



BRITISH GROUP
INTER-PARLIAMENTARY
UNION

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Regional Seminar for the 12+ Group

The Attlee Suite, Portcullis House

Palace of Westminster,

London, United Kingdom

22 and 23 February 2010



INTER-PARLIAMENTARY
UNION

**DECLARATION FROM PARLIAMENTARIANS FROM OVER 20 COUNTRIES WHO
ATTENDED A EUROPEAN SEMINAR ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING, HELD BY THE INTER-
PARLIAMENTARY UNION AT THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT IN LONDON ON 22 AND 23
FEBRUARY 2010.**

We strongly urge parliamentarians throughout Europe to develop a better understanding of the nature and extent of Human Trafficking; to join forces to stamp out this modern form of slavery by ensuring their anti-trafficking legislation is effective; by increasing their efforts in sharing information and communicating more effectively with their colleagues; to encourage governments to coordinate and redouble their efforts, in co-operation with international institutions, law enforcement agencies and other bodies to combat this evil crime, to create a hostile environment for traffickers in all our countries, to assist the rehabilitation of victims and, if they have not yet done so, to ratify without delay the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. In addition, we call for more international co-operation to tackle this problem in other parts of the world. A seminar report will be available shortly at www.ipu.org.

**DECLARATION DES PARLEMENTAIRES DE PLUS DE 20 PAYS QUI ONT PARTICIPE AU
SEMINAIRE EUROPEEN SUR LA TRAITE DES ETRES HUMAINS, ORGANISE PAR L'UNION
INTERPARLEMENTAIRE AU PALAIS DE WESTMINSTER A LONDRES
LE 22-23 FEVRIER 2010.**

Nous invitons instamment les parlementaires de toute l'Europe à développer une meilleure compréhension de la nature et de la portée de la traite des êtres humains, à unir leurs efforts afin de supprimer cette forme moderne d'esclavage en assurant l'efficacité de leur législation contre cette pratique et en accroissant leurs efforts pour partager les informations et communiquer plus efficacement avec leurs collègues. Nous les invitons aussi à encourager les gouvernements à coordonner et redoubler leurs efforts en coopération avec des institutions internationales, des agences du maintien de l'ordre et d'autres organisations afin de combattre ce crime épouvantable, de créer un environnement hostile aux trafiquants dans tous nos pays, d'aider à la réhabilitation des victimes et de ratifier sans délai la Convention du Conseil de l'Europe sur la lutte contre la traite des êtres humains, s'ils ne l'ont pas encore fait. En outre, nous invitons à une plus grande coopération internationale afin d'éradiquer ce problème dans d'autres parties du monde. Un rapport sur ce séminaire sera bientôt disponible sur le site www.ipu.org.

IPU seminar 22.-23. februar 2010

I am very honoured to be invited to speak at this seminar. I have been a member of the Danish parliament for 8 years. And just as long a member of the Nordic Council which is a parliamentary organisation for the Nordic countries. For the last 6 years I have been working against trafficking in humans/modern slavery. And I have just been appointed chairman of a working group in BSPC (Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference) about trafficking.

In the Danish parliament we are several MP's from almost all parties that work together against trafficking. We don't have a formal group yet, we are working on that, but we coordinate our work. We ask a lot of questions, we call upon one or more ministers to come to a committee meeting in the parliament, and we have debates in parliament and put forward motions about new initiatives.

We arrange a conference in the parliament each year where we invite both the authorities and the ngo's and ask them to tell us about what is going on and where they think we need to strengthen the efforts or take new initiatives. This is for us a very important tool because we both get a lot of information and we keep trafficking in focus for the participants. For instance the police have a lot of other important problems to deal with. And nobody in the public asks for the results against slavery, but they criticize the police if they don't do enough against robbery or housebreaking.

The biggest trade union in Denmark made a big campaign against trafficking a few years ago. And then formed an informal network, where we meet about three times a year and in between we use email to inform each other of news on the subject. In the network we are MP's and members of the city council from all most all parties, representatives from trade unions, women's organisations, ngo's, authorities, journalists and artists. So we have almost the whole society represented except business and we hope to get them engaged as well.

In the Nordic council we have been working against trafficking/slavery for many years now. One of the results is that we got the ministers of social affairs to discuss the subject with their colleagues from the Baltic States and coordinate their efforts. So not only the ministers of justices and the police are now cooperating. And most important is that it is those who work directly with the problems in the streets, in the safe houses and so on, that now meets and talks about their experiences and how they can cooperate. The Nordic Council also supports safe houses and projects that empower girls in the Baltic States and North-west Russia, so they are less vulnerable to traffickers.

We have also decided that we will only use hotels that guaranties that they don't cooperate with prostitution. And the Danish parliament has decided to do the same.

Denmark made an action plan against trafficking in 2003 and a new in 2007. We are going to have a third from next year. One of the most important things in the second action plan was the establishing of a center against trafficking. They coordinate all the initiatives and they collect new knowledge. Until now all efforts in Denmark have been against trafficking for sexual exploitation. But we are pretty sure that there are also trafficking for labour and begging. The Center are now making research in each area and establishing a close cooperation with trade unions and other ngo's. As MP's we have a dialogue with the center about their initiatives.

We have now got all the structures in place and the next step will be to secure permanent funding instead of short time funding. And to make sure that all the persons that meet possible victims are

educated in handling the situation. Both the police, the social workers, immigration authorities, lawyers, judges and others.

And the most challenging part is to change the views so that we stop looking at the victims as illegal immigrants and instead see them as victims who needs help and support. And we are working with the idea of getting international companies, like the big hotel chains, to take victims in as trainees and then later give them a job, when they return to their own country. So they have a future and they can come home with an other story than having been a victim.

I also think we have to change focus from the trafficking over borders to the exploitation that is taking place. The big profit is not in the buying and selling of slaves but in the exploitation of slaves. I can recommend to read the book Sex trafficking inside the business of modern slavery by Siddharth Kara. He analyses slavery from a business perspective and I think we have to do that to really understand how we can stop it. In our new working group in the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference we discuss how we can make such a business analysis in our countries. We also discuss in the working group if we can make a joint action at the same time in all our countries to raise awareness.

There are so many international organisations working against trafficking/slavery and I think it is very important that we cooperate and find the best ways of joint efforts.

RYZARD KALISZ

Ladies and gentlemen!

I am honored to be invited to the Regional Seminar on Human Trafficking as a representative from Polish Parliament. Our presence here proves that the topic of the meeting is essential for modern societies.

Human trafficking is especially crucial issue from Polish perspective as a country which through the past twenty years evolved from a country of victims' origin and a country of transit (a region through which victims are transferred to Western Europe) into a destination country as well. The crime is considered to be an effect of the disproportion between poor and well developed countries. Poland has an experience derived from the process of transformation from the one of the former soviet republics to a rightful member of the European Union.

Human trafficking is one of the most serious challenges for the international society as well as a core point on national agendas due to a nature of this crime which appears to be in contradiction with fundamental human rights and principles of modern, democratic state. Despite a gravity of the crime and common consensus on the fact that actions aimed at prevention and combating human trafficking should be undertaken by all members of the international community, it is still not fully identified and described phenomenon.

Combating human trafficking should be dealt by the cooperation of all of state organs and institutions as well as non-governmental organizations. In Poland the Government is responsible for initiating and enforcing operations regarding public safety, among others human trafficking issues. In order to fulfill governmental duties the Prime Minister in 2004 appointed the inter-ministerial Committee for Combating and Preventing Trafficking in Human Beings which is composed of ministers, the Police Commander-in-Chief, the Border Guard Commander-in-Chief and non-governmental organizations' representatives. The Committee has been proposing the National Action Plans against Trafficking in Human Beings since 2003.

However effective realization of Committee's aims could not be achieved without a proper cooperation with the Parliament as a place in which the required legal frameworks are created. The role of parliamentarians begins when government bills are submitted to the Sejm. The parliamentary committee on justice and human rights analyses and debates on legislative drafts in subjected field before they will be passed by the whole body. The National Action Plan against Trafficking in Human Beings for 2009-2010 provides legislative proposals in two main legal fields relating to improvement of effectiveness of actions against human trafficking, support and protection of victims.

Actions in the first area are focused on amending the penal code, especially by implementation of human trafficking definition, consistent with the one included in the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children supplementing the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, as well as to the definition included in the Council Framework Decision on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. The amendment will take positive effect on the level of legal certainty with a benefit for citizens and prosecution authorities. Further changes are aimed at extending the competence of the border guard which is even more important since Poland jointed Schengen Treaty.

The second area regards support and protection of human traffic victims. Some changes has already been introduced, *inter alia* the amendment to the Act on Foreigners which grants victims a right to receive a permission for long-term stay and the amendment to the Act on Social Assistance which entitles them to various forms of support. The realization of the plans aimed at combating human trafficking has effected in increase in the number of public prosecutor's proceedings (which means a higher number of exposed crimes) and in increase in identification of victims.

We should also bear in mind the important role of the Parliament and its members in the filed of creating favorable legal framework for non-governmental organizations combating human trafficking. The NGOs are one of the fundamental elements of properly functioning modern civil society. However these organizations often struggle

with various difficulties thus there should be made an legislative effort to support them by creating a friendly environment for them to operate.

It is also worth mentioning that parliamentarians are entitled to supervise and control governmental authorities. One of the means of control is to pose questions and interpellations to particular governmental officials. These instruments already have been used in Poland in order to gather information and monitor a progress in fighting with human traffic related crimes. Making use of such competence guarantees that actions undertaken by the Government authorities will be known to public and properly performed.

