

Love Story146

*Photographs from the sex
trade*

Desirea Rodgers

I am an artist and an abolitionist. In 2002, I cofounded Love146 (love146.org), an international human rights organization that combats child sex slavery and cares for survivors. Part of my work involves advocacy through photojournalism. These photos were taken in Cambodia and Thailand. Not all children photographed are or were involved in the sex trade.



There are more slaves alive today than at any other point in human history.

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Human trafficking—a form of slavery—is the second largest illegal income-generating syndicate in the world, after the illegal arms trade but before the drug trade.

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PHOTOGRAPHS



UNICEF estimates that 1.2 million children every year are trafficked for sex.



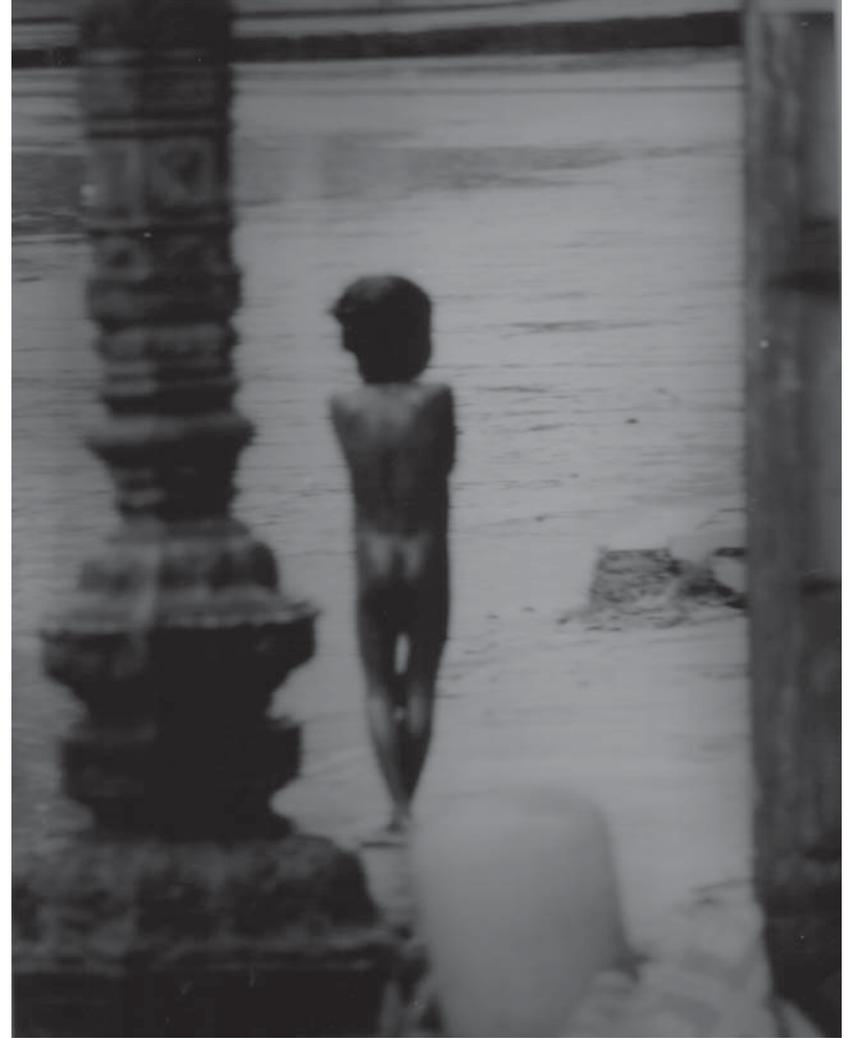
Over 2,500 a day. Over 100 an hour.



Two children every minute.

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I stood playing with a child (now in a safehome) who was trafficked for sex at the age of three.

