



Urban Justice Center

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PODCAST SERIES: Jimena

English Version

Interviewer: Hello, as a first to call to quick. My name is Jennifer Ramirez. It is September 15th, saturday night in the Roosevelt area.

Jimena: Can I speak in Spanish?

Interviewer: Yes, tell her she that can say anything she wants in Spanish. She can talk in Spanish.

Interpreter: Whatever you say, you can say it in Spanish.

Interviewer : Ok. Can you briefly tell us your name, your age, and where you're from?

Jimena : Yea. I am 24 years old, and my name is Jimena. I am from Mexico. I started this way when my boyfriend she died. So, I started to go out in the streets because I was depressed. Then I was like not working and I need money so I need to do this.

Interviewer: How long ago did you start?

Jimena: Like four years.

Interviewer: Four years ago?

Jimena: Yea.

Interviewer: Did you come to this country so that you can better yourself or did you come to this country because of that work-

Jimena: No.

Interviewer: Were you trafficked here or did you come here from your own choice.

Jimena: I came right here because I need to help my family. I mean because I have a big family. So I need to work to send money to Mexico.

Interviewer: Have you ever encountered any problems out here in the Jackson Heights area? Have you ever got arrested, harassed, called names, threatened, thrown bottles at by the police from this area?

Jimena: Not right here because- Sometimes I come here, but not really. I work in Brooklyn. That happens in Brooklyn. Some people- I do not know.

Interviewer: Say it in Spanish.

Interpreter: Remember that whatever you don't understand in English, you can say it in Spanish.

Jimena: I know. There are people in the streets that want to hit me when they realize I am a transsexual. There are people that don't like people who are like that. There are people that want to hit you. They also have wanted to rape me, but I have escaped from that.

Interviewer: Have you ever – Ask her if she has gotten arrested or called the police.

Interpreter: Have you ever called the police when you experienced these problems?

Jimena: No. I am scared that they will tell me that I can't work here. That I am not allowed out here.

Interpreter: Do you think if you called the police they would be able to help you?

Jimena: I don't think so because the police they bother you. They bother you. And that's why –

Interviewer: I am sorry. Hold on. The train is passing.

Interviewer: Has her getting arrested caused any problems for her any – her immigration status?

Interpreter: When the police arrested you, did they give you any problems in deporting you where you used to live in Mexico?

Jimena: No. But the last time, they told me that I did not have papers and they could deport me.

Interpreter: They didn't arrest you for that?

Jimena: No.

Interpreter: They never asked you if you needed help with your documents?

Jimena: The police. No. When I went to the judge, he/she sent me to a program but they never told me that they could help me with the documents.

Interviewer: Thank you so much for your time. I hope you have a lovely and blessed time.