

GLOBAL EYE ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING

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Trafficking of Men – A Trend Less Considered

To date, trafficking in men has been unconsidered in research despite noteworthy signals of severe exploitation.

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Trafficking in human beings is most commonly associated with trafficking of women for sexual exploitation or of children for sexual exploitation, forced labour or begging and delinquency. Far less common is a consideration of trafficking in males, particularly adult men. The prominent focus on the trafficking of women over men arguably has links to assumptions about gender and, in particular, a generalized notion of female vulnerability. That is, many female migrants are conceptualized as trafficked while male migrants are seen more commonly as irregular migrants. And yet there are significant signals in many countries and regions that male migrants are also severely exploited and violated in ways that constitute human trafficking.

While some attention has been paid to the matter, the issue of trafficking in men has been largely conspicuous in its absence from trafficking discussions. This trend is in need of remedy and, increasingly, it is acknowledged that "trafficking in persons" must be understood in its broadest sense and complexity so that the forces and factors that contribute to trafficking can be considered and redressed for all forms of exploitation and all profiles of victims, including that of males and females, adults and minors.

The following commentary provides a summary of key findings taken from the paper "Trafficking of men – a trend less considered"¹ to be published in 2008 as part of the IOM CTM Thematic Research Series². Taking as its sample primary data collected from 685 trafficked Belarusian and Ukrainian males assisted by IOM and its partners between 2004 and 2006 and analysed through IOM's Counter-trafficking Module Database (CTM)³, the paper considers male victims' pre-trafficking life (namely their personal, family and socio-economic background), their trafficking experiences (from recruitment, through transportation and during exploitation) and their post-trafficking experience and needs. In so doing, the paper examines not only what we know about these less-considered

profiles of trafficked persons but, equally, what can be done to meet their post-trafficking needs.

Key findings:

Research found that the majority of males assisted were adults, aged 18-44 years, and trafficked for forced labour in Russia⁴. A handful were trafficked for other purposes – begging, criminal activities, sexual exploitation, adoption. Many had

dependent children and a number cited the need to support children as a key factor in their decision to migrate. The recruitment process in a number of cases mimicked legal migration, thus assuaging concerns about trafficking and exploitation. Although agreements with recruiters and agencies varied significantly, many men trafficked from both Belarus and Ukraine made what they thought were legally binding agreements with reliable companies, employment agencies and recruiters. In many cases, contracts were signed prior to departure or immediately upon arrival.

(Continued on p.2)



One story:

In 2005 and 2006, 33 Ukrainian males were trafficked to Russia as illegal fishermen and exploited on two ships in the Russian Sea for a period of six to ten months. They were forced to work long hours every day even when ill, and were allowed no more than three hours of sleep a night. Rooms on the ship were filled with water to knee level, food was poor and insufficient, they lacked fresh drinking water, and access to the toilet was limited. Complaints were met with abuse and few men received any payment. They were freed only when the Russian border guard service detained the ship.

EDITORIAL

Trafficking of Men – A Trend Less Considered

(Cont. from p.1)

Dear Reader,

Through the *Global Eye on Human Trafficking* we wish to exchange views and information on the human trafficking phenomenon between practitioners and others from different parts of the world. The inspiration for this quarterly newsletter comes from the IOM Mission in Pretoria which has been publishing a widely appreciated *Eye on Human Trafficking* newsletter for Southern Africa since 2004. With the *Global Eye*, we will ensure a global focus with balanced geographical coverage. We also hope to be able to publish in additional languages in the future.

We welcome comments from readers as well as contributions of articles to our next edition. These can be sent to globaleye@iom.int. Equally, we would be happy to make mention of new publications and upcoming events that you may wish to signal to a wide audience.

We wish to thank all contributors to this first edition and express our hope that you, the reader, will find the articles informative.

Richard Danziger
Head of Counter-Trafficking
IOM Geneva

Both Ukrainian and Belarusian men face exploitative, often traumatic working and living conditions, which, in many circumstances, compromised their physical and mental well-being. Men worked six to seven days each week, regardless of destination country or form of work, and work days were commonly 12 hours or more. Most men reported severely substandard living conditions while trafficked – living in unheated rooms, cramped together with others in unhygienic situations and being provided with limited and poor quality food. A combination of abuse (or threats of abuse), non-payment of salary, debts and restricted freedom of movement served to keep many men in their trafficking situations.

Most men exited their trafficking situation on their own (77.6% Belarusian men; 46.9% Ukrainian men) and often only when they realized that they would not be paid for their work. However, the ability to exit trafficking differed substantially, with some men physically prevented from leaving, confined, under constant guard and exposed to violence or threats of violence.

