



September 2012 - When My Nightmare Started

September 2012 was when my nightmare started! I got married to a Muslim man and later on, I found out that he was married (basically I was his second wife). At that time, he was a powerful well educated man in the community. As a new revert I did not ask too much, I was told to keep everything a secret.

I was married to this man for 3 years. **He abused me mentally, physically, and sexually!** During those three years, he brain washed me - I was not allowed to talk to people, he prohibited me to talk to members of the community. I tried to commit suicide twice and I stopped practicing the religion. My children hated everything that had to do with Islam. When I finally could ask for help in the community, this man twisted everything against me. He said he was doing a favor for a revert sister and mother of three children.

When I called the police asking for help, he made me look like a psycho. Basically, the only option was to run away, that's how I ended up in Texas with my children. I tried to stay on my own, but I was not mentally ready. I collapsed!

Somehow, I found TMWF, I read about it, it took me time just to call them. I've lost trust. So, I wrote a few lines to them. To my surprise, I got a phone call asking me to go to their office. I hesitated to say yes. My first visit with TMWF was.... when the case worker told me that they will help me the first thing that came to my mind was **why?** What do I have to do in return? Many things crossed my mind!! I had a shield of protection! I gave the case worker a hard time. **When they offered me a safe place for me and my kids I couldn't believe that, it was too good to be true.** Believe it or not, it took me time to accept their offer. How ironic! Right?

TMWF has been assisting my children and I with counseling as well. We have been able to get out of that fear phase, **we have been able to build our trust again, self-esteem, and confidence.** Thank God, I've been able to focus again on my studies (I'm in my senior year of university/ Technical School). **With your contributions to this organization, you just don't help women in a situation like mine, your contributions help entire families: children that are the future of this country.**

“All what I have to say is that TMWF is a family and families stay strong & together”