



Working together

**Trafficking in Women for sexual exploitation
Assistance and prevention**
www.nordicbaltic-assistwomen.net

A Pilot Project, including NGOs and government agencies from the eight Nordic and Baltic countries, working together to develop the best possible models to support and assist women who are trafficked, placing the needs of women at the centre of all activities.

Strengthening regional cooperation: From pilot project to creation of the Nordic Baltic Network

The “Nordic-Baltic Pilot Project” is a three year programme launched in 2005 to strengthen cooperation and to develop concrete activities to support and assist women victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation in the Nordic Baltic region. As an integral part of the project, the Nordic Baltic Network comprising of NGOs and government agencies was set up in 2006, to work together to strengthen support and assistance to women victims of trafficking in all eight participating countries: Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden.

The Nordic-Baltic Project is co-ordinated by the *European Women’s Lobby*, by appointment of the *Nordic-Baltic Taskforce* against trafficking in human beings. The pilot phase of the project is funded by the Nordic countries over a three-year period (2005-2008).

Trafficking in Women for Sexual Exploitation

According to the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children (2000) victims of trafficking are subjected to “*exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs*”. Whatever the purpose, human trafficking always involves the recruitment of a person, the transport across continents, countries, regions or cities, with the aim of exploiting them or profiting from them or their labour.

Annually, according to U.S. Government-sponsored research completed in 2006, approximately 800,000 people are trafficked across national borders, which does not include millions trafficked within their own countries. Approximately 80 percent of transnational victims are women and girls and up to 50 percent are minors. The majority of transnational victims are females trafficked into commercial sexual exploitation. These numbers do not include millions of female and male victims around the world who are trafficked within their own national borders—the majority for forced or bonded labour.

US department of state Trafficking in persons report 2008.
<http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2008/105376.htm>

THE SITUATION IN EUROPE

Trafficking in women for sexual exploitation in the sex industry remains the most dominant form of trafficking in Europe today. While women are also trafficked for labour exploitation, in particular for exploitation in domestic work in Europe, the most prevailing form of trafficking in women and girls remains for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

Almost all countries in the European Union are today both destination and transit countries for trafficked women. However not all countries are origin countries, that is the countries where the women are trafficked from. Great economic disparities between countries together with limited possibilities for people to ensure their livelihoods, have fuelled trafficking of women from Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, mainly to Western Europe and North America. Not the other way around.

International action against trafficking in women

During the last decade several international regulations addressing trafficking in human beings, and

in particular women and children, have been developed. Among the most important ones are the *United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children* (2000) (UN Protocol) and the *Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings* (2005) (CoE Convention). Both these international regulations contain important provisions outlining the obligations of States in many areas, including the right to protection and assistance for victims of trafficking.

In addition, the European Union has developed legislation and policies against trafficking, including the *Council framework decision on combating trafficking in human beings, the EU plan on best practices, standards and procedures for combating and preventing trafficking in human beings* (2005), as well as legislation that is relevant to victim assistance and protection.

Focus on trafficking in women and girls for sexual exploitation

Trafficking can take place for a variety of reasons and therefore it is difficult to address all the forms with the same sets of measures and/or policies. In

order to identify the best possible actions and responses - both when it comes to prevention, prosecution, and protection - it is necessary to analyse and differentiate between different forms of trafficking, without establishing a hierarchy.

Given the extent of the problem of trafficking in women and girls for sexual exploitation in Europe, it is essential to maintain a specific focus in this area. The aim is to develop an in depth understanding of the root causes, the most effective prevention strategies, and how to meet the support and assistance needs of victims.

The Nordic Baltic Project and Network focus on trafficking in women for sexual exploitation, and has developed specific expertise in this area in order to contribute to better policies and concrete actions to prevent trafficking, and in particular protect women and girls victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation.

