



# BARBARA AMAYA

**Speaker. Author. Advocate. Survivor.**

Barbara Amaya is an award-winning advocate, speaker, human trafficking consultant, mentor, trainer, and survivor leader in the movement to finally end human trafficking and child exploitation.

Barbara experienced first-hand the juvenile justice and child welfare systems. Then as a vulnerable child runaway, she experienced the horrific extremes of violence, child abuse, human trafficking, drug addiction, and prison when she was trafficked on the streets of Washington D.C. and New York City for over a decade.

Many trafficking victims do not survive before or even after escape, rescue, or attempted restoration. Their experiences are so horrific that often survivors never come back to the 'real' world. Barbara Amaya incredibly not only survived and healed, but truly transformed her life.

## CONTACT

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As a survivor of such trauma and adversity, she feels called to share her story and has dedicated her life to combating and educating the public about trafficking and modern-day slavery. Barbara has been actively raising awareness of the exploitation of children and domestic sex trafficking since 2012. She has a background in education (including a credential in early childhood development), and holds a PhD in psychology.

# SPEAKING

Barbara has lectured at multiple venues and universities including George Washington University (her book *Nobody's Girl* was featured in the GWU syllabus), the University of Pennsylvania, Penn State, Virginia Commonwealth University, and New York University, among others.



**TEDx**

 **PRINCETON  
UNIVERSITY**

 **GEORGE  
MASON  
UNIVERSITY**

 **Penn  
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA**



Barbara offers a unique perspective on the mindset of victims, and can speak on several differing topics regarding trafficking and overcoming adversity. Her talks can be tailored to meet your theme, expectations, and agenda.



# SPEAKING

## Barbara provides:

- Tips on how to identify and interview possible victims of human trafficking
- A look into the lives of D.M.S.T. victims before and after leaving "the life"
- Real life usable strategies for rebuilding all lives, stress management, emotional resiliency staying strong while overcoming adversity

## Example Topics for Keynote, Breakout, or Workshop Session

- Human Trafficking Victim to Victor
- The Cult of Human Trafficking
- Why Don't They Just Leave?
- Educational: Human Trafficking 101 and Beyond
- The Human Trafficking and Opioid Connection
- How to Overcome Extreme Adversity
- How to Start Conversations with Trauma Victims
- ... *and much more*



# ACCOLADES

"Barbara Amaya has an important story to share of overcoming adversity and exploitation. Her life story needs to be heard by girls and women who are at risk or struggling with issues of abuse, exploitation and addiction. Barbara's become a strong voice for survivor's through her writing, speaking and column in the Washington Times and its this strength and passion that will move readers of her forthcoming book."

- **Rachel Lloyd, Founder Gems, New York**

"Barbara's journey of transformation from victim to survivor inspired everyone to become more informed and aware of sex trafficking. Having worked in victims' services for 15 years, I admire her ability, courage and determination to share her horrific experiences with audiences everywhere."

- **Pat Mowen, Prevention Specialist, Crime Victims' Center of Fayette County**

"It has been an immense pleasure to spend time with you yesterday and to hear your story. Your presentation was natural, raw, and inspiring. I've told everyone that I don't know how you are able to do this or how you are able to maintain being an up- beat individual after all that you have been through. You are truly an inspiration to me and I hope you know that you're an inspiration to everyone."

- **Samantha Schultheis, Miami University 2019 Psychology**

## Awards Received

- *James B. Hunter Human Rights Award, 2014*
- *TAZ Author Award for Autobiography, 2015*
- *ATI Survivor Leadership Award, 2021*

