

Film Finance Corporation Australia and Thirteen/WNET New York  
in association with SBS Independent presents

# DYING TO LEAVE

a Hilton Cordell Production



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# Dying to Leave:



## People Smuggling and Trafficking in a Globalised World

### Short Synopsis

This two-part series explores one of the shadows of globalisation- the current worldwide boom in illicit human smuggling and human trafficking. Every year, an estimated three to four million people are shipped in containers, shepherded through sewage pipes, secreted in car chassis, and ferried across frigid waters. Others travel on legitimate carriers but with forged documents. An alarming number of these migrants end up in bondage, forced to work as prostitutes, thieves, or as labourers in sweatshops.

By listening to the voices of those who pulled up their roots, who risked all, the series puts a human face on what might otherwise be seen as statistical, overwhelming, and remote. ***Dying to Leave*** looks at the circumstances that drove five migrants from their homes, describes the difficulties involved in their epic journeys, and reveals their lives in a new world .

# Synopsis

**Human history has been defined by migration, but never has the phenomenon been as widespread, or as underground, as it is today.**

Every year, an estimated 3 to 4 million people are illegally conveyed across international borders. They are shipped in containers, shepherded through sewage pipes, secreted in car chassis, and ferried across frigid waters. Others travel on legitimate carriers but with forged documents. An alarming number end up in bondage, forced to work as prostitutes, thieves, or as labourers in sweatshops.

Old Mafias and new criminal networks offer a panoply of migration possibilities that skirt the reach of governments and generate fantastic profits. Via sophisticated operations that cross geographical as well as cultural barriers and utilise cutting-edge technology they service an ever-expanding clientele.

Yet behind all these voyages lie the lives and aspirations of real people. ***Dying to Leave*** follows the compelling stories of individual migrants and their often harrowing experiences. Each film interweaves the stories of three migrants from different parts of the world and places them in a global context.

The first program ***Human Cargo*** tackles the unseen world of *people smuggling*, usually involving voluntary passage in search of better economic or social conditions. It tells the story of *Faris* from Iraq, who lost his wife and daughter at sea when his overcrowded boat sank while trying to reach Australia. *Henry* from China who followed the well worn route to New York by being smuggled through Mexico and across the border and, finally, *Nina* who paid smugglers to escape her poverty in Moldova for a better life in Italy...only to have things go drastically wrong.

The second program ***Slaves of the Free Market*** looks at *human trafficking*, which includes a new kind of indentured servitude and the exploitation of women and children for the international sex trade. In it, the story of *Nina* continues as she is taken captive, sold from owner to owner and prostituted across Eastern Europe and we meet *Antonio* from Mexico who was trafficked in slavery on the tomato fields of Florida by a shady network of smugglers and labour contractors, and finally *Marcela* from Colombia who went to Japan thinking she had a cleaning job only to be enslaved for the sex industry by the Japanese Yakuza.

Directed by Australian filmmaker Chris Hilton and New York director Aaron Woolf, ***Dying to Leave*** places the boom in illicit migration within a broader historical context by identifying the phenomena that have contributed to this explosive growth: the end of the Cold War and the subsequent opening of borders, the rapid expansion of the global economy - legitimate and illegal and the new worldwide reach of commercial mass media.



# Background



**“I fear we are just in the beginning stages of a worldwide epidemic. While the true figure is unknown...we believe the worldwide trade in human trafficking is worth about \$30 billion a year.”**

*Mladen Vulinec, Director Trafficking in Human Beings branch,  
INTERPOL*

*(September 27, 2001)*

**The Cold War, characterised by closed borders and restricted movement, is over and in its wake the world's nations struggle for community. Goods and capital flow more freely across the planet than ever before and many have theorised that 'globalisation' will spread prosperity throughout the world.**

But this prosperity has not yet eventuated. Instead, the social disruption caused by economic restructuring has everywhere loosened the ties that held people to their homes. At the same time, newly-liberated media in places where access to information had been tightly controlled has presented visions of happy lives and abundant opportunity in the West. The result has been an overwhelming desire to migrate towards the previously inaccessible nations that have most benefited from the new economic order.

