will continue to increase because we have just begun to evaluate the severity of this problem.

**Lisa Krigsten (Special Litigation Counsel, U.S. Department of Justice):**

It's happening in the big cities, it's happening in medium sized towns, and actually – based on my experiences –it's happening in rural America.

**Andy Godinez (Senior Border Patrol Agent, U.S. Border Patrol):**

The traffickers are very manipulative. They'll lie to them – find some good jobs – but once they get over here they find themselves being forced into prostitution. It's modern day slavery what's going on.

**Kay Buck (Executive Director, Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking):**

Transporting or any kind of transportation does not have to be involved. So, a person can be trafficked and still not be moved anywhere.

**Lou de Baca (Involuntary Servitude and Slavery Coordinator, U.S. Department of Justice):**

You see a lot of cases with women in prostitution, with migrant workers.

**Suzanne Bradley (Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation):**

Restaurants, construction, labor, situations – maids, nannies, companions. It can be in the bars, massage parlors. It's in the coffee you drink, it's in the clothes that you wear, it's in the tomatoes on your hamburgers.

**Kyle Jackson (Captain, Los Angeles Police Department):**

Human traffickers are making millions upon millions upon millions of dollars, every single year. And it's occurring right under our noses. We just don't know what to look for.

**Kay Buck (Executive Director, Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking):**

Trafficking and smuggling are often confused or used interchangeably when in fact they're very different.

**Edward Gallagher (Assistant U.S. Attorney, U.S. Department of Justice, Southern District of Texas):**

Smuggling tends to be a little more humane, it's that agreed-upon price for getting them from point A to point B, having the payment made, and releasing them safely to a family member or a respondent. That is smuggling. That happens every day.

**Lou de Baca (Involuntary Servitude and Slavery Coordinator, U.S. Department of Justice):**

If you've got long-term payment of a debt and the person isn't allowed to leave, even though that might have been a smuggling situation, it could have been turned into a trafficking situation.

**Thomas Anello (Group Supervisor, Hostage Rescue Team, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement):**

They're told, well you keep working you'll be able to pay off your debt. Unfortunately their debt keeps continuing. It's a never-ending cycle for them.

**Maria Jose Fletcher (Supervising Attorney, Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center):**

The issue of choice is critical here. Can you make a choice to be a slave? You cannot make a choice to be a slave.

**Bill Rule (Commander, Collier County Sheriff's Department):**

Going there with no preconceived ideas on how this population should be.

**Maria Jose Fletcher (Supervising Attorney, Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center):**

Not all victims are undocumented. Not all victims are immigrants.

**Lou de Baca (Involuntary Servitude and Slavery Coordinator, U.S. Department of Justice):**

We've got a lot of U.S. citizens who are vulnerable.

**Lisa Krigsten (Special Litigation Counsel, U.S. Department of Justice):**

My primary experience is based on a case that involved several individuals who were mentally ill in a group home in rural Kansas. They ranged in age from approximately 30 to about 80 years old. They were all Caucasian but they had to give their clothing to their trafficker and perform labor such as tearing down an old barn or repairing barbed wire fences. So you can't look at a certain profile. Unfortunately, they can be anyone – anyone who has a particular vulnerability. They can be exploited by the trafficker.

**Suzanne Bradley (Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation):**

It's looking at the individual person. What situation are they in? Are they being forced to do something against their will through fraud, force, or coercion?

**Maria (human trafficking survivor):**

They had threatened me, that if I tell anyone what's going on that he will kill my family. My family is very important. That's all what I have, my family.

**Lou de Baca (Involuntary Servitude and Slavery Coordinator, U.S. Department of Justice):**

This isn't a crime that involves breaking the sovereignty of the United States by bringing an illegal alien across the border. We have other laws for that. This crime is about the constitutional right to freedom. It's a human rights issue.

**Lou de Baca (Involuntary Servitude and Slavery Coordinator, U.S. Department of Justice):**

The following are key points from this segment:

- The modern definition of human trafficking is use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain or maintain someone in service whether for labor or for commercial sexual activity.
- Or the use of a minor for commercial sexual activity regardless of whether there is any force or coercion.

There are significant differences between the crimes of human trafficking and smuggling:

- Trafficking is not voluntary.
- It entails exploitation of a person for labor or services.
- And does not necessary involve movement of a person.
- It can occur with U.S. citizens domestically or abroad.
- Smuggling, however, is voluntary.
- And ends after the border crossing.
- Fees are usually paid in advance or upon arrival.

- And it is always international in nature.
- Anyone can be a victim of trafficking, including U.S. citizens as well as documented or undocumented immigrants.
- Victims can be women, children, or men.

For more information, please refer to IACP's guidebook: *The Crime of Human Trafficking: A Law Enforcement Guide to Identification and Investigation*.

Or contact the IACP at 1-800-THE-IACP or [www.theiacp.org](http://www.theiacp.org).