It is needless to say to such honorable audience that in democratic society fighting with human slavery is a duty of every single citizen, thus members of Parliament, due to their public role, are even stronger obliged to act against this crucial problem. This covers initiating political debates and promoting in media proper attitudes towards human trafficking. Moreover parliamentarians are involved in regional and international initiatives which deal with the problems of human rights, such as the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the La Strada Organisation, the EU Anti-Trafficking Day. Increasing public awareness in the filed of human trafficking is effective methods of challenging this problem.

Thank you for your attention.

Tale London

22. februar

Dear honourable ladies, dear honourable gentlemen

Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to come here today and speak about a very important matter that needs to be taken action upon now!

Let me shortly introduce my self. My name is Karin Riis-Jørgensen, and I am Danish, but live for the moment here in London. I am a former member of the European Parliament, where I for many years was the Vice President of the Liberal group. Today I work in different fields, but one of them is on the matter that is the reasons why we are gather here today.

Modern slavery as I call the trafficking in human being is something we have witnessed and known for many quite some years. Trafficking in human beings is a serious breach of human rights. In many European countries authorities, police and Ngo's are doing a huge effort to combat this horrible problem. But the problem is still here, and unfortunat it hasn't become smaller.

My fight against trafficking in human beings started when I was a member of the European Parliament. After hearing some of the horrible stories we all know of young girls who has been forced to work as slaves in the Western Europe primarily the sex industry I could not sit and listen to these stories anymore, I needed to act! I therefore spend some time travelling around Europe, and also to my own country to get more concrete knowledge about the problems with trafficking in human beings, and tried to see the picture of what was done and by whom.

After collecting all these information I took some different initiatives together with colleagues in the European Parliament and together we raised the debate in- and outside the European Parliament. We also started the European Anti-trafficking day on 18th of October in cooperation with the former Commissioner Frattini – a very important day for us in Europe to use every year – to raise the issue and help the victims of a horrible and unforgivable crime.

But let's not talk more about the past, let's talk about the future, and what you as parliamentarians can and must do.

My first advice to you comes with inspiration of what we have done in the Nordic countries. In the Nordic countries we have a special co-operation between the Nordic countries called the Nordic Council. The formal co-operation between the Nordic countries is amongst the oldest and most extensive regional co-operation in the world. The political co-operation is built on common values and a willingness to achieve results that contribute to a dynamic development and increase Nordic competencies and competitiveness.

The Nordic co-operation places a very high priority on efforts to fight human trafficking and actively works to promote a co-ordinated and effective regional effort.

The Nordic gender equality, social, health and justice ministers have taken a large number of initiatives to co-operate in the Nordic countries to stop human trafficking. I give you two examples:

Firstly - many of the girls and women in the Nordic countries come from the Baltic countries and Northwest Russia. Therefore the Nordic Council has developed a good cooperation with the Baltic countries and Northwest Russia. One of the many challenges has been to ensure the victims of human trafficking have a secure future in their home country. When they return to their home country, they are often collected by the ringleaders and sent out again. Therefore the Nordic co-operations with the NGOs and authorities in the Baltic countries and Northwest Russia have ensured a more safe repatriation.

Secondly – to ensure that we do our utmost in the Nordic countries together with the countries in the region of the Baltic Sea the Nordic council organizes conferences between the countries which is an important platform for the exchange of 'best practice' and it set up concrete proposals on how different groups can work together to formulate common goals and strategies in measures to fight human trafficking in the Baltic Sea region. Without sharing knowledge we can never obtain goals – in any part of Europe.

My advice is therefore firstly today:

I believe that one of the solutions to combat trafficking in human beings is not to look at the whole picture at one time, but to divide the efforts into smaller divisions. United Kingdom is a huge country and the problems of trafficking are all over the country. And the girls and women who

come to United Kingdom to work as slaves either in the sex industry, households or other places comes from many different destinations. Therefore you need to focus. Work hard on one region on one project – put all your energy and resources in one project, and do not worry others will put their energy and resources into the project you don't. But remember to meet sometimes and share information's and experiences so you hopefully by this you can strengthen your project. And you do not have to look hard to find good projects because they are already right in front of you. Personally I work together with Stop the Trafik who has projects around UK, but also around the world – and Stop the Trafik is not the only one in UK fighting for these girls and women.

But *Secondly* my advice is that you might not all have the resources to join projects, but then you have to remember as politicians you have three very important tasks.

- 1) To raise the awareness about trafficking among yourself, and in the public.
- 2) To ensure that all the good projects around UK get the financial resources that they need to help all the victims and prevent more to come.
- 3) To ensure that the legislation is consistent with the scope of the problem.

I know that the fight against human trafficking is a huge fight and sometimes it can seem impossible and further that you often feel powerless. But then you have to remember that if you help one single victim, you have already done a huge change.

Again thank you very much for your time and any questions are more than welcome!

Thank you

**Speech by Mr Kent Olsson,
Former Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on Trafficking in Human Beings of the
Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)**

**Human Trafficking
Regional Seminar for the 12+ Group
(coorganised by the British Group of the IPU and IPU)
London 22-23 February 2010**

**Session II – What are Parliamentarians doing to prevent and combat people trafficking?
2.30 pm - 4 pm**

[Other guest speakers to be confirmed: Clare Short MP, Anthony Steen MP, Chris Smith or someone from Vietnam]

(± 10 minutes)

Dear members of Parliament,
Dear colleagues,
Dear participants,

1. Introduction

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to address you at this important session on the role of parliamentarians in preventing and combating trafficking in human beings.

May I first introduce myself: I am a Swedish MP and a member of the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. I have been recently elected first Vice-Chairperson of the Committee of Culture, Science and Education of the Assembly. But, I am principally here in my capacity as former Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on trafficking in human beings. I chaired this Sub-Committee for 2 years, in 2008 and 2009. The new Chairperson will be elected next March. As you may already know, both the Sub-Committee I chaired and the Parliamentary Assembly are very much involved in the fight against trafficking in Human Beings. The Assembly is fully aware that trafficking in human beings is an unacceptable violation of human dignity and a grave violation of human rights.

The best protection you can give to potential victims is prevention. It is also important to underline that prevention is effective only with a strong cooperation between States, particularly in the field of trafficking which involves several States. States of origin, States of transit and States of destination of people, mostly migrant women, should apply the same prevention policy in order to avoid them becoming victims of trafficking. Indeed, due to their

personal situation, women are at a particular risk of trafficking. Of course, trafficking in human beings does not necessarily involve a transnational element: it can exist at a national level.

Thus, I would like to emphasize on the one hand, co-operation both between States and between International organisations (4) and on the other hand, the relevancy of the Council of Europe Convention in this field (5). But, I would like to begin by a short description of the added-value of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (2) and the involvement of the Assembly to promote the widest possible ratification of the Convention (3).

2. *The added-value of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings*

The geographical setting of the Council of Europe enables countries of origin, transit and destination to agree on a common binding policy against trafficking. I would like to remind you that the main reason for developing a new convention, in fact, was that none of the other existing legal instruments focused on the victims of trafficking: that is the added-value of the Council of Europe Convention.

The Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, adopted by the Council of Europe in 2005, is the first European treaty in this field and is the only international treaty which includes comprehensive protection of the human rights of victims as an integral part of the fight against this criminal activity.

Indeed, the victim-centred approach is the only effective way to combat this scourge. The added-value of the Convention precisely lies with this human rights-based approach to combating trafficking.

The Council of Europe Convention applies to all forms of trafficking, whether national or transnational, whether related to organised crime or not, whether the victim is a woman, man or child and regardless of the form of exploitation: whether for sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or for the removal of organs. The Convention has made the reflection period mandatory for all victims for a period of 30 days. The residence permit is renewable. There are no implications for the trafficked victims at criminal level, as they should not be accused of any criminal act if they are found to be victims.

The Convention provides for an effective monitoring mechanism, the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA).

3. *The Assembly is strongly promoting the signature and ratification of the Convention*

As a consequence, the Parliamentary Assembly has focused its activities on the promotion of the widest possible and soonest signature and ratification of this Convention.

Three weeks ago, the Assembly adopted Resolution 1702 and Recommendation 1895, on the basis of my Austrian colleague Gisela Wurm's report on "Action against trafficking in human beings: promoting the Council of Europe convention".

The Assembly noted the primacy and added value of the Council of Europe Convention as an effective instrument in the fields of prevention of trafficking, prosecuting the traffickers and protection of the victims. It consequently asks the member states of the Council of Europe which have not yet done so to sign and/or ratify the convention, and encourages the European Union to accede to it.

Underlining the effectiveness of the monitoring mechanism of this convention, the GRETA, the Assembly called on Council of Europe member states to provide GRETA with the financial and human resources which it needs for its activity, with a view both to guaranteeing its independence and to ensuring effective monitoring work. It requested that the national parliaments budget for such resources.

The Committee drafted and updated in December 2009 a Handbook for parliamentarians on the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. This handbook is intended as a practical tool for parliamentarians and all those involved in the fight against trafficking. It suggests working approaches for elected representatives who want to combat trafficking in human beings. It comprises an outline of the phenomenon, a description of the main provisions of the Council of Europe Convention – concerning the prevention of trafficking, the protection of victims and the prosecution of traffickers – and a series of questions and answers. [This Handbook can be downloaded on <http://assembly.coe.int/trafficking>.]

4. *In conclusion, what can parliamentarians do?*

Following Resolution 1702, national parliamentarians of member states and others –the Convention is open to non member states– which have not yet signed and/or ratified the convention can call on the minister responsible and on the Parliament to speed up the process of signing and/or ratifying the convention.

The example given by our host, Great Britain, is a very good one. The success of the "all party parliamentary group for trafficking of women and children" in promoting the Council of Europe should be underlined. I would also like to stress the useful Pan-European Campaign to establish parliamentary groups in other European parliaments.