Yet the developed world, sometimes against its own economic best interests, has maintained strict immigration policies. And enormous numbers of would-be migrants look to a thriving illicit migration network for a passage to prosperity. Dreams and desperation also make those who wish to travel vulnerable to traffickers who regard human bodies as just another commodity. The forms these new migrations take are countless, but for the migrants they are invariably dehumanising. Many of their journeys end in tragedy.

***Dying to Leave*** charts the scope, course and context of the new boom in irregular migration. By listening to the voices of those who pulled up their roots; those who travelled; those who risked all, the films recreate their journeys and the circumstances of their decisions and destinies. On an individual level, they are stories of remarkable journeys and great courage in the face of unspeakable conditions. In the context of current history, the programs show what happens to *individual lives* as a result of global change and put a human face on what might otherwise be seen as statistical, overwhelming, and remote.

# The Episodes



**EPISODE 1 - HUMAN CARGO** directed by **Chris Hilton** examines the dramatic increase in *illegal smuggling of people*, usually involving the voluntary passage of those in search of better economic or social conditions. It tells the story of **Faris Kadhem** from Iraq, stateless for 21 years, who lost his wife and daughter at sea when their overcrowded boat sank while trying to reach Australia. It investigates the continuum of governments' inability to offer real sanctuary to people like him.

**Henry Zheng**, from Fujian Province in China, is an economic migrant, in search of a better life in America. He survived a perilous journey with a hair-raising route over the Mexican border. But for young Fujianese like Henry, pursuing the dream of making good money can be a nightmare as they spend years working to pay back their smuggling debt which is now as high as AUD \$100,000.

A dream becomes a nightmare when **Nina Matveyenko**, from Moldova, a once privileged republic in the former Soviet Union, finds herself the victim of a bogus smuggling network. The end of the cold war resulted in freedom of movement for people from the former Soviet Republics and the ability to seek new lives elsewhere. But with increasing border restrictions people need to turn to smugglers making them vulnerable to ruthless exploitation at the hands of traffickers, the modern day slave traders.

**EPISODE 2 - SLAVES OF THE FREE MARKET** directed by **Aaron Woolf** explores *human trafficking* - smuggling activity that includes a new kind of indentured servitude where impossible debt is combined with brutal working conditions. Migrants are trafficked by the hundreds of thousands into the world's sex industry each year and increasingly they are also being enslaved in agriculture and construction. This episode continues the story of **Nina Matveyenko**, charting her terror upon realizing she has been sold into prostitution and after three years her eventual escape from torment.



**Antonio Martinez'** journey from Mexico charts the well-worn passage of illegal migrants over the US border. But with stricter border controls, the death toll and the price of passage have risen, resulting in migrants taking increasingly remote and dangerous routes through the desert. As a result, debt bondage, human trafficking and slavery have also complicated smuggling in the southwest. Antonio finds himself sold as an agricultural labourer and enslaved in the world's richest nation.

The involvement of organized crime networks such as the Japanese Yakuza and their expansion across international borders and into the highly profitable trafficking of humans is charted in the story of **Marcela Palacios**. Recruited in Colombia to work in Japan as a house maid, Marcela became enslaved and forced into prostitution to pay off a fictitious five million yen (AUD \$60,000) debt before making a desperate escape.

## Directors' Note



**The phenomenon of illicit migration is enormous – and growing. In the past few years the mainstream press has taken notice and yet most of these reports have focused only on the most sensational aspects of these stories. They have not looked into the root causes of the phenomenon; they have not effectively placed individual stories in a larger context.**

We chose to focus on the stories of individual migrants recounting their specific experiences and interweaving them so as to show the similar pressures and trends that people feel around the world. Our five specially selected *major* characters allow a big picture examination of the wider issues, the so-called push and pull factors. The stories were chosen as representative and geographically and ethnically diverse, but also for their human drama. In this spirit, we sought to avoid stereotypes and stories which audiences may feel they have already heard.

Our protagonists recount the trajectories of their travel and the circumstances of their present lives. We travelled to their former homes, coming to know the spaces they inhabited, the perceptions they had of their chosen destinations, and the details of their impulse to depart.

We used *minor* characters such as experts, NGO workers, border officials, police officers and convicted or current smugglers to deliver the necessary overview perspective.

Distinct portions of *Dying to Leave* are handled with a unique visual signature to help the viewer organize and manage information combining digital video, Super-8 film, stills and archive in a variety of formats.