The Nordic Baltic pilot project aims to act as a starting point for long-term change in the region, developing victim-centred and durable models for support and reintegration of women victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation.
Nordic Baltic Network - Regional guiding principles

TRAFFICKING – THE GLOBAL PROFITS

**Tr trafficked victims
account for
US\$ 31.6 billion**

**Victims of sexual
exploitation account for
US\$ 27.8 billion**

Source: Europol May 2007

**The UNODC estimated in
2006 that 13% of victims
of trafficking are
exploited for their labour
in Europe.**

Source: Europol May 2007



The specificities of trafficking in women

It is important to recognise that trafficking in human beings is a highly gendered phenomenon, and that women and men are being trafficked into different situations. The 'push' and 'pull' factors for trafficking in women into the sex-industry are different from the push and pull factors that fuel trafficking for labour exploitation in, for example, construction work and in the agricultural sector.

Among the *push factors* making women vulnerable to trafficking and exploitation, are poverty, gender inequalities and violence against women. Among the *pull factors*, a demand for trafficked women in the destination countries through the expansion of the sex-industry: prostitution-markets, porn industry, etc.

The Nordic Baltic network considers sex trafficking, and other forms of sexual exploitation, as forms of violence against women.

The network agrees that the racism inherent in trafficking in women and sexual exploitation must be addressed.

Nordic Baltic Network - Regional guiding principles

The links between trafficking and prostitution

Both the European Union Action Plan on trafficking as well as the Council of Europe Convention recognise that demand reduction, albeit in more general terms, should be part of an integrated strategy against trafficking.

In terms of trafficking for sexual exploitation, many actors are reluctant to recognise that there is a link to the demand for women in 'prostitution markets' in the destination countries. Consequently, without the demand for women in the sex-industry, there would be no business for pimps, and as a result no need for a 'supply' chain. No demand, no supply, no trafficking.

Increasingly, evaluation reports on the models that regulate prostitution, show that in those countries where the focus is to curb the demand, trafficking in women for sexual exploitation is less prevalent than in countries that have legalised/institutionalised prostitution as a form of work. There are different strategies to curb the demand in the sex industry, which include targeting the pimps and brothel-owners, raising awareness and changing of attitudes, as well as establishing administrative penalties for buyers or criminalising the buying of sexual services.

Demand reduction is essential to reduce trafficking in women for sexual exploitation, and the network will ensure that the responsibility of the sex buyers is addressed.

Nordic Baltic Network - Regional guiding principles

Curbing the demand is also important from a gender equality perspective, as prostitution markets perpetuate inequality as well as a conservative view on sexuality, in which the commercial interests are the dominant factors.

It should also be pointed out that repressive policies actually targeting women in prostitution rather than focusing on the pimps and buyers are an unacceptable development and is contrary to the goal of support and protection. Women in prostitution should not be subjected to regulatory measures, obligatory health controls, administrative fines or other constraints, costs and/or punishments.

Repressive immigration policies fuel trafficking

In the last decade, European Union Member States have moved towards increasingly restrictive immi-