The noteworthy number of men exposed to trafficking necessitates assistance tailored to their specific needs and interests. Tailoring of services is required to the specific profile of male victim, not least according to their trafficking experience, whether they are a minor or adult and the family and social conditions to which they will return. Data from Belarussian and Ukrainian men indicates that primary needs range from the basic (i.e. accommodation, medical care, legal assistance, security) to more long term and complex support (i.e. psychological assistance, education and training, sustainable economic opportunities, reintegration support). Currently, such assistance has not always been available and accessible to men.

Further, there are a great number of factors which can influence a trafficked male's perception of his situation and the likelihood of seeking help. Even where different forms of assistance were available, men were not always inclined to seek it out or accept it⁵. In some cases, men may not have seen themselves either as trafficked or exploited. Exploitation is a normative

aspect of migrant labour and migrant workers may see their trafficking as ill fortune rather than a violation of their human rights. Others may feel that their own participation in the recruitment process disqualifies them as trafficked victims. In still other instances, trafficked persons may feel their situation is a better alternative to going home without earnings. As well, where exploitation is temporary, migrants may focus on the gains to be earned and not on their exploitation or marginalization.

Even when men did recognize their experience as one of exploitation, the terminology of "trafficking victim" was usually rejected. Being labelled a "victim" may have an impact on how men see themselves, as the term stands in contrast to social norms of men as caretakers of their families. As such, it is not only about what services and interventions are developed but also how these interventions are framed and offered to the target group. This also makes clear the need to better understand and appreciate the gender dimensions of trafficking, both to assess trafficking vulnerabilities and to provide appropriate interventions and assistance.

Recommendations on how to better address the issue of trafficking in men:

- Consider the gender dimensions of trafficking, which may push men (and women) to migrate and place them at risk of trafficking.
- Design anti-trafficking interventions through a gendered lens, both in terms of trafficking vulnerability and post-trafficking protection and assistance needs.
- Conduct victim-centred research and evaluations on the subject of trafficking in men and boys.
- Donors and anti-trafficking organizations should provide funding for all profiles of victims, including trafficked men and boys, to attend to the needs of this profile of victim.
- Consider other aspects of identity which impact risk and intervention needs, including age, education or class, and a diversity of experiences as well as socio-cultural environments which place persons at risk of trafficking.

1 Authored by Rebecca Surtees, pending publication.

2 Drawing upon non-personal data held within the Counter-trafficking Module Database (CTM), the CTM Thematic Research Series will specifically address contemporary issues in the area of human trafficking. The reports will be published in 2008 and will be available via www.iom.int. The series is funded by the US Department of State, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons in Washington, DC as a component of its support for the International Organization for Migration's CTM database.

3 The CTM database constitutes the only global database on human trafficking containing primary data about trafficked persons. It must be noted that the CTM database contains only identified and assisted cases, with an unknown number of victims unidentified and unassisted. It, therefore, does not represent the full scope of trafficking in a country. In spite of these issues, CTM is a rich source of information on human trafficking and presents some of the first primary data on male trafficking.

4 Other destinations included SEE, the EU, the US, Turkey, Central Asia, North Asia and the Middle East.

5 In Belarus, referrals to IOM for assistance were mainly from law enforcement; whereas in the Ukraine, trafficked men often sought out NGOs upon return or were referred by law enforcement.

THE HUMAN TRAFFICKING SITUATION IN THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA Ms.V. Velkoska, Project Coordinator, *All For Fair Trials*¹

The past two years have seen a sharp decrease in the number of new human trafficking related cases which are processed in front of the Basic Courts of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia². If this situation is taken as an indicator of the trend in this phenomenon, it would look as though the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is successfully coping with its human trafficking problem, reducing it to the minimum level. Although numerous initiatives and activities have indeed been undertaken by different key actors, it seems that the reduction in cases is more likely to have resulted from the change in operations of perpetrators of these crimes, as well as from the new approaches adopted by law enforcement authorities to keep pace with new trends. This is also combined with changes in the region, in terms of visa regimes and employment opportunities, the security situation, presence of the international community, and many other country specifics such as economic standards.

Furthermore, the once-typical method of committing this crime (characteristic for night bars in western parts of the country, especially during the post-conflict period) has now been replaced by a new and less transparent method which includes the use of beauty shops, massages, escort agencies, etc³. Cases most recently registered by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Skopje show that the profile of the trafficked person is changing in terms of origin (nationality), age, gender and type of exploitation.

