

# Fallen Angels.

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Throughout South Asia, The sex industry is booming, fueled by urban distinteration, eroding family tradition and poverty. South Asia is considered to be the region most at risk of HIV/AIDS in the next decade. As the fear of this plague spreads consumer demand for children comprise as much as 30—40% of the sex workers in some major areas. This demand fuels the sex trafficking industry, which now reaches into villages in every corner of the subcontinent, protected by criminal networks and public corruptions, unchecked due to ignorance and fear.

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The Devadasi inhabit the border of two of India's most progressive states: Maharastra and Karnataka. Despite the legal banning of dedication every year over 5,000 girls continue to be dedicated tot he goddess Yellamma. On the night of the full moon in January, thousands of young girls join in a religious procession to the temple fos goddess Yellamma in a remote village of Karnataka. After being dedicated, they are auctioned to the highest bidder and enter the world of prostitution.w



1. A terrified child, about to be dedicated to the Goddess. Each year, an estimated 3,000 young girls are brought to the festival of Yellama to be dedicated as Devadasis, or `handmaidens of the Goddess. **Saundatti, Karnataka, India.**



2. A child is brought by her mother to the Yellama festival to be dedicated . Girls who enter service to the goddess are usually from landless, low-caste families who work as bonded laborers for powerful landlords. Upon reaching menarche, many girls will sell sex in rural towns to support their families; others will move to the red-light districts of the big cities. Over 50% of the working prostitutes in Bombay are Devadasis .  
**Karnataka, Saundatti, India.**



**3.** Former Devadasis are now organized and rebelling against the Devadasi system. A volunteer from the activist organization, Myrada cuts the ritual dreadlocks of a Devadasi child. When the dreadlocks are cut, it's believed that the power of the goddess is broken. **Saundatti, Karnataka, India.**



4. Former Devadasis, now project workers for the Devadasi Rehabilitation Project, cuts the dreadlocks of a young Devadasi, symbolizing her rejection of the practice.  
**Saundatti, Karnataka. India**



**5.** Drenched in yellow turmeric powder, with images of goddess Yellama balanced on their heads, Devadasis in trance weave through the crowds at the Yellama festival. Saundatti, Karnataka, India.



**6.** Drenched in yellow turmeric powder, with images of goddess Yellama balanced on their heads, Devadasis in trance weave through the crowds at the Yellama festival. **Saundatti, Karnataka, India.**



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8. Ditto 7.





9. Each year in January, thousands of poor, low-caste farmers go on pilgrimage to the temple of Goddess Yellama for her annual festival. **Saundatti, Karnataka, India.**



10. Young girl, about to be dedicated to the Goddess. Each year, an estimated 3,000 young girls are brought to the festival of Yellama to be dedicated as Devadasis, or handmaidens of the Goddess. **Saundatti, Karnataka, India.**



**11. The annual festival to goddess Yellama at the Devadasi temple in Karnataka, India.**

One of the world's best known red light areas, Falkland Road in Mumbai is the end of the roads for tens of thousands of Indian and Nepalkui girls. This is a twilight world of tunneled lanes, open sewers, flights of precarious staircase leading to shadowy rooms. It is estimated that between 12-20% of the Mumbai sex workers are HIV positive



**12.** Three sex workers. Sex workers have ambivalent relationships with their madams — while madams often keep their sex workers in debt servitude, they also give them affection as well as protection from clients and police. **Kamathipura, Mumbai.**



13. Business begins about 4 p.m. in the Mumbai brothels. Divya, Bishakha and Geetanjali prepare for the evening. **Kamathipura, Mumbai, India.**



14. "The Cages", Bombay's lowest-class brothel area, is aptly named. **Kamathipura, Mumbai, India.**



**15.** Mumbai sex workers relax in the afternoon before work. **Kamathipura, Mumbai, India**



**16.** Anuradha Koirala, Director of Maiti, Nepal (right) comforts a Nepali girl just rescued from the Mumbai brothels. The girls have been transported to the Nepal-India border and are being taken by bus to Kathmandu, where they will be reunited with their families, if possible. **Central region, Nepal.**



**17.** Tamang girls have been victims of trafficking for generations. Today, many Tamang village girls are aware of the “work” they will have to do when they go to Mumbai. With the innate optimism of youth, they think that they can some day return with wealth. **Mumbai, India.**



**18.** At eleven in the morning, Nepalese Tamang women and girls are on display for early customers. Many as young as 14 or 15, they wear ghostly white make-up, the look preferred by their working-class clients. **Falkland Road, Mumbai, India.**



**19.** Nepali sex workers and a madam wait for clients in front of the 'cages' in Mumbai's working-class brothel district. Contrary to the myth of Nepali girls being coveted for their grace and beauty, they are imported to India because they are cheap. **Falkland Road, Mumbai, India.**



**20.** For experienced prostitutes, business begins at 4pm in the Falkland Road brothels. **Mumbai, India.**



**21.** In Bangladesh, men have a taste for very young girls. A child makes up her face as her madam and an elderly client watch. **Dhaka, Bangladesh.**





22. Nepali girl once sold to Bombay brothel is rescued by Maiti Nepal, Anuradha Koirala's organization. **Kathmandu, Nepal.**



**23.** Nepali girl once sold to Bombay brothel is rescued by Maiti Nepal, Anuradha Koirala's organization. **Kathmandu, Nepal.**



**24.** Arrested for trafficking young girls to the Brothels in Inda. **Hanuman Dhoka Jail, Kathmandu, Nepal.**



**25.** The three women on the left were arrested in 1999 for the alleged trafficking of Nepali girls to Mumbai. **Hanuman Dhoka Jail, Kathmandu, Nepal.**



26. Rescued girls.



27. Jamuna, just returned home after being rescued from a brothel in Mumbai, and her sister, crying. Jamuna was abducted by a friend of her family when she was 18, and spent three years in the brothel before her rescue. **Central region, Nepal.**