The parliamentarians of member states which have ratified the convention can monitor its implementation in their domestic law and produce an annual written report on progress to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

National parliamentarians from the European Union can strongly encourage the European Union to accede to the Council of Europe Convention as soon as possible in order to ensure that the same standards are applied in combating trafficking in human beings throughout Europe, including in the European Union.

I stressed the importance of the GRETA. The Convention provides for a very good system on paper. We should take care it will apply in the same way in all European member states so as to guarantee an equal and efficient protection of victims, as well as an effective prevention of trafficking. I would like to specifically ask you to ensure the GRETA experts' independence, on a basis of gender balance and with a geographically balanced distribution. You should also ask your governments to grant the financial and human resources needed for the GRETA to function properly. Parliamentarians can request that the national parliaments budget for such resources and provide GRETA with the financial and human resources which it needs for its activity, with a view both to guaranteeing its independence and to ensuring effective monitoring work.

Pending signature and/or ratification of the Convention, parliamentarians can change legislation in order to apply the main provisions of the convention without delay, such as the victim identification process and the thirty-day recovery and reflection period for victims, paying particular attention to presumed victims who are undergoing identification.

More protective measures of victims and more efficient prosecution of traffickers are also necessary. Budgets for child protection systems should be increased in countries of origin and destination, so that there is accessibility and inclusion of all children, also non-nationals.

Residence permits for victims of all forms of trafficking in human beings should be established to help victims regain stability and confidence in state authorities.

National referral mechanisms have to be set up, which will ensure appropriate identification of victims and lead to effective and institutionalised cooperation between law enforcement and support services.

In conclusion, the Convention will reach its full potential when it is ratified by other countries in Europe and beyond. The wider the ratification of the Convention is, the better the protection for victims will be. Your role as parliamentarians is crucial to this end.

Thank you for your attention.



Child Trafficking

Challenges in Law Enforcement

Christine BEDDOE
ECPAT UK

End child prostitution, child pornography and the trafficking
of children.



Protecting Children
Everywhere



What children say

- 'I was told that if police catch me, I will be in trouble'
- 'Through the investigation I was scared, I didn't know if I was going to prison or if they were sending me back, I was scared and I didn't understand what was going on'





- ‘The come and talk to you but they don’t believe you so they will ask someone else in the house whether what you’ve just told them is correct. It made me feel insecure because I didn’t know if what I was saying was put in the right words or if they were changing it’



Protecting Children
Everywhere



‘They told me it is a recession and they haven’t a lot of money to spend on my case’



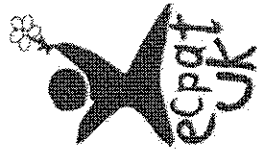
Protecting Children
Everywhere



- They were not in uniform so didn't feel scared. I think this was a good thing'
- 'They went back to the country and found what I was saying was true, so the traffickers were put in prison'



Protecting Children
Everywhere



‘I feel scared because even though traffickers went to prison I feel my life is in danger, I have to be very careful.

They might want to find me and do something that is bad to me. They should give you a house far away because your life is in danger’



**Protecting Children
Everywhere**



‘They didn’t make sure I was safe during the investigation they should make you safe. They didn’t move me and I was still in the area where the traffickers could find me’



Protecting Children
Everywhere



Children are trafficked for..

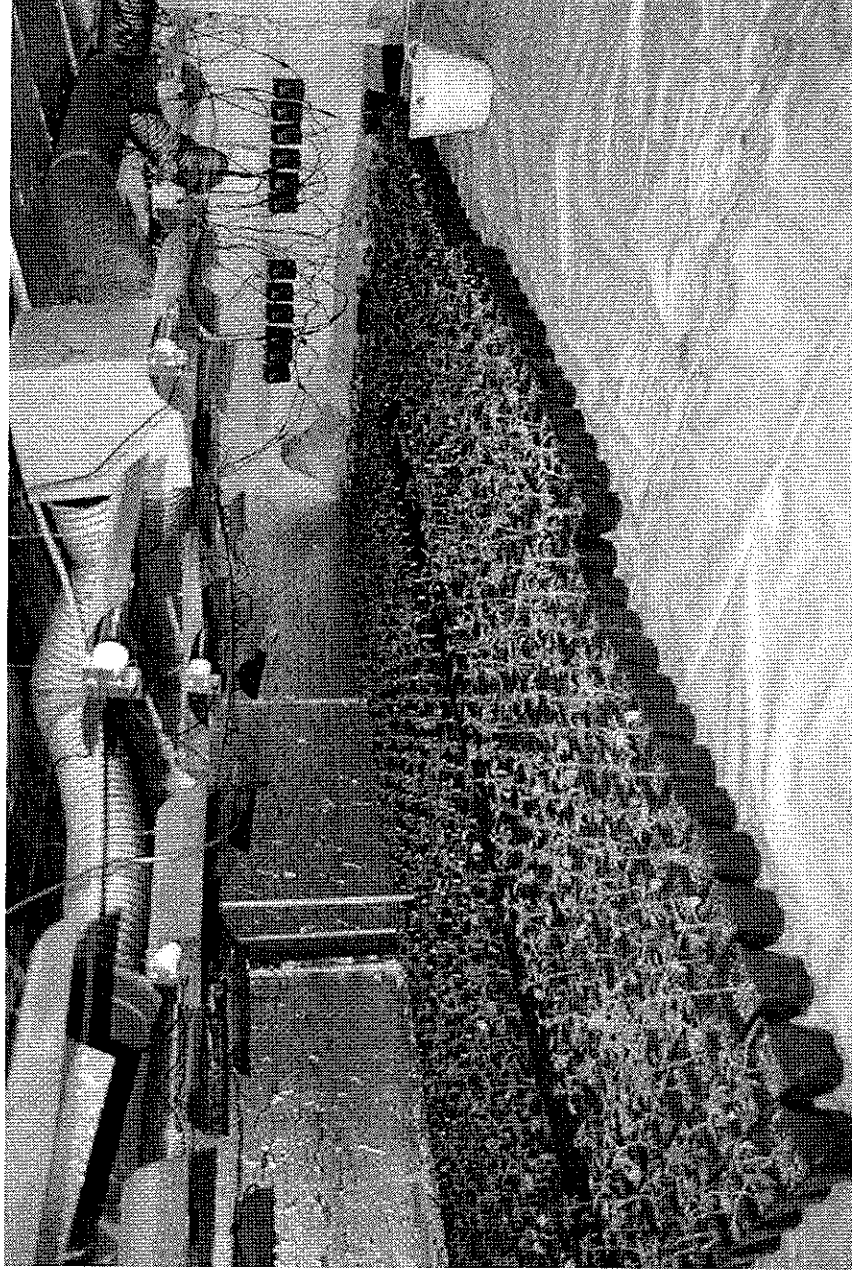
- Sexual exploitation,
- Forced labour
- Domestic servitude
- Forced begging
- Forced marriage
- Drug mules
- Other criminal activity....



Protecting Children
Everywhere



Cannabis cultivation



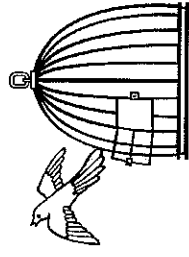
Protecting Children
Everywhere



Booby Traps at Cannabis Factories



Protecting Children
Everywhere



KALAYAAAN

justice for migrant domestic workers

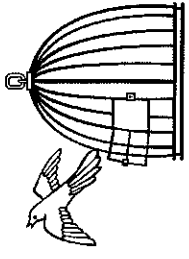
Law Enforcement: Trafficking for domestic servitude

Jenny Moss

Community Advocate, Kalayaan

020 7243 2942

jenny@kalayaan.org.uk

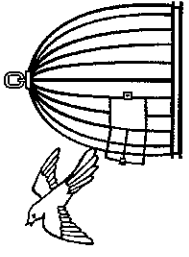


KALAYAAN

justice for migrant domestic workers

Kalayaan

- Register 350 new migrant domestic workers each year
- From all over non-EU world (predominantly South & South-East Asia)
- Some are trafficked persons
- Most find us through word of mouth

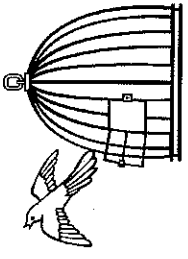


KALAYAAN

justice for migrant domestic workers

Vulnerabilities of MDWS

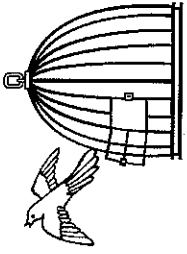
- Isolated in a private house - hidden from oversight and regulation
- Dependent on employer - work, accommodation, immigration status
- Power imbalance exacerbated by lack of social support
- No information about rights in UK, further isolated if do not speak English



KALAY AAN

justice for migrant domestic workers

- ## **Migrant domestic workers (MDWs) in the UK**
- Approximately 16-18,000 enter each year
 - Brought by their employer on a specific visa
 - Visa has associated protections - crucially the right to change employer and be recognised as a worker
 - Can renew their visa if in full time domestic work (need support of employer)

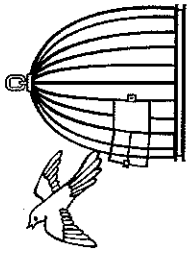


KALAYAAN

justice for migrant domestic workers

	Specific type of abuse	Percentage of domestic workers reporting that abuse
Control	Passports withheld	58%
	Not allowed out of the house unaccompanied	59%
Abuse	Sexual abuse	6%
	Physical abuse	17%
	Psychological abuse	58%
	Working over 16 hours a day	48%
Exploitation	Working every day, 7 days a week	60%
	Worked 'on call' – could be called to work anytime	68%
	Had no private space (sleeping with child or on living room floor etc)	57%
	Paid under £50 per week	52%

Figures for abuse reported by the 356 people who registered at Kalayaan between 01/04/08 and 31/03/09



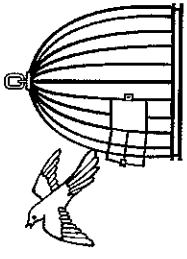
KALAYAAN

justice for migrant domestic workers

MDWs as victims of trafficking

Between 1st April and 31st December 2009

- Kalayaan referred 22 cases of trafficking for domestic servitude to the NRM
- Of these 22 cases, 9 were cases where the domestic worker had come to the UK to work with a diplomat
- Kalayaan identified 47 victims of trafficking who did not wish to be referred to the NRM
- All but 2 of Kalayaan's referrals have received positive reasonable grounds decisions

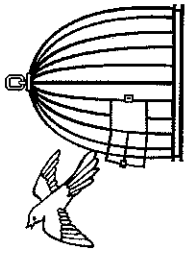


KALAYAAN

justice for migrant domestic workers

Police response

- No co-ordinated response to trafficking for domestic servitude (falls through the gaps?)
 - Not immigration crime
 - Not organised crime
 - Not community safety issue
 - Difficult to identify (viewed as just a bad job)
 - A 'cultural issue'/less deserving victims?