While 1999-2001 saw trafficked persons who were mainly Eastern European women, aged 18-24 and trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation, today, the handful of registered cases include a new variety of profiles. These include Chinese men trafficked for labour exploitation, children for organized delinquent activities and begging, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia girls trafficked for sexual exploitation, etc.

Furthermore, in 2006, the media reported cases of Albanian brides who were ordered for single men living in the rural areas of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia⁴. These types of cases require greater attention as do those dealing with illicit transplant of human body parts and begging (although indicators for existence of these forms of trafficking in persons have gained public attention in the last several years).

Challenges that the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is facing in enhancing the system of protection to trafficked persons in court proceedings

Noting that trafficked persons in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, due to the lack of existing state compensation funds, can be compensated only from the property of the perpetrators, there is a clear and present need for frequent enforcement of the

provisions of the Criminal Code on confiscation of property/proceeds, as well as of provisions of the Law on Court Execution⁵ in cases when the compensation claim is granted. Unfortunately, these provisions are often lengthy and complicated. With the 2006 Criminal Code amendments, it became obligatory to make a decision on



Graphic courtesy of Mine Action Information Center

compensation claims within the criminal procedure. In particular, the court is now required to make decisions on compensation either immediately after reaching a verdict or by passing an additional decision. While this does allow for prompt victim compensation, there have been only three instances in which compensation of non-pecuniary damage has been granted to trafficked person in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. In a few other cases, additional verdicts are still pending; however, a lengthy period of time has passed since the end of these trials.

Expert advice, the most important tool for determining the level of the suffered physical and mental harm, is not properly nor timely exercised, and in most cases, applied much after a court process' end, therefore neglecting to reflect the initial psychological state of the trafficked person. Submission at the earliest stages (i.e. in the investigation) of a claim, coupled with a timely expert evaluation of the psychophysical state of the trafficked person, can be of vital importance in ensuring adequate compensation of the trafficked person.

Skopje, October 2007

The **All for Fair Trials** Coalition, an umbrella organization of 17 domestic NGO's, was established on 12 May 2003. In order to support the implementation of the National Program of the Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on Fighting Trafficking in human beings and Illegal Migration, the Coalition implemented of a number of trafficking related projects and published numerous reports on the issue.

Since then, the Coalition has continued to monitor cases related to human trafficking. In addition, to assist in the identification of the emerging forms of organized crime in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and in the collection of data about the existing mechanisms established by different competent authorities and their appropriateness in the fight against this phenomenon, the Coalition extended the scope of its interest to other organized crimes as well.

¹ This interview was conducted by IOM Skopje (Oct. 2007) for the first edition of the *Global Eye on Human Trafficking*.

² According to the data provided from the Coalition *All for Fair Trials* only two cases, related to human trafficking and mediation in prostitution, have been observed in 2007 in comparison to ten cases in 2006 and 27 cases in 2005.

³ Although Paragraph (6) of article 418 A of the Criminal Code stipulates, "If the act referred to in paragraph 1 is committed by a legal entity, they shall be subject to a monetary fine there is no single case in which a legal entity was accused."

⁴ *Dnevnik Daily*, #2896, 18 March 2006; *Vest Daily* # 1894, 14 Oct. 2006

⁵ The Law on Court Execution has been adopted in 2005 and applied as of May 2006.

The anti-trafficking provisions of South Africa's new Children's Act will soon come into force. Nde Ndifonka (IOM Pretoria) takes a look at what these provisions are, and what deserves the attention of anti-trafficking stakeholders.

In 1997, the South African Law Reform Commission (SALRC) was asked to investigate and review the Child Care Act of 1983 and to make recommendations to the Minister for Social Development for its reform. The review process has resulted in the new Children's Act, which is gradually coming into force as the implementing regulations for its various sections are finalized by Parliament. While Chapter 18 of the Act, which criminalizes child trafficking, is not yet in force, it is important for anti-trafficking stakeholders to understand its essential components in order to prepare to continue their work in a changed legal landscape.

Chapter 18 gives effect to the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children by defining a child as anyone under the age of 18 years and, in section 284, expressly prohibiting trafficking in children. According to the Act, a person is guilty of trafficking in children even if the child consented to the intended exploitation, or even if the intended exploitation did not, in fact, occur. A notable feature of the Chapter is that it extends the definition of the Protocol by including, as means of exploitation, the adoption of a child facilitated or secured through illegal means, and the removal of his

or her body parts, rather than simply "the removal of organs".

