

# Combating Human Trafficking

## Case Study Three

**Victim:** Georgia, 19- year old female

**Type of Trafficking:** sexual exploitation



### Georgia's Story:

My friend, Tina and I began working in a supermarket in Wigan when we left school at 16 years old. We still lived at home but all the time talked about earning more money so we could rent our own flat. Tina told me one day about a woman she had met a couple of times whilst out at night in Wigan. Fatima had asked whether Tina and a friend would like to go to London one weekend for a party being held by her in a luxury hotel. She said that there would be some rich men there who would buy us drinks all evening. She would even pay for us to be at this party if we would dance with these men. We loved dancing so how hard could it be? Fatima mentioned to Tina that we would receive up to £300 each; we worked out that this could be the equivalent of one-week's work at the supermarket!

We travelled in a mini-cab from Wigan to London on a Friday evening. Four other girls were with us. Some of them were surprisingly young; one, who told us that she was originally from Iran, was only 15-years old. We all talked about the coming weekend, and joked about how we would spend the money we would earn. When we arrived in London we stayed the night in an apartment, this was all very exciting! On the Saturday night, we were taken to somewhere called the Lancaster Hotel and were ushered quickly through the main lobby area, having been told to pretend to be the daughters of Fatima's mother, Mahrookh. Some of the younger girls appeared to be very nervous and the staff in uniform did look at us but then didn't say or do anything, just smiling at our supposed 'mother' herding us into the lift! The suite was amazing, with really loud music, and we began to drink the alcohol laid out and offered to us. But it wasn't until later, when the many old men arrived that were told that we might be asked to offer sexual services after we had danced for them. This was not what we had signed up to at all – we were only there to have a good time, get free drinks and earn money towards a deposit on a flat!

### Epilogue

This case first came to light when a woman dropped off a hard-written note late at night addressed to the owner of a five-star Knightsbridge hotel. It stated that girls were available at a rented house: 'I have 12 girls ready from age 14-20 years who are living all over the UK, I have spent money on the preparation of this event such as a rented house for the girls and also all expenses needed'. A similar letter had been delivered to the hotel on a previous date. Concerned security staff at the hotel alerted the police who traced the number on the note and the woman's car to an address in Wigan.

An undercover operation began which involved a police officer calling the number and asking about hiring girls for a client. It was suggested by the perpetrator's that a party for four to five could be arranged with girls from Iran, England and Eastern Europe. The costs quoted were between £50,000 and £150,000 for each girl. It was even suggested that some girls were virgins, under the age of consent and were available for sex and that they could be 'broken' by the client. A week later the officer met the ringleader, Mahrookh Jamali, at another hotel in the area.

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