## Stolen People, Stolen Dreams

Dreaming is part of the human experience. One could even say it is what makes humans human. Who knows if other creatures, animals, or living things dream. All we know is that when we are young, dreams are what drive us forward. They are aspirations to what we want to achieve or experience one day. The dream of a good life, the perfect career, a happy family, or whatever else, is the inspiration for much of what humans do. As we grow up and change, dreams change as well. Some dreams turn into a reality, some don't. However, that is not the important part. The most important part is that those dreams existed in the first place.

Dreams are a result of both passion and hope. There is that element of passion for something we love, as well as hope that one day we will actually be able to achieve it. That is why it is so important that humans have dreams that they actually believe in. Dreams encourage us to continue to challenge and grow ourselves. They can keep us going even when it may get rough, because they allow us to believe that life won't always be hard. That one day, the dream that we want so bad might happen. But the tough question is this: what happens to that drive in humans when those dreams are stolen? How do we get the dreams back?

These are the difficult questions that need to be asked. They need to be asked of the people responsible for human trafficking, the people who are stealing dreams. Taking people away from their lives and aspirations not only affects the person's future, it affects their dreams as well. The ideal job, a family full of joy, or any other dream. These are the goals and hopes that were once such a big part of life, but that were taken away when they should have been allowed to flourish.

These crimes are not the end of dreams. Dreams just adapt, and change to situations. Dreams are always kept

somewhere, maybe in the back of the mind, or maybe they are the top priority. They are never fully gone, but in some cases they are taken for a period of time. These are the stolen dreams. These are the dreams that people who are helping human trafficking are taking, while others involved in it go through immense struggle. But when people are free from this crime, the dreams are allowed to resurface and thrive once again. Dreams follow their people, so when a person is stolen, so are their dreams. However, when they are given back, the hopes and dreams of a person are allowed the possibility to grow and be fulfilled.