The Act offers several new protections to irregular or undocumented migrant children that were not available under the Child Care Act of 1983. As in the case of South African children trafficked abroad, the Act provides that foreign illegal children who have been trafficked may not be returned by the state unless the state has ascertained that the best interest of the child is being pursued without prejudice. This includes ensuring that there are sufficient care arrangements in the country of return, ensuring the child will be safe and free from the risk of being re-trafficked, harmed or killed, and providing an escort if necessary.

Section 289 also allows for the Children's Court, when considering the best interest of an illegal foreign child, to order the child to stay in the Republic for any given duration if it finds that the child is in need of care and protection. In addition, it allows for a foreign child illegally in South Africa to apply for asylum in terms of the Refugees Act of 1998, if so ordered by the Children's Court.

Section 285(1)(b) is one potentially contentious provision of the Act as it prohibits the

advertisement, publication, printing, broadcast or distribution of information, or the causal of any of the above "that suggests or alludes to trafficking by any means". While this provision is useful in controlling publication of pornographic material for which trafficked children are used, the wording appears to prohibit unwittingly even the publication of mere reports that may seek to expose child trafficking processes, or prevention campaigns designed to raise public awareness of the problem.

Child trafficking attracts the most severe penalty of any offence identified in the Act. While the maximum sentence for any first-time offence is a fine and prison sentence not exceeding ten years, a conviction for child trafficking is punishable with a fine or imprisonment for a maximum period of 20 years, or both. The Act also enables the South African government to prosecute South African citizens and those permanently residing in South Africa who commit an act of trafficking in children in a country where it is not a crime, if such an act would have constituted an offence if committed in South Africa.



Greek Supreme Court Ruling Sends a Strong Message to Unscrupulous Employers

Kathy Tzilivakis

Employers in Greece should think twice about exploiting migrant workers after a landmark Supreme Court ruling extended workers' rights to the undocumented.

Siding with two Albanian farm workers who claimed they had been paid much less than the minimum wage and systematically denied overtime pay before and after they secured legal residence status, Greece's highest court ruled that illegal migrants can also collect unpaid wages, plus a penalty, from their unscrupulous employers.

The facts of the case reviewed by the Supreme Court, as explained to the Athens News by Stavroula Daniil-Karpathaki, the Albanian workers' attorney, are: In 1998, the Albanian migrants came to Greece and, despite their illegal residence status, were hired to work on a farm. The Albanian migrants managed to legalise their residence status in September 2001 and continued to be employed at the farm until May 2003. They claimed they were not paid legal wages

and overtime for the entire duration of their employment on the farm and that this is the reason they quit in 2003.

"The Supreme Court's decision is very important because it recognises their [the workers] rights since 1998 [despite their illegal residence status] because they were with the same employer," said Daniil-Karpathaki, adding that the ruling will have broad implications for all immigrant workers' labour rights.

Had the court ruled otherwise, it would have reduced unscrupulous employers' potential liability and made it more financially attractive to hire undocumented workers.

Chances of undocumented migrants taking their employer to court over lost wages, however, are slim to none because they would risk arrest and deportation for violating immigration law. Those who have legalised their status in Greece are fully protected under the law, even if they worked illegally in the past.

Based on the court's ruling, all workers in agriculture, fishing and livestock farming – including immigrants who have not entered into a written work contract because of their unauthorised residence status – should be protected by the country's General Collective Bargaining Agreement under which they are entitled to the monthly minimum salary of 657 euros and the right to overtime pay – "time and a half" – for each hour beyond the 40 worked in a week. These three sectors (agriculture, fishing and livestock farming) have no collective bargaining agreement of their own.

Agriculture is most heavily reliant on immigrant labour. Immigrants account for 90 percent of all hired hands on Greek farms, according to research conducted by Haralambos Kasimis, professor of rural sociology at the Agricultural University of Athens. It is farming and other undesirable 3D sectors – the dirty, dangerous and difficult jobs shunned

(Cont. on p.7)

Recommendations on Trafficking for Labour Exploitation

EU Presidency Meeting – Porto, Portugal, 8-9 October

Portugal has held the revolving six-month Presidency of the European Union since 1st July 2007. The fight against human trafficking was one of its stated priorities, and in October the Portuguese government hosted a conference on "Trafficking in Human Beings and Gender" in the city of Porto. This was widely attended by government, IO and NGO representatives.

Below we publish the recommendations from the conference Working Group on Trafficking for Labour Exploitation which are specific to trafficking in persons for labour exploitation. Existing provisions, guidelines and good practices addressing trafficking in persons for sexual exploitation are considered equally relevant to trafficking in persons for labour exploitation.