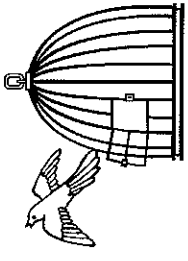


KALAYYAAN
justice for migrant domestic workers

Initial identification

From May 2008 – October 2009

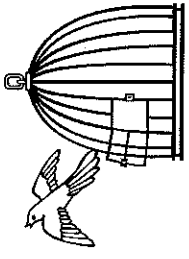
- 22 of Kalayaan's service users reported trafficking to the police
- Only four of these cases have been investigated as trafficking.
- **In seven of these 22 cases no crime was recorded at all**
- 10 trafficked MDWs went to the police before Kalayaan became involved - five were turned away with no crime recorded.
- In none of these 10 cases was the case investigated as trafficking.



KALAYAAN
justice for migrant domestic workers

Investigation

- Trafficking not viewed in its entirety but as discreet smaller offences
 - False imprisonment
 - Assault or sexual assault
 - Theft of passport
- Many of the indicators of trafficking are not criminal offences in themselves

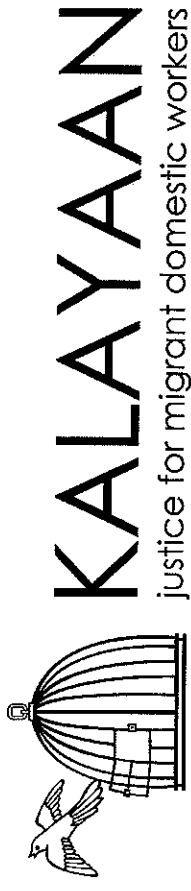


KALAYYAN

justice for migrant domestic workers

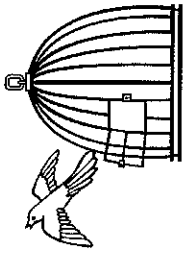
Prosecution

- Proving ‘intention’ to exploit
- Assumption of high threshold for prosecution preventing investigation
- Negative conclusive decisions
- New offence of forced labour may help



Effect of Non-recognition

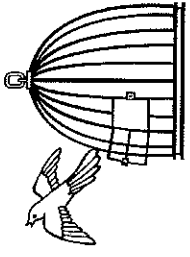
- No access to support
- Return to servitude
- Claims against police
- No test of legal definitions
- No deterrent to traffickers



KALAYAAN
justice for migrant domestic workers

Good practice

- Sensitivity when going into houses
- Using appropriate interpreters
- Calling in specialist expertise
- Not taking full story at front-desk
- Working cross-borough and across areas of responsibility

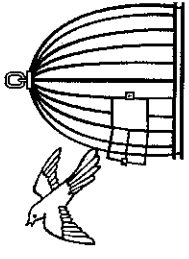


KALAYAAN

justice for migrant domestic workers

Opportunities for law enforcement

- Use best practice and learn from mistakes
- Ensure operational specialists
- Continue to improve training
- Prioritise trafficking at borough level so police officers can spend time on these cases

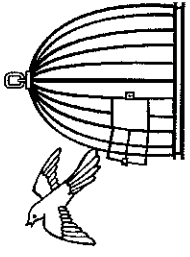


KALAYAAN

justice for migrant domestic workers

Other issues in providing justice

- **MDWs will not come forward if they do not feel safe**
 - visa status vital
 - Must be access to safe accommodation
- **Use other methods of justice –
employment tribunals**



KALAYAAN

justice for migrant domestic workers

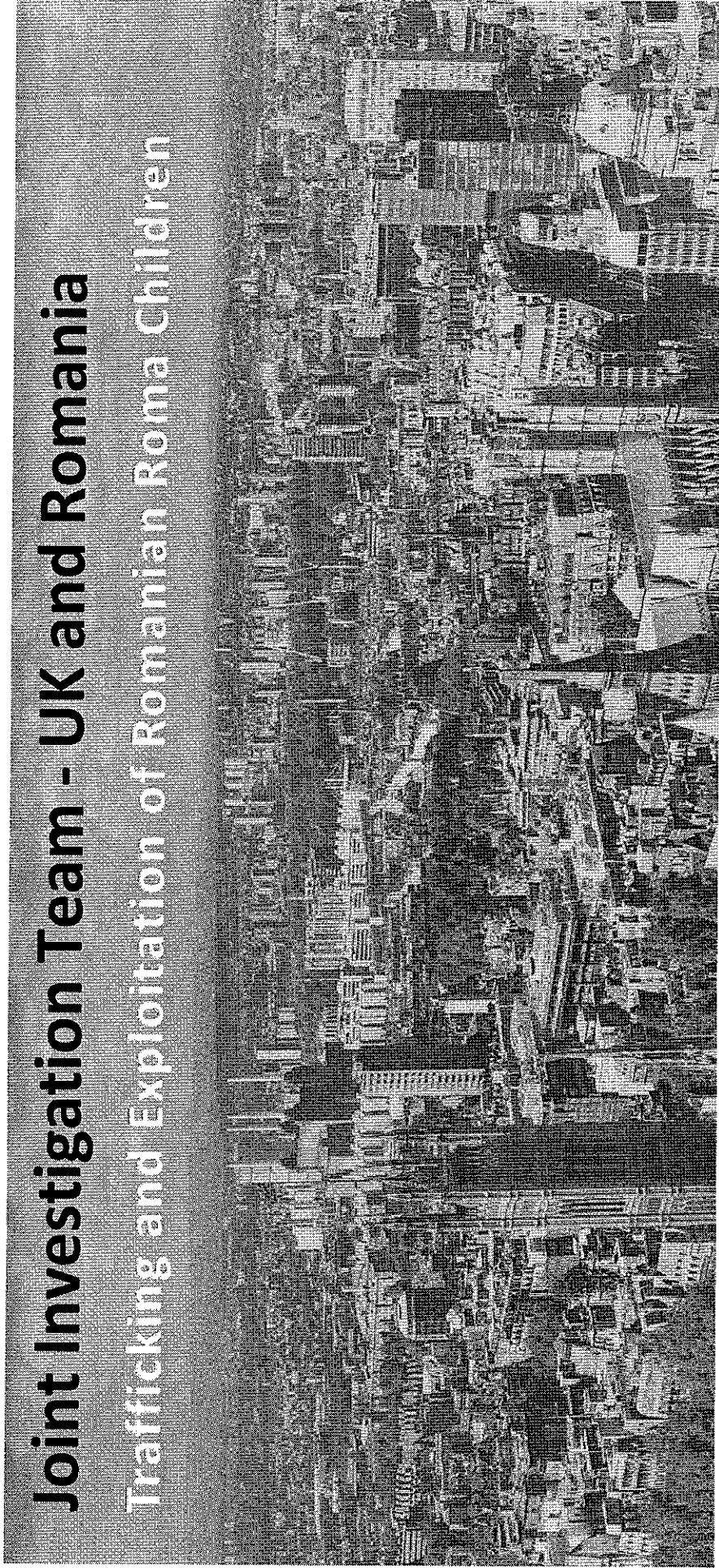
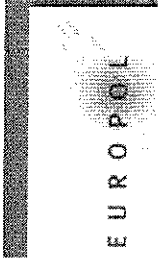
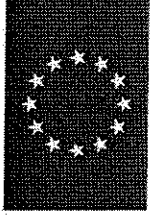
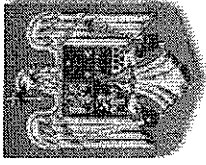
Jenny Moss

Community Advocate, Kalayaan

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GOLF



Joint Investigation Team - UK and Romania

Trafficking and Exploitation of Romanian Roma Children



Working together for a safer London

Joint Investigation Team

- Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance
May 2000 & Council Framework decision June 2002
- Grant funded by European Commission
- Formed 1st September 2008

Metropolitan Police 'Op Golf' (Lead Agency)
Partners

Romanian National Authority for Combating Corruption (ANCA), Europol,

Metropolitan Police

Benefits of a JIT

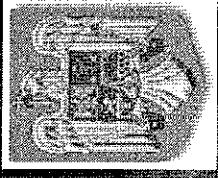
- Direct communication
- Sharing of intelligence
- Europol support
- Reduced need for LoRs
- Common strategic objectives
- Increased efficiency & impact
- Spread of best practice
- Direct requests for evidence

JIT Objectives

- To investigate & prosecute OCN members in the UK and Romania
- Disrupt their activities
- Identify restrain & confiscate criminal assets
- Reduce criminality
- Minimise the exploitation of victims
- Improve victim's role in the response to OCN/HB by holding

Romanian Investigation

- 1107 children from one Romanian town
- The routes out pre accession
- The method pre accession
- The OCN
- 4 clans all under single titular head
- 67 main subjects
- Soala Italy Austria, France, Holland, UK
- Europe assess



WHAT ARE
THEY
INVOLVED
IN?

