



January is National Human Trafficking Prevention Month

Human Trafficking Survivors Speak U.S. Department of Defense Connections



Kalei Grant

"We would be driven to military bases and nearby bars, where the pimp would watch us look for the drunk military soldiers to proposition them. On duty service members would often see what was going on and turn a blind eye to it."



Tanya Gould

"Buyers were men of all professions including military personnel in the Northern Virginia area. In another case, a young woman was trafficked by her boyfriend who was in the military. He sold her to his friends, some of whom were also in the military."



Theresa Flores

"When I was sex trafficked in high school, I wish I had told someone because the traffickers continued to exploit other girls. They were never prosecuted."



Kumar

"I was an employee of a U.S. company [working for the Department of Defense], but I was cheated by the recruiters and sub-contractors. They charged me illegal recruiting fees of 75,000 rupees (\$1,200). Some paid as much as \$3,000 to get their job. We all went back home broke and in debt."

"My foster mother traded us for money. I was forced to go to people's houses and perform sex acts on adult men. I ended up in the DC area as a teenager, where we taken to a street across from a DoD office building. My trafficker sold me to military service members and DoD civilian employees for sex when I was a minor."



Tina Frundt

"Traffickers and abusers take the most precious thing we are given as children—our love—and they turn it against us."



James Dold

"The people who paid to ravage my innocence starting at the age of five were pillars of society, doctors, lawyers, and elected officials, both male and female. My life is a testament to recovery from child sex trafficking. Joining the military saved my life. There I found a new kind of family."



Jerome Elam

"We were 'red-bagged' and told that we couldn't leave our compound for any reason. [We were] confined in jail-like conditions where we were constantly monitored, not allowed mobile phones, regular internet access, or trips to the store. After 6 months, we finally found the office in DoD that works with trafficking victims and received the help we needed to move about freely."



Lusambu Karim

Through its Survivor Voices webpage, the DoD Combating Trafficking in Persons Office heeds the advice of the President's U.S. Advisory Council on Human Trafficking to bring the "vantage point of those who have experienced human trafficking" to our programs, presentations, and trainings. To read or watch each survivor's story, go to <https://ctip.defense.gov/Survivor-Voices/>

For information on reporting human trafficking, go to:
<https://ctip.defense.gov/Report-Tip/>