Stop Traffick! International Conference

Efficient Strategies to Reduce Demand for Services from victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation

Karen McHugh Doras Luimní 27th March 2014



- Setting the context
- Overview of Doras Luimní work
- Outline of our direct Anti-trafficking work
- Issues; Concerns; Recommendations



Promoting and protecting human rights



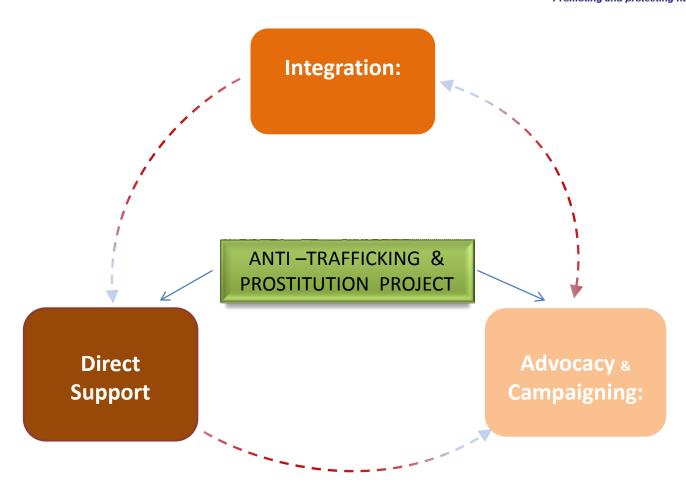
Doras Luimní



- Doras Luimní is an independent, non-profit, nongovernmental organisation working to support and promote the rights of all migrants living in Limerick and the wider Mid-West region.
- Doras was founded in 2000 to originally provide help to asylum seekers and refugees who have arrived in Ireland and now it provides supports to all migrants and groups in the Limerick area.
- The word "doras" (door) stands for a door into Limerick a welcoming to all people. The word "Luimní" is the Irish term for Limerick.

Areas of Work







Anti-Trafficking & Prostitution Project

- Awareness Raising through:
 Participation in local and national campaigns;
 Conferences; Training Sessions; Information sessions.
- Participation at Irish policy level via National Referral Mechanism (NRM)
- Participation at EU policy level EU GRETA; OSCE; US State Dept.
- Regional Anti-Trafficking Steering Group
- Participation in TORL and representation at regional level
- Advocacy and Case Work
- o Street Outreach Programme



Street Outreach Programme

- Background
- Partnership with Red Ribbon Project
- 82 outreach sessions in 2013
- Over 300 face to face contacts with women
- 90% are Romanian; other 10% Irish or other nationalities
- We run a harm reduction and exiting model of work
- We assist in women exiting; support women currently involved; support in accessing accommodation, overcoming HRC issues, court accompaniment
- Partnership approach
- Work closely with Adapt Domestic Abuse Service (Refuge)
- Work closely with designated Safe House (Emergence accommodation)
- Liaise with local Gardaí, Judges, politicians on our evidence base.



Presenting Issues/Concerns

- Language issues poor or no English
- Often no identification
- Family responsibilities/duties in other countries
- Arrived in Ireland on promise of work
- Violence, abuse and discrimination from general public & from clients
- Migration Issues (No PPS, HRC issues are barriers to exiting prostitution etc)
- Concerns (justified): Not always linking into existing supports; Not attending pre-arranged appointments; Not taking up offers of accompaniment *
- Addiction issues **

Presenting Issues/Concerns



- Not accessing other free services (ante-natal services, free health checks)
- Different strategies & interventions being deployed ... mixed results
- Anti-social behaviour orders led to women being put out of reach OR being moved on to other locations
- On-going criminalisation and public order approach to prostitution problematic
- Criminal records = a barrier to exiting prostitution.
- Indicators of Human Trafficking

Milestones



- TORL Limerick Launch (March 2011)
- Operation Freewheel (Dec 2011)
- Established Doras Luimní Anti-Trafficking Project (January 2012)
- City and County Council Pass Motions in support of TORL (December 2012)
- Developed Street outreach project (2012)
- Appointment of Anti-Trafficking Officer (Jan 2013)
- Presentation to Joint Oireachtas Committee (January 2013)
- •ABSO's issued against 8 women (Aug 2013)
- Local Judge endorses tackling demand to paid sex (Dec 2013) – withdrawal of ABSO's

... the way forward??

- Mixed strategies Mixed results ...
- Legislation slow/apathetic progress
- Limited Services to support exit
- Dublin centred services mostly ...
- Demand
- Public awareness
- Minors
- Direct Provision ...
- Trafficking indicators
- Resources going forward ...

QUESTIONS

FURTHER INFORMATION

Doras Luimní, Central Buildings, 51a O'Connell St, Limerick

Tel: 061 310 328

Email: <u>k.mchugh@dorasluimni.org</u>

Web: <u>www.dorasluimni.org</u>