

STOP TRAFFICK! EZINE!

Welcome to the Third EZINE for the STOP TRAFFICK! Project

Here you can follow the project's progress out, check out our activities so far and find out what to expect in the coming months.

Make sure to check our website for more updates!

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 Centre'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 Klaipeda Municipality.

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 recently?

Working meeting in Helsinki

At the end of January 2014 the partners met in Helsinki, Finland for the fourth of our working meetings. The meeting was co-chaired by the Immigrant Council and the hosting Finnish partner MONIKA with other partners from Cyprus (MIGS), Lithuania (KSPSC) and Bulgaria (BGRF) also participating.

Identification and agreement of recommendations of the final research report were debated in detail at the meeting in Helsinki. In addition, each partner presented their training efforts with the preliminary toolkit developed and shared observations for fine-tuning the material. The national and transnational dissemination plans were discussed, with each partner informing the group of their respective preparations, while the ICI provided an update of the progress on the EU level briefing in Brussels and the international conference in Dublin.

An informative roundtable with Finnish policy makers and relevant stakeholders took place, which gave an opportunity to discuss interesting areas such as the work of the national monitoring mechanism in the area of human trafficking. In attendance from the Finnish side were: **Venla Roth**, senior advisor in office of Ombudsman of minority and Rapporteur on Trafficking, **Anni**

Valovirta, senior advisor in Finnish Immigration Service (half time Human trafficking cases officer and half time international protection claims officer), **Johanna Karimaki (MP)**, Chair of women's network in the Finnish Parliament; mandate one year for the chair, **Katri Lyijynen**, Finnish national assistance to VOT "Reception Centre".



Left: Project Partners with Finnish policy-makers

Below: Denise Charlton, CEO of the Immigrant Council and manager of the project, with Senior Officer at the Finnish National Rapporteur on Human Trafficking's Office, Venla Roth



STOP Traffick! National Dissemination Seminar Helsinki, Finland

A STOP Traffick! National dissemination seminar was organized on the 12th February in Helsinki by the **Multicultural Women's Association of Finland, MONIKA**. An audience consisting of representatives from NGOs, media, police, border control and Ministries, heard about the research conducted in the Finnish online-survey, the results from this research, before discussing the most effective measures to prevent trafficking for sexual exploitation.

The Seminar hosted several guests, including Senior Officer Venla Roth from the Ombudsman for Minorities, **Tuija von der Pütten** from the IOM, and Sirle Blumberg from the Estonian NGO Living for Tomorrow, as well as many others. It also discussed the Finnish [research report](#) from the project, which was launched by the Finnish Ministry for Justice in September.

A very fruitful discussion followed these presentations, focusing on the abuses suffered by victims, and reporting suspicions of trafficking to the relevant authorities. Buyers' role in identification of victims and their readiness of reporting those concerns to police were further discussed in the afternoon's panel: dialogue with buyers was proposed, as well as training for buyers to develop understanding on human-trafficking and the risks of supporting forced prostitution while purchasing of sex.



Above: Pirjo Sohlo and Natalie Gerbert, of MONIKA, Finland

Conference Launching Stop Traffick! In Nicosia, Cyprus

On the 4th of March project partners the Mediterranean Institute for Gender Studies hosted a conference entitled ***“The Demand Dynamics of Trafficking in Women for Sexual Exploitation”*** in Nicosia, which launched the Stop Traffick! Project in Cyprus.

The conference hosted important guests including Myria Vassiliadou, European Coordinator against Human Trafficking, MEP Mary Honeyball, Gilles Bon Maury from the Ministry of the Rights of France, Eva Biaudet Ombudsman for Minorities of Finland and National Rapporteur on trafficking, and activist Rachel Moran. Ms. Honeyball talked on the new resolution on Sexual exploitation and prostitution and its impact on gender equality that recently passed at the European Parliament, highlighting the common denominator of trafficking for sexual exploitation and prostitution that is the buyers. She also explained exactly how prostitution and trafficking in women for sexual exploitation are forms of violence against women. Ms. Vassiliadou discussed the new directive and the possible sanctions Cyprus might face in case of no transposition of the directive by mid-March. Other speakers discussed developments in their own countries, while Rachel Moran discussed the links between trafficking in women for sexual exploitation and prostitution, and Josie Christodoulou of MIGS presented the Cypriot research results on the demand for sexual services of trafficked women and girls.



From left : Aibhlín O’Leary, Immigrant Council of Ireland, EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator Myria Vassiliadou, MEP Mary Honeyball, journalist Rosie Charalambous, and Anna Zobnina of MIGS

Upcoming

- We are looking forward to the upcoming Transnational Stop Traffick! Conference which will be hosted by the Immigrant Council of Ireland at the Royal Irish Academy, Dublin on the 27th of March. The Conference will launch the full report of the project’s research. For more details see [here](#)
- Stop Traffick! Partners are looking forward to participating in an EU Briefing on the Project, in European Parliament, Brussels on the 2nd of April. The Briefing will be opened by FEMM Chair Mikael Gustafson, and will also hear from EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator Myria Vassiliadou, as well as the project partners who will present their research.

Follow us on our website www.stoptraffick.ie and Facebook and twitter for more updates!

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