

## Documentaries, Docuseries, and Docudramas: Human Trafficking in North America

***Avenue Zero: Canada's Human Trafficking Shame.*** 2022. YouTube

“Human trafficking is a reality: Asian girls are enslaved in suburban massage parlors; domestic workers toil like slaves in suburban homes; girls in a Montreal subway station are lured into prostitution; Vancouver gangs recruit Honduran boys to sell drugs. Featuring candid interviews with victims, witnesses and perpetrators, Avenue Zero weaves a spellbinding portrait of a dark and sinister trade flourishing in the shadows of the law.” Quoted directly from description of the video posted online with the video.

***Children for Sale.*** 2003. Dateline NBC, YouTube

“Presents an undercover investigation with hidden cameras, of the illegal sex industry that victimizes Cambodian children, and efforts to stop it. Also investigates the activities of American sex tourists who travel to Cambodia to exploit the hundreds of thousands of girls and boys who have been bought, sold or kidnapped and then forced to have sex. In interviews these "tourists" claim they're involved in nothing more than prostitution, but by any definition it is rape.” Quoted directly from the video description posted online with the video.

***Dreams Die Hard.*** 2005. You Tube

This documentary focuses on labor and sex trafficking into the US from other countries, including persons trafficked from Mexico. It includes in-depth discussion of legal cases. Types of trafficking covered include sex, labor, and forced domestic servitude. Blaming trafficking victims for crimes, followed by imprisonment and deportation, is one of the main narratives. Kevin Bales is a major spokesperson in the film.

***Ghislaine Maxwell: Filthy Rich.*** 2022. Netflix

The documentary, based on interviews with survivors, focuses on the role of Ghislaine Maxwell in the sex trafficking operation of Jeffrey Epstein. Her key position as a recruiter, groomer, and handler of young girls and her long-term relationship with Epstein are included.

***Hidden in Plain Sight: Labour Trafficking in Canada.*** 2017. YouTube

“Hidden in Plain Sight: Labour Trafficking and Migrant Workers in Canada is a short documentary launched by WCDWA in 2017 that explores labour trafficking in Canada. It features interviews with survivors of labour trafficking, community service workers, and legal experts.” Quoted directly from description of the video posted online with the video.

***I am Jane Doe.*** 2017. Vimeo, Apple TV

“I AM JANE DOE, narrated by Academy Award-nominee Jessica Chastain, directed by award-winning filmmaker Mary Mazzio, and produced by Mazzio along with Academy Award nominee

Alec Sokolow, chronicles the (legal) battle that several mothers across the country are waging on behalf of their middle school daughters who were trafficked for commercial sex on Backpage.com.” Quoted directly from the video description posted online with the video.

***I Am Still Here.*** 2017. Prime Video

This docudrama, which won the award for best feature film at the Nice Film Festival, focuses on the story of a ten-year-old African American girl in Los Angeles who is abducted while playing in a park and brought into the child sex trade by two American traffickers who have a house with four captive girls. She remains there for several years until she is discovered by law enforcement and regains her life.

***Jeffrey Epstein: Filthy Rich.*** 2020. Netflix

This docuseries follows the evolution of Jeffrey Epstein and his large-scale sex trafficking enterprise up through his arrest in 2019. It shows how Epstein developed a hierarchy of positions in his sex trafficking operation, “promoting” girls from masseuse to recruiter if he approved of them or if they threatened to quit (see also the docuseries *Surviving Jeffrey Epstein*).

***Los Angeles: Capitol of the Sex Trade in Minors.*** 2019. Prime Video

A documentary that explores the mission, role, and activities of the Hollywood Vice Squad, and its sting operation aimed at street-level prostitution.

***Nefarious: Merchant of Souls.*** 2011. Prime Video.

“‘Modern slavery.’ It sounds like a paradox. Hasn’t humanity progressed? Didn’t we leave slavery dead on the battlefields of the American Civil War? Didn’t social reformers like Lincoln and Wilberforce legislate against such cruelty over a hundred years ago? So we had thought. But, with over 27 million enslaved people in the world, human trafficking is once again the battlefield of the century.” Quoted directly from the description of the video posted online with the video.

***Sex Trafficking in America.*** 2019. PBS Frontline

A special police unit in Phoenix AZ is charged with enforcement activity against sex trafficking. This documentary tells the story of one minor, an American, who was trafficked by three men who also were involved in selling drugs and gang activity.

***Surviving R Kelly.*** 2019. Prime Video

The docuseries shows how Robert Kelly rose to fame as a US rock star while simultaneously engaging in sex trafficking with young African American girls. Kelly and/or his gang regularly went to Kenwood High School and local malls to find young girls and recruit them into his stable where he imprisoned them. His practices were well known but no one stopped him.

***The Turn Out.*** 2018. Prime Video

This docudrama portrays a family involved in sex trafficking their children in Appalachia. The story is told from the standpoint of a trucker who meets one of the children at a truck stop.

***Trade.*** 2007. You Tube

A docudrama focusing on the activities of a Texas law enforcement officer who joins forces with a youth from Mexico to search for the boy's sister in the US. She was abducted from her neighborhood in Mexico and forced into prostitution through an internet auction. A motion picture based on a true story.

***Trafficked in America.*** 2018. PBS Frontline

This documentary recounts the story of teenage boys from Guatemala who were smuggled into the US, held captive, and forced to work on a farm.

***Traffick on 401.*** 2019. YouTube

"Traffick on 401 explores the sex trafficking world in Ontario and Michigan by speaking to a survivor, the Windsor Police Service, and advocates. Victoria Morrison, a sex trafficking survivor, tells us her story of what she went through for three months with her trafficker in Winnipeg, Canada." Quoted directly from description of the video posted online with the video.

***Trafficked with Mariana Van Zeller.*** 2023. National Geographic. Prime Video

Journalist Mariana Van Zeller investigates the illicit trade in human organs. The story traces the human organ trade through Central America, including interviews with traffickers and a recipient of the organ trade. US customers for organs are implicated in interviews.

***Unbelievable.*** 2019. Amazon Prime

An eight-part docuseries that reveals the vulnerabilities associated with sexual assault of youth and its aftermath, especially the role of child involvement in social service programs such as foster care and the complex role of law enforcement in the US.

***Very Young Girls.*** 2013. Prime Video

"Critically acclaimed by the New York Times and film festivals around the world, Very Young Girls is an exposé of human trafficking that follows 13- and 14-year-old American girls as they are seduced, abused, and sold on New York's streets by pimps, and treated as adult criminals by police. The film follows the barely adolescent girls in real time, using vérité and intimate interviews with them as they are first lured on to the streets and the dire events that follow." Quoted directly from the video description posted online with the video.

**Zola.** 2020. Prime Video

A Detroit-based waitress is lured by a girlfriend into strip club dancing for a weekend in Florida. During a road trip to the strip club, she finds herself ensnared by a violent pimp and temporarily becomes one of his enforcers. A major motion picture based on a true story.