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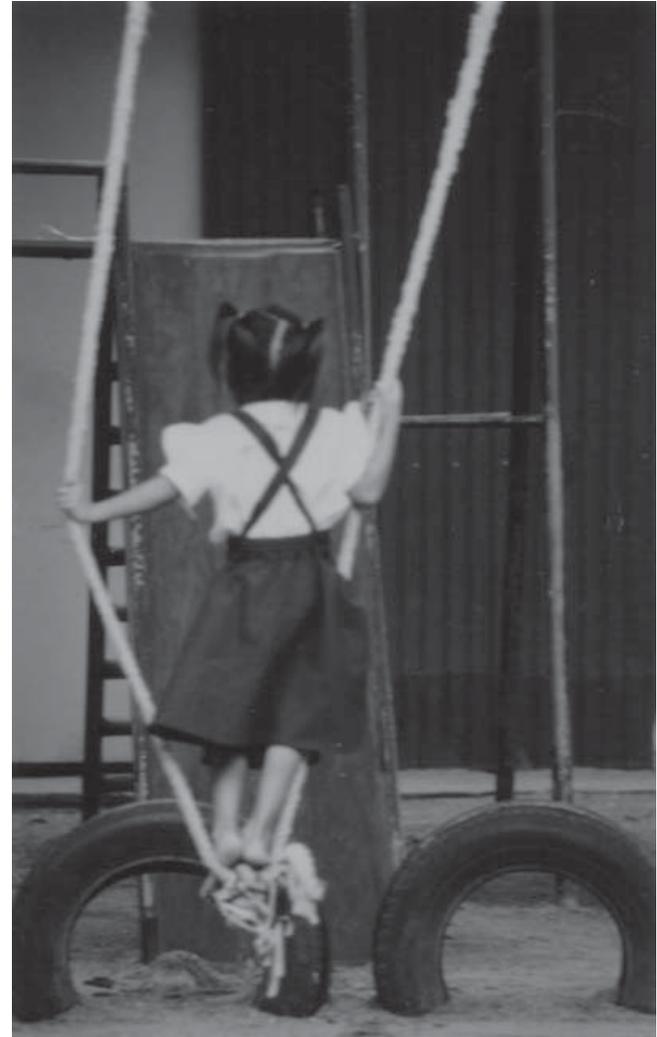
PHOTOGRAPHS



“I was in that brothel for three years, and for two of them I never saw the sun,” a sex-trade survivor said. “They never let me out. I was in a little room and there was no window.”

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There is so much hope. A movement of abolition is growing worldwide. Individuals ending slavery.

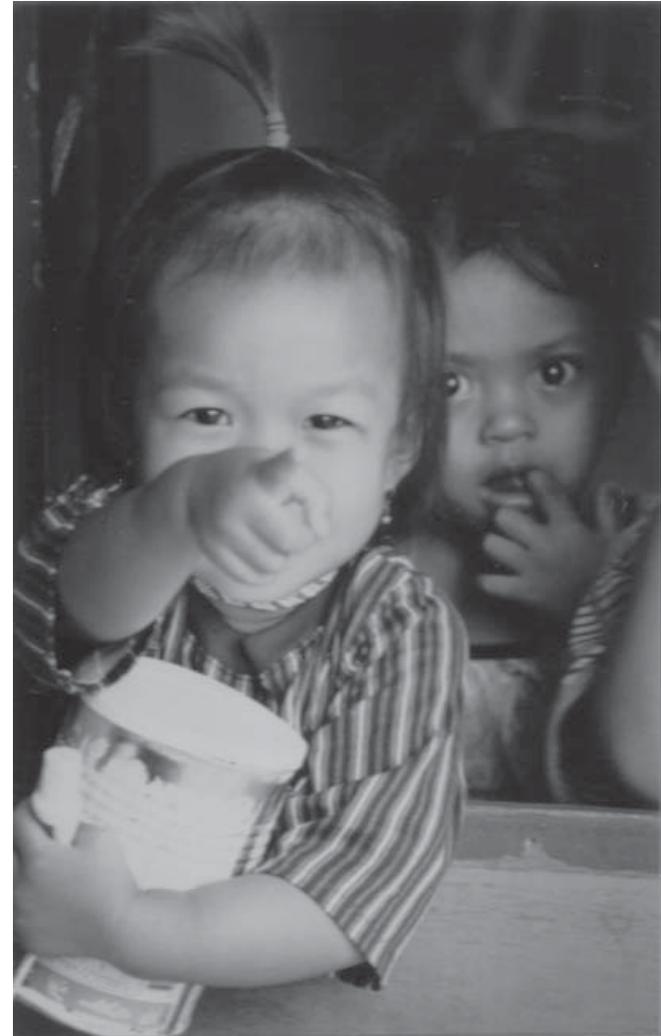
PHOTOGRAPHS

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“If we are to teach peace in this world, and if we are to carry on a real war against war, we shall have to begin with the children.”

—Gandhi



The few rescued children will become the many, the many will become the millions.

If you are a victim of human trafficking or think you have come in contact with a victim of human trafficking, call the US Department of Health and Human Service's Trafficking Information and Referral Hotline at (888) 373-7888. The hotline will help you determine if you have encountered victims of human trafficking, identify local resources available in your community to help victims, and help you coordinate with local social-service organizations to help protect and serve victims so they can begin the process of restoring their lives.

Love146 works in the United States and internationally to combat child sex slavery and exploitation through prevention and aftercare. For more information on what you can do, visit love146.org, where you can find suggestions ranging from the very simple to more intricate ways of helping to eradicate this form of slavery.

Love146 is based in New Haven, Connecticut. If you would like to speak directly with me, please call (203) 772-4420 or email me at d.rodgers@love146.org.