

# Rights, residence, rehabilitation – Findings from a comparative study assessing residence

options for trafficked persons

By Sarah Craggs and Ruzayda Martens<sup>1</sup>



#### **Fieldwork**

#### Editorial

The Global Eye Editors.....2

#### Initiatives

#### Perspectives

Match made in peril:
International marriage migration to
South Korea......4

#### Approach

Pathways to compensation for Victims of Trafficking.....5

#### Interview

One is Greater Than None
Teenagers raise money to rescue child victims of trafficking......6

#### **Profile**

Publications & Events .....8

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED HEREIN DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS OF IOM.



"The most important thing for the trafficked person was a paper that mentioned this is me, that is my name, because when you have nothing, when you are illegal, you are nothing. You do not exist. And the residence permit was for them a paper to freedom" (respondent quote).

The last decade has witnessed an increase in legal and policy debate on the rights of trafficked persons. Should such rights extend to the right to residence in the host country? For the trafficked person, the option of residence can signify a new beginning, the possibility to regain his or her dignity and identity – restoration to a normal life – without the stigma of having been trafficked.

The multi-country research report "A Study on the Right to Residence for Trafficked Persons: A Comparative Assessment" provides an overview of the legal frameworks and a comparative legal and practice-based assessment of the application of the right to residence in four selected countries, namely: Austria, Belgium, Italy and the United States of America. The purpose of the research study was to analyse the international, regional (Europe) and national legal framework for granting residence permits, to identify gaps and good practices, and to assess how legal norms pertaining to the right to residence are being translated into practice. Fieldwork was undertaken in Vienna, Brussels, Rome, Washington D.C and New York in the latter half of 2009. The experience of government officials, anti-trafficking service providers, lawyers, researchers, other key practitioners and former trafficked persons helped to outline discrepancies in the law and key challenges in issuing residence permits to trafficked persons. The respondents also helped to identify possible solutions and considerations for future policies.

#### Key legal and practical research findings

Protection and assistance measures for trafficked persons have been included in anti-trafficking law at international, regional and national level in many countries, albeit sometimes through a criminal lens.

At the International level, Article 7 of the 2000 Palermo Protocol<sup>2</sup> sets the framework for the issuance of residence permits. It specifically



encourages State Parties to adopt legislative and other appropriate measures that permit trafficked persons to stay in a country, either temporarily or permanently. In addition, there are relevant regional (European) and national frameworks that cannot be overlooked. However, some key trends emerge throughout the legal frameworks.

The right to residence for trafficked persons has been established in a number of States to legalize the stay of trafficked persons. The national laws in the four countries studied formulate access to residence permits as a legal right once the set criteria have been met. The length of residence permits range from three months to an indefinite period that either corresponds to the duration of legal proceedings or other immigration provisions. The research findings, however, reveal that victims are rarely seen as the holder of rights. They are instead seen as "instruments" in investigations or prosecution. In addition, "the eligibility criteria are simply too burdensome – once you meet all the criteria your rights are protected - but it is often too difficult to access the system [...]" (respondent quote).

Notwithstanding challenges, significant positive steps have been taken in all four countries to provide protection and assistance to trafficked persons in accordance with regional and international standards. Italy is the only one that provides residence options based on the personal situation of the trafficked person. Many commentators have acknowledged that the Italian system is centred on the rights of the trafficked persons with the unconditional option to cooperate with law enforcement. Even though Belgium is the only country that provides for a recovery and reflection period in law, in practice, the other countries implement a recovery and reflection period (continuation on page 2)

#### **FDITORIAL**

Dear Reader,

At long last, we're back with yet another issue of the Global Eye on Human Trafficking.

In these pages, we recognize the important roles that residence and compensation can play in promoting the rehabilitation of trafficked persons, and examine the challenges that many have in accessing them. In addition to the IOM residency study, we profile COMP.ACT, a new European initiative to try to improve access to compensation through research, test cases, and the development of guidelines for practitioners. We'll be following progress made with great interest, and will be sure to share any good practices we identify in a later issue of the *Global Eye*.

This issue also explores the relationship between marriage migration schemes, and the deception of some prospective brides about the conditions they may face upon arrival in a new country. Although here the Republic of Korea provides the context for the discussion of these issues, marriage migration schemes are of course a global phenomenon and they are subject to manipulation as well. These would benefit from *inter alia* increased and systematic monitoring to prevent abuse, in the same way that other migration schemes – such as labour migration schemes – do.

We also hope you will be as inspired as we were by One is Greater than None, a non-governmental organization that was established by eight high school students from the United States. Anjelica, Ariel, Haley, Jessica, Kayla, Samantha M., and Sammy W. were moved by the story of young children in Ghana who were trafficked into the fishing industry on Lake Volta, and committed themselves to contributing to their rescue.

With this issue of the Global Eye we again aim at informing on important developments in the broad area of trafficking in persons and the abuse as well as exploitation of migrants, to applaud progress made in addressing these problems, and to inspire by sharing the commitment and good practices in how progress is being made. We hope that this issue meets all of these objectives and that you enjoy reading.

