

Request for information about human trafficking in your country and your work in this field:

- **Please share important details of the recent developments of human trafficking situation in a written form. Thanks to this individual effort we will be able to gather a valuable package which will be shared with all the Membership.**

Trafficking in human beings is a phenomenon subject to dynamic change, whose severity was observed in Poland in early 90s.

Human trafficking is a crime that often is transboundary- natured. Polish specificity lies in the fact that it is also a country:

- origin of the victims used in other European countries,
- destination for victims, primarily from Eastern Europe and Asia,
- transit of victims from Eastern Europe and Asia to Western Europe.

In Poland coordination to prevent and combat trafficking in human beings by the Ministry of Interior. Since 2003 every 2-3 years is developed the National Action Plan and it is a basic governmental document adopted by the Council of Ministers concerning the functioning of the system for combating and preventing trafficking in human beings in Poland. The activities are financed from the state budget.

The relevant regulation in polish legal system, which came into force in 2010, is article 115 (22) of the Penal Code containing a legal definition of trafficking in human beings. It is based on the definition in the UNO Convention of 2000. It serves as the main tool for identifying victims of trafficking. In Poland the identification make law enforcement agencies, like the police, Border Guard and prosecution.

The crime of human trafficking in Poland is punishable by imprisonment for not less than 3 years (Criminal Code, art. 189a) and thus constitutes a felony.

Protection of victims in Poland is governed by laws (the Law on Foreigners - legalization of staying the victims of trafficking in Poland; the Social Support Act - providing social assistance to victims of trafficking) and the Criminal Code (e.g. victims have the right to police protection or anonymity during testimony).

For many years in Police and Border Guard are specialized units to combat trafficking. Each province in Poland has its own unit.

In addition, since 2015 each province has a team to fight human trafficking, which is the regional offices and brings together all the organizations of the province involved in the topic (police, Border Guard, Work inspection, NGOs, etc.).

Help the victims of human trafficking in Poland is provided through the National Consulting and Intervention Centre (KCIK) for Polish and foreign victims of human trafficking (it leads La Strada Foundation and the Association PoMOC). The project is financed from the state budget. KCIK provides comprehensive assistance to victims, including safe shelter, legal assistance, psychological, medical, provision of basic needs, accompanying the testimony, assistance in dealing with the various institutions, etc. Annually we help ca. 200 people, they are the Polish victims, foreigners, women, men and children.

In Poland, they are used Polish victims, but also foreigners, mostly Romania (including Roma), Bulgaria, Ukraine, Belarus, as well as from Asia (Vietnam, China, Philippines) and Africa. Frequently forced to the sex business, forced labor, the use of identity (benefits, setting up bank accounts, loans, etc.), forced to commit crimes (theft, fraud, transportation of drugs) and to beg.

Poles are the most exploited in the UK, Germany, Benelux, Scandinavian countries, as well as in Italy and Spain (downward trend). Most is used for women to sex business, but also observed an increase in the number of victims of forced labor, including men.

We observe that social groups in Poland at risk of human trafficking are mostly people who are in a difficult situation (unemployed, from pathological families, abandoned, without family ties), job seekers abroad (without knowing the language, law and culture of the country in which is included) and minors (children and adolescents).

More about the phenomenon and any news on the government's website (also in English):
www.handelludzmi.eu

We recommend web sites:

www.kcik.pl

www.po-moc.pl

www.siecbakhita.com

Contact to Poland: KCIK: (0048) 22 628 01 20; info@kcik.pl

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