



Report for Lama Child: Mariella

Age	15
Place of birth	Meycauayan City, Bulacan
Date of arrival at preda	15 December 2021

family relations and growing up

Mariella is the youngest of five siblings and the only girl among them. According to her, she has happy memories of her early childhood together with her parents and siblings. Her parents managed a small store through which the parents were able to financially support the family.

However, when Mariella was in fourth grade, her father was brought to the hospital for having a mild stroke. He survived the stroke but it made him less mobile.

At the start of the pandemic in 2020, Mariella's father contracted COVID-19. He was brought to the hospital and into the intensive care unit. After three days, he passed away. The family all had to go on a two-week mandatory quarantine as a result.

Mariella started to become wayward after the passing of her father. Even during the lockdowns, Mariela would run away from home and spend most of her time with peers. She learned to drink and smoke cigarettes and marijuana. Sometimes, she would invite her friends to come over their house to party and spend the night there. Mariella and her friends became one of the notorious groups in the community.

In 2021, Mariella was persuaded by one of her friends to entertain guests and have sex with them in exchange of money. All the while, her mother thought that she was working in the market because some of her friends are also





working in the market. One time, one of her friends who turned into enemy exposed Mariella by posting on Facebook her chat logs with a customer/guest. This became a scandal in the community and her mother was alerted to it. Mariella denied everything to her mother and made an alibi that her account was hacked. But she continued being wayward. Her mother decided to take her to an aunt in Manila. But a month after, she tried to escape so she was brought back to Meycauayan.

Context of Exploitation and rescue

In December, Mariella was booked by "Aira" for some guests. Like the other girls, Mariella went to the agreed-upon meeting place and boarded the van where a lady police was waiting for them. They were rescued and brought to the police station. On December 15, the local social worker referred her to Preda.

The pimp „Aira“ was arrested and detained until now. Only one of the four girls rescued have testified in Court so far.