The focus is, and must be, on the issue of exploitation and not on that of irregular migration. All actions below should be subject to a gender analysis where appropriate.

Recommendations:

- An informal working group should be established to develop indicators on exploitation to assist in better identification of trafficking in persons for labour exploitation.
- Informal and unregulated sectors, such as domestic work, should be brought within the protection of labour laws to ensure that all workers enjoy the same labour rights, and such laws should be systematically enforced.
- Training in victim identification should be extended to those likely to come into contact with victims of labour exploitation such as labour inspectors, trade union representatives, health professionals as well as law enforcement officials, border agencies etc.
- National referral systems should include labour inspectors, trade unions, employer associations etc.
- Businesses should be held legally responsible for trafficking in persons occurring down the supply chain among sub-contractors.
- Law enforcement and tax / revenue agencies should be engaged in actively investigating alleged trafficking crimes.
- Undocumented workers should have access to the relevant courts to claim compensation for damages.
- Support systems should include assistance that cater to the specific needs of victims of labour exploitation, women, men and children with a view to social inclusion in either country of origin or destination.
- Specific provisions to protect child victims of trafficking in persons for labour exploitation, including begging and petty crime, should be developed and implemented in accordance with existing child rights standards.
- National anti-trafficking in persons institutions should address all forms of exploitation, or ensure close coordination between separate offices where these exist.

- Recruitment agencies should be regulated in both source and destination countries. Monitoring and enforcement mechanisms should be established.
- Establishment of ethical employer associations and standards of conduct protecting their workers' rights should be encouraged.
- The private sector should be engaged in policy dialogue against trafficking in persons through existing social dialogue mechanisms and national committees against trafficking in persons.
- Public awareness campaigns should be developed to address discrimination and xenophobia and to foster acceptance of migrant workers.
- Awareness raising initiatives of consumers on the issue of trafficking in persons for labour exploitation should be promoted.
- Existing fair trade initiatives should be extended to cover products and services that have been produced with forced labour.
- More legal channels for migration should be created including, for example, circular migration programmes and other programmes currently under consideration and/or being supported by the EC.
- Bilateral labour migration programmes should have equal focus on women and men.
- The EU should actively engage third countries on human trafficking as part of broader migration issues within existing international migration and development fora.
- The establishment of more migration information centres (MIC) should be supported in source countries to assist potential migrants in finding safe migration opportunities.
- Protection of the rights of all migrants should be strengthened to ensure that those individuals who are trafficked, but not identified, have better access to protection.
- Research on the issue of trafficking in persons for labour exploitation – including the link to migration and development policies – should be continuous and strengthened, and should feed policy development.

The Porto Declaration can be found at www.cig.gov.pt.

The UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Protocol) states:

Trafficking in persons shall mean 'the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control of another person, for the purpose of exploitation.'

The Palermo Protocol was adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by General Assembly resolution 55/25 of 15 November 2000.



Photo by: Mila Karalova

When her native village was flooded by the sea two years ago, Sofiya, an 80-year old pensioner from a village near Odessa, lost her house and had no place to live. Her husband and son had died years ago and her daughter, after moving to the United States, no longer took care of her.

Sofiya addressed local authorities for help, but the only solution offered was for her to live with her neighbors. For her, "it was humiliating to live at somebody else's house".

One day, she met a woman in the street who offered her a good job in Odessa which would promise her enough pay to buy an apartment in less than one year. Sofiya eagerly agreed and they traveled to Odessa together. In Odessa she was taken to a small apartment where she had to knit clothes which would be sold by a family at the local market. For several months, Sofiya received around

5,000 Rubles (USD 200), a relatively good amount of money when compared to the standards in that region and to her low pension. But with time, she started to lose eyesight and became unable to knit any longer.

In November 2006 her employer offered her the chance to travel to Moscow to work as a baby-sitter for a family. Since Sofiya thought this could be her last chance to earn money and to buy a house in her native village, she accepted the offer and moved to Moscow.

Upon her arrival to the Russian capital, a man met her, took all of her personal documents and explained that she would have to beg for money in the city metro stations. When Sofiya refused, she was violently beaten. According to her testimony, the family had more than 20 individuals under its control who were forced to beg for money in different districts of Moscow. Desperate to get out of her unfavourable situation, Sofiya made a few attempts to escape, but every time she tried, her traffickers would find her and threaten to amputate her legs if she attempted escape again. Sofiya soon surrendered to the fact that she could not escape and was forced to continue working for ten hours a day.