Jonathan Martens
Department of Migration Management

(Rights... continued from page 1)

#### Brief summary of the national laws in the four countries studied

Austria: § 69 A NAG of the Settlement and Residence Act of 2006 prescribes a six weeks issuance period for granting a six month temporary residence permit (renewable). This is subject to instituting civil or criminal legal proceedings. The temporary permit may be extended to a 'settlement permit unrestricted' based on integration into society.

**Belgium**: Law of 15 September 2005 provides for an 'order to leave within 45 days'. This equates to a reflection period. Thereafter, 2 three month temporary permits are issued (renewable once for six months) subject to cooperation with law enforcement and agreement to be under the care of one of the three State mandated NGOs. Permanent residence may be granted after successful conviction of the trafficker through the issuance of an 'indefinite duration permit'.

**Italy**: Article 18 of Legislative Decree n. 286 of 25 July 1998 provides for a six month temporary permit (renewable for one year or more) under two options - judicial path: cooperation with law enforcement / social path: participation in rehabilitation and social assistance programme. Temporary permits may be converted to a work or study permit for the duration of employment or study programme.

**United States of America**: Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act 2000, as amended by the Reauthorization Acts of 2003, 2005 and 2008, as amended by the Reauthorization Acts of 2003, 2005 and 2008 provides for a four year T-visa or continued presence status linked to investigations. Both options are subject to cooperation with law enforcement. Temporary status may be adjusted to lawful permanent residence with the issuance of a permanent resident card. Residence status may also be extended to family members.

NOTE: The provisions in all four laws are subject to the fulfilment of set criteria.

on an ad hoc basis with high degrees of discretion. In addition, immediate protection and assistance is made available through State funds or through State mandated NGOs. The respondents acknowledged that a multi-agency approach, which includes civil society, helps to rehabilitate and empower trafficked persons.

"If I knew I had rights, I would never have allowed myself to be exploited" (quote from former trafficked person)

According to the research findings, one of the key barriers to the efficiency of the residence permit procedure remains the manner in which legislation is being translated into practice. There are gaps in existing laws and, in addition, these laws are not always fully implemented. On the other hand, practice by law enforcement and other actors often goes further than the provisions in the law.

At the heart of this is the challenge to proper identification of trafficked persons and the forms of assistance they are subsequently able to access. Formal identification is a prerequisite for the issuance of residence permits in all four countries studied, yet it was not uncommon for interviewees to mention interpretation of the definition of human trafficking as the major barrier to proper identification of trafficked persons, and consequently access to the right to residence. This included biased treatment depending upon the gender of the trafficked person, or the type of exploitation suffered - with males trafficked for labour exploitation seemingly having fewer rights in this regard. This highlights the need for targeted training to relevant authorities on the phenomenon of human trafficking, and to inform them of the protection mechanisms that are in place, regardless of gender or of the form of exploitation. A sound identification system is a prerequisite to effective implementation of the right to residence.

Further, the right to residence for trafficked persons is often linked to cooperation with law enforcement. However, activists continue to argue for a paradigm shift - from a law enforcement perspective - to the recognition that the rights of trafficked persons are paramount in the fight against human

trafficking. Likewise, amongst academics, practitioners and policymakers, the question of whether residence permits for trafficked persons should be linked to cooperation equally emerged as a pertinent issue in the research conducted. Conversely, many anti-trafficking actors in all four countries studied, noted that fraudulent applications have not been proven and the fear remains unfounded. The research findings reveal that, in practice, strict conditions are often at the cost of protecting the human rights of trafficked persons.

"It is exhausting. And first thing coming out of a trafficking experience, you don't want to be interrogated again" (respondent quote)

To ensure that the human rights of trafficked persons are fully respected, efforts to investigate and prosecute traffickers need to be duly balanced against protecting the victim's human rights and interests. The enactment of the reflection period and the right to residence constitute a means by which to reinforce this human rights framework. When implemented correctly, it facilitates the creation of a safe space whereby the trafficked person can access assistance and consider the options available to them without the risk of deportation. As one participant concluded, "we should always have in mind what trafficking is. It involves people. And those people should just be able to have a normal life; to lead a normal life". (respondent quote).

#### Conclusion

In recent years, there has been increased attention given to the issue of 'reflection periods' and 'temporary residence permits' as a means to ensure the protection of trafficked persons in countries of destination or transit, and to prevent trafficking through the investigation and prosecution of traffickers. This has been demonstrated through the incorporation of relevant provisions in international, regional and national instruments.

The debate on the right to residence, nevertheless, remains a heated one: with discussions centering around the role and enactment of the reflection period; conditions attached to temporary residence status (whether there should be an obligation to (continuation on page 5)

### Trafficking prevention at large-scale sports events

In South Africa this year, 16 community-based organizations were awarded with grants to implement trafficking prevention and protection activities before, during, and after the World Cup. We spoke to one of them to learn more about their work and how large-scale sports events can be used for outreach activities.

#### What is KRCC?

KwaZulu Regional Christian Council (KRCC) is a faith-based organization in South Africa that promotes ecumenism, development, and unity among faith communities in the fight against poverty, injustice and ignorance. It operates in the deep rural part of the northern KwaZulu Natal province on the border of Swaziland and Mozambique, where many people believe they must move to bigger cities for a better life.

