

Trafficking in Albania

Albania is one of the main Countries of origin for the victims of trafficking within Europe. Mainly young/women and children are most vulnerable to all forms of modern day slavery. There are many social and economic factors that affect human trafficking and exploitation, such as patriarchal mentality and male dominance, poverty, lack of education, unemployment. MWL with its projects is working mostly on prevention of this phenomenon by tackling the main factors which increases the vulnerability of communities.

Apart from the risk of trafficking, Albanian women go through many difficulties after being rescued. Their safety for the survived victims can't be assured since Albania is a small country and the chances that they can be detected by the traffickers are high, which puts them into risk of being re-trafficked, or being victims of vindictive acts of the traffickers such as violence, rape, threatens, murder.

There is a huge lack of empathy for victims of trafficking in Albanian society. Very often, the finger is pointed to the victim and not to the trafficker. The victim gets prejudiced and blamed for experiencing a trafficking situation, she is called a prostitute. Many people would refuse to socialise with "a prostitute", leading to low self esteem and to a sense of loneliness. Some more moderated attitudes towards victims of trafficking consist in explaining the trafficking situation as "a past mistake", and judgments for people in Albania are mostly based on each of their "past mistakes".

In most of the cases, these victims are rejected by the family, since it is seen as a matter of honour and the girl is considered to dishonour the family by prostituting. Girls who are rejected by the family do not have a very good reputation in the society, which increases the vulnerability to trafficking.