Aggressive
begging

Violent
crime

Shoplifting

Distraction
Theft

ATM Shoulder
surfing

ATM
Skimming

Child &
people
trafficking

Credit Card
cloning, Forgery &
Benefit fraud

Snatches

Roma Organised Crime in the UK

Roma

**Structure
Family
&
Clan**

Tandarei

**Children as
a resource
to be
exploited**

**Children
as a
commercial
commodity
TRAFFICKING**

The Proceeds of Child Trafficking

Each child potential earning > 40,000 Euros per quarter

200 Roma Children - £16 million

Add the benefit crime!

How many children?

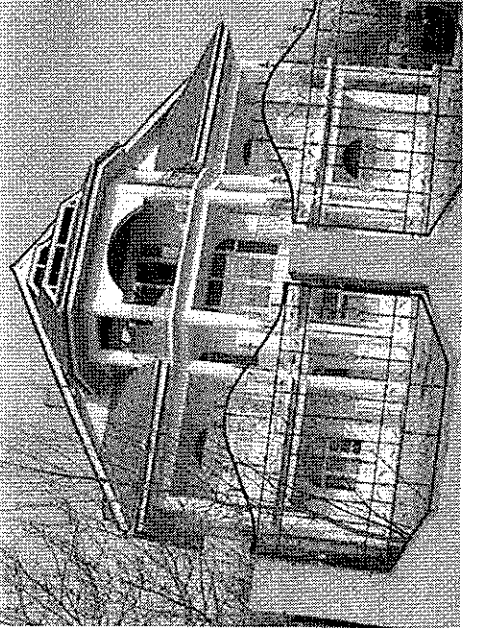
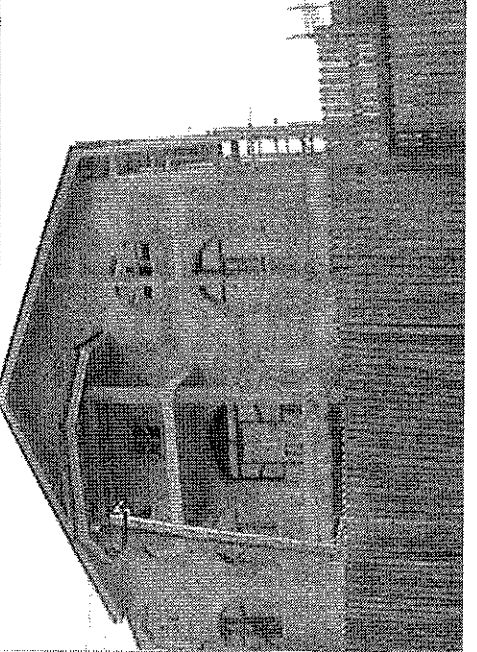
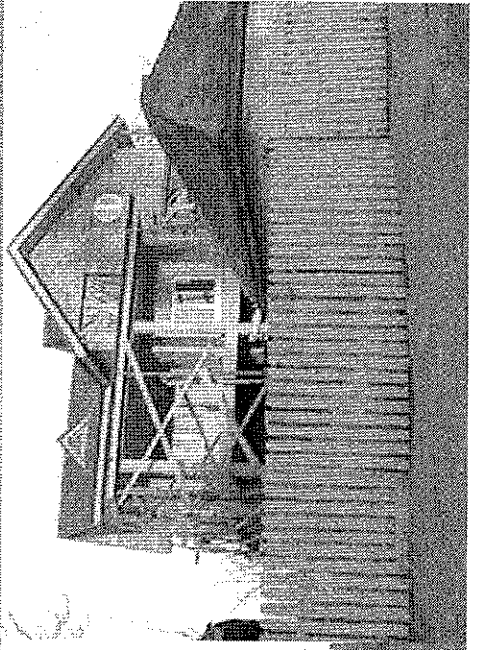
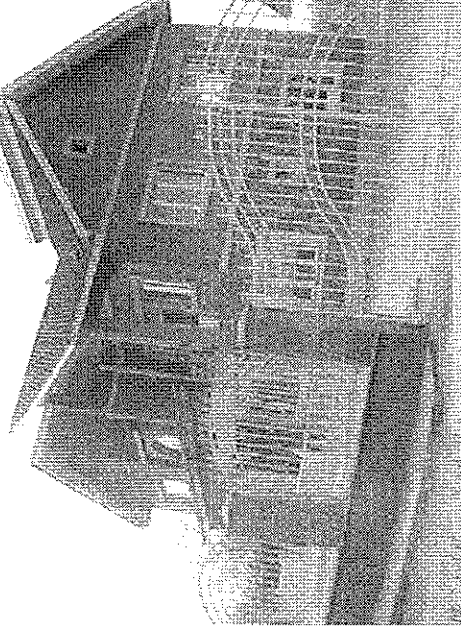
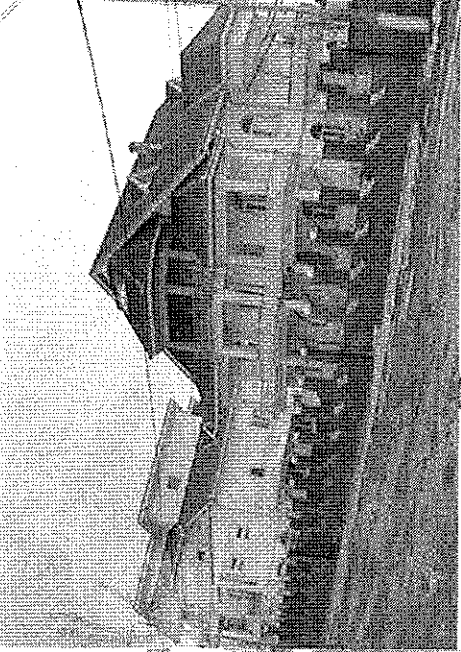
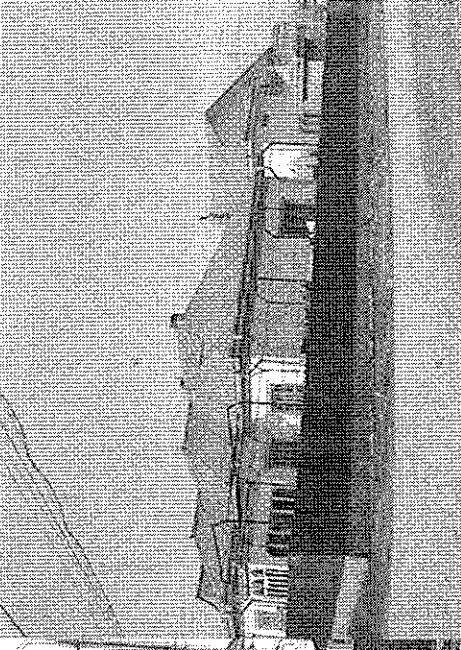
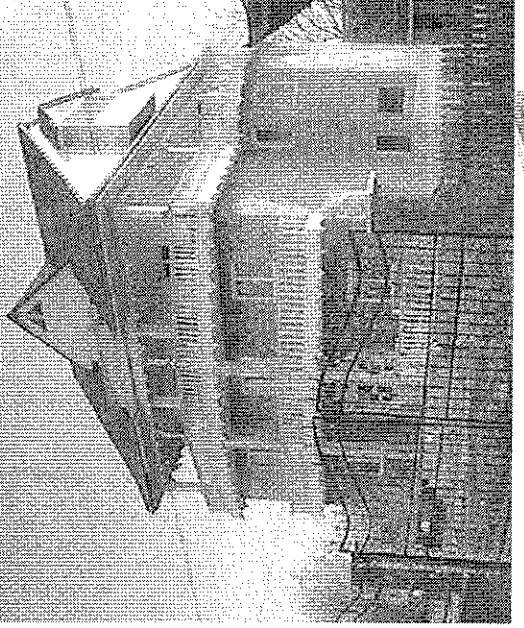
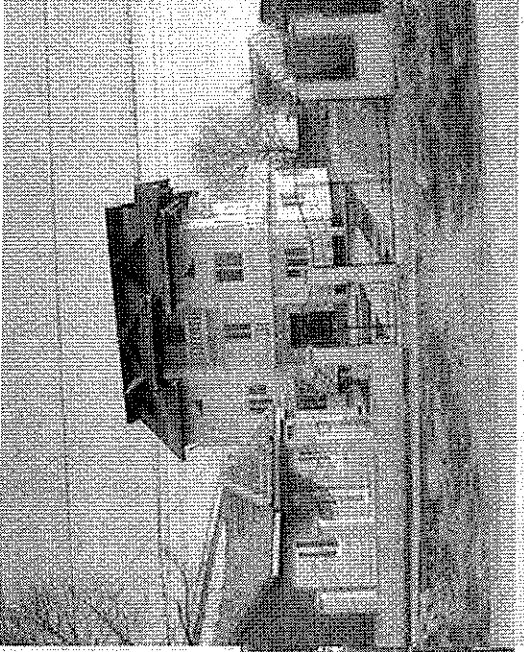
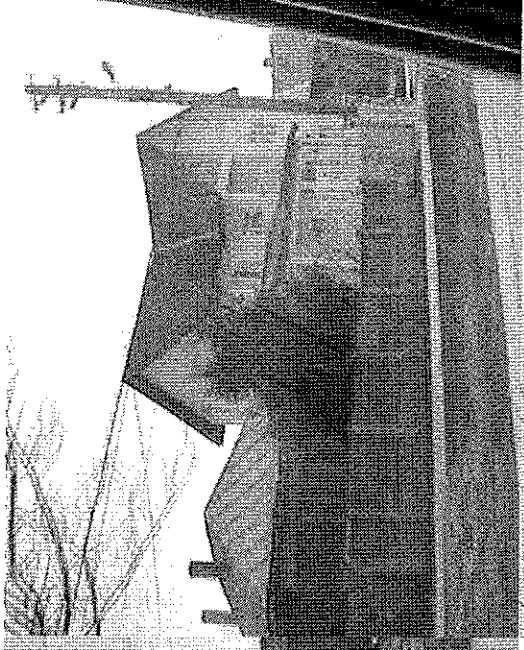
1000 children - £100 million

