

Summary of verbal submission to the Nordic Council of Ministers' Office in Estonia by the National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings, Detective Superintendent Kajsa Wahlberg, The Police Authority, Sweden, in Tallinn, Estonia, November 10-11, 2016.

I am delighted to have the opportunity to address the Nordic Council of Ministers' in this important matter.

In 1998, the Swedish Government appointed The National Police Board as National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings following a joint declaration of the European Union in 1997. At the time, knowledge about the scale, forms and consequences of this heinous crime was limited, in the EU as well as in Sweden.

With my team, I present annual monitoring reports to the Government on the state of the situation of all forms of human trafficking in Sweden, and give recommendations. To ensure that the documentation is reliable, information is collected at source through the seven existing police regions, the County Administrative Board (National coordinator), the Migration Agency, social service and NGO's within the Swedish Civil Society Platform. The assessments of trends in trafficking in human beings and gathering of statistics is also done in close cooperation with relevant community organizations active in this field, including women's anti-VAW groups. So far, since 1999 the NR has released 17 annual reports. The last report was released in October this year.

The reports are widely distributed, and are used both by government authorities and civil society in Sweden and elsewhere in their work to prevent and combat human trafficking. The Office of the National Rapporteur (ONRT) also answers questions from the media and the public, and arranges and participates in seminars and trainings nationally and internationally. The (ONRT) also inform about emerging issues, such as new forms and methods of trafficking in human beings to and within MS.

The mandate of the National Rapporteur includes the collection and analysis of data and information about the extent of all forms of

trafficking in human beings to, through and in Sweden, as well as extensive recommendations to the government, public authorities and other for how the problem can be prevented and combated.

The public service agreement for the 2015 budget year states that “the Police Authority should continue to act as the national rapporteur on matters concerning human trafficking (government bill 2010/11:77).¹ The national rapporteur’s mission includes gathering information about the scope of human trafficking (all forms) to, within and through Sweden, analysing the situation, giving recommendations about the way trafficking can be prevented and combated, and also reporting annually on these results to the government.”²

My mandate also gives me the responsibility to ensure that the Swedish police forces are given continuing training in how to investigate these crimes. I also represent Sweden at meetings of regional and international law enforcement bodies and cooperation schemes, including the European Commission Informal Network on National Rapporteurs.

The roles and the tasks of the Swedish National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings

My most important task is to monitor, analyze, and present comparative data about the state of trafficking in human beings within and to Sweden, and to evaluate the effectiveness of law enforcement actions as well as legal, policy and practical measures and initiatives.

Besides regular information updates from the national and regional police and prosecution authorities, as well as from other actors working against trafficking in human beings I also study the effectiveness of already implemented policy, legal and practical measures, or as the case may be, lack of measures.

I also examine investigations, prosecutions and sentencing of buyers, procurers and traffickers and organized crime networks. I also actively monitor, evaluate, and publicize information and data about emerging

¹ Public service agreement for the 2015 budget year concerning the Police Authority (government decision 22.12.2014)

² Government bill 2010/11: 77, Raised maximum penalty for the purchase of sexual services.

issues, such as new forms and methods of trafficking in human beings of women and children to and within MS.

It is important that the monitoring not just focus on legislative and prosecutorial measures, but also includes an analysis of prevention programs, including prevention against the demand, protection and assistance programs for victims, and the effects of anti-trafficking policies internationally and regionally.

In order to carry out my work effectively, I hold consultations with affected groups and individuals, public authorities, Members of Parliament and legislatures, academic and community researchers, representatives of countries with diplomatic offices in MS, interest groups, NGO's such as women's equality seeking groups, and other stake holders.

Conclusion

Over the years, the NR has developed a large national and international network with representatives from Interpol, Europol, governments, public authorities, agencies and regional and non-governmental organisations working to eliminate trafficking in human beings. The mandate and work of the NR is reviewed by the Government with some regularity.

Through its wide mandate and based on twenty years for experience, the Swedish NR has been given a unique opportunity to influence the policy and legislative development and the implementation of measures to prevent and combat trafficking in human beings in Sweden. The comprehensive, community-public authority, collaborative model that we use in our work, could, I suggest, function as a model for the development of similar functions in other countries.

Since the appointment of the NR in 1997, the sitting governments have been very receptive to the recommendations put forward by the NR in her annual reports, with decisive changes to laws, policies and practices as a result.

It is evident that the existence of a National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings in Sweden, and the publication of 17 annual monitoring reports have been central to the development and

implementation of government policy and legislation, and important contributing factors for the increase in understanding and knowledge about prostitution and trafficking in human beings in Sweden.

Thank you!