Our aim was to convey a palpable world and the kind of conditions that would make anyone consider drastic change. If the audience comprehends the quotidian realities of the migrants' world, they will come to a better understanding of the circumstances of their departure and feel more viscerally the perils of their voyage.

Archival footage also has an important role to play, not only in presenting the media sheen cast upon breaking stories about smuggling and trafficking, but also in narrating the historical factors that have contributed to these phenomena.

**Chris Hilton and Aaron Woolf**

Directors

## Producers Note

*Dying to Leave* was a unique Australian- American collaboration being produced out of Australia for SBS Independent with half the budget coming from Thirteen/ WNET New York for the US national PBS network. This is the third project in which Chris Hilton, Hilton Cordell Productions and SBS Independent have co-produced with Channel Thirteen New York. The previous productions were *Afghanistan: Drugs, Guns and Money* in 2002 and *Shadow Play: Indonesia's Years of Living Dangerously* in 2001.

**Chris Hilton**

Series Producer

# Production Team

## Chris Hilton – Series Producer, Director of Episode One

Chris Hilton is one of Australia's most prolific and award winning documentary producer/ directors. He has made films across a broad spectrum of subjects for the worlds major broadcasters. His credits as director/producer include ***Dealing with the Demon*** (3 x 1 hour), ***The Serpent and the Cross*** and most recently ***Shadow Play*** (2001) a feature length film on the Indonesian massacres for SBS, BBC, PBS and Arte, which along with ***Advertising Missionaries*** (1995) was selected for the Joris Ivens competition at the Amsterdam International Documentary Film Festival. As producer and executive producer Chris's recent credits include ***Year of the Dogs***, ***Renzo Piano – Piece by Piece***, ***The Irish Empire*** (5 x 1 hour), ***Bondi*** (6 x 30 min), ***Drama School*** (9 x 30min), ***The Original Mermaid*** and ***The Shadow of Mary Poppins***.



## Aaron Woolf – Director of Episode Two

Director/producer Aaron Woolf has made documentary films about art, science, politics and sport but all his projects reflect an interest in how global events affect individual lives. His film ***Greener Grass*** won a 2001 Rockie Award at Banff and was broadcast nationally on PBS. Previous feature work includes ***Art and Racing*** (1998), a winner at Wine Country Film Festival and broadcast on the Sundance Channel (1999). Aaron had his primary film education in Latin America, working for two years at Inca Films in Lima, Perú. (1987-88). He then earned a masters in film from the University of Iowa and has worked as a lighting supervisor on such Hollywood features as ***Crimson Tide*** (1996), ***The Crow II*** (1995) and ***Empire Records*** (1994).



**HILTON CORDELL PRODUCTIONS** has built a world-wide reputation for high-quality television program-making. As Australia's premier factual production house, we have made many long-running verité series, history series, award-winning cinema-released feature-length documentaries, and essay-driven reportage. Our films and series have covered many subject areas including history and culture, technology and science, courts and crime.

**Hilton Cordell** has regularly provided quality factual programming for PBS, Channel Four, BBC, Arte, Canal Plus, ZDF and most Australian networks. Our recent credits include:

***The Irish Empire (5 x 60 min)*** – BBC2, RTE, SBS Australia  
***Shadow Play (feature)*** – WNET/13, BBC4, Arte, SBS  
***Year of the Dogs (feature)*** – BBC2, ABC  
***Bitter Harvest (60 min)*** – WNET/13, SBS, France 2 and France 5  
***Renzo Piano: Piece by Piece (feature)*** – Arte, ABC, AVRO  
***The Hacktivists (60 min)*** – Arte France, ABC  
***A Case For The Coroner (6 x 30 min)*** – ABC  
***Bondi (6 x 30min)*** – C4, ABC Australia, TVNZ  
***Drama School (9 x 30min)*** – Seven Australia, TV 3(NZ), Trouble  
***The Original Mermaid (60min)*** – SBS, W Network, AVRO  
***The Shadow of May Poppins (60min)*** – ABC, RTE, Artsworld, AVRO, CBC



# Dying to Leave – Press Briefing Notes



## **PART 1: SMUGGLING – HUMAN CARGO**

**It is estimated than more than 50% of illegal immigrants globally are now being assisted by smugglers.**

*Aust Dept of Foreign Affairs*

**People smuggling has become the preferred trade of a growing number of criminal networks world-wide which show an increased sophistication with regard to moving larger numbers of people at higher profits than ever.**