One evening, in the beginning of March 2007, she lost consciousness and fell to the floor of a metro station where she was begging. By chance, a journalist of the local newspaper

was passing by and saw her. Although Sofiya was being guarded by a young girl, the journalist managed to get her to the hospital by ambulance where, after many hours, she was finally able to gain consciousness. After hearing about Sofiya's full struggle, the journalist published her story in the newspaper

The International Organization for Migration's (IOM) Counter-Trafficking team read the news article and got in touch with the journalist about IOM programmes and assistance which could be offered, including arrangement of Sofiya's repatriation to Ukraine.

An assistance at the IOM Rehabilitation Center was soon organized; The Center, located on hospital grounds, provided Sofiya with all necessary check-ups and treatments, including specific geriatric care and pre-travel checks. Sofiya recovered quickly and expressed her wish to return to her native village as soon as possible. Staying in Moscow had become unbearable for her.

Her repatriation, which included a medical care escort for her long trip, was soon arranged. IOM Moscow provided all necessary grants, covered the costs of repatriation and, in cooperation with IOM Kiev, was able to identify an appropriate NGO in Odessa which could work to provide effective long-term assistance to Sofiya upon her return. Today Sofiya smiles; a twist of fate saved her life.

CHILDREN FOR SALE ONLINE

Katherine Chon Executive Director & Co-Founder, Polaris Project

I'm sure most of us are familiar with Craigslist, an online Web community where people post job opportunities, items for sale, and find activity partners. Over the past years, Craigslist has grown by leaps and bounds and now has Web sites representing over 300 US cities. Many of us have used Craigslist to find a garage sale or buy a used couch. However, despite its millions of users and various social benefits, there's a dark side of Craigslist that most users don't see. In the "Erotic" section, human traffickers have found Craigslist to be one of the most efficient, effective (and free) ways to post children and women for sale. With a bit of research, one can realize just how much of a problem this has become.

In one recent case, two Chicago women were charged for selling girls as young as 14 years old on Craigslist. The girls were forced to have sex with 10-12 men per day, and the traffickers made tens of thousands of dollars.

A Boston man and his niece were charged with plotting a child trafficking operation with teenagers as young as 13 by selling them on Craigslist to predators from Massachusetts to New York. These cases are just the tip of the iceberg. In fact, law enforcement efforts to fight trafficking nationwide are consistently reporting a spike in online Craigslist ads, and how sex trafficking has "moved online" lately.

In Washington, DC, we see an average of 500 of these such Craigslist ads each new day. Yet, it is important to realize that a significant percentage of these ads on Craigslist do not advertise solely "legal escort services" as Craigslist may like to believe. Instead, a considerable percentage of the ads are a thinly veiled guise for one of the many faces of human trafficking that exists here in the United States. Although Craigslist may convince itself that it has created a beneficial online venue for advertising legal escorts, in effect, what it has done is create a fertile

ground for traffickers to further their trade in human misery.

Many of the victims of human trafficking that Polaris Project has served have had their pictures posted on Craigslist. Through serving them, we've learned how the pictures on Craigslist hide the pain behind the smile. Maybe Craigslist should ask itself if the marginal benefits of this form of free advertising for the sex trade are worth the far larger human costs.

Polaris Project has been providing a comprehensive and community-based approach to combating human trafficking and modern-day slavery since 2002. The organization has been working to serve both US citizen and foreign national victims of human trafficking, operating at international, national and local levels through its offices in the US and Japan.

by middle-class Greeks - like construction and domestic work that absorb large numbers of migrant workers.



According to Alexis Mitropoulos, one of Greece's leading labour law experts, the Supreme Court ruling is "very important".

"It recognises that all workers in our country, immigrants employed in agriculture in this case, should be remunerated like Greeks employed in the same sector without any discrimination," he told the Athens News.

Mitropoulos also said immigrant workers in Greece can refer to this decision and demand legal wages based on the country's general collective bargaining agreement. "This ruling obliges employers in our country to completely adhere [to rules regulating legal wages], which means that those who do not pay economic migrants the national minimum legal wage will be breaking the law," he said.

Unionists hail ruling "We applaud the Supreme Court ruling," George Alevizakis, secretary for immigration issues at the Confederation of Workers in Greece (GSEE), told the Athens News. "It is a very positive outcome and sends a strong message that we hope will encourage all migrant workers to seek redress from employers." Daniil-Karpathaki agrees. "Immigrants must be informed of the ruling," she said.