KRCC builds on years of experience in trafficking prevention and awareness-raising. The prevalence of poverty combined with high unemployment makes women more vulnerable to trafficking as they rely on anyone with resources, including complete strangers. To reduce the risk of trafficking, KRCC involves young, unemployed women in activities that provide them with support and an income. In the area of awareness-raising, KRCC presents educational drama performances in churches and trains church leaders on issues of human trafficking.

With over 20 member churches, KRCC involves over 30,000 people in its activities. In a culture where faith leaders are held in high esteem, KRCC is well-placed to effectively reach out to vulnerable populations.

## What is the situation of human trafficking in your region?

There was an impression that trafficking came with the World Cup and that it would vanish soon after. Police, churches, parents and schools were vigilant during that time. As a result, there were few incidents of trafficking at the time. Now that the football tournament is over,



we hear of more attempts to lure young girls into lucrative jobs in bigger towns and cities. Parents are sharing stories of daughters who went missing in search of job opportunities and we read about young women who have been trafficked for sex work overseas. It is difficult to come up with figures, but the incidence is higher now than before the World Cup.

You have been involved in outreach activities both in churches and through radio with the weekly "Youth Show". What is the feedback from the audience on these issues?

People say it has been an eye opener. Some say that they can now understand the different concepts of kidnapping and trafficking. Our outreach activities have taken place in more than 20 churches and church conferences. The radio show has become the major means of accessing information about trafficking. In the Youth Show, we focus on the various issues of human trafficking and listeners call to comment or ask questions. Radio is great for reaching out to a larger audience.

You have also said that family camps are a way to reach out to a larger audience. How did you develop this approach?

Our counter-trafficking work is largely shaped by the stories shared during family and youth camps where the participants share what is happening in their respective villages. We talk with the beneficiaries, listen to what they say, and facilitate the process

for them to be part of the solution to their own challenges. In our area it is a fact that parents do not talk to their children about the possible dangers of human trafficking. However, by communicating this with particularly the fathers, there is a possibility that we can prevent certain problems from occurring. The family camp is a safe space for parents and church leaders to hear from others, support each other and also make people realize that they have common challenges.

What do you perceive as the best outreach activity in terms of trafficking prevention during large scale sports events?

We believe that theatre performance and drama, outreach through music and dance for entertainment is the best way to spread our message. After our performances we always give short, to the point, presentations about the risks of human trafficking.

For the World Cup, we held a soccer tournament involving different stakeholders – like church leaders and police – to bring fun to the youth and make police more approachable and accessible. Together with other NGOs we also did awareness-raising activities on the radio, and we invited the youth in our area to the local stadium. The kids wore their Bafana Bafana (the South African football team) shirts and were blowing their Vuvuzelas while screaming "No to human trafficking!".

### How do you measure the impact of your work?

On the on hand, we rely on statistics from police and other government departments on reported cases. On the other hand, we listen to the youth and parents during our weekend camps, to the feedback during radio shows, and take advantage of evaluation forms on our workshops.



### Match made in peril: International marriage migration to South Korea By June Lee

South Korea¹ is a marrying country. Marriage is an imperative for all Koreans. Also, it is a national business that merits even governmental intervention. Korea is also a lively capitalistic country where you can purchase every possible service you can imagine. And, it is a relatively recent destination country in the international migration spectrum.

First, workers started coming from Southeast Asian origin countries as well as from Northern Asian origin countries such as Mongolia and other faraway places including Central Asian countries. They work at jobs that are shunned by most Koreans. Then, 'brides' started coming from quite the same origin countries, filling the void created in the marriage market.

The latter was made possible partly because South Korea's traditional match making for marriage went global. Like an industry of the small factories and shops where migrant workers find their work, a small cottage industry of match making businesses was formed with their foreign partners in the origin countries. The industry's very existence is a reflection of information imbalance. Desirable business outcomes are not easily achieved if and when two parties concerned already have every detail about each other. Commercial motivation further encourages exploiting this imbalance

The Government's stake is high in this particular international migration flow. An anticipated economic decline that is expected to result from the population decline, has now become a perennial concern and kept the government in desperate search for one or various solutions. Against this backdrop, the Government welcomes the influx of marriage migrants. More marriages could lead to slower population decline. The Government is also expected to facilitate individual Koreans' pursuit of happiness (for the grooms) and tends to be protective of its nationals' small businesses (the marriage brokerage firms).

International marriages between Korean men and 'foreign brides' account for 10 per cent of all marriages. The number of marriage migrant women in Korea is about 150,000 in 2009, yet expected to grow seven per cent annually to more than double by 2020. The number of children of the international marriage is expected to almost treble during the same period from 94,000 to 287,000. This does change the social fabric so much that the deep-held belief on Korea's homogeneity is no longer valid.

The stakes of individuals involved (both grooms and brides) are equally high. Unlike in the case of labour migration, they are not just making a maximum five year commitment as employers and employees. It is a lifelong commitment that could continue even after the marriage dissolves through the shared responsibility of raising children.

