

Presentation by Christine Truong My Hanh, RGS
2021 Shine the Light Human Trafficking Conference:
Root Causes and Intersections on Human Trafficking
March 8, 2021

Kim arrived in the U.S. just over 2 years ago from Vietnam. She married a man whom she hardly knew. He was a customer at the nail salon where Kim's cousin worked. Kim's cousin helped her marry him, with the hope that Kim could also find a job in a nail salon and support her family since they were poor.

Her husband lived in a rural area in Georgia. During the first 2 weeks, Kim suffered homesickness and fear. She did not have a telephone to contact her cousin, or to call her family back in Vietnam. Every morning, her husband went out until late in the evening, and often he came home drunk and angry.

After almost 4 months, Kim found work at a nail salon 5 miles away, and her husband drove her to work at 8 am in the morning and took her home at 7pm in the evening. Often, he did not go home but stayed around drinking and standing outside at 7 pm in the evening. He was furious when Kim was not out on time. She was forbidden to talk to or contact anyone, including her cousin. Her salary and tips were given to her husband every week. She had to cook, clean and do the washing etc... All her personal documents: passport, green card etc., were kept by her husband.

Other coworkers were curious about Kim and one day, Kim told them her drunk husband physically abused her. They called me and gave Kim the contact number of Good Shepherd Services Atlanta.

We immediately called an Uber to pick Kim up from her workplace and bring her to our center. Our staff then helped her to write the report, and interpreted for her at the police station near our center since she did not know the city where she lived with her husband. Kim returned to work, and fortunately that day her husband was not drinking and checking on her at the nearby restaurant.

Three days later, Kim decided not to return to her husband. An old Vietnamese couple that we knew allowed Kim to stay with them, while we contacted the relevant investigation units and immigration offices to get a replacement green card and visa. We also provided counseling and helped her to get another job.

Kim today is much happier. She is working and looking forward to visiting her family in Vietnam after the pandemic is over.

Thank you and God Bless You.

Sr. Christine is the CEO of Good Shepherd Services Atlanta. The organization's mission statement is "We serve the needy regardless of ethnicity, gender, or religious belief. We provide programs that bring hope, restore dignity, and improve life." Learn more at <https://www.goodshepherdatl.org/>.