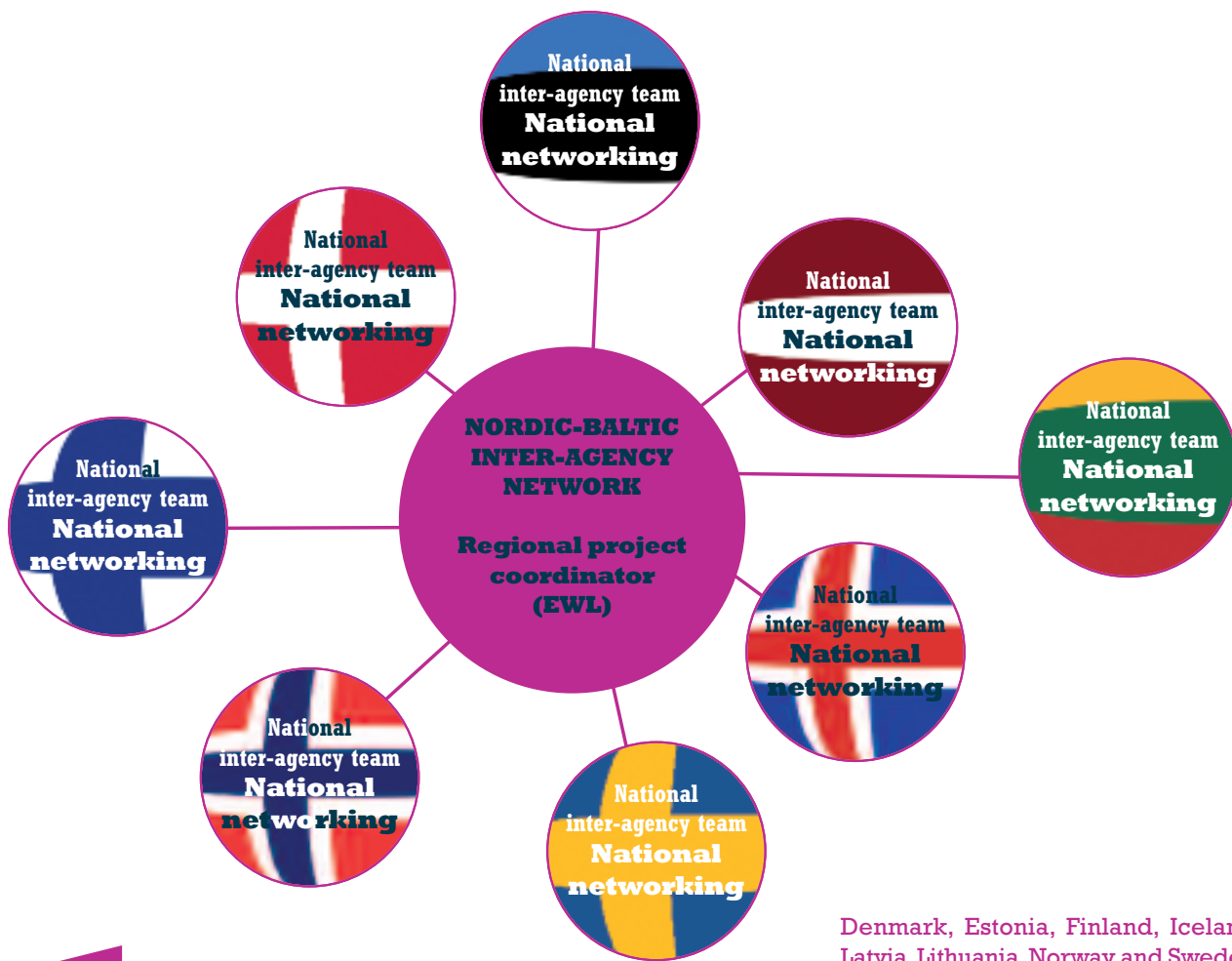
gration policies, which has had a negative impact on trafficking. The vulnerability to trafficking is linked to the desire of women and men to seek better life opportunities other than what their country of origin can offer. Restrictive immigration policies, stricter border controls, and biometric ID systems will not make women and men less vulnerable to trafficking. On the contrary. Therefore, it is clear that trafficking cannot be efficiently counteracted without also having an overview and a strategy for reform of European immigration policies and practices.

Increased focus on victim support and assistance needed

All work against trafficking must increasingly focus on the needs and well being of victims. This would not mean that other aspects of fighting trafficking in women, such as police cooperation and prosecution, would be deemed less important. However, it would entail a shift in focus, where all actions must be measured against their impact firstly on the victim her/him self. This applies for policies and practices in all areas, from identification procedures, court procedures, compensation schemes, return policies, shelter set up, to the rules on residence status for victims of trafficking, etc.

The Nordic Baltic Pilot Project

A regional model of cooperation



Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden.

WORKING TOGETHER

The overarching aim of enhanced collaboration between the Nordic and Baltic countries is to develop a regional approach and standards designed to provide for the legal, social, economic, medical and psychological care, safety and protection of and for women victims of trafficking.

