





Human trafficking in Italy

Actions of the project NAVe Network Antitrafficking for Veneto Region in relation to the peculiarity of the phenomenon

Lagos – Nigeria 07/11/2019

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La tratta degli esseri umani

- La «tratta di esseri umani» è definita come segue all'articolo 2 della direttiva 2011/36/UE:
- «1. (...) il reclutamento, il trasporto, il trasferimento, l'alloggio o l'accoglienza di persone, compreso il passaggio o il trasferimento dell'autorità su queste persone, con la minaccia dell'uso o con l'uso stesso della forza o di altre forme di coercizione, con il rapimento, la frode, l'inganno, l'abuso di potere o della posizione di vulnerabilità o con l'offerta o l'accettazione di somme di denaro o di vantaggi per ottenere il consenso di una persona che ha autorità su un'altra, a fini di sfruttamento.
- 2. Per posizione di vulnerabilità si intende una situazione in cui la persona in questione non ha altra scelta effettiva ed accettabile se non cedere all'abuso di cui è vittima.
- 3. Lo sfruttamento comprende, come minimo, lo sfruttamento della prostituzione altrui o altre forme di sfruttamento sessuale, il lavoro o i servizi forzati, compreso l'accattonaggio, la schiavitù o pratiche simili alla schiavitù, la servitù, lo sfruttamento di attività illecite o il prelievo di organi.
- 4. Il consenso della vittima della tratta di esseri umani allo sfruttamento, programmato o effettivo, è irrilevante in presenza di uno dei mezzi indicati al paragrafo 1.
- 5. La condotta di cui al paragrafo 1, qualora coinvolga minori, è punita come reato di tratta di esseri umani anche in assenza di uno dei mezzi indicati al paragrafo 1».
 - https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/sites/antitrafficking/files/eu rights of victims of trafficking it 1.pdf







Trafficking in human beings

(for UN & EU)



The EU rights of victims of trafficking in human beings 'Trafficking in human beings' as defined in Directive 2011/36/EU, Article 2:

- 1. The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or reception of persons, including the exchange or transfer of control over those 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.
- 2. A position of vulnerability means a situation in which the person concerned has no real or acceptable alternative but to submit to the abuse involved.
- 3. Exploitation shall include, as a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, including begging, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude, or the exploitation of criminal activities, or the removal of organs.
- 4 The consent of a victim of trafficking in human beings to the exploitation, whether intended or actual, shall be irrelevant where any of the means set forth in paragraph 1 has been used.
- 5. When the conduct referred to in paragraph 1 involves a child, it shall be a punishable offence of trafficking in human beings even if none of the means set forth in paragraph 1 has been used.

https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/sites/antitrafficking/files/eu rights of victims of trafficking fr 1.pdf

Human trafficking: very big complexity







sexual exploitation
exploitation of criminal activities
begging
forced labour or services
forced marriages
removal of organs

Human trafficking: very big complexity















da tutto il mondo



TO - TM -Procura - DDA

sfruttamento

MLC

sexual exploitation

exploitation of criminal activities

begging

forced labour or services forced marriages

removal of organs



Motivazione e protagonismo



Sanitari



documenti

lavoro e autonomia





FFOO



denaro





educazione / apprendimenti









Piano Nazionale Antitratta

Dipartimento Pari Opportunità



monitoring of the phenomenon

health prevention

contrast to criminal organizations

identification and emersion

social inclusion



How the law protect the victims? underage







- Police Office Public Social Service of Municipality
- · Comunità protetta per minorenni Secure home
- Tribunale per i Minorenni Underage Court
- Tutore tutor
- Healt support
- Family international research (IOM)
- Permit to Stay / voluntary return
- School, italian language, learn job
- Prepare to be an adult

how the law protect the victims? **adult**







Soggiorno per motivi di protezione sociale

1. Quando, nel corso di operazioni di polizia, di indagini o di un procedimento [...] ovvero nel corso di interventi assistenziali dei servizi sociali degli enti locali, siano accertate situazioni di violenza o di grave sfruttamento nei confronti di uno straniero ed emergano concreti pericoli per la sua incolumità, per effetto dei tentativi di sottrarsi ai condizionamenti di un'associazione dedita ad uno dei predetti delitti o delle dichiarazioni rese nel corso delle indagini preliminari o del giudizio, il questore, anche su proposta del Procuratore della Repubblica, o con il parere favorevole della stessa autorità, rilascia uno speciale permesso di soggiorno per consentire allo straniero di sottrarsi alla violenza e ai condizionamenti dell'organizzazione criminale e di partecipare ad un programma di assistenza ed integrazione sociale.