*United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Ruud Lubbers. Oct 2001*

**The unacceptable alternatives are more protracted refugee situations, more refugees languishing in refugee camps year after year, more refugees taking desperate measures to find safety and a better future, and more refugees being exploited by criminal networks.**

*United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Ruud Lubbers. Oct 2001*

**Human smuggling is big business with an average estimate of \$7 billion a year.**

*James Chaparro, director of anti smuggling US INS (Immigration & Naturalisation Service – now amalgamated into the Department of Homelands Security*

**Smugglers lure unsuspecting migrants into risking their lives on dangerous journeys only to be sold into indentured servitude. In order to pay smuggling fees as high as 60,000 U.S. dollars, migrants and their families borrow from smuggling syndicates and become easy prey for violent criminal gangs**

*Janet Chu, officer-in-charge for the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) in Beijing, China. January 9, 2001*

**We're seeing a global transition of traditional mafias that deal in drugs and arms smuggling now turning their attention to this new area of profit.**

*U.N. immigration official.*



## Faris Kadhem: Iraq to Australia via Iran, Malaysia and Indonesia



Faris Kadhem is a Fali Kurd from Southern Iraq. In 1980, when Faris was 12, the Iraqi government stripped his family of Iraqi citizenship and forced them to leave the country. He and his family were sent to a refugee camp in Iran and spent 8 years in camps before being allowed out to work in town. However, Faris and other Kurds, faced work restrictions in Iran, could not enrol in universities, could not marry legally and were deprived of citizenship.

When his father died Faris became the head of the family of eleven and after 21 years of being stateless, decided to try to take his family to Australia. Faris couldn't apply directly to the Australian Embassy in Tehran because he didn't qualify for Australia's migration program which admits only skilled workers or family reunion. Instead he bought a passport from a smuggler in Iran, obtained a visa to depart Iran and made his way to Indonesia where he made contact with smugglers running boats to Australia. He was advised to send his family in two or three different boats as the risk of being ripped off or drowning was high.

The first two boats made it to Australia. The third boat, the Siev X, which Faris, his wife and his seven year old daughter were on, sank in international waters about sixty nautical miles from land inside the Australian border protection surveillance zone. Although about 120 people initially survived the sinking, there were only 44 left alive when an Indonesian fishing boat rescued the survivors 20 hours later. Faris' wife and daughter both drowned.

*The boat started rocking from one side to another. People fell on top of each other. I held my wife and daughter when they fell in the water, then they fell out of my arms and I couldn't find them until they drowned and their bodies floated. I didn't drown because I held on to a piece of timber.*

*I kept seeing children like birds, I kept seeing them floating, then one would drown and I would say; God go with you. Children were floating. They all drowned. Within a few minutes 150 children were gone.*

Faris and his surviving family members are currently in Australia on temporary protection visas. A temporary protection visa lasts for three years and the holder may apply to renew it, but cannot apply for a permanent visa.

Faris' story provides the framework to discuss issues such as:

- attitudes towards asylum seekers/refugees from governments and citizens;
- changing government policies and how these skirt around the UN conventions to which they are signatories;
- the introduction of deterrents: detention centres offshore processing of asylum seekers and TP Visas;
- the UN convention on Refugees;
- the notion of asylum and how this is being eroded and
- the abuse of the system by smugglers.

## Henry Zheng: Fujian, China to New York via Mexico



The Fujian /Mexico/ New York story is one of economic migration. What starts off as essentially a “rites of passage” story – destination Chinatown, New York City - for young Fujians pursuing the dream of making good money, becomes a nightmare for many as they spend years working to pay back the money for their illegal passage.

Henry made a perilous journey by sea from Fujian with a hair raising journey over the Mexican border to safety in New York.

The sale of the seat on the next plane or boat out of Fuzhou, the capital of Fujian province, spins an intricate web of considerable and disproportionate economic benefit to criminal networks, industry and Governments at the expense of the undocumented migrant. Today's rate is about US \$65,000 per person and, with an interest rate which compounds monthly at 1 or 2 %, interest can quickly mount to \$600-\$1200 per month.