At the core of this process is the reinforced cooperation between, on the one hand government agencies such as ministries, police, prosecutors' offices, immigration authorities, etc., and on the other hand different NGOs that work against trafficking in women and provide victim support. It is often acknowledged that this kind of *inter-agency* structure and cooperation is needed for successful work in the area of trafficking. However, there are still limited examples of successful and sustainable cooperation between NGOs and government agencies. There are even less examples of a multi-country approach based on structured NGO-Government agency cooperation, which includes both destination countries and origin countries. One of the most important aspects and a key success of the Nordic Baltic pilot project is the establishment of multicountry inter-agency cooperation.

The network is committed to work in a collaborative, multidisciplinary way, involving all relevant actors from government and civil society, and in particular women's organisations.

Nordic Baltic Network - Regional guiding principles

The Nordic-Baltic inter-agency network

A regional inter-agency Network has been set up, which include public agencies and NGOs from all Nordic and Baltic countries who work with, support and protect women victims of trafficking. The Network meets regularly to develop and share experiences and expertise, to develop common standards and guidelines for victim support, and to identify and agree on regional priorities, etc

Protecting the rights and safety of women victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation (VOT) is the first and foremost priority of all cooperative measures undertaken.

Nordic Baltic Network - Regional guiding principles



Strengthened national networking processes

The Nordic Baltic pilot project also enhances national inter-agency networking. The role of the national networking process is to gather all key stakeholders with the aim to ensure improved victim support at national level through an increased cooperation, coordination, and exchange of information in each of the participating countries. Each country has designated a **national inter-agency team**. These teams take on a key role to coordinate the efforts at national level and make the link between the national level and the regional Nordic Baltic network.

Development and reinforcement of assistance/support programmes

The Network focuses its work on reinforcing and improving the assistance programmes in all eight participating countries, through exchange of expertise, setting of shared standards, and increased cooperation. All programmes aim to offer a range of services, including housing, medical and psychological services, legal advice, social support, training, and assistance for job insertion. The pilot project also financially supported service provision

structures in Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania to initiate or reinforce existing, specialised shelter and assistance programmes for women victims of trafficking.

Financing for assistance and support to women VOT must be ensured and be provided on a long-term, secure basis.

Nordic Baltic Network - Regional guiding principles

PARTNERSHIPS BASED ON EQUALITY

Between government agencies and NGOs

The challenges to develop successful cooperation between NGOs and government agencies are many. Among them, perhaps the most important one is to create an atmosphere of mutual trust and equal playing field in terms of partnership. Many NGOs are dependent upon the government agencies for their funding. This reality can put the communication flows under strain. Moreover, not all NGOs are of the opinion that government officials can be real partners in achieving their goals, while not all government officials are of the opinion that they can learn from NGOs. The Nordic Baltic pilot

project has worked very consciously towards establishing a high level of trust within the network, where NGOs are valued and listened to on an equal footing with government agencies.

Between the partner countries

Working against trafficking and to support victims entails quite different things and has different im-

plications depending on if you are primarily a destination country or an origin country. Since, structurally it is the wealthier countries that are destination countries and the less wealthy countries are the origin countries, one can easily see that there is a structural inequality. It is very clear that destination countries sometimes use this imbalance when unilaterally developing anti-trafficking responses, victim assistance policies, and so-called return programmes. It is the outspoken aim of the Nordic Baltic pilot project to give equal voice to all participating countries – from both the Nordic countries, primarily destination countries, and the Baltic countries, primarily origin countries. Concretely it means for example that Latvian partners must be able to have an opinion on how assistance is developed in any of the destination countries in the region, and vice versa.

UN PROTOCOL - ARTICLE 3

(a) “Trafficking in persons” shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs;

(b) The consent of a victim of trafficking in persons to the intended exploitation set forth in subparagraph (a) of this article shall be irrelevant where any of the means set forth in subparagraph (a) have been used;

It is a moral obligation of host countries to take all necessary action in order to identify victims of trafficking and to assist women VOT, since it is in the host country that the exploitation has taken place.