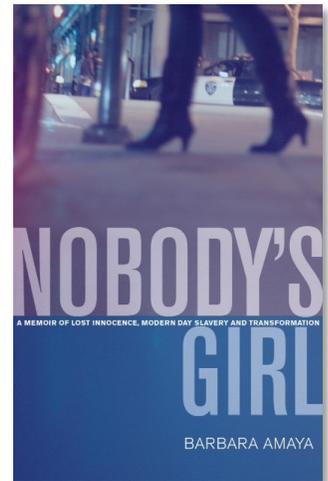


# BOOKS

## ***Nobody's Girl: A Memoir of Lost Innocence, Modern Day Slavery, & Transformation***

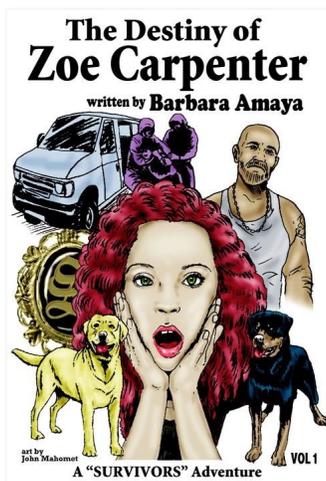
Barbara's best-selling personal recounting of her experiences and eventual freedom. Her memoir won first place in the 2015 TAZ Author Awards for Biography/Autobiography.

**BUY ON** 



*"In this honest, thoughtful, and powerful memoir, Amaya describes (with often heartbreaking clarity) how easy it is for a confused, hurting girl to get caught up in a pimp's false offers of love and care taking. Stories of this type tend to end when someone is released from trafficking, but Amaya puts a useful spotlight on the difficulties of going straight: 'Growing up on the streets of New York had turned me into an adult even while part of me remained a child, frozen in time.' Her courage in facing adult life with only a sixth-grade education is commendable, and while her account is sometimes harrowing, Amaya never tugs heartstrings unnecessarily or exhibits self-pity."*

**- Kirkus Book Review excerpt**



## ***The Destiny of Zoe Carpenter***

A graphic fictional novel and accompanying curriculum to educate teenagers of the dangers of human trafficking.

# BOOKS



In *Nobody's Girl*, Barbara writes: "To those who may question why I chose to write this book and how I could share such deeply traumatic, painful, even horrific experiences, here is my response, 'How could I not?'"

"Breaking my silence is a political statement for me, one of choosing to never again be a voiceless victim. It is a deliberate choice to take my life back and to help others do the same for themselves. Would it matter any less to you if it were only one child being trafficked? Or would it matter more if it were a million children? One child abused and trafficked is too many. All I want to do is make a difference."



*"I was a commodity" says Amara, "I wasn't a human being to them... I shouldn't be on this earth right now. I should be dead."*

*"When we can help out someone else in this life, and that someone's humanity is somehow restored, I think some part of our own humanity is restored as well."*

# ADVOCACY



## **Training Consultant, Mentor, Board Member, Survivor Expert**

Barbara was instrumental in the passage of the Washington D.C. Safe Harbor Bill in January 2015. Today, her legislative work includes support of the CDA Section 230 amendment, various states vacating convictions legislation and federal vacating convictions bills for victims of human trafficking.

Barbara is routinely called upon by lawmakers to give her expert testimony and has testified in the Washington D.C., Virginia General Assembly, the Maryland General Assembly and the Florida Assembly in support of legislation that supports human rights and services for victims and survivors of human trafficking.

Barbara is a training consultant with the Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime Training and Technical Assistance Center and has facilitated human trafficking survivor mental health restoration groups with Polaris.

Barbara mentors survivors of trauma and violence and is a member of the NSN (National Survivor Network), the Department of Justice Human Trafficking Task Force, the Virginia Human Trafficking Task Force, and the NOVA HTI. Barbara serves on multiple advisory boards, including the international non profit ArtWorks For Freedom, IMPACT, HER Resiliency, and the SAFE Coalition organization.

Barbara received the James B. Hunter Human Rights Advocacy Award in 2014, and the ATI survivor Leadership Award in 2021, for her work in promoting human rights.

Barbara was included in the Justice Department's OVC Faces of Human Trafficking Video Series and Public Service Announcement.