



Bundesweiter Koordinierungskreis
gegen Frauenhandel und Gewalt
an Frauen im Migrationsprozess e.V.

Review of the World Cup-Campaigns

On behalf of the Football (Soccer-) World Championships held recently in Germany, various national and regional campaigns were started to call attention to trafficking in women, which is a blatant human rights violation.

The approaches of the simultaneous campaigns were:

- sensitizing the general public to the subject of trafficking in women
- information and sensitization of men and/or potential suitors about trafficking in women and any signs of forced prostitution
- explanation of fair treatment by potential customers of prostitutes and prevention of sexually-transmitted diseases
- setting up of Hotlines for affected women, for the interested public as well as for customers of prostitutes
- enforcement of political demands, which better the situation of women affected by human trafficking.

Almost all member organizations of the KOK e.V., in particular the specialized counseling centres and prostitute advisory boards were all active in their respective campaigns, with Internet Websites, materials, Give-Away programmes, meetings and actions.

The KOK e.V. was an active member in the “*Abpfiff*” (*Final Whistle*) network from the German Womens’ Advisory Board and together published an information brochure.

Most of the member organizations belonging to KOK e.V. worked on the various campaigns as well as within the network in their own cities.

The KOK e.V. was also a cooperative partner on the campaign ‘*Stop Forced Prostitution*’, initiated by the FIM – Frauenrecht ist Menschenrecht e.V. (*Woman’s Rights are Human Rights*) and carried out a large nation-wide network for this campaign.

ESTIMATE:

The campaigns reached national and international recognition on the theme of trafficking in women as well as the necessity for instituting appropriate measures being recognized.

While speaking to many people on this theme, several actions were successful in sensitizing them and gaining recognition for the situation of affected women. At the same time, all state legislative assemblies of all 16 states of the Federal Republic argued, often on behalf of the campaign ‘*Abpfiff*’ under the leadership of the *German Womens’ Advisory Board*.

Among the broad population the political claims of the ‘*Abpfiff*’ campaign were supported by over 57,000 signatures. These signatures are to be handed over to the German Chancellor Dr. Merkel in September. Of course, the KOK e.V. will continue together with members of the network on a long-term basis to institute the already set up appropriate demands.

The first results of the 3 nationwide advertised Hotlines are existent:

Please address your questions directly to the campaign representatives for further information:

- Frauenrecht ist Menschenrecht, FiM www.fim-frauenrecht.de or www.stoppt-zwangsprostitution.de

- Solwodi, www.solwodi.de
- The Social Office of the Protestant church: www.ekd.de; www.diakonie.de/zwang

However, the biggest and most misleading problem which came to light charged by the German Association of Cities and Towns (DST) and further carried by the media was the mistakenly mentioned number of “40,000 prostitutes” or the later mentioned “40,000 forced prostitutes” expected during the World Cup. Although many experts, for example from the specialized counseling centres, as well as from police circles, demented the statements and pointed out over and over again that these were absolute fictitious numbers dreamed up, but that it could not be foreseen ‘if or how many’ women in association with the World Cup would become victims of trafficking, and yet these rumours lasted throughout and until the end.

Following KOK e.V.’s questioning of its member organizations, there were no or at least hardly any Consultation cases having occurred, which could be directly related to the World Cup. The number of consultations was, like at all other times as well, just as high as before in all the Consultation centres in Germany. Only tips and questions were on the increase from concerned public citizens who called the Hotlines or specialized counseling centres directly. This shows that the public can be sensitized and that several or singular persons or other institutions could be trained as contact points for affected women.

Most campaign representatives were mainly interested in the fundamental argument on the theme of trafficking in human beings and the situation in which the affected women find themselves.

“40,000 forced prostitutes during the World Cup” was however a counter-productive fairy tale.

- It led to the German government being reproached internationally for not having addressed the subject of trafficking in human beings or having done too little in context with the World Cup.
- It led to at least beginning discussions on a European legislative level for the introduction of an obligatory visa regulation extra for the Football-World Cup
- It led to Germany’s laws on Prostitution being criticized and that prostitutes in the public view were stigmatized after the slogan : ‘Sex and Crime’
- It led to various negative reactions following the World Cup referring now to a trivialization of human trafficking, leading some Media representatives and other persons to the conclusion that ‘Human trafficking is not an important topic, meaning it doesn’t exist’ at all.

The KOK e.V. wishes to clearly point out that such conclusions are completely false and otherwise inadequate in that: Human trafficking occurs continuously and at any given time. A minimalization of these criminal offences, of which in particular women are affected, is absolutely not acceptable since human trafficking happens daily. Rather, integrated concepts must be developed to stop the trafficking in human beings.

The KOK e.V. pointed out again and again, that only lasting concepts against human trafficking and for the support of affected persons must be developed. The already tested programmes like the clients of prostitutes sensitization must be further strengthened and continuously promoted.

The topic continues to require political legislature against human trafficking, whereby precisely the specialized counseling centres are supported in their work and the affected women become further rights on their behalf. Suitable measures are clearly missing, for which the KOK warns about. (see our opinion on the actual legislative procedures). Approaches to combat human trafficking, in our judgement, lie neither in restrictive migration politics nor in the prohibition of prostitution, as is frequently demanded and as some States intensified their demands with their view towards the World Cup.

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