

00;00;00;00 - 00;00;23;16

Unknown

This is the story of Millicent. Those who are trafficked and exploit people live among us. I said a case in which a well-known journalist from South Africa and his wife were living in Miami and keeping a woman domestic servitude. Her name was Millicent. They came to Boston so he could work at the Boston Globe and take a fellowship at Harvard University.

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The couple brought Millicent to cook their meals, clean their house, and care for their three children. She worked 18 hour days and was paid \$0.53 an hour for about \$218 a month. Millicent left the house only on two occasions to attend church and take the children to public library. She was to return home immediately from both of those locations.

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It was because of her church connections that ICE Homeland Security Investigations became aware of her situation. She confided in a friend at church in the information found its way to us. Once it came to our attention, we investigated possible ways to meet with her without alerting the traffickers. It was decided to meet at the library. The children were too young to understand what was going on.

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We were able to meet her there twice and talk about her possible options. We let her know she did not have to continue in domestic servitude. We told her about safe homes and vocational training. We explained that there was a safe house she could get to that specialized in helping trafficking victims, and was run by Catholic nuns. She let us know she wanted to get her GED.

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I told her one of the nuns worked in an education center and she said, yes, I want to go. I explained that we did not want to force this decision on her, and that it had to be her decision and her plan. She needed to be comfortable with it. We talked some more and decided Sunday morning, when she was supposed to be at church, would be an ideal time to escape.

00;02;03;19 - 00;02;07;17

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She said this Sunday, I told her.

00;02;07;19 - 00;02;29;20

Unknown

This Sunday is Easter Sunday. She said, I'm ready to go. Easter Sunday morning. She was waiting for us in a park at a prearranged time, holding a black garbage bag full of her only belongings. We decided to go for breakfast and then to a local grocery store so she could buy food from her home culture to take with her to the safe house.

00;02;29;23 - 00;02;55;05

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By this time, church was over and she should have been home. The traffickers started calling her cell phone. She told them, I'm not coming back. Millicent stayed at the safe house for 18 months. I met with her every other week to see how she was doing. It turned out she had two small children back in Zimbabwe, and she got in touch with their caretakers and was sending money each month.

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She got vocational training in the hotel industry, got a job at a major hotel, and was eventually promoted to cashier. She moved into a place of her own in 2015 under her TVs. She brought her children to the United States to live with her. She still stays in contact with the nuns at the safe house where she made her recovery.

00;03;18;05 - 00;03;40;16

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The husband and wife traffickers were prosecuted and deported to South Africa. They had to pay restitution to Millicent and are now prohibited from coming to the US. I will never forget how Millicent looked the first time I visited her in the safe house after she escaped domestic servitude. I did not recognize her. She looked like a different person.

00;03;40;18 - 00;04;12;28

Unknown

She was so animated and alive. She was lit up from the inside. She was on the road to recovery. My name is Peter DiMarzio, and I'm a victim assistance specialist with Ice Homeland Security Investigations in Boston, Massachusetts.