

Accomplishments in Bringing Human Traffickers to Justice: Recent Achievements in Federal Human Trafficking Prosecutions

Throughout 2023, the Department of Justice continued to vigorously pursue criminal actions to hold human traffickers accountable. The following case examples illustrate the wide range of federal human trafficking prosecutions the Department has brought in collaboration with key detection and enforcement partners:

Forced Labor

- [Secured a 57-month prison sentence and \\$42,000 restitution order](#) against a Georgia motel manager who manipulated a young woman's struggles with homelessness, drug addiction, and child custody issues to compel her service in hotel housekeeping and demand her compliance with his sexual advances.
- [Secured a 35-year sentence and over \\$979,00 in restitution](#) against a Louisiana defendant who used violence, sexual abuse, withholding of food, and other forms of degradation and abuse to compel multiple minors to bake and sell brownies for his profit, day and night, seven days a week and to perform sex acts at his command.
- [Sentenced the lead defendants to 12 and 10 years in prison, respectively, and secured over \\$250,000 in restitution](#), for holding a Pakistani woman in forced domestic servitude in their Virginia home by isolating her from her family, subjecting her to physical and verbal abuse, confiscating her identification documents, and threatening to separate her from her children.
- [Sentenced two Iowa defendants to serve 4 years in prison and pay nearly \\$70,000 in restitution](#) to two Micronesian victims they compelled to work in a meat processing plant by isolating them, saddling them with debts, confiscating their passports, and holding them in fear of homelessness if they failed to comply with the defendants' demands.
- [Sentenced the lead defendant to 40 months in prison and secured over \\$500,000 in restitution](#) against the defendants and their company for compelling over 55 Mexican victims into forced agricultural labor in South Carolina, working them up to 90 hours a week for minimal pay through a scheme of debts, threats, isolation, intimidation, and confiscation of their passports and visas.
- [Sentenced two suburban Chicago defendants to six and a half years in prison and ordered them to pay over \\$98,000 in restitution](#) for using threats and assaults to compel Guatemalan minors to perform domestic service, childcare, and labor in nearby businesses for the defendants' financial gain.

- [Convicted and sentenced](#) four defendants for compelling the labor of Central American victims, some as young as 13, in the defendants' Virginia laundry business, using threats of deportation and physical violence.
- [Sentenced the leader of a multi-state racketeering and forced labor conspiracy to serve 118 months in prison and pay over \\$175,000](#) in restitution to Mexican farmworkers he compelled into demanding agricultural labor for minimal pay through debts, threats of arrest and deportation, degrading conditions, and other coercive means.
- [Convicted three siblings residing in Illinois who lured Guatemalan children on false promises](#), then compelled them into domestic service and labor in nearby factories and hotels, using physical, verbal, and psychological abuse, threats, and other means of coercion to compel their compliance.
- [Convicted a Texas couple of benefitting from compelling a Guatemalan victim into performing](#) domestic service, childcare, and labor at their fireworks stand.

Sex Trafficking

- [Sentenced a Texas mother and son](#) to 30 years and 6 years, respectively, ordering them to pay over \$840,000 in restitution, for luring vulnerable victims from Mexico as young as 16 and compelling them into commercial sex at the defendants' bar.
- [Convicted and sentenced a Northern New York State sex trafficker to 40 years](#) in prison for compelling vulnerable young women and minors as young as 16 into commercial sex in New York, Vermont, Connecticut, and Massachusetts.
- [Convicted and sentenced a North Carolina Man to six life sentences and \\$68,000 in restitution](#) for luring young women struggling with homelessness and drug dependency, then using threats, violence, and coercion to compel them into commercial sex for his profit.
- [Convicted and sentenced a former priest to life in prison](#) for abusing his position of trust to groom young boys and coerce them into performing commercial sex acts at his direction.
- [Sentenced three Cuban nationals](#) to 210 months, 120 months, and 34 months, respectively and ordered the two lead defendants to pay over \$450,000 and over \$359,000, in restitution, for their roles in luring vulnerable young women from Cuba and using debts, assaults, and threats of violence to compel them to dance in Houston-area strip clubs and perform commercial sex acts for club patrons.
- Convicted and sentenced sex traffickers who manipulated victims' drug addictions to compel them into commercial sex in [Maine](#), [New York](#), [Ohio](#), [South Carolina](#).

- Convicted and sentenced gang members for sex trafficking of both minor and adult victims in [California](#), [Florida](#), [New York](#), [Pennsylvania](#), [Texas](#), [Wisconsin](#) and elsewhere.
- [Convicted three former principals of Backpage.com](#) on charges of promoting prostitution business enterprises, money laundering, and conspiracy for profiting from commercial sex advertising.
- Advanced high-impact prosecutions to [dismantle transnational sex trafficking enterprises](#) in connection with the [U.S.-Mexico Bilateral Human Trafficking Enforcement Initiative](#).
- [Sentenced the final defendant in a Minnesota prosecution that dismantled an extensive, transnational sex trafficking scheme](#) and secured \$500,000 in restitution for the vulnerable Thai women who were compelled into commercial sex throughout the United States.
- [Prosecuted defendants in California](#), [New York](#), and [Virginia](#) for exploiting women for commercial sex in unlicensed massage industries and brothels networks.