Unscrupulous 'marriage brokers' could make

enormous profits from exploiting the multidimensional disparities between Korean grooms and their 'foreign brides'. The typical Korean grooms are 40 years of age, usually rural background, in need of partners at home and work. The foreign brides tend to be around 20, with little education, and desperately poor. While the grooms' understanding of their potential brides' background and culture is sorely lacking, the brides' expectation about 'Korean life' as portrayed in media is grossly unrealistic. Marriage brokers operate in this space and take advantage of the potential brides.

Accurate information about grooms is not readily made available to brides. Such basic information as health status and criminal records is not exchanged. However, the recent revision of Korea's Marriage Brokers Business Management Act made it compulsory for

MAUTY

AND THE STATE OF THE STA

marriage brokers to provide basic information like health. This revision was made only after the recent murder of a young Vietnamese bride by her mentally unstable husband within a month of her arrival in Korea.

Exploitation may begin prior to brides' departure from their countries. From the start, young women tend to be lured to a large extent with exaggerated images of life in Korea. They are housed in a crowded place waiting, sometimes, for months before 'a meeting' is arranged while accumulating 'debts' to the brokers in the meantime. The meeting can be a dehumanizing practice, where a Korean man picks from rows of young women. Once

chosen, brides' own choice is not an option, given debts and the prospect of more waiting.

The marriage is quickly processed once the selection is over. The transaction is problematic, sometimes leaving very little for the bride's family as a 'bride price.' Much expectation is placed on the possible remittance from the 'newly-wed' as they settle down well in South Korea.

The 'brides' integration into the Korean groom's family and community is often challenging. Linguistic and cultural barriers, economic hardship, different gender norms, and others await young inexperienced 'foreign' brides.

Over the years the Government has organized nation-wide support networks which have been effective to some extent. In fact, over the half of marriage migrants from China tend to adjust relatively well. Filipino brides tend to help each other and become quite resourceful. Adjustment of these migrants and of the host communities does occur.

The verification process of the information exchange between grooms and brides via brokers needs to be fortified. Much desired is the enhanced cooperation between South Korea and origin countries that could lead to effective enforcement of the revised Marriage Brokers Business Management Act.

In origin countries, information campaigns would help better inform potential brides. Accurate information about the marriage migration process to South Korea would help protect young women from exploitation of marriage brokers and help these women make sound decisions on their future. Origin countries' governments could do much to encourage their nationals to pay attention to the hazards of international migration.

In South Korea, the government has to come up with the ways for 'accurate information' to be delivered to origin countries by brokers. Expectedly, this is not going to be an easy task. Also desired is a way to help moderate the 'pursuit of individual happiness,' including marriage brokers and potential grooms. Those who cannot prove financial and other means to support their foreign brides' smooth integration to South Korea need to rethink their decision, as their chance of victimhood is no less than their counterparts in origin countries.

Marriage migration is a significant international migration phenomenon in East Asia. It will continue given demographic, economic, and a host of other structural push and pull factors. The process is prone to trafficking, given loopholes and gaps in its current configuration. Enhanced cooperation between countries could tighten these gaps.  $\square$ 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Korea in this article is admittedly inaccurate shorthand for the Republic of Korea.

### Pathways to compensation for Victims of Trafficking By Igor Cvetkovski

Thousands of trafficked persons are subject to human rights violations on a daily basis. These violations range from forced migration, exploitation, and forced labor to physical, sexual and mental abuse resulting in personal injury and psychosocial trauma. The international community has made substantial efforts to curb trafficking and protect victims of trafficking (VoTs) through numerous national and international protocols, laws and policies. Yet, despite these efforts victims' access to justice, redress and compensation have not substantially increased.

According to a 2008 OSCE-ODIHR study on victim compensation, "only a small minority of trafficked persons have made claims for compensation and been granted awards, and still fewer have actually received the compensation payment." This reality has been emphasized by other sources: VoTs are seldom aware of their rights to redress and compensation, and when they are, they rarely have the opportunity to properly pursue those rights.

The reasons for the lack of access to redress and compensation for VoTs are complex, manifold and interconnected. They can be organized into three main categories: a) victims' profile, b) inconsistencies in current counter-trafficking policies and practices, and c) inadequacies of existing legal compensation procedures and mechanisms.

- a) The specific profile of trafficking victims is extremely important when considering the issue of compensation. In addition to the lack of awareness among VoTs about their rights to justice and redress, the traumatic experience of having been trafficked creates feelings of fear, shame and insecurity. These psychological pressures are further exacerbated by real or perceived stigmatization and ostracism by society. The added effects of economic deprivation, exploitation, fear, insecurity and social exclusion leave VoTs with minimal social agency. This set of circumstances severely limits the victims' capacity to get information about compensation and to begin the complex legal and administrative processes.
- b) The awareness about the VoTs' disadvantages and specific vulnerabilities is firmly embedded

in the existing international counter-trafficking policy. In principle, all three pillars of the countertrafficking paradigm (prevention, prosecution, protection) are based on victim-sensitive methodologies. The protection pillar in particular pays special attention to the victims themselves and promotes measures such as integration/reintegration assistance, legal advice and psychosocial counseling. But regardless of state commitments to human rights and international norms, many states base their counter-trafficking practices on two principles: prosecution of perpetrators and repatriation of victims. Such a procedural environment does not account for the specific needs of VoTs and reduces the possibility for their participation and access to justice.

c) Finally, the third set of problems is inherent to the existing national and international legal compensation frameworks and practices. There are two main pathways through which VoTs can pursue redress and compensation: a juridical pathway and an administrative pathway.