The Chinese Government benefits from the remittances sent back home, the US Government benefits from a never ending supply of cheap labour to compete with the Asian market in the garment industry. The snakeheads, those who organise the illegal passage, make a lot of money, often to fund other illegal activities. But the undocumented migrant often has years of drudgery to pay off the enormous cost of passage plus interest to the snakeheads by working seven days a week in either the restaurant business if male or, if a woman, in the garment industry. Wages are well below the national average and migrants often work seven days a week for many years. Mr Chen, an enforcer for the snakeheads, reports how he used to bash “clients” up in a safe house if they did not have the money to pay for their trip once they arrived.

Henry Zheng was a naïve young man when he paid the deposit for a passage to America. It was the thing to do. There were wild seas and storms and people fought over the meagre rations. When he arrived in Mexico he was taken with others to a safe house for a few days. They were then led by armed coyotes over the Mexican border at night where a US helicopter with search lights tracked them while they ran for cover in the mountains. He flew to New York where he worked in the garment and restaurant industry to pay off his debts until he found work in the building industry.

Henry is still an undocumented alien but can work legally in the US because he filed for asylum on the grounds of religious persecution. Now he is married to Chinese born Emme whom he met in NYC who has legal status in the USA. She is sponsoring him for a greencard. Henry desperately wants the green card so he can leave the US and visit his mother in China whom he has not seen for ten years. The death of his father firmed his resolve that he must go back to see her. Whilst he may seem to be one of the lucky ones, he does not want his brothers to make the same trip - its too hard.

## **Nina Matveyenko: Moldova to Italy via Turkey and the Balkans**



Nina's story takes her from her home town in Moldova, a privileged republic in the former Soviet Union, through the Balkans to Turkey, back to Albania twice and finally to Italy.

The region of southern Moldova from where she comes was always well known for beautiful women. Now it's famous as a nexus of human trafficking. When the Soviet Union disintegrated, Moldova was proud to declare independence, to return to the use of the Roman alphabet, and to face Westward toward an evolving Europe.

Yet within months the nation was unmoored, without an independent economy and with a meagre income trickling in from outdated Russian machines working a mostly agrarian economy.

Alcoholism among Moldovan men soared and women were increasingly pushed out of jobs that the communist system had provided. Many sought work abroad and some estimates now indicate that almost 60% of the Moldovan GDP comes from migrant remittances.

As the economy worsened throughout the nineties, the notion of a life in prosperous Western Europe became more intoxicating. Women left in Moldova became increasingly vulnerable to bogus work and travel offers that were in reality Mafia manipulations designed to lure them into captive sex work.

Nina, motherless, with a father who was a drunk and a husband who abandoned her, became a single mother. Like so many others she was forced to look for work outside Moldova to support her son who needed a leg operation. She left her son with her husband's family thinking she was being smuggled into Europe to work in a legitimate babysitting job.

Nina's story clearly shows the boundary between voluntary people smuggling and coercive trafficking. Her story places trafficking for sexual exploitation in the context of post-Cold War Eastern Europe and Balkan life and discusses the tentative strategies employed to combat this insidious new form of slavery in our midst.

## **PART 2: TRAFFICKING – SLAVES OF THE FREE MARKET**



**Trafficking really is a form of terrorism.**

*Colin Powell (US State Dept Trafficking in Persons Report June 03 )*

**UN estimates indicate that trafficking in persons generates \$7-10 billion annually for traffickers.**

*US States Dept Trafficking in Persons Report June 03*

**Trafficking in persons is one of the greatest human rights challenges of our time and no country is immune from trafficking.**

*US State Dept Report on Trafficking in Persons June 03*

**A recent US Govt estimate is that approximately between 800,000 - 900,000 men, women and children annually are trafficked across international borders each year to forced labour and sexual exploitation and that does not include people who are trafficked within countries. Between 18,000-20,000 are trafficked into the United States.**

*US State Dept Report on Trafficking in Persons June 03*

**Traffickers violate the universal rights of all persons to life, liberty and freedom from slavery in all its forms.**

*US State Dept Report on trafficking in Persons June 03*

**Trafficking brutalises men, women and children, exposing them to rape, torture, HIV AIDS and other sexually transmitted and infectious diseases, violence, dangerous working conditions, poor nutrition, and drug and alcohol addiction.**