Nordic Baltic network – Standards for Implementation – Assistance to VOTs

ALL VICTIMS MUST RECEIVE SUPPORT

A successful identification process is key in making sure that women victims of trafficking get the assistance and support they are entitled to, and to make sure that women victims are not charged with administrative or criminal offences, such as 'illegal residence', 'irregular earnings', or any other activity classified as criminal. The definition in the United Nations Protocol and the Council of Europe Convention stipulates an inclusive approach, in order to make sure that women, men, girls and boys victims of trafficking are not excluded from support measures, so as to avail of all necessary protection. It is therefore important to refer to this definition in all relevant documents and activities.

The need for an inclusive identification process

The identification of victims of trafficking remains one of the main challenges in the work against trafficking. Those responsible (legal authorities, police, etc), central for the identification process, often use a very restrictive definition with the result that

women victims of trafficking for sexual purposes are not recognised as such, and subsequently are not offered assistance and support. In many cases, foreign women in prostitution are simply considered as 'illegally resident migrants', and are deported.

The identification process is also about being able to offer alternatives to women, including the possibility to stay in a host country.

Nordic Baltic network – Standards for Implementation – Assistance to VOTs

A real change in attitudes and an increased understanding of the environment in which prostitution occurs is needed among key actors in order to improve the identification processes. Access to the assistance process must be simplified and the threshold for being identified as a victim of trafficking must be low, in order to not exclude anyone. Given their experience and understanding of the environments of prostitution, women's NGOs working on the ground, as well as other assistance/support provision structures must be trusted to identify victims.



The network will dedicate its efforts to assist and protect women VOT, and work with a reasonable belief approach in the identification process in line with the UN Protocol.

Nordic Baltic Network - Regional guiding principles

ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT PROGRAMMES FOR WOMEN VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING

Both the UN Protocol and the Council of Europe Convention contain important provisions outlining the right to protection and assistance for victims of trafficking, and are legally binding for the States parties that have ratified them. In addition, the European Union has developed some binding policies in the area of victim assistance and protection: the EU Framework decision on the standing of victims in criminal proceedings (2001); and the EU Directive on the residence permit issued to third-country nationals who are victims of trafficking in human beings {...} who cooperate with the competent authorities (2004).

Assisting women victims - a matter of priority

The protection and assistance needs of women who are trafficked vary considerably depending of what

form of exploitation a victim of trafficking has been subjected to. Women trafficked for sexual exploitation in the sex industry have specific assistance needs. On the basis of the provisions laid down in the UN Protocol and the Council of Europe Convention, six key areas of victim assistance and support have been identified by the Nordic Baltic network. Concrete actions need to be developed in all of these areas in order to ensure a human rights-cent-

The Nordic and Baltic countries have an obligation to ensure access to justice, and a full range of human rights/victim-centred services and support measures for women VOT (due diligence principle).

Nordic Baltic Network - Regional guiding principles

All actors in the Nordic Baltic regional network will ensure that the dignity, integrity, privacy, and identity of women VOT are protected throughout the process of assistance and support. The network will work to empower VOT and respect their decisions.

An important part of service and support work to women VOT is to provide real possibilities for women to break out from prostitution. More financial resources are needed in order to do this work successfully.

In order to develop appropriate responses and support measures, service providing NGOs must be increasingly resourced and their expertise acknowledged.

Nordic Baltic Network - Regional guiding principles

ted system of support and assistance for women victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation. All of the eight participating countries in the Nordic Baltic pilot project have developed national work plans in which they specify how progress will be achieved in the six key areas. The priority given to each area depends on the situation in their respective countries.

The key areas are:

- 1. Identification of women victims of trafficking*
- 2. Residence/legal status and reflection delay*
- 3. Shelter and specialised services*
- 4. Referrals and Safe returns*
- 5. Victim protection and data protection*
- 6. Compensation and Financial assistance*

DEVELOPING AND SHARING RESOURCES BETWEEN PARTNERS

Capacity building and training activities

Capacity building and training elements are important parts of the process towards developing a

victim-centred programme of support and assistance in the region. Nordic-Baltic regional capacity building seminars have focused on making an assessment of existing practices, on identifying good models and practices, and on developing new models of support and assistance that respond more appropriately to the needs of the victims.