The juridical pathway enables VoTs to claim and receive compensation through either criminal court proceedings against the trafficker, or a separate civil lawsuit. Both models are subject to strict court procedures. In criminal proceedings, the standard of proof is usually very strict and is the responsibility of the prosecutor. In some legislatures, the criminal process automatically triggers a compensation procedure and often requires victims to participate as witnesses. The criminal process is usually lengthy and complicated and does not necessarily result in conviction, asset confiscation or compensation. With civil lawsuits, the burden of proof lies with the VoTs themselves. This compensation model requires even more victim participation, knowledge and resources without any guarantee of a favorable decision or enforcement.

The administrative pathway to compensation is considered to be more victim-oriented. It mainly refers to the established compensation schemes and victim trust funds set up by the state, from which the victim can claim and obtain compensation provided that he/she has been declared eligible under the law. These mechanisms are usually less bureaucratic and provide a certain level of support and ease for the victim. However,

the restrictions with respect to citizenship and eligibility have prevented this compensation model from becoming fully utilized by VoTs.

These issues have already been identified and analysed by experts working in the domain. The 2008 OSCE-ODIHR study on the compensation of trafficked and exploited persons provides valuable insight on existing compensation mechanisms in several countries. The 2009 Report on Trafficking in Persons issued by the US State Department highlights that "the philosophy behind restitution goes handin-hand with a victim-centered approach to trafficking". Finally, the most recent COMP. ACT initiative by La Strada and Anti-Slavery International is set to take some very concrete steps and actions in terms of practical research, advocacy and production of guidelines for practitioners.

This increased focus on compensation for VoTs will certainly bring about improvements and ultimately benefit VoTs. However, there is a need for a more systematic and coordinated approach. Professionals working in the compensation and trafficking domain need to identify which compensation models and mechanisms are most promising in terms of being victim-friendly, feasible and effective. Because of the transnational character of the trafficking phenomenon, it is also essential to identify models of compensation that are cross-border compatible.

Finding compatibility and establishing bilateral and multilateral compensation mechanisms for VoTs based on a juridical model, however, would be very difficult and politically sensitive. Court procedures vary from country to country and are principally connected to state sovereignty. For compatibility and flexibility, the administrative model seems to be most promising. It is less bureaucratic and provides VoTs with a certain level of support and ease. Some states have already established (compensation administrative schemes funds) that enable compensation processing delivery across borders. models and their applicability to other countries need to be further tested and analysed. 🗖

#### (Rights... continued from page 2)

cooperate with law enforcement); the length of the reflection period and temporary residence; eligibility criteria and the degree of discretion given to competent authorities within a country; the forms of assistance consequently provided to trafficked persons during their stay in the country of destination; and the right to access permanent stay. At the same time, there has been limited focus on the impact of such measures on trafficked persons, and their recovery and rehabilitation. Further research is needed to propose solutions to ensure access to the right to residence, where such a right exists.

#### **Good practices**

The research findings outline the positive steps that the four countries have taken to provide protection and assistance to trafficked persons in accordance with regional and international standards. The provision of legal residence is

seen as a solution for trafficked persons who fear returning to their countries of origin. It may help to rehabilitate trafficked persons and could prove to be instrumental in combating human trafficking. A few good practices include:

- human rights to be placed at the centre of law enforcement efforts;
- adoption of a gender sensitive approach to anti-trafficking interventions including the right to residence;
- availability of a reflection period of a minimum of 90 days in duration, clearly defined in law, and which guarantees protection against deportation as a legal right;
- availability of a renewable temporary residence permit of a minimum of one year in duration as a legal right and not conditional upon the capacity or willingness of the victim to cooperate with law enforcement;
- mandating of national NGOs to play a

formal role in identification and provision of assistance, including legal advice on obtaining temporary residence;

- flexibility in requirements to produce personal identity documents that may not be easily accessible to the victim;
- right to access employment upon receipt of the temporary residence permit;
- undertaking of individualized risk assessments in the country of origin and the country of destination where a safe and voluntary return is a viable option. □
- This study was funded by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA). The research report will be available towards the end of 2010 at: www.iom.int. The authors are thankful to Anvar Serojitdinov for his research assistance.

  \*\*United Nations Protocol to Prevent. Suppress and Punish\*\*
- United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children Supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (2000).

## One Is Greater Than None Teenagers raise money to rescue child victims of trafficking

After watching an Oprah Winfrey episode on child trafficking in Ghana, eight girls in Long Island, New York decided to get involved. Now, three years later, they have raised over USD 130,000 to help rescue 48 children.

You have a great website, your own clothing and jewelry line, and are raising money both for trafficked children in Ghana and a US health project. How do you manage all this in addition to going to school?

It is really all about time management, knowing how to balance everything and knowing when to ask for help. There are eight of us to share the responsibilities and we are supported by

many others, like our public relations provider, parents, and our school and community. School is always a priority, but we have learned that when opportunities with the charity arise, it is important to seize those opportunities yet still make time for school work.

