



Prevention of trafficking in persons in Central and Eastern Europe  
Prewencja handlu ludzmi w Europie Srodkowej i Wschodniej  
Предотвращение торговли людьми в Центральной и Восточной Европе  
Prevenca obchodu s lidmi ve Střední a Východní Evropě  
Prevenција trgovine ljudima u Centralnoj i Istočnoj Evropi  
Запобігання торгівлі людьми в країнах Центральної та Східної Європи  
Prevenirea traficului de fiinte umane in Europa Centrala si de Vest  
Превенция на трафика на хора в Централна и Източна Европа  
Превенција од трговија со луѓе во Централна и Источна Европа  
Preventie van mensenhandel in Centraal en Oost Europa

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON LA STRADA INTERNATIONAL'S OPINION ON THE FIFA WORLD CUP 2010 AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

### **Q. Does La Strada International have any figures on the estimated amount of women that will be trafficked into South Africa in relation to the World Cup 2010?**

No, La Strada International does not. There have been several estimations of between 40,000 and even 100,000 women to fall prey to trafficking in human beings during the World Cup. La Strada International however believes that these numbers are not adequately researched and has not proof that those numbers are based on any evidence. Moreover data, information, research and experts' statements so far revealed in relation with the 2004 Olympics in Athens, Greece or the 2006 World Cup in Germany, do not indicate an increase in human trafficking during and after these sport events.

The commonly held notion of a link between mega sports events, trafficking in persons and sex work is an unsubstantiated assumption. There is no reason to believe that the situation in South Africa will differ much from Germany. Moreover, there will be six times less visitors in South Africa compared to the 2006 World Cup. La Strada International is of the opinion that it is very important to distinguish human trafficking for the sex industry, from prostitution; unfortunately these two are very often conflated. This can and might have influence(d) the figures published on human trafficking.

### **Q. Does La Strada International think there will be many persons trafficked into forced prostitution during the World Championship?**

Actually La Strada International does not know. But it is likely that a big event like the World Championship will attract a lot of persons, including migrant workers, who want to make some extra money, people who sell goods, such as take away food and merchandise or offer certain services, including taxi drivers and sex workers. Especially undocumented migrants are vulnerable for exploitation and abuse.

Knowing that the sex industry is a sector vulnerable for human trafficking and exploitation, there is a risk that persons end up in exploitative situations before and during the championship. LSI is also aware of the fact that persons who find World cup related employment in a restaurant, hotel or bar, especially if they do not have the right documents, are at risk to be put to work under very bad working conditions or become victims of exploitation and abuse. The working conditions of the migrant workers that have contributed to the building of the stadiums are known to be very poor. In fact, the only figures we have on the 2004 Olympics in Greece are the 13 Greek and at least 25 (undocumented) migrant workers that have died due to unsafe working conditions.

In addition, La Strada would like to point out that other forms of exploitation can also be linked to the 2010 World Cup. Research reveals that workers stitching soccer balls in Pakistan, India, China and Thailand continue to experience alarming labour rights violations. Over the past decade, regular reports of violations of human rights in soccer ball production have been presented to key players in the industry including global brands and FIFA.

**Q. What is the opinion of La Strada International in the debate on the legalisation of prostitution in South Africa and or actions of the South African government to address the issue of prostitution during the World Cup?**

La Strada International promotes the rights of sex workers, but does not promote a specific legislation on prostitution. La Strada International does not advocate the abolition of prostitution or the criminalisation of clients of sex workers. Human trafficking occurs both in countries where sex work is legal and in countries where aspects of commercial sex are criminalised. La Strada International is convinced that focusing the debate on the abolition of sex work will not lead to the protection of the human rights of the women concerned.

Sex work is not legalised in South Africa. It is likely that the South African government might increase its control, including raids of 'brothels' during the event. Also the South African Government has indicated to increase border controls to stop illegal migration of possible sex workers and traffickers. La Strada International doubts whether those actions are sufficient to address human trafficking and does not know upon which criteria persons are denied access. LSI is concerned that persons' human right to enter another country is violated, either that the measures taken might lead to possible other human rights violations.

**Q. What does La Strada International think of the (South African) campaigns to address human trafficking?**

There are multiple awareness raising campaigns on human trafficking for the 2010 World Cup, organised by government, police, NGOs, faith based organisations and international organisations. An international network of women's religious orders has launched a worldwide awareness campaign aimed at preventing human trafficking during the World Cup. The campaign titled, "2010 Should Be About the Game," has been targeting fans, religious leaders, potential victims of trafficking and the general public -- warning them about the risks and urging them to spread the word.

While supporting governments and various organisations are initiatives to prevent human trafficking, La Strada International is aware of the possible unintended and negative consequences that can occur as a result of such campaigns. Several organisations have indicated that efforts to prevent human trafficking have, in some countries, resulted in the restriction of the movement of young women, which is a violation of their rights.

La Strada International supports campaigns to raise awareness about human trafficking, in particular when providing information about the roots of human trafficking and informing a broader audience on the risks of human trafficking; how to recognise the signs of human trafficking, what to do if a person suspects human trafficking and how to report this etc. Sport events, like the FIFA World cup 2010 are a good opportunity to inform a large amount of persons.

However, LSI recommends that such campaigns do not only warn against human trafficking but also provide adequate information to migrants who want to work in the country during the World Cup with accurate information about working in South Africa in the different industries and the rights that they do or do not have. La Strada is sceptical about prevention campaigns that stigmatise or are only intended to prevent persons (in particular women) from coming to South Africa.