The pain is something I will never forget. In the midst of your verbal and physical assaults, you worked the four of us to death.
—Teenage boy domestic worker in Michigan

**Domestic Work**
Jean-Claude (Kodjo) Toviave, a Togo native, was sentenced to eleven years in prison for enslaving and abusing four West African boys in his home for five years, pretending they were his own children after sneaking them into the country with fake documents. He also falsely claimed they were his own biological children and enrolled the three youngest in a public middle school. During the six-day trial, the jury heard from the four victims, who testified that Toviave regularly beat them with broomsticks, a toilet plunger, sticks, ice scrapers, and phone chargers if they failed to obey orders to do their house chores. Toviave also withheld food and sleep as punishment.¹
Garment Manufacturing
Recruiters promised nearly 250 Vietnamese and Chinese laborers sunny beaches, life in the United States, and steady work in a garment factory for a wage they could never earn at home. Instead, the laborers found themselves in a dingy compound surrounded by barbed wire in American Samoa where they both lived and worked. They lived in cramped dirty quarters and were fed only broth and rice. There was very little work or pay. Managers also confiscated their passports. When the workers spoke up, asking about their pay and freedom, they were beaten and threatened with deportation. The owner, Kil Soo Lee, was sentenced to forty years in federal prison and ordered to pay $1.8 million in restitution. To date, it is the largest successful human trafficking prosecution in the United States.²

Commercial Sex
Justin Strom, age twenty-seven, of Lorton, Virginia, was sentenced to forty years in prison for leading the Crips gang in the sex trafficking of high school girls. Over six years, gang members attempted to recruit more than eight hundred teenage girls using fake social media profiles, contacts within high schools, and promises the girls would earn a lot of money from stripping. Once recruited, the girls were forced into prostitution through physical force, including chokings, beatings, and rape; bodyguards accompanying them to appointments throughout Northern Virginia; and drugs and alcohol to keep them compliant.³

Defining Trafficking
Human trafficking is also referred to as forced labor, labor trafficking, forced prostitution, sex trafficking, slavery, and modern slavery. We tend to use the term human trafficking unless there is need to distinguish between labor trafficking and sex trafficking. Controlling definitions vary depending upon your work—for example, whether you work as a district attorney, U.S. attorney, International Labour Organization (ILO) advisor, civil attorney, immigration attorney, or policy advisor. Those specific definitions are included throughout the book as necessary.
WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

As an alternative to formal, legal definitions, it may be helpful to begin with an easily understandable, good working definition:

*Human trafficking is holding another in compelled service using whatever means necessary, be it physical or psychological.*

Sometimes human trafficking is used as an umbrella term broken down into distinct categories:

- Forced labor or labor trafficking often involves the use of a scheme, plan, or pattern, creating a climate of fear to make people believe there would be serious consequences if they attempted to leave their workplace.
- Domestic servitude is the forced labor of domestic workers, performing duties such as cleaning the home, cooking, and caring for children.
- Sex trafficking is the use of force, fraud, or coercion to compel an individual into commercial sex. Under U.S. law, if the individual is under age eighteen, force, fraud, or coercion is not required. It is manifested in street prostitution, brothels, massage parlors, and escort services.
- Debt bondage, debt servitude, or bonded labor is holding a person in compelled service by a real or alleged debt. Traffickers use debt as a coercive scheme to trap their victims—they create the initial debt through inflated recruitment and transportation fees. They may add to it by charging unreasonable amounts for room and board and other needs. They may also supposedly apply wages directly to this seemingly never-ending debt that must be paid before the worker can be released. In parts of Africa and Southeast Asia, people are also enslaved by ancestral debts.
- Child soldiering comprises boys and girls recruited or used by an armed force or armed group in any capacity, including as fighters, cooks, porters, messengers, spies, or for sexual purposes and marriage. In some countries, the use of child soldiers is systematic and pervasive.