## Tell us a bit about your fundraising events. What kind of activities have you done?

We started off outside bookstores in Long Island selling our bracelets and necklaces. Since then, we have fundraised at networking events, benefit concerts, town festivals and speaking engagements in other parts of the US, including a national bake sale week. The most successful was a walkathon at our high school. Within a couple of hours we were able to

raise over USD 3,000. All our products can also be purchased on our website.

## How do you spend the money you have raised?

We have raised over USD 130,000 since we started three years ago. The money is spent on three things.

One is our expenses such as marketing and to buy supplies that aren't donated.

The second is our global initiative and the children in Ghana who are forced to work in the fishing trade in Lake Volta. It costs USD 4,300 to rescue and sponsor a child in Ghana for 2,5 years. That money goes to rescuing a child from their owner and sending them to rehabilitation, reuniting them with their families, supporting and monitoring their reintegration including food, shelter, education, and healthcare, and preventing them from being re-trafficked. We have sponsored 24 children ranging from the ages of 4 to 15 years old and saved another 24 children.

Third, the money goes to people in the US who cannot afford insurance. We sponsor medical expeditions in the country. Each expedition costs between USD 3,000-5,000 to provide

people with dental and eye exams or general checkups.

Are you directly involved with the children who benefit? What happens to them after they are rescued?

A main objective for our charity is to have a relationship with the people we are helping. Unfortunately it is very hard to keep in contact with the children. However we send pictures and gifts to enjoy. One of the girls also went to Ghana and met some of the children.

Our cooperating organization tracks the progress of the children on Lake Volta and



keeps records of those rescued. They update us on upcoming missions and any problems that they encounter with the children or the fishing village owners.

Our national medical initiative is a much more hands-on experience. Through the medical expeditions, we are able to meet the people we are helping.

#### What motivated you to get involved?

We began to realize that we are very fortunate to have the life we have. We couldn't just watch bad things happen and not do anything. We wanted to be those people that were part of making a positive change in the world. Even though we were only 14 at the time, we were determined to make a contribution, even if it would be small.

After seeing Oprah's show about the children in Ghana sold into the fishing trade, we all knew that we had our first mission. Our goal was to rescue and rehabilitate one child each, for a total of over USD 32,000. While some people thought that this was a huge and unrealistic goal, we believed that even if we only saved one child from terrible conditions, it was better than saving none ("One is Greater Than None" or "1>0").

How does your NGO work, and what do you do? Has your vision changed since you started?

1>0 is truly a collaborative effort of eight girls. We make the decisions, we hand make and sell the jewelry, and each of us have different responsibilities. After much success with our global initiative, we were challenged to find a cause closer to home. In response to our national healthcare crisis, we wanted to see how we could make a difference by sponsoring free health care to the uninsured and underinsured Americans who can't afford it.

What is equally, if not more important than

raising money, is getting our message across. We want people to understand that any contribution, no matter how small, makes a difference. Initially we were very focused on our goal of saving just one child. Now one of our main goals is to spread the word about the charity and try to get other kids and teens to give back.

## What has been the most rewarding part of running an NGO? What have been the main challenges?

It's so incredible to see the results and that we have inspired others. The most memorable moment was when we had raised enough money to sponsor the rescue of our first eight enslaved children. We received a brief but emotional video of our children saying "Thank You 1>0". We made a difference and it wasn't just a concept

anymore... these were real children whose lives we were able to change for the better.

The hardest part has really been eight girls working together and make decisions because we all have very different opinions.

What advice would you give to young people who would like to get involved in this kind of work?

Once you find the cause that you are passionate about, it will feel right. Remember that 1>0 started with just one bracelet.

We believe that it is important to show other teenagers what is possible when you really believe in something.

Some specific advice would be to:

- Ask for help from your family, your school and community. When you are passionate about something, others will want to support you.
- Stay focused on your goal and passion and try not to get discouraged. If a fundraising idea doesn't work, brainstorm and try something else.
- 3. Believe in yourself. One person can make a difference... even a teenager! ☐

## How can we better link efforts to combat trafficking with development policies? By Gergana Danailova-Trainor (GAO) and Frank Laczko (IOM)<sup>1</sup>

To date, efforts to promote human development have not focused very much on the fight against trafficking, and policies to tackle trafficking tend not to be linked to wider measures to promote human development. Global efforts to combat trafficking have tended to focus mainly on the criminalization of trafficking and there has been less discussion of how trafficking impacts on development and how development policy could be used to address human trafficking. Part of the reason for this disconnect may be due to the fact that we are dealing with the relationship between two concepts - trafficking and human development - which are both extremely broad and difficult to measure, and for which we have in the case of trafficking relatively few measurable indicators. In this article we argue that the development gains from greater mobility could be enhanced if there were greater coherence between policies to combat human trafficking and policies to promote development.2

Trafficking is widely perceived to be linked to a lack of development and to have negative consequences for human development. For example, poverty is usually listed first on any list of causal and vulnerability factors for trafficking in the developing world. "If the trafficking of people is to be prevented, its root causes - such as poverty, discrimination against men and girls and inequality need to be addressed" (DFID, 2007:7). Relative individual poverty alone, however, does not explain human trafficking, "which is driven by fraudulent recruiters, employers, and corrupt officials who seek to reap unlawful profits from others' desperation" (US Department of State, 2008: 8).