Regional resources and standards for victim support

Through sharing of resources, the Nordic-Baltic Network is developing common standards to guide the work in developing and improving programmes for victim support and assistance.

Outreach and dissemination activities

The project aims to increase the exchange of knowledge and the dialogue with a wider range of stakeholders and policy-makers within the Nordic Baltic region as well as beyond, including a specific exchange of expertise with and between organisations/structures across Europe providing victim support.

ANNEX

NorDiC BaltiC stanDards

**Support to Women victims of trafficking
for sexual exploitation**

KEY ELEMENTS IN A VICTIM-CENTRED APPROACH

On the basis of the provisions laid down in the UN Protocol and the Council of Europe Convention, six key areas of victim assistance and support have been identified. Concrete actions need to be developed in all these areas in order to ensure a human rights-centred system of support and assistance for women victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation.

These standards have been developed as part of the Nordic Baltic pilot project, on the basis of the provisions laid down in the UN Protocol and the Council of Europe Convention. The standards for implementation were outlined at the first regional Nordic Baltic inter-agency network meeting (Riga, 18-20 June 2006), which brought together national teams from all 8 Nordic and Baltic countries.

1. Identification of women victims of trafficking

✘ A successful identification process is key in making sure that women victims of trafficking get the

assistance and support they are entitled to, and to make sure that women victims are not charged with administrative or criminal offences, such as 'illegal residence', 'irregular earnings', or other criminal activities.

✘ Institutionalised cooperation between key actors (involving social services, NGOs, law enforcement agencies, etc) is needed in order to achieve a reliable identification process. Cooperation is an ongoing process, and regular meetings between the key actors are necessary.

✘ Outreach work in prostitution environments is important for identification of women VOT. The close links between the sex industry, the porn industry and brothels must also be recognised when working towards identifying women VOT.

✘ Women VOT will oftentimes have difficulties to disclose information or talk about their experiences of abuse and violations (and thus be correctly identified as victims of trafficking). Consequently, the process of identification can take time, as the story of a woman changes over time as she gets support, feels safer, and feels more trust.

✘ It is essential that women's organisations, with experience of working with women victims of sexual abuse and violence, participate in the identification process.

✘ It is important to use a 'low threshold' in the process of identification, and to put in place a process that in practice 'reverses the burden of proof'. Women in prostitution that are found irregularly residing in the host country should first and by assumption be treated as possible victims of trafficking and therefore exempted from criminal and administrative charges until proven otherwise. It is important to stress that the consent of a victim in a trafficking process is irrelevant, and there is a need to change attitudes in relation to this among the actors that are central to the identification process.

✘ It is important to recognise that even if a woman came to the country of destination by her own initiative she can along the way become a victim of trafficking. What starts as a migration process can become trafficking.

✘ The identification process is also about being able to offer alternatives to women, including the possibility to stay in a host country.

✘ It is important that frontline staff (judges, municipality workers, medical staff, etc) have the necessary skills and are continuously up-skilled. The training must be ongoing. A manual laying down the basics for identification of a woman victim of trafficking for sexual exploitation is a good tool.

✘ Any distinction between the 'unworthy' woman in prostitution and the worthy 'victim' woman in prostitution is unacceptable. All women (nationals or non-nationals) in prostitution must be entitled to assistance and support, and have access to protection.

✘ It is a moral obligation of host countries to take all necessary action in order to identify victims of trafficking and to assist women VOT, since it is in the host country that the exploitation has taken place.

2. Residence status and reflection delay

✘ Given the control and abuse inherent in prostitution environments, procedures should be sought that will prolong the reflection period for women VOT. The reflection delay should be minimum 3 months, but more adequately 6 months.



✘ National residency regimes, and how they are implemented, have a very important impact on the lives of women VOT. The Nordic and Baltic countries must enhance the possibility for women victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation to be granted both short- and long- term residence permits based on their personal situation and on the basis of humanitarian reasons.