Articolo 18 D.Lgs.286/98







How work with the visctims (underage or adult)?

We must building:

Fiducia - True

Benessere – welness (healt from OMS)

Volontà - will

Impegno - engage

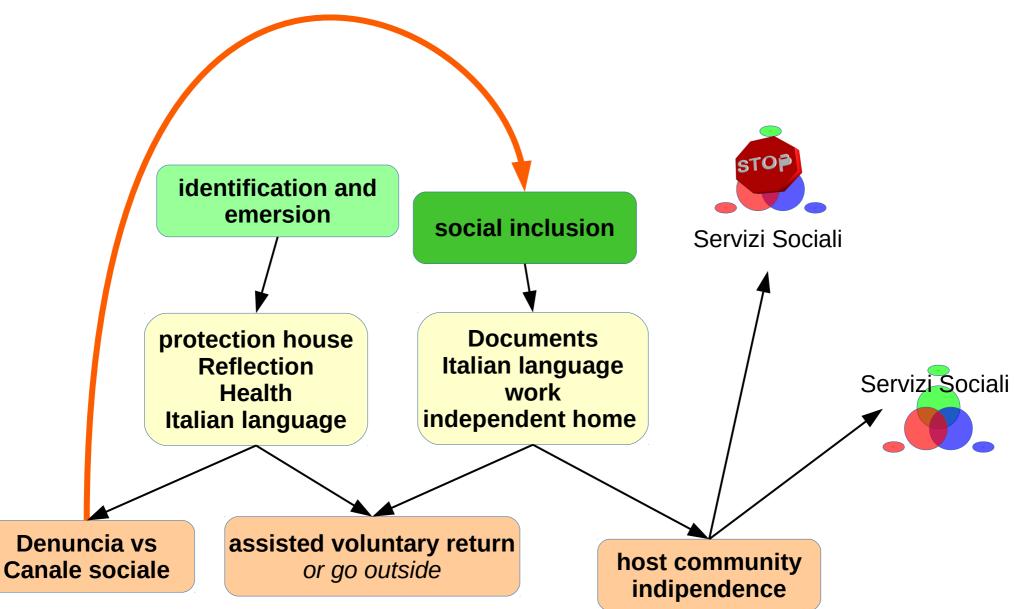
Protagonismo – you are the star about your film/song...







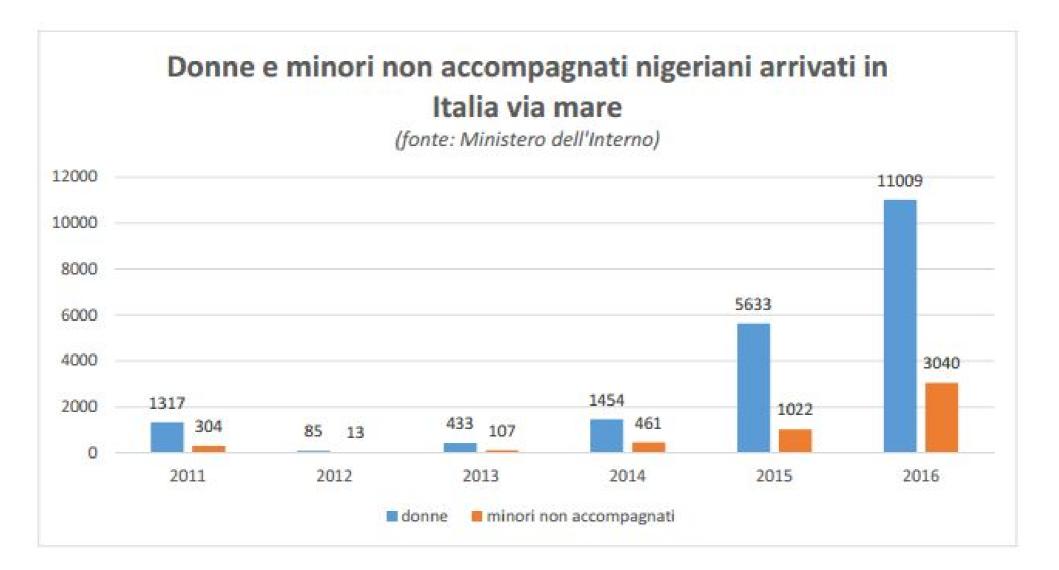
Step by step...





