Children sold for £20,000

Dowry – £25,000

Slave Families

The money is not spent in the UK



The story of Eva - 13 years old

- Her father paid 200 Euro to the OCN
- Flights - corrupted USA credit card
- Placed with OCN family in Slough
- Domestic servitude & forced labour
- Closed identity - Valencia
- Disconnected

Success to date

- This is the 1st UK police JIT
- First UK convictions child/THB
- 2nd UK convictions 'Internal' THB
- ACPO Child Abuse Manual & LCSB victim ID toolkits
- Exploitation for 'Forced Criminality' accepted by UK courts
- Acknowledged by European model of best practice in the EU

UK Human Trafficking Centre

- 168 Europa victims currently active in the UK
- 350 child associates
- 2,400 criminal convictions
- Active in 41 UK police force areas
- 450 addresses across the UK
- 260 addresses



Operation LONGSHIP 2009

- The problem!
- Romanian legal requirements
- Use of JIT legislation to achieve goals
- Recovery of victims
- UK 'safeguarding' responsibilities
- Creating Romania in north east London
- 4 new victims recovered
- Subordinated by Romania

10/10

THB Victim Profile for Roma

Children

- Not attending school
- Not accessing health care
- Teenage pregnancy
- Living in overcrowded / sub standard accommodation
- Committing crime – being exploited
- Culture vs Crime



The Risks

- Expanding Organised Crime
- Diversification by OCNs
- National & International networks
- Harm/reduction for victims
- Economic impact to UK
- Economic impact to Romania
- Negative media on policing ability
- The Olympics

Thank you

Operation Golf

CW-OperationGolf@met.pnn.police.uk

Superintendent

Bernie Gravett

07748 932345

Bernie.Gravett@met.police.uk

Chief Inspector

Colin Carswell

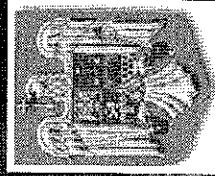
07769 875967

Colin.Carswell@met.police.uk



METROPOLITAN
POLICE

Working together for a safer London



UKHTC

United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre
UKHTC is a multi-agency centre



EUROPOL



**SPEECH REGIONAL SEMINAR FOR THE 12+ GROUP, LONDON
23 FEBRUARY 2010
SESSION IV: CURRENT ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING POLICIES, STRATEGIES AND
ACTION PLANS: CHALLENGES AND GOOD PRACTICES**

By Corinne Dettmeijer-Vermeulen, Dutch Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings

INTRODUCTION

Mr/ Mrs Chairperson, Ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to tell you something about the institution of the Dutch National Rapporteur. From the start I have found that one of the most important aspects of my function and my role as a rapporteur is the fact that I am an independent body and that I can give my findings and recommendations unrestricted. Before I became a Rapporteur, I have been a judge for over 20 years so this independency is like a second nature.

HISTORY

Since 1 April 2000 the Netherlands has had a National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings. The appointment of the NRM is the direct result of the Hague Declaration of 1997, which called upon member states to appoint national rapporteurs in order to report to their respective governments on trafficking in women (as it was referred to at that time).

The importance of thorough information for drawing up policy in this area, was also underlined later in art 29 of the CoE convention.

There are still not many national rapporteurs, A number of countries do have national coordinators, national action plans and/or working groups on THB. For example, as part of the Nordic-Baltic campaign Estonia appointed a national coordinator for THB in 2001. Finland also has an independent national rapporteur, but this rapporteur has operational tasks in the sense that they can provide for legal aid to victims on occasion. In Belgium, the Centre for Equal Opportunities functions as a national rapporteur. It is an independent institution, however, it is NGO based. Romania had had a rapporteur for several years, based on the Dutch model, but currently, the position is no longer in function. In Sweden, the rapporteur is positioned at the police, which cannot really be seen as independent.

Of course every country will have the monitoring system that suits their needs, but I will stress that as far as the Netherlands is concerned monitoring, transparent figures and independence are all important aspects of the job.

The task of the NRM is to collect information and to report to the Dutch government on THB. The rapporteur is supported in her work by a small office, the Bureau of the National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings (BNRM), financed by five ministries.

MY REPORTS AND THE FOLLOW-UP

Yearly, I report to the government about the situation of trafficking in the Netherlands. My reports contain facts, figures and recommendations to improve the approach of the phenomenon, with

regard to prevention, legislation, repression and victim assistance. My last report was published on 29 October 2009. An English translation will soon be available. The summary and recommendations are already available at our website: www.bnrm.nl.

The task of the national rapporteur is linked to the THB article in the Dutch Penal Code. This article 273f covers all trafficking related activities: from recruitment to actual exploitation in the sex industry as well as in other economic areas and trafficking with the purpose of harvesting organs. It covers cross-boarder trafficking as well as internal trafficking.

My reports are commented on by the government and then discussed in Parliament. The government just recently responded to my last report, and this report will be discussed in Parliament soon.

THE RAPPOREUR AND MONITORING THE GOVERNMENTAL COUNTER-TRAFFICKING POLICY

In essence, monitoring is reflecting upon your own activities and initiatives, in order to evaluate to which extent your set goals are reached. Monitoring of the combat against THB thus means measuring the effectiveness of the policy and the counter-trafficking activities pursued. In a Parliamentary democracy the controlling task of governmental policy and action is laid in the hands of Parliament. Therefore, from a formal point of view it is not the level of the Rapporteur being the monitoring mechanism on the governmental counter-trafficking policy, but it is Parliament itself. The Rapporteur has, however, an important role to play in this monitoring. This, as a logical consequence of my task to provide information and advise the government, also when it comes to the mechanisms playing a role and the effects of the policy pursued. Based on these, it is Parliament that debates with the government on the state of affairs in the fight against THB. The fact that the Rapporteur has an independent position is crucial in this respect; it forms the basis for an objective and non biased view on the developments and the pro's and the con's of the Dutch counter-trafficking policy and practice. By making use of such information in the debates, Parliament can critically assess and evaluate the achievements of the governmental counter-trafficking policy. Our reports (and the fact that they are issued regularly), therefore function as an impetus both to the government and to Parliament to perform their respective tasks of fighting trafficking and monitoring the effectiveness of that fight.

INDEPENDENCE

A rapporteur is not, and should not be a political activist, but neither is he a government official; however, he or she can point out problems, and try to help find solutions (in between reports).

A rapporteur can thus function as a *trait d'union* between governmental institutions and NGO's and can get the various chain partners to cooperate and hopefully trust one other. I cannot stress enough that this is beneficiary to all chain partners involved.

The fact that I can decide what kind of research I will undertake illustrates the independent position of the rapporteur. For example, I recently conducted a large research on jurisprudence.

RESEARCH ON JURISPRUDENCE

For my Seventh report, I studied all judgements in 2007 with regard to trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation. The investigation into Dutch case law on human trafficking in the sex

industry shows discrepancies in how various legal aspects are interpreted and a lack of uniformity in the evaluation of the context of violence, coercion, deception and the possibility for victims to escape from their situation. Statements by victims, and above all their internal consistency, play an important role in weighing the evidence. It is noteworthy in this context that judges sometimes actively look for an explanation for inconsistencies in the statements by victims. This suggests that in these cases the judges have recognised the specific problems associated with the statements of victims in human-trafficking cases. The number of acquittals in human-trafficking cases is high, even by comparison with the number of acquittals in rape cases for example. Contrary to what might be expected, the study showed that this is only partially due to the absence of reliable statements by victims and witnesses.

The BNRM study showed a variation in both the sentences demanded and the sentences imposed in human trafficking cases. There seems to be a need for guidelines. Basic principles for the appropriate sentence for human trafficking were formulated for the first time in the *Sneep* case. These were a prison sentence of eight to ten months for each victim, depending on the duration of the exploitation, the level of violence used and the role of the suspect. In that context, a period of exploitation of nine months was regarded as 'relatively short'. Interestingly, aggravating circumstances are seldom explicitly mentioned either by the public prosecution service in the indictment or by the judge in the particulars of the offence.

The judgments that were studied show that it is particularly difficult for victims to secure compensation for damages. This is often loss of income. In the majority of the judgments these claims (or this part of the claim) were felt to be too complicated and the victims' claims were declared inadmissible in the course of the criminal proceedings.

I also studied all cases with regard to trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation that were delivered since 2005.

Although the scope of the offence of human trafficking involving forms of exploitation in sectors other than the sex industry has not yet been clearly defined in case law, a number of trends have emerged in the jurisprudence. Four of the twelve cases involving these forms of exploitation to date have led to convictions for human trafficking. In the judgments studied, the elements most often found not to have been proved were (the intention of) exploitation and coercion through 'abuse of a vulnerable position'. It is possible that the workplace (behind the front door or at a business location that is part of the formal economy) and the degree to which the relationship between the perpetrator and victim is commercial influence where the judge draws the line between bad employership and exploitation. It is also possible that convincing evidence of exploitation is easier to supply if the victim's bodily integrity is violated by physical violence than by, for example, physically harmful work or an exhausting working regime. Also, the subjective perception of a lack of possibilities to escape raised complications in a number of judgements.