✘ Countries should make sure that different processes work together (the asylum process, reflection delay, temporary VOT residence permits) towards ensuring that the well being of the women victims and their rights are at the centre.

✘ During the reflection delay women VOTs shall have access to a range of services, including secure housing, clothing, health care and psychological support, professional advice, including legal advice, in a language that she understands and is comfortable with.

✘ The reflection period must include contents and activities for women VOT. During the reflection period (and when granted a temporary residence permit), women VOT shall be entitled to access

training and education, as well as uphold a legal work permit.

✘ It is important to provide predictable information and make sure that women VOT know what will happen to them next. Information concerning the possibility to return and possibilities to remain in the host country must be part of the information provided early on in the process. The information needs to be repeated and provided continuously.

✘ It is important to provide guarantees about the future for women VOT. One could consider granting residence permit to all women victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation who want to stay. Residence permits and assurances about the future for women VOT is also often important for legal cases to be successfully carried through.

3. Shelter and specialised services

✘ All assistance must be centred on the woman victim and her needs. An individual care plan should be developed for each assisted woman, including:

- Safe housing

- Food and clothing
- Health services
- Legal services
- Social and psychological support
- Money for activities
- Training and education possibilities
- Employment assistance
- Support in dealing with authorities

✘ All women should have right to assistance, even if they do not report to the authorities or have a legal case pending. Moreover, access to services and assistance should not automatically be conditional on whether the victim has ceased all contact with the trafficker and/or pimp. Instead the individual situation of each woman victim must be taken into account.

✘ Women victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation will receive individualised and specialised assistance and services, which recognises the specificity of sexual abuse and violence in prostitution environments.

✘ In order to provide the necessary support, services must be developed on the basis on awareness and respect for cultural differences, and

support must be provided in several languages (always in a language that the assisted woman understands).

✘ It is important to integrate the support of other women that have been victims of sexual exploitation into the process of victim assistance.

✘ Women victims of trafficking will be provided with secure and protected housing. However, they will be entitled to move freely if they wish. Victim-centred guidelines for shelters should be developed.

✘ Legal support should include liaising and support with legal processes in the home country if a return is being planned.

4. Referrals and safe return

✘ Safe returns must be seen as a process. This process includes: services and support in the host country; a due period of time enabling for the woman to recuperate; a risk-assessment and preparation/planning period before the return; and finally a range of services and support in the country of return.

✘ The return process must not be in contradiction to the best interest of the woman victim, and returns must aim to be voluntary. Victims shall never be charged for the costs of travel or documentation in relation to their return.

✘ Safe returns require bi-lateral links between support and service providing structures, and must include development of a safety plan for the woman returning. A structure/institution responsible for the return process needs to be identified in each country, and properly financed to coordinate the referrals and return process.

✘ A needs-assessment will be carried out in order to plan and make available specialised services upon return. The following support and services must be in place: housing, drop-in services and counselling, health care, financial assistance, and job training opportunities.

✘ Bi-lateral links must also be developed in order to coordinate a legal case, and ensure efficient cross legal systems case work.

5. Victim protection and data protection

✘ The data and identity of all women victims of trafficking must be protected throughout assistance, in case of legal proceedings, as well as in any return process.

✘ Witness protection should encompass physical protection, psychological protection (avoiding re-victimisation, not causing any further trauma and stress, special psychological support, etc), and also protection from unfair treatment. All victims engaged in criminal proceedings should be entitled to their own legal adviser.

✘ National witness protection schemes must be adapted to ensure the safety and security of women VOT, taking into account the specific control mechanisms, violence, and criminality that pimps and sex industry actors are involved in. Witness (and victim) support, not only protection, is needed.

✘ In order to respect the well-being and safety of the victim, procedural adaptations in court proceedings should be ensured (exclusion of the de-

fendant and of the public, use of third party testimonies, non-testimonial prosecutions, etc).