According to Alevizakis, many employers knowingly hire illegal migrants so as to avoid paying minimum wages and social insurance, even though Greek legislation [law 3886/2005] explicitly states that it is illegal to employ an immigrant who does not hold a residence permit. The law also says employers are subject to a fine between 3,000 and 15,000 euros for each illegally employed immigrant and a prison sentence of at least three months. But checks are rare, allowing employers to openly flaunt the law by hiring illegal immigrants with impunity.

The plight of illegal migrant workers in low-paying jobs is a common one, said Alevizakis. Immigrants make up roughly 10 percent of Greece's 10.9 million population. According to the GSEE, the country's biggest trade union, the country is home to as many as 300,000 migrant workers who do not hold a valid residence permit.

Maid in Greece While local immigrant and human rights groups are celebrating the landmark Supreme Court ruling upholding the labour rights of every worker in the country, some still feel unprotected. They are the live-in domestic workers, who are virtually unheard and unseen as they toil in Greek homes as nannies and housekeepers. They have no collective bargaining agreement of their own. The vast majority of domestic workers in Greece are Filipino women. According to Joe Valencia, president of KASAPI-Hellas (Unity of Filipino Migrant Workers in Greece), many

suffer from exploitive low wages and are threatened with deportation if they complain of overwork. Worse still is that they are not covered by any bargaining agreement.

"Live-in domestic work is not acknowledged [in any collective bargaining agreement]," said Valencia. "There is a union for cleaners and domestic helpers, but this does not really reflect what domestic workers are doing. Cleaners work for a specified number of hours, whereas the work never stops for domestic workers who live in [their employer's home]... There is [also] no minimum wage. It all depends on the employer. Some receive as little as 400 euros [a month]."

Not only are many live-in immigrant domestic workers (both legal and illegal) not paid overtime, they are almost always underpaid for the long hours they are required to work. Few enjoy employment benefits such as paid maternity leave. They also rarely enjoy a high level of job security and may be dismissed at a moment's notice.

The GSEE is currently hammering out a proposal aimed at securing the labour rights of domestic workers, according to Alevizakis. In turn, Daniil-Karpathaki said she has decided to mobilise labour law experts to find out how to establish special collective bargaining agreements to cover the agriculture, livestock farming, fishing and domestic work sectors.

ATHENS NEWS, 16/11/2007, page: A15

UN GLOBAL INITIATIVE TO FIGHT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

INITIATIVES

Launched in March 2007, the Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT) aims to mobilize state and non-state actors to eradicate human trafficking by (i) Reducing both the vulnerability of potential victims and demand for exploitation in all forms; (ii) Ensuring adequate protection and support to those who do fall victim, and (iii) Supporting the efficient prosecution of the criminals involved, while respecting the fundamental human rights of all persons.

Why UN.GIFT?

UN.GIFT provides a unique opportunity to increase the impact of anti-trafficking responses through cooperation and coordination among stakeholders and the creation of synergies among endeavours led by UN agencies, international organizations and other stakeholders, taking into account their respective areas of expertise, accumulated knowledge and experience, as well as existing networks.

The main challenges to achieving the objectives of the Protocol are (1) Prevention and awareness raising; (2) Data on human trafficking activities; (3) Policy development; (4) Criminal justice system responses; (5) Victim identification, protection and assistance; (6) International cooperation.

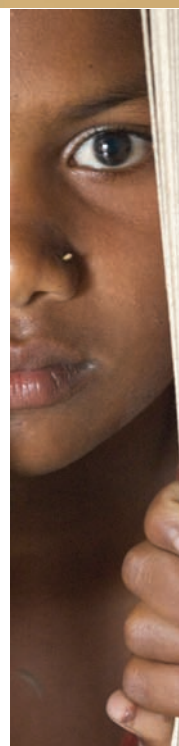
The philosophy of UN.GIFT is premised upon the understanding that human trafficking cannot be dealt with by governments, businesses or civil society alone. Cooperation among all stakeholders is the key to an effective response to this transnational crime.

In order to ensure United Nations' system-wide coherence, UN.GIFT's work is coordinated through a Steering Committee composed by UNODC, UNICEF, ILO, OHCHR, IOM, OSCE and the representative of the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi - the donor to the UN.GIFT project.

Among the expected results of UN.GIFT are partnerships built and the increased role of civil society organizations and the private sector in combating human trafficking, through public-private partnerships, and regional, local and thematic networks.

The Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking, a global forum under the framework of UN.GIFT, will take place on 13-15 February 2008 to raise awareness, facilitate cooperation and partnerships among the various stakeholders.