*US State Dept Report on Trafficking in Persons June 03*

**Organized criminal groups, gangs, document forgers, brothel owners and corrupt police or immigration officials funnel trafficking profits into both legitimate and criminal activities.**

*US State Dept Report on Trafficking in Persons June 03*

**Human traffickers are often highly successful because of links with other transnational criminal groups, such as arms dealers, drug traffickers, and car theft rings, which provide them with safe and tested routes, access to cash, forged documents and officials to bribe.**

*US State Dept Report on Trafficking in Persons June 03*



## Antonio Martinez: Mexico to Florida, U.S.A



Antonio is from the high arid state of Hidalgo in Central Mexico. Hidalgo has only recently become a major source area for migrants to the north. Since the enactment of the North-American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) many areas that were previously self-sufficient economically are now new major source zones for northward bound migrants.

Like so many other Mexicans before him, Antonio paid a “coyote” (Mexican smuggler) to take him across the US border. Like so many others he sought a job that would pay comparatively well and help support his family in Mexico. Like so many others he was likely to end up in one of the “three D” job categories available to illegal migrants in the United States: dirty, dangerous or difficult.

Nonetheless Antonio’s journey is not typical, and it took place during a time in which migration dynamics along the US/Mexican border were going through major changes. Beginning with Operation Hold the Line in 1994, stricter border control in California and Texas and in the traditional, more urban border crossing sites began to force migrants to choose increasingly remote and dangerous passages through the Sonora desert.

The death toll from these more perilous journeys rose correspondingly, as did the price to hire a coyote. With these higher costs, debt arrangements not previously seen on this border began to surface, as did extortion, physical torture, and the involvement of organized crime. Debt bondage, human trafficking and slavery also emerged.

Antonio’s coyote took him and thirteen others across the Northern Sonora desert to a migrant holding camp called ‘la Ladrillera’ where they crossed a barbed wire line that marks the border near Sasabe, Arizona.

The group walked for three days and nights with little food. They survived by drinking water from a few cattle-feeding stations they found along the way. In Tucson, all but Antonio and his two friends had their crossing debts paid by wire from family members in Mexico. When Antonio wouldn’t pay the inflated cost they demanded of him, his debt was sold to a “ridetero” with a van. Antonio was told that the van would take him to agricultural work in Florida. What he was not told was that he had been sold.

Within three days he was sold again to a tomato farm contractor in central Florida. This time he surreptitiously witnessed the transaction. Antonio was locked in an old trailer along with twenty other migrant labourers. He was forced to work in the tomato fields from ten to twelve hours a day six days a week and was told at the end of each week that his pay wasn’t enough to service the debt he had accumulated for “rent”, “food” and “travel.”

After six weeks Antonio escaped from his armed ‘owners’ who were watching him and later testified against his captors. They were convicted using 19<sup>th</sup> century peonage legislation. His case was not isolated. There have been five slavery convictions in Central Florida in the last six years involving over 1000 victims.

## Marcela Palacios: Colombia to Japan



Marcela comes from the coffee growing-region of Colombia, an area that has been hit hard by the world-wide drop in coffee prices over the last decade. Not surprisingly there is a high concentration of Colombian women trafficked abroad for sexual exploitation from this region.

Marcela was recruited by a friend and former roommate with whom she had lost touch. One day a call came from Japan. Her friend Claudia was offering lucrative work "cleaning apartments" in Tokyo. The trip and expenses would be covered.

Marcela was told that she would be contacted in Colombia and was called within days by her would-be employer in Japan. She was loaned US \$ 1,200 for pocket money and given instructions on how to get a passport. She would meet another contact in Bogotá and would be picked up at Narita airport in Tokyo. She had never even been to Bogotá, the capital city of Colombia and she had never been on a plane before.

She used some of the money to buy a small suitcase. She was told to dye her hair dark (it had been blond) so that it would "be easier to get into Japan." Twenty four hours after arriving in Japan she was informed that her "friend" Claudia had been paid for getting her to Tokyo and she was told that she was now owned by a manager who would prostitute her on the street until she paid off a debt of five million yen (AUD \$ 60,000). If she failed to co-operate she would be sold to the Mafia and have to perform live sex acts in theatres.

