

United States House of Representatives  
Committee on the Judiciary  
Subcommittee on Crime and Federal Government Surveillance

WRITTEN TESTIMONY BY

Faith Robles,

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For a Hearing Entitled: Children are Not for Sale: Examining the Threat of  
Exploitation of Children in the U.S. and Abroad  
Wednesday, September 13th, 2023

Dear honorable Chairman Biggs, Ranking Member Jackson Lee, and the Members of the Subcommittee.

I submit this written testimony with a heavy heart but a determined spirit. My name is Faith Robles, and I am not here as an expert in the traditional sense but as a survivor who has emerged from the shadows of sex trafficking. As you read my testimony, I urge you to see the issue before you through the lens of a survivor, someone who has experienced the darkest corners of this crime and has found the strength to rebuild. My story and insights are my contributions to the fight against this heinous crime.

Before discovering that my trafficker was an exploiter, He disguised himself as my lover. Entranced by his false promises, I allowed him to persuade me to leave Mexico in hopes of building our love and a family. When I was 13, A few days after my 14 birthday, he took me across the border illegally to New York City. After three and a half years of exploitation, physical abuse, and coerced into substance use. I seized the opportunity to escape to a police station, which led to immediate medical care and placement in a safe house. From there, a nonprofit organization connected me with a dedicated attorney who consistently updated me on the investigation into my traffickers.

During the trial, I testified on the emotional and psychological effects on victims while testifying against their exploiters. I firmly urge the adoption of harsher penalties for traffickers, clients, and pimps, in light of the irreversible damage they inflict on countless lives.

I strongly encourage this committee to reevaluate and toughen our current sentencing laws for human traffickers. The risks they pose to society are far too great for lenient penalties. Life sentences should become the norm to protect potential victims.

Survivors need a platform to share their experiences; their voices can offer invaluable insight into the harrowing reality of trafficking. The laws we enact should reflect this reality, and that starts with listening to those who have lived it.

Lastly, bolstering our border security and trafficking prevention measures is paramount. This includes providing our law enforcement with the tools, training, and resources they need to effectively combat this issue.

The time for decisive action is now; lives hang in the balance. Thank you for considering my testimony.