For more information, please visit www.ungift.org



MTV Networks in Asia & Pacific and MTV Europe Foundation Launch Youth-Focused Anti-Human Trafficking Campaign

MTV Networks and the MTV Europe Foundation Expand Youth-Focused Anti-Human Trafficking Campaign across Asia and the Pacific

MTV Networks and the MTV Europe Foundation, a registered UK charity, launched MTV EXIT (End Exploitation and Trafficking) across Asia and the Pacific, in partnership with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The Campaign is the first youth-focused pan-Asian initiative created to raise awareness and increase prevention of human trafficking and is an expansion of the successful MTV EXIT European campaign, which has been running since 2004. Many influential artists have supported MTV EXIT's special programming and events in Europe, including Angelina Jolie, Helena Christensen, and R.E.M.

MTV recognizes that trafficked persons often tend to be young men and women – the MTV demographic – who are guilty only of wanting a better life for themselves and their families. Fighting trafficking through awareness and prevention, MTV Networks in Asia and the Pacific and the MTV Europe Foundation are collaborating on a multimedia campaign funded by USAID to inform youth across the region about trafficking. In recognition of the diverse nature of the MTV audience in Asia and the Pacific, MTV EXIT features multiple general and targeted messages, including safe migration advice and guidance to young people who might be at risk of trafficking, and messages to educate all young

people that, as consumers, they may play a part in the demand underlying trafficking and exploitation.

MTV EXIT highlights and addresses three major forms of trafficking in Asia and the Pacific: sex trafficking and forced prostitution, labour trafficking, and forced domestic servitude. Due to the complexities of trafficking and the differences found geographically, the campaign is split into two regions: Asia-Pacific and South Asia. MTV EXIT is producing dedicated campaign television programming for each region. From September 2007, the campaign launched across all of MTV's channels in Asia and the Pacific with celebrity hosted documentaries:

Traffic: An MTV EXIT Special was produced for channels in the Asia-Pacific region and has already ten versions presented by multiple celebrities in different languages including Hollywood star, Lucy Liu, in English, Rain of Korea and Tata Young of Thailand in Korean and Thai respectively.

Sold: An MTV EXIT Special was produced in India for the South Asian market and is presented by Bollywood actress and UNFPA Ambassador, Lara Dutta, in both English and Hindi.



The campaign will continue through 2008 with fictional short films, a series of public service announcements, on the ground events and a multi-language website, www.mtvexit.org

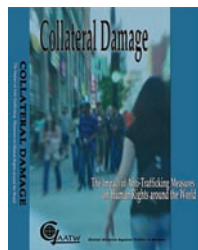
All MTV EXIT programming is produced rights-free and distributed free of charge to ensure that as many people as possible see these messages. In this respect, the MTV Europe Foundation is working closely with local terrestrial broadcasters to encourage airing of the programming and is also developing relationships with anti-trafficking organizations to arrange the use of the programming in outreach work with at risk communities.

For more information, please contact: Simon Goff, MTV Europe Foundation, +66 2 259 6933, goff.simon@mtvne.com

NEW RELEASES AND DATES TO NOTE

Collateral Damage: The Impact of Anti-Trafficking Measures on Human Rights Around the World

This report reviews the impact of anti-trafficking measures on human rights in eight countries: Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, India, Nigeria, Thailand, the UK and the US.



Each country chapter provides an overview of human trafficking, the current legal framework concerning all aspects of anti-trafficking efforts, specific laws and policies and their implications on key groups of people, and a critical analysis of the human rights impact of these measures specifically on women. This anthology emphasizes the critical need for a re-assessment of anti-trafficking initiatives around the globe in order that human rights do not get written off as "collateral damage" in combating human trafficking.

The IOM Handbook on Direct Assistance for Victims of Trafficking

IOM recognizes that each victim is unique and requires and desires different assistance. As well, the nature of trafficking is different around the world and is ever evolving, requiring changing responses. Therefore this Handbook is not meant to provide a single methodology for the provision of assistance to victims of trafficking, but to offer suggestions and guidance, based on IOM's many years of experience. It provides guidance and advice necessary to effectively deliver a full range of assistance to victims of trafficking from the point of initial contact and screening until the effective social reintegration of the individuals concerned.



Dates to Note

1 February 2008

The Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (CETS n° 197) will enter into force on 1 February 2008, following the ratification by Cyprus. Further ratifications are expected in the forthcoming months.

13-15 February 2008

UN.GIFT, The Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking (more information on p.7)

The *Global Eye on Human Trafficking* is a quarterly bulletin published by the International Organization for Migration



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