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HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN RUSSIA: ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS

RUSSIA - COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

Basic routes used by “transporters” out of Russia:

- ✘ Baltic route (via Baltic states to Germany, then to other European countries and the USA)
- ✘ Central European route (through Warsaw and Prague to Germany, Scandinavia and other countries)
- ✘ Mediterranean – to Turkey, Greece, Cyprus, Israel and Italy;
- ✘ The Caucasus transit route – via Georgia and Turkey to Greece and Italy
- ✘ Middle Eastern – via Egypt to Israel and the Middle East;
- ✘ Chinese – from Siberia and Primor’ye to Northern China.

SOME QUANTATIVE ESTIMATES OF “AT-RISK” GROUPS IN RUSSIA

Share of population with income below minimum subsistence level, 2011	13%, 50% of them are children and young adults (thirty or younger)
Children from families with income below subsistence level, 2011	Around 4 mln. persons
The unemployed (based on ILO methodology), 2012	4.5 mln. persons
Women with no professional education	3.5 mln. persons
Women with no secondary education	177,000 persons
Unemployed women	700,000 persons
Persons employed in the commercial services of a sexual nature	From 400,000 persons to 1 mln. persons
Children from “at risk” families	500,000 persons
Children left without parental care	700,000 persons
Homeless and persons with no fixed abode	3 mln. persons

RUSSIA - COUNTRY OF DESTINATION

- ✘ Routes from the CIS countries and economically depressed Asian regions. Almost all of the CIS states are involved in trafficking of humans into Russia as origin countries.
- ✘ The most vulnerable populations are those from Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Georgia, Armenia, Moldova, and the Ukraine.

SLAVE LABOR EXPLOITATION:

- × in sweatshops
- × in the informal and shadow economy
- × in underground production facilities and in the production of counterfeit products
- × in households
- × in construction industry

Labor migrants entering Russia from CIS countries and ready for illegal employment are very likely to become victims of human traffickers.

RUSSIA – COUNTRY OF TRANSIT

- ✘ Russian territory is a part of “Eastern European” and “Baltic” routes for the shipment from the Middle East and South-East Asia to Europe
- ✘ Citizens of Afghanistan, India, Pakistan and Iraq (primarily Kurds) get to Europe via trans-Caucasian countries (usually Azerbaijan), and then via Russia
- ✘ Migrants from Afghanistan, China, Vietnam and Bangladesh, enter Russia via Central Asian countries

REASONS FOR EXISTENCE OF HT PHENOMENON IN RUSSIA

- ✘ virtually transparent state borders between Russia and the CIS countries;
- ✘ increase in migration flows from and to Russia;
- ✘ economic disparity and employment challenges, when people from small cities are prone to false promises of better work and life in big cities and often end up in exploitation and slavery like situations lured by nets of criminal businesses;
- ✘ globalization of organized crime, existence of sustainable “delivery” channels.

LEGISLATION

- ✘ In March 2004 Russia ratified the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, including the Protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children
- ✘ Since 2003, the Criminal Code includes provisions, which criminalize human trafficking in persons (Article 127.1), exploitation of slave labour (Article 127.2), engagement in prostitution and procuring prostitution (amended Articles 240 and 241)
- ✘ The Federal Law of 20 August 2004 No. 119-FZ “On State Protection of Victims, Witnesses and Other Parties to Criminal Proceedings”. It enacts a set of state-guaranteed security measures for the protected persons. In accordance with the Law, claimants, witnesses, victims shall be eligible to the government protection. The Federal Law entered into force on January 1, 2005
- ✘ In 2007 Units for Combating Kidnapping and Human Trafficking within federal, regional (district) levels within the Interior Ministry structures were established.
- ✘ Programme for Cooperation among CIS Member states in Counteraction to illegal migration for 2012–2014 and the Programme in Combating Human Trafficking for 2014-2018.

LEGISLATION

✘ *Federal Law N 58-Φ3 (dated 5 April 2013)*

"On introduction of amendments into a number of legislative acts of the Russian Federation aimed at prevention of trafficking in minors, exploitation, child prostitution, as well as production and use of materials or items with pornographic images of minors".

The Federal Law N 124-Φ3 "On basic guarantees of the human rights of children in the Russian Federation" dated 24 July 1998, was amended with the following definitions: **"trafficking in minors"**; **"exploitation of minors"**; **"victim of trafficking in minors and (or) exploitation of minors"**.