Marcela was able to escape after only two weeks of seeing clients on the streets of Tokyo's port district. Her story is absolutely typical of the thousands of trafficked women stories from Colombia to Japan in all aspects except for one: most women who are transported there in this way spend at least a year on the street.

Colombia is part of this program because of the extraordinary efforts on the part of the Colombian Government to fight trafficking. Colombia is the only developing country - the only major source country to be recognized by the US State Dept. as a "tier one" country - making significant efforts to fight human trafficking. Colombia has a very strong anti-trafficking law and is promoting co-operation to fight the scourge at many levels; international and internal law enforcement and through diplomacy as well.

Japan is – by comparison – uncooperative with international efforts. They have signed the UN anti-trafficking protocol but are slow to comply with prosecution and enforcement standards. There is no law that specifically recognizes trafficking in Japan and the victims are often punished there by capriciously applied anti-prostitution laws.

## Dying to Leave – Experts

**KEVIN BALES**(SOC) has degrees in sociology, anthropology, and economic history from British and American universities. He has been Chief Research Officer at the ESRC Data Archive at the University of Essex; Co-ordinator of the BBC Domesday Project; and has taught at the University of Westminster and the London School of Economics. Dr Bales was Visiting Professor of Sociology at Moscow University and at Kyrgyzstan International University. Awarded the Viareggio International Prize for services to humanity in August 2000. He is a Consultant to the United Nations Global Programme on Trafficking in People.

**ANNE GALLAGHER** is an international human rights lawyer specialising in legal issues surrounding trafficking and migrant smuggling. She has worked for the United Nations since 1992 and, between 1998 and 2002 was Adviser on Trafficking to Mary Robinson, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. Ms Gallagher is currently managing a regional initiative in South-East Asia which aims to strengthen the criminal justice response to trafficking.

**PAUL HOLMES'** expertise and experience is founded upon 30 years operational police service with New Scotland Yard, with a successful record of investigation in the crimes of Trafficking in human beings for sexual exploitation, child prostitution and the commercial sexual exploitation of children, Paedophilia, Murder, Rape, Domestic Violence and Financial investigation & assets confiscation. For the final six years of his career, he was the operational head of the Vice Squad of New Scotland Yard and held operational and managerial responsibility for the detection and investigation of human trafficking crime in London. He was commended twelve times for leadership and investigative excellence during this period and his squad secured the confiscation of over 3.5 million GBP in trafficking assets – a figure that remains a current United Kingdom record. He is currently the police adviser to an Australian Government funded project focusing on enhancing the law enforcement counter-trafficking response in Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar.

**REY KOSLOWSKI** is an Associate Professor of Political Science, Political Science Graduate Program Director, Faculty Fellow of the Center for Global Change and Governance (CGCG) and Director of the CGCG Research Program on Border Control and Homeland Security.

Rey Koslowski received his Ph.D from the University of Pennsylvania in 1994. His primary teaching and research interests are in the field of international relations dealing with international organization, European integration, migration, citizenship, information technology.

**JOHN MORRISON** has worked in the field of migration since the late 1980s and has undertaken research on smuggling and trafficking for the United Nations and other agencies. His 2000 report, commissioned by UNHCR, was the most controversial, where he cited many of the policies of European Governments as part of the problem and not the solution to the growth in clandestine movement. He is currently the Human Rights Director for Respect Europe and acts as advisor to a number of international bodies. He is working with Mary Robinson, the Ethical Globalisation Initiative and the heads of several multinational companies to develop leadership in the field of human rights.

**FLORRIE BURKE** is a Clinical Psychologist and an Anti-Trafficking expert. She was appointed the Senior Director of special Projects for Safe Horizon in 2002 where she oversees the Anti-Trafficking Program and Project Liberty. She has been a trainer and consultant in the areas of trauma support, and mental health and provided training and support to staff, community organizations, law enforcement and trafficking persons through the Safe Horizon Anti-Trafficking Initiative.

**PETER KWONG**, Professor and Director of Asian American Studies at the Hunter College New York is an expert on labour, immigration, cultural assimilation and other issues concerning Asians in America. He is the author of several books including” *Chinese Americans: The immigrant Experience* and” *Forbidden Workers: Illegal Chinese Immigrants and American Labor*”, which was honoured as “One of the Best Non-fiction books of 1998” by Barnes and Noble.