

“VOICES” VIDEO TRANSCRIPT

The stories you are about to listen to are adapted testimonies involving UN and NGO workers. Worldwide.

FEMALE VOICE 1

It happened during the end of the year party. A man I didn't know, maybe he worked for another organization you know, he kept on trying to dance with me, and to touch me. I felt horrible so I left the party and went back to my room on the compound but he followed me. He tried to force his way into the room for 20 minutes. 20 minutes, you imagine! I tried to call for help. I called several colleagues for help, but nobody answered, they were all at the party. I was alone, I was completely alone. Finally, he left. In the morning, I told the security advisor. And he asked me some questions: «what were you wearing? Did you dance with this man? Did you lead him on?». Can you imagine? “Did you lead him on?”!

MALE VOICE

I am a refugee here and this is a very conservative country so I really don't want anyone to know I'm gay. One security guard at the NGO office was always very nice to me. One day he said he could help me go to another country. But when he searched me before allowing me in, he touched my private parts. I did not react. When my case was referred for resettlement, I thought he really had the power to make these things happen. So I messaged him on Facebook and asked what he wanted in return. He said he wanted sex. I got nervous. But I stayed in contact because I did not want him to get mad; he is a former Police officer and must be well connected. In the end I told someone in the UN, but I do not want this to go to the Police or for the guard to lose his job. I am used to this, I can cope you know. I just want to leave.

FEMALE VOICE 2

He had just arrived as our new head of office and already he made us very uncomfortable. He would stare at women's breasts. he would make comments on how we looked. We all started to avoid meeting with him alone because you felt uncomfortable. And because he was the head of office, we couldn't say anything. And slowly, other male colleagues began to do the same thing, make similar comments which they had never done before.

FEMALE VOICE 3

I was living with my foster parents in the town but he knew I was a refugee, he was a UN worker. And he knew I was 15. I told him. He was 44. We started having sex. He paid for my school, and I learned how to type and use computers. But when I got pregnant, he abandoned me. He said the child was not his.

FEMALE VOICE 4

You know, at first, I was just wondering who were these women because we were having a dinner among colleagues. So, it was during an office retreat so, clearly, I was surprised to see people who were not part of our team. And only then I realized they were prostitutes! And no one seemed to be bothered. Not even the head of office, you know, who was there. So I was really really upset and it really made me think about our values as an organization.