As we all know the legal construction on human trafficking is difficult, but not just in the legal sense. Judges also have to understand the psychological complexity of the matter. I have been quite critical of the way judges handle trafficking cases. One of my recommendations is that training of judges in this particular field is necessary. We heard this morning that other countries struggle with these concepts. Judicial rulings can provide directions for police investigations and

prosecutions. This too, a recommendation concerning the judiciary, can best be given by an independent rapporteur.

THE PERCEPTION OF LABOUR EXPLOITATION COMPARED TO SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

One of my findings in my last report has been the discrepancy between the perception of labour exploitation and sexual exploitation. On the one hand, growing attention is being devoted to identifying forms of exploitation outside the sex industry. For example, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment produced a fact sheet entitled 'Labour and Exploitation' to raise awareness among potential victims. However, although Dutch legislation makes no distinction between sexual and other forms of exploitation, in practice there are differences in how they are identified, investigated, prosecuted and tried. These discrepancies are mainly related to the perception and recognition of situations of other forms of exploitation. The impression is that other forms of exploitation are perceived as 'less serious' than sexual exploitation. In principle, the seriousness of the exploitation does not depend on the sector in which it occurs. It also seems that care for victims of other forms of exploitation creates or could create practical problems, especially since the numbers involved are sometimes substantial. Victims of other forms of exploitation are not always reported to be registered or sheltered. Other forms of exploitation obviously occur and every relevant actor should therefore respond adequately to excesses.

CONFERENCE 14-15 OCTOBER

This year, my bureau commemorates its ten years anniversary. On this occasion Marleen de Pater, member of the Lower House and I, together organise an international conference on trafficking in human beings. For this conference, which is to be held in The Hague on 14-15 October, representatives of the Parliaments of all EU countries will be invited, as well as National rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms. The conference will focus on the role of these stakeholders in the fight against trafficking. Issues that will be addressed at the conference are monitoring mechanisms, cooperation between chain partners and data collection. The 3 P's: Prevention, Prosecution and Protection will be the thread at the conference, along with some new P's like Partnership and Punishment. We hope the conference will contribute to a stronger network of National rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms on the one hand, and the network between members of parliament on the other hand. Our goal is also to share best practices in order to be able to fight trafficking in human beings more effectively.

Thank you for your attention.

Achievements and Challenges in the Romanian National Anti-Trafficking in Human Beings System

Presentation by Mr. Valeriu Stefan ZGONEA
Member of the Standing Bureau of the Chamber of Deputies
Head of the Romanian Parliament's Group on Fighting the Trafficking in Human Beings

IVth session of the Regional Seminar for the 12+ Group
IPU- BGIPU, London, 22-23 February 2010

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my distinct pleasure to address the 12+Group of IPU.

We all know that we deal with matters in need of urgent and decisive action.

While slavery and the slave trade were abolished centuries ago, human trafficking continues to exist in spite of the ever-increasing efforts to curb it. Such a reality is not acceptable in a world of expanding democracy, rule of law and human rights. Unfortunately this reality is even worse when children become the victims, or cruel and inhumane acts are being performed by criminal organizations.

The ability to be in a constant motion and the flexibility of the organized groups involved in trafficking human beings, proofs that a narrow approach of the phenomenon would be unsuccessful.

Identifying optimal ways to reduce the impact of human trafficking in the modern society is a must but not an easy task. First, a conceptual standard, containing definitions, principles and general objectives, agreed upon by all major stakeholders, including national parliaments, in countries having reliable democratic instruments, would be needed. Second, a clear understanding of causes making the phenomenon grow, recruitment facilitating factors, patterns in victims' motivation and behaviour, criminal networks' modus operandi.

We are aware of the impetus given to organized crime by facilities brought in the globalized world, by the free movement of persons and modern technologies.

A strengthened global reaction is consequently needed. Cooperation between relevant actors, the EU Member States, different bodies and agencies of the European Union and third countries, government administrations, international institutions and NGO's in countries of origin, transit and destination, must be a day by day reality. There is a manifest inter-dependence between us to effectively fight and prevent trafficking in human beings. We have to work together, and we need to step up our efforts.

For more than ten years now, trafficking in human beings has received significant attention from intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, on the international, European and Romanian national level alike. Partnerships of large

United Nations institutions, such as the UN Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (“UN.GIFT”), have been formed, and international and European treaties and EU legislation has established standards on assistance to trafficked persons and prosecution of traffickers.

*
* *

Responding to the growing concern and reaction of the EU to the continuing aggravation in human beings trafficking, Romania firmly supported the European action through national programmes, relevant activity at EU level and joint projects with member states.

In cooperation with EU institutions and other member states and International Organizations, Romania succeeded to well define its legal framework; has ratified major international treaties and conventions, establishing binding legal obligations for implementation of standards for assistance to trafficked persons and prosecution of perpetrators. At EU level, Romania has transposed all relevant legislation.

The main piece of legislation at national level is the Law 678/2001 on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings, subsequently amended and supplemented.

The Law incriminates all forms of trafficking, settled the judicial frame to allow using modern investigation techniques, provided norms for the assistance and protection of victims and witnesses, clarified important issues concerning the trafficking in children.

Modifications to the Law are under way and provide for:

- A new definition of the human trafficking victim
- Incrimination of all related crimes
- Setting up a system of protected houses for victims
- Free access to justice for the victims
- Reflection period for all victims

The entire system works on the basis of a National Strategy against Trafficking in Persons 2006-2010 and a National Action Plan 2008–2010, implementing the Strategy.

It was created a viable institutional system able to support effective programmes.

However, the impact of these actions has been limited so far, and trafficking for any type of exploitation of thousands of people world wide, including children is still continuing and responses to those affected, still inadequate.

We have in mind to intervene in the Romanian anti-trafficking system, in such a way as to determine a change in authorities’ attitude, from “reactive” to “active”, passing

from swift responses to particular cases, to a more founded and sustainable approach able to increase coherence of sectoral public policies in order to diminish criminal organizations' recruiting capacity on national territory and, in the same time, to dismantle trans-border criminal networks, active in our country, including in trafficked persons transit to EU countries.

In our country the fight against the crime of trafficking human beings is coordinated through the Directorate for the Investigation of Organized Crime and Terrorism related Offences within the Prosecutor's Office of the High Court of Cassation and Justice and the National Agency against Trafficking in Persons.

There was created an „Inter-institutional Coordination Mechanism”, with periodical meetings of the Inter-ministerial Working Group and the Thematic Working Group to coordinate, assess and analyze the activities developed by institutions with responsibilities to prevent and combat THB and assist trafficked victims.

The permanent members are representatives of the Ministry of Administration and Interior, Public Ministry (Prosecutor), Justice Ministry, Foreign Affairs Ministry, Labour Ministry, Education Ministry, Health Ministry, Culture Ministry and the National Authority for the Protection of Child's Rights. Experts from other public institutions, civil society associations can take part at Group's sessions.

The National Agency against Trafficking in Persons is a specialized body of the central public administration, within the General Inspectorate of the Romanian Police¹. It has 15 Regional Centres.

The purpose of the Agency is to coordinate, evaluate and monitor the implementation of policies in the field of trafficking in persons by the appropriate public institutions.

The Agency cooperates with organizations within the country and abroad, to raise the public awareness on the phenomenon and its consequences, collect, storage, process and analyze the data and the information. Covers mainly the prevention and victim assistance sectors and acts as interface with NGOs.

In the combating segment the Inspectorate General of the Romanian Police relies on the specialized Service for Fighting the Trafficking in Persons, a subdivision within the Squad for Combating Organized Crime. The Service cooperates with similar international structures, with the assistance of Europol, Interpol, Eurojust, Frontex, the Southeast European Cooperation Initiative's Regional Centre (SECI).

The Directorate for the Investigation of Organized Crime and Terrorist Offences, the only specialized body of the Public Ministry, acts within the Prosecutor's Office attached to the High Court of Cassation and Justice and is invested with a coordinating role in the organized crime combating sector.

The Directorate is carrying out investigations in cases of serious crimes.

It has a sub-structure destined to prosecuting trafficking offences (Office for combating the trafficking in human beings and migrants).

¹ Until March 2009 the Agency was subordinated to the Ministry of Administration and Interior

It has territorial representation (15 territorial services and 41 territorial offices).

Since July 2004 had been established a national network of judges (52 – one for each court) with expertise judging cases of trafficking in human beings. The network had been internationally notified with the European Commission, Eurojust, the European Council, and U.N. etc.

Other supporting institutions: the Inspectorate General of Border Police², the Inspectorate General of the Gendarmerie.

Starting from 2012 the abolition of checks at the internal borders will make the Romanian Eastern border, the Eastern border of the EU. This is why the Border Police not only has high responsibilities in preparing country's accession to the Schengen area, but also in the post-accession cross-border police cooperation among all the contracting states, for the protection of their citizens.

The National Agency against Trafficking in Persons has created a National Integrated System to Monitor and Assess Trafficking in Persons (SIMEV), operational since January 2007. From a technical point of view, the national system is a multilevel IT system, using a central data base, a data interrogation application and a user web interface. The access to the system is granted to Agency's personnel only, respectively the Monitoring, Assessment and Research Service and the Regional Centres, as well as users from the institutions with which the Agency concluded collaboration protocols. The data contained in the data base can be collected from other partner institutions as well.

Speaking of programmes, projects and actions we mention in the Prevention sector the first objective of the Romanian national authorities was to raise awareness in the entire society and place the prevention/combating/victim assistance efforts on top of the agenda of both the Government and non-governmental organisations.

