

**Survivor Voices of Human Trafficking**  
**Biography**  
**Harold D'Souza**

Harold is a survivor of labor trafficking. He was trafficked from his hometown in India to a restaurant in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he was forced to work 7 days a week, 14 to 16 hours a day. His trafficker charged him exorbitant fees for food, clothing, and shelter, so he never got paid. He was tricked into signing a loan from a bank which his trafficker pocketed, putting him in debt bondage. Desperate to escape in order to protect his wife and children, he bravely turned to law enforcement, even though his trafficker had threatened that he would be killed if he sought support. Since his rescue, he has become a survivor advocate and public speaker on human trafficking. He has formed his own non-government organization, Eyes Open International\*, and sits on the Board of Justice at Last\*. He served on the Advisory Council for the Ohio Attorney General's Trafficking Commission.

In 2015, President Barack Obama appointed him to the United States Advisory Council on Human Trafficking, and he continued his service under President Trump through July 2020. He also serves as an expert consultant to the Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons.

In 2017, he was awarded the Liberator Award\* and the iCan\* award for his activism and work with other survivors. In 2021 he was recognized with the "Rashtra Perna Award 2021" \* for service in India and Worldwide. He was also awarded the "HEART OF THE FATHER AWARDS 2022" \* in Los Angeles. As of spring 2022, two films are in production telling his story. The first, To Be Free\* is the debut feature documentary film produced and directed by Benjamin Ryan Nathan and executive produced by Martin Sheen. The film shines a light on the pervasiveness of labor trafficking in the United States, how we can spot it in our neighborhoods, and the steps we can take to eradicate this form of modern-day slavery on a systematic level.

\*The Department of Defense does not approve, endorse, or authorize this organization, its products or services.