



Ending the Business of **Human Trafficking in NYC** In Our Own Neighborhoods

- **June 2010-** Eight were indicted on charges including sex trafficking and promoting prostitution by the Brooklyn District Attorney. The investigation uncovered four forced prostitution rings, three run by Bloods gang members. The pimps targeted junior high schools to recruit girls as young as 15. The girls were routinely beaten and deprived of food if they did not achieve their daily quotas of \$500 a day or more. The girls operated out of hotels, motels, the pimps' apartments and the streets and were advertised on Craigslist and Backpage.com. In response, the DA created a new Sex Trafficking Unit to investigate the sexual exploitation of women and girls.
- **June 2010-** Following a four month investigation, prosecutors charged Jin Hua Cui with running an operation that sent at least seven young Korean immigrants- who spoke little or no English- to Long Island massage parlors. The women answered help-wanted ads for nail salons, but were then forced into prostitution through threats of violence and intimidation. Traffickers maintained obedience by threatening to expose the girls to the community as prostitutes. Upon searching the madam's home, a sprawling mansion in Flushing, detectives found \$20,000 in cash, lingerie, and thousands of condoms. The women were forced to have sex for between \$60 and \$80 and the johns were solicited through Craigslist ads promising 'very lovely' girls.
- **December 2009-** David Brown became the first person to be convicted under New York State's Anti Trafficking law. Brown was "sold" a 19-year old girl for \$2,000, who he then forced to work as a prostitute. She was imprisoned in his apartment, assaulted, raped, and under constant threat of death.
- **June 2008-** Woodley Gaston was charged with sex trafficking, promoting prostitution and rape after a 16 year old girl who he held captive for two weeks escaped and contacted police. Gaston approached the teen with promises of new clothes and trips to the hair and nail salon. He then held her captive from March 5-23 in his Rochaway Blvd. apartment in Queens, where he repeatedly raped her and forced her to have sex with almost 200 men. The teen's family frantically searched for her while Gaston posted ads on Craigslist and threatened to kill her if she left him. This was Gaston's second arrest- the first was also for rape of a 16 year old girl.
- **August 2006-** Thirty-one people involved in an international trafficking ring are arrested. Operating at least 10 brothels from Rhode Island to Washington D.C. (two located on 26th St. and 59th St.) traffickers brought Korean women into the country, took their identification and travel documents, forced them into prostitution and threatened to turn them over to "authorities" or hurt their relatives in Korea if they tried to leave. In this case, 67 women were rescued. Some of the brothels, which generated tens of thousands of dollars a month, had special rooms or compartments where the women could be hidden in the event of a raid.
- **April 2006-** Three defendants pled guilty to 27 charges connected with operating a human trafficking ring between Tenancingo, Mexico and New York City from 1991-2004. In one of the largest sex trafficking cases to date, the men admitted to luring young, uneducated Mexican women to NYC. The women were raped and imprisoned and forced to work in NYC brothels seven days a week, servicing up to 25 men a day. The male customers paid \$25 to \$35 for sexual acts with the women. The profits were split between brothel owner and traffickers. Two defendants were sentenced in federal court to 50 years in prison, a third defendant to 25 years.
- **March 2006-** A large brothel in Flushing, Queens housing Korean women who spoke little or no English was shut down after a 10-month investigation by the US Attorney for the Eastern District of NY. The brothel had a "boarding house" where the women, who were illegal and smuggled into the US, were kept. Immigrant documents, the ecstasy drugs and \$800,000 were seized. The brothel, which generated \$4,000 a day, was successful to a large extent because the traffickers had bribed two veteran police officers, who received free sex, drinks, cash and tips on other criminal activity. These officers were charged with public corruption and are awaiting prosecution. This large trafficking operation regularly advertised in the *World Journal*, a daily Mandarin newspaper.