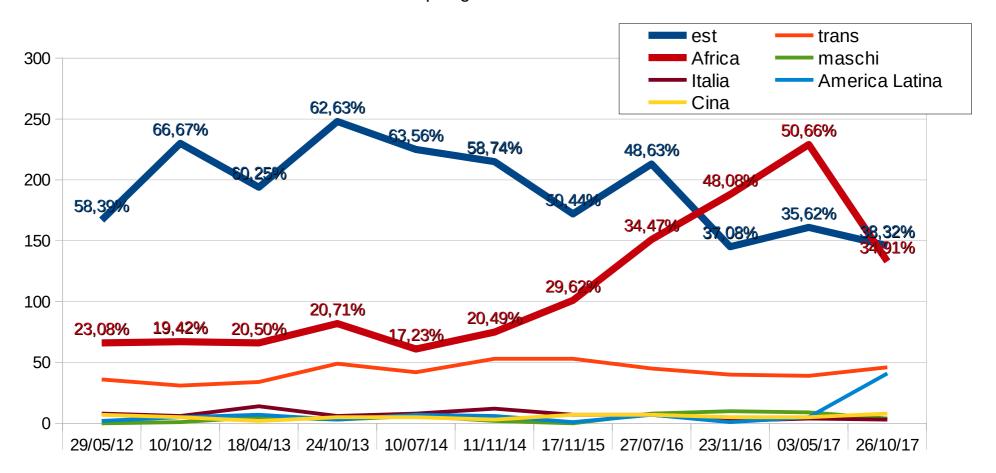




in Veneto

Monitoraggio della prostituzione in strada in Veneto

evoluzione delle tipologie in Veneto - anni 2012-2017



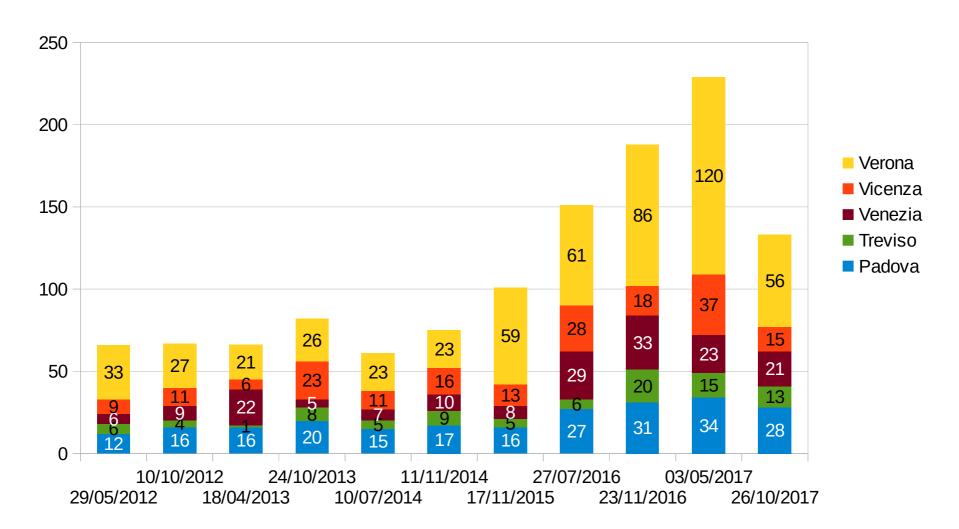






Monitoraggio della prostituzione africana in strada in Veneto

confronto andamento presenze a livello regionale - anni 2012-17









In their bags...









What models of "success"?





Mutamenti e nodi critici dal nostro osservatorio...







- Lavorare con l'incerto: necessità di identificazione precoce...
 ... o quantomeno con buona approssimazione
- Rafforzare il lavoro multiagenzia (concreto, non sulla carta) in particolare tra i soggetti istituzionali
- · Forte **mobilità** di vittime e **flessibilità** di reti criminali
- Problematiche di forte presenza di minorenni:
 - Determinazione età (anche 13 o 14 anni da accertamenti età ossea)
 - Ricostruzione storia
 - Collocamenti forzati
 - Segnalazioni di prostituzione minorile in strada e individuazione di minorenni
- · Scarsa "appetibilità" dei percorsi per vittime di tratta
- Basso livello di motivazione delle ragazze
- Utilizzo di social network e app per smartphone
- · Ruolo delle **chiese** pentecostali
- Problematiche (socio)sanitarie (MTS, IVG, aborti con farmaci, atti autolesivi, salute mentale, orientamento sessuale, tentati suicidi, uso di sostanze, comportamenti devianti...)
- Poche risorse tempo/personale del Servizio e la insufficiente disponibilità della mediazione linguistico culturale
- Strutture di accoglienza e altri soggetti (il multiagenzia e lavoro di rete tra servizi)
- Come lavorare in situazioni che hanno forti vulnerabilità/traumi?



immagine tratta dal video "Incontrarsi in strada" prodotto dalla Cooperativa Azalea - https://youtu.be/raevCZf8cyU







A story...