Empirically, there is no clear correlation between human trafficking and human development at the country level. Trafficking does not necessarily occur from the poorest countries or the poorest regions within the countries. Moreover, the poorest people in the countries of origin may not be those most likely to migrate and thus most vulnerable to trafficking. Nine out of the top ten ranked by UNODC countries of origin for human trafficking are lower to upper middle-income countries, with a medium to high level of human development adjusted slightly for gender discrimination and inequality. This is most likely due to the fact that eight of these countries have been transition economies, for which the turmoil of transition and the freedom to move after several decades of isolation were the key push factors for trafficking. In addition, data from IOM Counter-trafficking database show that the majority of victims of trafficking assisted by IOM have been lured by traffickers by a false promise of a job. A small

number of IOM-assisted victims have perceived their economic situation as very poor, providing additional support to the argument that the poorest are typically not likely to migrate across borders. Across countries, there is some additional evidence suggesting a correlation between the number of victims trafficked out of a country and the level of female youth unemployment in that country.

Development policy may encourage or discourage trafficking and may have various unintended effects depending on the specific intervention, the target beneficiaries and the particular socio-cultural context. Development policy could have a positive impact in the fight against trafficking as it addresses some of the key trafficking vulnerability factors and improves governance in places of origin. Propoor economic growth through productive investments, trade, employment and effective social and economic policies may reduce risky migration and trafficking. However, development policy that alleviates poverty does not necessarily lead to less trafficking. For example, the policy may have no effect on trafficking if it targets the very poor, since they are usually the ones who remain at home due to lack of resources, information, and confidence. Conversely, it may lead to higher migration and more trafficking as people move out of abject poverty, and better communication and more information raise people's aspirations for a better life. Development policy may also lead to marketization of the economy with people moving away from the traditional subsistence mode of production. In this transition process without established adequate governance structures the very poor may become more vulnerable to risk and fall prey to exploitative labour practices. While the idea of "the migration hump" is well known in the migration literature, it has not been tested with respect to trafficking between or within countries.

Anti-trafficking policy may have a range of different implications for development. For example, the successful reintegration of exvictims of trafficking may have a direct impact on development. Ex-victims may be able to remain in the destination country, earn income and send remittances back home. Conversely, through relevant empowerment activities such as skills acquisition, literacy classes or seed money, ex-victims may be able to escape out of poverty and improve their livelihood in the home country. However, Hennink and Simkhada (2004) find that there are serious issues of social stigma in re-integrating sex trafficked women into the community in Nepal. These women need training in marketable skills and business development, assistance with employment seeking and independent living,

so that they do not return to sex work and face continued stigma and social exclusion. Another study by Dottridge (2008) suggests that "initiatives which were nominally supposed to stop trafficking actually had numerous negative effects for people who have been trafficked, consequences that have negative development outcomes.

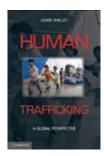
A recognition of the complex interaction between trafficking, development, as well as anti-trafficking and development policies calls for (1) greater policy coherence between policies to combat trafficking and policies to promote development; (2) close attention to ex ante and ex post evaluation of the desired and actual outcomes of those interventions. We conducted a preliminary review of 66 Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) to assess the extent to which they refer to trafficking, the ways in which trafficking was discussed, and the tools used to monitor the impact of trafficking on development and in particular poverty reduction. Our review finds that just under half, 30 PRSPs, do include some mention of trafficking. However, the main focus in most PRSPs is on the trafficking of women and children for sexual exploitation with little mention of other forms of trafficking. Trafficking is often mentioned as a factor linked to measures to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women, and as part of a strategy to protect vulnerable groups such as children. However, as the traffickingdevelopment nexus is complex, policymakers should consider a careful and systematic ex ante assessment of the desired effects of interventions and provide funding for ex post evaluation so as to assess the combined impact and learn what works in the particular environment. As trafficking is deeply rooted in the socio-cultural context of the place of origin, a mix of qualitative and quantitative methods could be applied to evaluate the potential effects. Sound qualitative methods are well suited for case based, in-depth analysis, while quantitative approaches could build on the qualitative findings and allow for some degree of generalization. In addition, existing databases could be used and further expanded to shed more light on ex-victims of trafficking, as well as their return and reintegration experience. Future research should also focus on the nexus between internal trafficking and development and explore how more generic development policies could help tackle trafficking.

The opinions presented here are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), or the United States Government Accountability Office.

This note is based on an article which was published by the authors in "International Migration, vol. 48 (4) August 2010, Trafficking in Persons and Development: Towards Greater Policy Coherence".

#### **PUBLICATIONS**

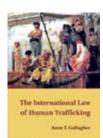
Human Trafficking – A Global Perspective Louise Shelley, George Mason University, Virginia, September 2010



book examines all forms of human trafficking globally, revealing the operations of the trafficking business and the nature traffickers themselves. Using a historical and comparative perspective, demonstrates that there is more than one business model of

human trafficking. Drawing on a wide body of academic research, prosecuted cases, reports, fieldwork and interviews Louise Shelley concludes that human trafficking will grow in the twenty-first century as a result of economic and demographic inequalities in the world, the rise of conflicts, and possibly global climate change.