✘ Social workers and support personnel should be entitled to keep confidentiality if they believe that disclosing certain information, which they have acquired in confidence, could be detrimental or dangerous for the woman.

6. Compensation and financial assistance

✘ National legislation and procedures should allow for women VOT to receive compensation. Victims should have the right to be compensated for personal suffering due to physical and psychological stress (non-material damages), losses caused by material damages, and also compensation for withheld earnings.

✘ Victims must be informed at the earliest possible moment about their right to compensation.

✘ Compensation is an important element of redress, and a concrete confirmation that harm has been done. It can also contribute to increasing the opportunities to build sustainable futures for VOTs.

✘ There are different ways of ensuring financial compensation to victims, and the mechanisms may vary in different countries:

- Direct from the perpetrator on an individual basis through a court procedure.

- State-run crime victims' funds, possibly financed by confiscated criminal assets, which all women victims of trafficking could apply to.

✘ For each successful trafficking case brought to court, there are many more women who do not get any redress. Financial assets confiscated through an individual court case should therefore not only serve to compensate the victim concerned in that specific case. A proportion should be fed into the crime victims' fund, and also be used to fund victim support services.

REFERENCES

- United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children (2000), supplementing the UN Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime
- Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (2005).
- 29/4/2004 Council Directive 2004/81/EC of 29 April 2004 on the residence permit issued to third-country nationals who are victims of trafficking in human beings or who have been the subject of an action to facilitate illegal immigration, who cooperate with the competent authorities.
- Council Framework decision 2001/220/JHA of 15 March 2001 on the standing of victims in criminal proceedings (2001).
- Fighting trafficking in human beings : an integrated approach and proposals for an action plan COM/2005/0514 final

Organisations and structures

providing support and assistance to women victims of trafficking in the Nordic and Baltic countries

DENMARK**National Anti-trafficking Centre**

Hotline : +45 7020 2550

Email : gti@servicestyrelsen.dk

ESTONIA**Union of Women's Shelters Estonia**

Email : varjupaikadeliit@hotmail.ee

Email : varjupaikadeliit@enu.ee

Phone : +37256240606

FINLAND**Monika Multicultural Women's Association**

Website : www.monikanaiset.fi

Email : info@monikanaiset.fi

24 h hotline : +358 9 692 2304

General office number Mon-Fri 9-17 :

+358 9 72 79 9999

ICELAND**Stigamót**

Phone : 00 354 5626868

For women in the sex industry : 00 354 8006262

Website : <http://www.stigamot.is>

Email : stigamot@stigamot.is

Kvennaathvarfid/Women's Shelter

Email : kvennaathvarf@kvennaathvarf.is

Email : sigthrudur@kvennaathvarf.is

Website : www.kvennaathvarf.is

Phone : 00 354 5611205

LATVIA**Marta Centrs/Resource Center for Women Marta**

Email : centrs@marta.lv

Website : www.marta.lv

Hotline : 80002012

LITHUANIA

Klaipeda social and psychological support centre

Email : kmn@moteriai.lt

Website : <http://www.moteriai.lt>

Hotline : +370 8 800 66366 (10.00 - 21.00)
+370 8 800 66663 (21:00 - 10:00)

NORWAY

Rosa prosjektet/Rosa project

Email : stopp.kvinnehandel@online.no

Hotline : +47 22331160

Website : <http://www.rosa-help.no>

SWEDEN

ROKS/National Organisation for Women's Shelters

Roks/the national organisation for women's and girls' shelters in Sweden

Website : <http://www.roks.se>

Email : info@roks.se

Phone number : +46 – 8- 442 99 30

The Swedish Association of Women's Shelters / SKR

Website : <http://www.kvinnojour.com>

Email : info@kvinnojour.com

Phone number (office) : +46 - 8-642 64 01

The **European Women's Lobby** (EWL) is the largest alliance of women's non-governmental organisations in the European Union. The EWL works for the advancement of equality between women and men in all spheres of society and for the elimination of all forms of violence against women.

www.womenlobby.org

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European Women's Lobby

Nordic Baltic Network

support to women victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation



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