High profile national campaigns, using all the media channels as well as unconventional types of advertising. The public pools proved that Romanian population is aware of the phenomenon of trafficking of humans. The highest risk is faced by the people with a low level of education, especially in the rural area and in the small towns, with a smaller knowledge about these types of risks.

On February 16 has been launched a campaign with the logo "Trafficking in Persons is Merciless". The campaign is part of the project "Reducing the number of Bulgarian and Romanian victims trafficked in Spain and Italy and is set to last until September 15.

There were as well local campaigns, implemented by the Regional Centres of the Agency, in cooperation with local / regional stakeholders. Some 56 000 persons have benefited from these actions.

Themes related to the trafficking of human beings were introduced in programmes developed for gymnasium and high school.

² Until May 2009 the Border Police had direct competences in combating THB

Starting 1 August 2007 a Help-line toll free number is operational 24 hours a day.

The stages of the trafficking process (recruitment, transportation, sale, confinement and exploitation, re-sale, escape, repatriation) were widely publicized for preventing sexual exploitation of women. In the forced labour prevention, useful information on the employment in the United Kingdom and in the Czech Republic was made public.

In respect to activities in the field of fighting trafficking in persons the trend showed a tendency of reduction of trafficking cases. This is remarkable as Europol have recently said the aggregate number of cases did not decrease last year.

Data show a number of 780 victims in 2009, to be compared with 2551 in 2005, 2285 in 2006, 1780 in 2007 and 1240 in 2008.

The gender distribution is 54 % women, up by 5 % compared to year 2008.

The decrease was noted in minors' trafficking as well but the ratio in the total population has increased from 15 % in 2008 to 29% in 2009.

The main trafficking sub-type was the sexual exploitation of women, in 41% of the total of cases, while the forced labour accounted for 40% of cases. The begging sub-type has increased by 7% in 2009, compared to 2008, to 14% (109 victims) of the whole number of victims.

The main destination countries in 2009 were Spain, Italy, the Czech Republic, Greece. Of all identified victims in 2009, 18.5 % have been trafficked inside our country.

We mention the joint investigation teams as a successful international cooperation instrument of the both EU and non-EU states on the trafficking routes.

In the area of Victim Protection, Assistance and Social Reintegration, the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) and "National standards for victim protection and specialized assistance services" were developed.

NMR aims to adopt a unitary and coordinated response of all anti-trafficking institutions and organizations; represents a set of norms carried out by state institutions and various non-government organizations, designed to protect the fundamental rights of the victims of trafficking and to serve the purpose of their needs for protection and assistance.

The national legislation provides the methods to protect the victims, including through medical, juridical assistance, and scholarships. Unfortunately, there are only 34 shelters which offer assistance to the victims, with a capacity of 200 places.

A Programme on Coordinating of the victims-witnesses in the trial has been initiated by national authorities, in cooperation with the US Embassy in Bucharest. The objectives are: maintaining permanent contact with the NMR registered victims, informing victims on their rights and services offered, preparing the victim for the trial.

As a result the number of victims attending trials has increased and the cases of abandon of the social reinsertion programmes have diminished.

Romania's level of involvement in the international cooperation had been intensified through cooperation within EUROPOL, INTERPOL, SECI Centre, the only international law enforcement organization which brings together police and customs representatives. Romania appointed a national focal point to cooperate within SECI.

The SECI Centre engaged a lot of its resources in establishing in the year 2000 a specialized Task Force on human trafficking. In December 2009, in Bucharest was signed the Southeast European Law Enforcement Center (SELEC) Convention, leading to the transformation of SECI Center into SELEC, once the document is ratified by the member countries. This change is meant to further develop the SECI initiative, creating new capacities to fight organized crime.

In the bilateral area: the offices for the internal affairs attachés in the Romanian Embassies were set up.

There is ongoing cooperation with the origin states of the victims, exchanging good practises in this field. Constant cooperation is done with UNODC, OSCE, IOM, BSEC (Black Sea Economic Cooperation).

Cooperation relations with countries of destination, such as Netherlands, United Kingdom, the Czech Republic, Spain and Italy, as well transit and origin countries in S-E Europe have been strengthened.

The National Agency against Trafficking in Persons and the General Inspectorate of the Romanian Police were part in the Project for a Transnational Referral Mechanism of Persons Trafficked in S-E Europe, developed by the International Centre of Migration Policies Development (ICMPD). A manual was published.

ICMPD continued with a second project on Developing a Transnational Referral Mechanism of Persons Trafficked between the origin and destination countries (MTR-UE), financed by the European Commission.

Romanian authorities are working on setting up of a unified international data collecting mechanism on preventing and fighting trafficking, organise an exchange of good practices, develop prevention campaigns with international impact, raising awareness at international level on new forms of trafficking.

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Activities of the Romanian Parliament's Group on Fighting the Trafficking in Persons

With a view to strengthening the country's results in the field, both at national, regional and EU level, members of the European Affairs Committee of the Romanian

Parliament, initiated the "Parliamentary Group on Fighting the Trafficking in Human Beings" having as main objective to work in partnership with governmental bodies and civil society organisations such as to form a regular debate forum and increase the capacity to solve the specific problems.

During the months March-April 2009 we have initiated and succeeded to establish the Romanian Parliament's Group on Fighting the Trafficking in Human Beings. To better include the EU initiatives into the "Group's" activity, as, obviously, the matter cannot be solved at national level alone, we placed it in the frame of the European Affairs Committee.

Later (in September last year), in regard of to the increased role of national parliaments, and considering requests from other MPs to take part to our activities we extended invitations to join the "Group" to Members of Parliament in other specialized committees. To start with, we have provided basic information to the new associate members.

The setting up of our "Group" was inspired by talks with Mr. Anthony STEEN, Chairman of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Trafficking of Women and Children in the UK Parliament, held on the occasion of the International Migration and Human Trafficking Conference, organized by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association United Kingdom Branch, in February last year.

In July 2009 we organised the Visit to Romania of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Trafficking of Women and Children Delegation, led by Mr. Anthony STEEN, with a diversified programme meant to cover as many aspects of a "country of origin and transit" as possible.

We have thoroughly looked into the organisation of the national system on fighting the trafficking in human beings, the legal framework and we set up a comprehensive list of institutions and contact persons.

We have reviewed the EU proposals on trafficking in human beings, without yet engaging a scrutiny procedure on specific proposals.

In October 2009, we have drafted the "Group's" Action Plan for 2009-2010.

In November 2009 we sent letters informing on the creation of the "Group" and proposing cooperation to relevant National Authorities, European Affairs Committees in all EU member states parliamentary chambers, International Organisations.

On our last year's autumn agenda there were as well a meeting Ms. Eva BIAUDET, OSCE Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (Bucharest, 23 September 2009) and the participation to the Conference "Towards EU Global Action against Trafficking in Human Beings" (Brussels, 19-20 October 2009).

We plan to organise a series of meetings with National public institutions, relevant NGO representatives, media, etc.

We keep in mind that an effective and realistic anti-trafficking strategy must be based on accurate and current information, using the internationally agreed definition of

trafficking, standardizing the collection of statistical information on trafficking and using a set of standardized quantitative and qualitative operational indicators.

We want to promote an improved understanding of persons trafficking, identify new trends/ emerging issues, to help achieving an improved identification of vulnerable groups.

Our debates should help finding answers to questions such as:

- Which are the main contributing factors (internal/external) to the recruiting process?
- Which are the recruitment contributing factors and who are the social actors in the recruiting process and what is their role (abusive/protective)?
- Which were the turning/triggering points that led to trafficking?

We want to help determine the impact of the social environment on possible victims and the role of families, peer groups, school, local community, state / local authorities, media, church, examine other topics as corporate social responsibility and role of the private sector, the responsibilities of internet service providers.

For these purposes we will request / supporting research studies, by national institutions.

Other issues of interest are: discussing National Action Plans, National policy documents, build sustainable public policies, make analysis of national legislation and case-law and monitor the relationship between the intention of anti-trafficking laws, policies and interventions, and their real impact (avoid transferring the problem from one place or group to another).

We plan to help identify financial resources for the development of a wider victim assistance network, including accommodation and counselling.

Last but not least, we will encourage the scrutiny of EU proposals on the matter, as Parliament's priority and means to disseminate information and promote EU debate in as many as possible sectors of our society. Romanian MEPs or EU officials may be invited.

Cooperation with the European Parliament and national parliaments of EU Member States is a priority. We commend the recent request by two MEPs to call the Council of Ministers and the European Commission to place anti-trafficking high on Europe's agenda. We also greet the European Parliament's Resolution on preventing trafficking in human beings. We share the EP vision when requesting the Council and the European Commission to agree to a holistic EU's approach centered on human rights, focused on external relations, return and reintegration policies, social affairs, social inclusion, migration and asylum, and having certain key elements³, and, on the other

³ a. the level of penalties and sanctions for those, legal persons included, who make a profit from trafficking in human beings should reflect the seriousness of the crime and have a dissuasive effect;
b. further action should focus on protecting the victim, taking the situation of minors into due consideration, by, inter alia, ensuring that assistance to victims is unconditional and that the consent of a victim to exploitation is always irrelevant;
c. in order to discourage demand, further action could also focus on users of the services of trafficked people [...]

hand, improve the coordination of information by asking Eurojust, Europol and Frontex, in consultation with the Fundamental Rights Agency, the Gender Institute and NGOs, to publish every year a joint report on trafficking in human beings, and by supporting the development of a common template for Member States and third countries for the collection of data relating to trafficking in human beings.

To this end we intend to set up communication channels and organise meetings with our counterparts in national parliaments of EU member states and other key partners as well as EU institutions.

We wish to contribute with our own input to National annual/biannual reports drafted by Governmental institutions and help, if needed, in drafting European Institutions' Reports.