#### International Law on Human Trafficking Anne Gallagher, Cambridge University Press, 2010



In her new publication 'International Law οn Human Trafficking', Anne Gallagher looks into international law the of state responsibility, international human rights law, transnational criminal law, refugee law and international criminal law. The aim of the publication

is to draw attention to states' obligation to protect and support trafficked persons.

## Trafficking of Adult Men in the Europe and Eurasia Region USAID, September 2010



Male trafficking is much more common than assumed. The report offers a demographic profile of trafficked men and a description of the types of work trafficked men are subjected to. According to the findings of the report, it is crucial

not to distinguish between forced labour and human trafficking in order to better identify and assist trafficked men. Trafficked men are often treated as irregular migrants and deported without any investigation of their case. A massive problem, the report concludes, is that even if a man is identified as trafficked, very often he will reject services, or simply will not be able to have access to services offered since most of them are tailored for women.

The report is available online at: http://zunia.org/uploads/media/knowledge/Trafficking%20of%20Men%20Draft\_final%200908101283982607.pdf

### Smuggling of Migrants - A Global Review UNODC. Vienna 2010

The Global Review is an overview of the current state of knowledge and existing research on migrant smuggling from a worldwide perspective. Conceptual challenges, scope of migrant smuggling, profiles of smuggled migrants and of migrant smugglers, their relationships, the organizational structures of smuggling networks, modus operandi and smuggling fee as well as the human and social cost of migrant smuggling are addressed in this Global Review, based on well-informed journalisticbooks, reports and academicarticles.

The report is available online at: http://www.unodc.org/documents/humantrafficking/Marian/Smuggling\_of\_Migrants\_ A Global Review.pdf

#### Vietnamese Workers in Czech Republic La Strada, Czech Republic 2009

The report deals with changes in the Czech society due to the global economic crisis. Furthermore it looks into the hypotheses concerning labour recruitment and export from Vietnam, the role of the Czech embassy in the process of labour migration from Vietnam to the Czech Republic and the linkages of agencies in both countries. Strategies of finding work and maintaining a legal residence status on the Czech territory as well as labour conditions, the roles of job agencies and exploitation mechanisms of the Vietnamese are also being discussed.

The report is available online at: http://www.strada.cz/attachments/ f/fbfeb065ab4441394d00a41d3e366c47.pdf

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Unchosen Filmfestivals is a series of festivals in the UK which concentrates solely on human trafficking. In October and November 2010 there will be several screenings in Bath, Bristol and Keele, as well as showing documentaries targeted at school children at the age of 9-13. The festival aims to raise awareness and get people involved. Unchosen also looks at the issues that surround human trafficking, including fair trade, poverty and immigration. Screenings are followed up by discussions and Q&As with the film directors.

See http://www.unchosen.org.uk/index.html for schedule and more info.

#### The "Buy Responsibly" Campaign

The counter-trafficking campaign "Buy Responsibly" empowering consumers to urge "What's behind the things we buy" and discover the links between everyday products and trafficking for forced labour, goes on the road again. It was developed and launched as a joint endeavor of IOM and the advertising agency Saatchi & Saatchi in 2009 - for the EU-Anti-Trafficking Day in Brussels and the International Migrants' Day in Geneva. The core of the campaign, a gigantic shopping cart will be transported throughout Europe until spring 2011 and set up launches of "Buv Responsibly" in Vienna (14-19 October), The Hague (8-16 December) and Warsaw (18-22 December) as well as in London (Spring 2011). Each launch will be accompanied by media and publicity activities to promote the message of the campaign linking it with numerous approaches to ethical consumerism, asking the decisive question: "What's Behind the Things We Buy?"

Visit www.buyresponsibly.org for more information.

## The Third Swedish-Dutch Conference on Gender Equality: The Hague, 6 December.

The Swedish-Dutch Conference on Gender Equality will focus on trafficking in human beings and prostitution. This will be the third in a series of three conferences on different aspects of gender equality. The purpose of the conference is to discuss and exchange best practices, to increase knowledge and awareness, and to identify the most effective measures to combat the problem of human trafficking for sexual purposes.

International Forum against Human Trafficking: "End Human Trafficking Now: Enforcing the UN Protocol?"

Business Leaders Awards To Fight Human Trafficking

#### Luxor, 10-12 December 2010.

In the context of the End Human Trafficking Now! campaign, SMWIPM in partnership with the United Nations, Orascom Telecom and Holding, Manpower, GAP, Microsoft, the World Bank, and Vital Voices Global Partnership will hold a forum focusing on key issues relating to human trafficking, best practices and carve out a set of challenges to pursue with various partners — governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, business leaders, and the youth. A part of the forum will be the Business Leaders' Award against Human Trafficking that intends to represent a specific business entity practice or initiative to fight human trafficking.

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

17 Route des Morillons CH-1211 Geneva 19 - Switzerland Tel: +41/22/717 91 11

To suscribe please send an email to globaleye@iom.int