

EXPERT SEMINAR

TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Trafficking in human beings
Legal proceedings
(Björn Blomqvist)

Långholmen Conference Centre, Stockholm, 12- 13th November 2014

Distinguished guests and dear Colleagues,

This seminar is devoted to the effects on legal proceedings on human trafficking cases.

You are experienced prosecutors, judges, police officers, and other specialist, all working with cases and questions concerning human trafficking and representing Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden, gathered to this seminar to discuss legal proceedings on human trafficking, gives a good base for important discussions and conclusions.

The seminar will focus on a practitioners point of view - what are the problems associated with preliminary investigations, with bringing charges as well as on how has the problems been resolved and brought to trial?
This is very important.

Moreover – these problems are seldom to be solved efficient by the authorities in one single country. A cross border co-operation is needed especially with countries of “origin”. To be able to develop methods and enhance casework, you need the experience from different countries and good practice from cases. Possibilities’ and factor of success must be identified and explored.

In the program shows there is a variety of different scenarios and modus operandi in the criminality of trafficking in human beings, such as;
Berry picking, restaurants, cleaning, begging, pickpocketing, shoplifting, concerning sham marriages and involving children.

The starting points are challenges and problems in real cases and the exchange best practices to combat human trafficking in the labour market (construction, cleaning and agricultural sectors, berry picking and more to come). Trafficking in children and young people to be exploited as pickpockets, in begging and shoplifting as well as in sexual exploitation must be discussed.

Practitioners and experts from international organizations must work together to create but also to develop the regional possibilities of co-operation in networks and create a platform for prosecutors, judges, and police for faster and more certain results of cross border cooperation.

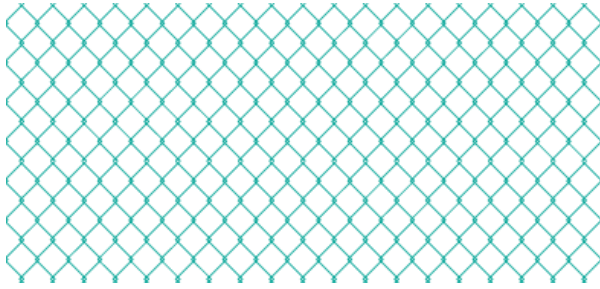
This is a main topic and a main goal for this seminar.

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An enhanced cooperation demands not only the willingness to cooperate but on the knowledge and understanding of the different legal systems and how criminal offences are defined in the laws in the concerned countries. The seminar will give some input and possibilities to create a better awareness on the differences but also possibilities of the use of different legal systems.

The investigations concerning trafficking in human beings are normally quit complicated to detect, investigate and bring to justice. The victims are often afraid. They often have a lack of confidence towards Authorities. Some of the crimes are close to the labour market or challenge the social welfare systems. The investigation involves a number of authorities from different countries. A very interesting matter is the use of Joint Investing Teams. Experience on this topic? Could this be more developed?

A complicating issue when we operate cross borders is the question to ensure a fair trial. Today defence lawyers sometimes question if the investigation is properly conducted in the light of the Convention of Human rights or if the investigation is meeting all formalities in the involved countries. Such questions – if not foreseen during the investigation and cooperation – could be very hard to handle when the case is brought in front of the court. I think it could be very useful to share experience also on this question.

Finally, let me make a remark on proceeds of crime. We must be better to confiscate the profit of criminality and develop efficient measures on money laundering. Trafficking in human beings generate normally a profit for the criminals or their organizations. We must develop our work to trace, disclose and to confiscate the proceeds of crime – especially in the field of cross border cooperation. In Sweden we are working on a multidisciplinary strategy, including a number of Swedish authorities, to enhance this work.

I really wish you all fruitful discussions during the seminar. Thank you.

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