

# STOP TRAFFICK! EZINE!

**STOPTRAFFICK.IE**

Welcome to the first EZINE for the STOP TRAFFICK! project. Here you can find out about the new project, our activities so far and what to expect in the coming months.

Make sure to check our website for more updates!

[www.stoptraffick.ie](http://www.stoptraffick.ie)

## What is the STOP TRAFFICK! project?

STOP Traffick! is a transnational project on reduction of demand for the sexual services of victims of human trafficking and is funded by the European Commission under the Prevention of and Fight Against Crime Programme. The project will explore attitudes of people who buy sex and their views of human trafficking; this will inform awareness raising initiatives targeting buyers or potential buyers of

sex in order to prevent them from purchasing victims of sex trafficking. It will also develop new ways to report suspicion that someone is a victim of trafficking in order to assist that person in accessing support. Ultimately the project aims to help reduce the demand for victims of human trafficking for sexual exploitation and provide protection and support for victims of this heinous crime.

## Who are we?

**The Immigrant Council of Ireland** (ICI) is an organisation where migrant and Irish people work together to provide information, support and legal advice to immigrants and their families. The ICI is very active in lobbying for legislative and policy reforms and has contributed to some very significant reforms, as well as to attitudinal change and improved understanding of issues facing migrants in Ireland.

**Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation** works since its inception in 1998 on research, awareness raising, education, monitoring and proposing legislation and policy in the field of gender equality and protection of women against violence in all its forms – domestic violence, trafficking in women, sexual harassment at the workplace, etc.

**Klaipeda Social and Psychological Services Center's (Lithuania)** vision is to have women, children, and families socially and psychologically safe in a spiritually harmonious society. We work in cooperation with National and international NGO's, along with the Department of Social Support at KlaipedaMunicipality.

**Monika – Multicultural Women's Association, Finland** operates as the umbrella organization for several associations for women of ethnic minorities. We support efforts to enhance cultural tolerance and promote a safe everyday life for everyone. We support the well being of migrant women in different forms. We encourage migrant women to participate actively in social issues and we provide services and guidance to victims of domestic violence.

**The Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies, Cyprus** (MIGS) is a non-profit organisation which promotes and contributes to projects of social, political, and economic themes relating to gender with an emphasis on the Mediterranean region. It is committed to the elimination of this discrimination using a combination of research, advocacy and lobbying, as well as trainings, conferences, and other activities.

## What have we accomplished so far?

### **Sex Buyer Survey**

Earlier this year the Immigrant Council of Ireland released preliminary results from a survey on Irish sex buyers. Findings from the survey told us that one in four sex buyers in Ireland (24%) have come across women and girls who appeared trafficked, controlled or underage according to a major survey on prostitution. In addition the findings show that fear of a criminal record, jail time or name in a local newspaper have been selected as effective deterrents by the sex buyers and are only surpassed by fear of contracting disease. Read the full press release [here](#)

## Working meeting in Cyprus

In order to progress the project, several working meetings will be held. At the beginning of February the partners met in Nicosia Cyprus. The meeting was chaired by the *Immigrant Council of Ireland (ICI)* and hosted by the Cypriot partner *Mediterranean Institute for Gender Studies* with other partners from Finland (MONIKA), Lithuania (KSPSC) and Bulgaria (BGRF) also participating.

The recent survey exploring the attitudes to paid sex and human trafficking among buyers and non-buyers of sex was presented by the ICI. The partners then discussed the replication of the survey in other jurisdictions and its inclusion of the overall research informing the creation of a Toolkit with efficient strategies to deter demand for trafficked people to be launched later in the year. Check our [website](#) to find out more throughout the year.

## Project Launch in Dublin



The project was formally launched in Dublin on the 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of October 2012 by the Lord Mayor of Dublin. A two day working meeting was hosted by the ICI with the participation of partner organisations from Bulgaria, Cyprus, Lithuania and Finland.

The partners exchanged knowledge with key Irish statutory and non-statutory experts in the area including: Gerardine Rowley: Communications and Training Officer with Ruhama, Linda, Latham: Womens' Health Service HSE, David Gilbride: Principal Officer of Anti Human Trafficking Unit and Odette Reidy: Health Service Executive Anti Human Trafficking Unit.

# Upcoming

- We are looking forward to our upcoming working meeting and a pilot session in Bulgaria in September, where we will learn from the Bulgarian experience.
- A training programme on human trafficking for sexual exploitation will soon be in place in several corporate organisations and Unions check our website for more information.

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[The Immigrant Council of Ireland](#)

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