STATISTICS FOR THE PERIOD 2009-2011

Criminal articles Code	2009		2010		2011		Total	
	Registered crimes	No of people prosecuted	Registered crimes	No of people prosecuted	Registered crimes	No of people prosecuted	Registered crimes	No of people prosecuted
127.1 (HT)	94	86	103	53	50	26	247	165
127.2 (slave labour)	8	13	15	9	17	11	40	33
240 (engagement to prostitution)	487	257	382	206	379	173	1248	636
241 (organization of prostitution)	1424	1166	958	883	788	701	3170	2750
242.1 (illegal dissemination of pornographic materials)	2392	1030	931	489	750	338	4073	1857
242.2 (illegal production of pornographic materials)	356	117	613	119	379	127	1348	363
322 (organisation of illegal migration)	1253	426	1598	601	1100	710	3951	1737
Total	6014	3095	4600	2460	3463	2086	14077	7641

INTERPARLIAMENTAL ASSEMBLY OF CIS MEMBER STATES

- ✘ Model Law “On Countering Human Trafficking”
- ✘ Model law on “Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking” – *both passed by MPA in April 2008*

PROGRAMME OF COOPERATION AMONG CIS MEMBER STATES IN COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING FOR 2014-2018

Activities:

- Strengthening of international legal basis for the cooperation of CIS member-states;
- Development and harmonization of their national legislations in the sphere of counteraction of human trafficking **and provision of assistance to victims;**
- Organization of coordinated procedural actions, preventive, operative and investigative activities and special operations;
- Provision of information and scientific support for cooperation;
- Conduct of joint actions in personnel advanced training and education;

PROGRAMME OF COOPERATION AMONG CIS MEMBER STATES IN COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING FOR 2014-2018

Activities in the sphere of assistance to victims:

- Exchange of experience on provision of state funding for non-governmental public organizations, working in the sphere of victims assistance. Develop measures on improvement of practical aspects of such assistance;
- Analyze the organizational structure and work of specialized facilities for the immediate assistance and social rehabilitation of victims of human trafficking. Develop practical measures for strengthening the capacities and improvement of work of such facilities.

PROBLEM OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN RUSSIA

- ✘ Lack of Federal anti-trafficking law, national plan of action and the state budget;
- ✘ No official federal anti-trafficking prevention programmes and anti-trafficking campaigns/initiatives are, as a general practice, conducted by non-governmental organizations (NGOs);
- ✘ Lack of state funded programmes for specific assistance to trafficking victims. Victim protection and assistance remains very weak element in the Russian counter-trafficking policy.
- ✘ Lack of interagency referral mechanism as an institutional basis for organization of a system of victims protection.

SHELTER FOR VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN ST. PETERSBURG

- ✘ Pilot project with IOM (01/02/2013 - 30/06/2014)
- ✘ Agreement with the DFMS on information support



**SHELTER: 8 PERSONS
LEGAL CONSULTATIONS, PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSISTANCE, SOCIAL
SUPPORT, WORK WITH DOCUMENTS, VOLUNTARY RETURN TO THE
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN**



DURING ONE YEAR MORE THAN 40 PERSONS TOOK PART IN THE PROJECT. OUT OF THEM 20 PERSONS WERE ACCOMMODATED IN SHELTER

◇ **Tajikistan**



◇ **Uzbekistan**

◇ **Cameroon**

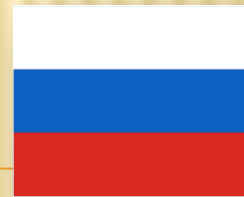
◇ **Nigeria**



◇ **Russia**

◇ **Sierra-Leone**

◇ **Moldova**



◇ **Vietnam**

◇ **Afghanistan**

Results of shelter project activities:

1. Wide dissemination of information about the shelter among representatives of state bodies, social workers, NGOs, mass media
2. 3 seminars and 2 conferences organized for representatives of social sphere and law enforcement bodies on issues of migration and TIP (200 persons took part);
3. A pilot Working group on referral mechanism is organized in St. Petersburg with involvement of state bodies and NGOs
4. Conference with participation of Baltic and Nordic representatives on 13 June 2013 in St. Petersburg
5. More than 15.000 applications on migration legislation and prevention of human trafficking



Present case with Vietnamese citizens

- 80 persons in the basement of a big house in St. Petersburg;
- Letter from the DFMS;
- Did not have documents in hand until the DFMS checked the employer;
- Had insufficient food;
- Insufficient sanitary arrangements;
- Working for 13-14 hours a day on a shift basis;
- Did not get out of the house without documents.

Actions of the Red Cross:

- 2 visits with food and sanitary items;
- Letters to law enforcement bodies, Federal Service for Oversight of Consumer Protection and Welfare, State Labour Inspection, Ombudsman of St. Petersburg;
- Making lists of Vietnamese citizens, identification of most vulnerable.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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