

Karla Jacinto Romero

Karla Jacinto was born on August 7, 1992 and is now 22 years old. Unfortunately, she was a human trafficking victim from the age of 12 to 16. Today, Karla is an example case of success in Mexico and all over the world, having dreams again and transforming herself into an international activist. She now speaks out with a strong message against human trafficking to help other victims overcome their fears and depression. Karla is a regular speaker before the Mexican House of Representatives and all over Mexico; she has testified in front of the Duchess of Cornwall in London and in Rome at the Vatican among other places, persons and international authorities.

After Karla was rescued with the help of one man who along with more than 40,000 clients had also exploited her at one time. Her rescuer eventually saw Karla's inner beauty and took her to Fundacion Camino a Casa, a first step safe house that allowed her rebuild her broken dreams and life. While in Fundacion, in addition to legal support, Karla received the guidance and training to achieve goals and accomplishments, repair her hopes and dreams, and start a new life.

Today, Karla is a happy and successful mother of two beautiful girls, a wife, a student, and an international activist. She actively helps rebuild the dreams of other human trafficking survivors encouraging them by example to overcome and love life and trust their neighbors again.

Most recently, Karla was asked to read a joint statement at the Vatican in the *World Day for the Abolition of Slavery* to of world leaders. There, she was able to share the voice of many human trafficking survivors who she knows, and seek the common dream of all of them to eliminate today's modern day slavery and victimization of people worldwide.

Her activist work has been transcendental to empowering other victims and survivors. Karla has actively encouraged and created a paradigm shift in the perception that victims must not speak out loud and strongly believes that together we can fight and end human trafficking and slavery.