Sei in: Archivio > La Nuova Sardegna > 2005 > 02 > 16 > Schiava, costretta a batt...

Schiava, costretta a battere il marciapiede

CAGLIARI.Reclutata in Nigeria, portata in Italia dopo un viaggio di mesi attraverso il Niger, il deserto del Sahara e il Marocco, come fosse una bestia. Tutto per una promessa: un lavoro da parrucchiera. La realtà era solo un posto sul marciapiede: costretta a prostituirsi, picchiata a sangue per farle perdere il bimbo che portava in grembo, un ostacolo per il suo 'lavoro'. E' la storia raccontata da Linda , per la quale tre sue connazionali ora rischiano condanne a nove anni e sei anni e mezzo di carcere, chieste dal pm Alessandro Pili ieri mattina ai giudici della seconda sezione del tribunale. Le tre nigeriane sono imputate di associazione di stampo mafioso riferita alla tratta e al commercio di schiavi, induzione e sfruttamento della prostituzione. Stando al capo d'imputazione avrebbero anche tentato di far abortire la giovane donna colpendole il ventre con un bastone e facendole bere una polvere bianca. La sentenza del tribunale è prevista per il primo marzo.

Le imputate si chiamano Abiodun Ekeneza (35 anni), Sonia Osazuwa (35) e Lucy Akenuwa (46), tutte originarie di Benin City (Nigeria). La vicenda risale al 2000 quando Linda arrivò in Italia dopo un viaggio estenuante su mezzi di fortuna, con una parentesi in Spagna. Giunta a Cagliari, la giovane nera fu subito indotta a battere il marciapiede ma cercò di opporsi. Riusci a trasferirsi a Napoli, dove la connazionale che le offriva ospitalità provò a convincerla con ogni mezzo. Il calvario andò avanti per mesi. Poi la denuncia e l'inchiesta giudiziaria. Un racconto fantasioso e privo di riscontri, ha sostenuto il difensore delle tre imputate, l'avvocato Alberto Filippini che ha chiesto l'assoluzione.

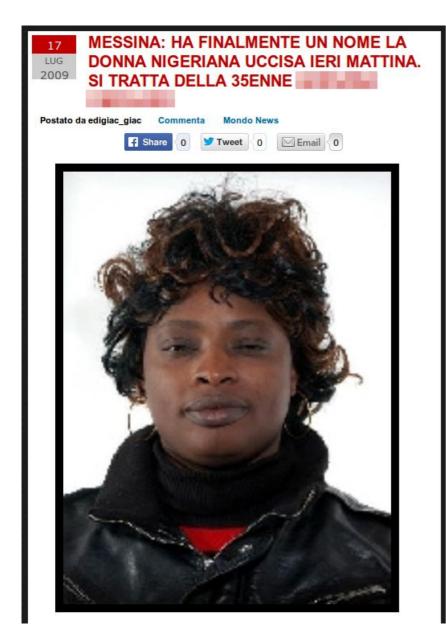
07/11/2019 vitto 16 febbraio 2005 | sez. 18







A story, a life...





IL CADAVERE DELLA DONNA NIGERIANA RITROVATO IERI MATTINA (FOTO: DI GIACOMO)

07/11/2019 vittorio zanor.







Two years ago: 05/11/2017

26 young nigerian girls died in a ship. 2 were pregnant









it's a global problem

LOCAL NEWS

NAPTIP finds more than 20,000 kidnapped Nigerian girls in Mali

9 months ago + 44 views by Jerrywright Ukwu

- NAPTIP has revealed that there are between 20,000 and 45,000 kidnapped Nigerian women in Mali
- The anti-trafficking agency said many of the women were sold as sex slaves
- Some of the women were said to have been tricked into going to Mali by giving them the impression they were going to get jobs while others were abducted while going to school
- The Nigerian government has been criticised for failing to tackle human trafficking

The National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) has revealed that it has found thousands of missing girls and women in southern Mali, many of whom were sold as sex slaves.

According to NAPTIP, there are between 20,000 and 45,000 kidnapped Nigerian women in Mali it intends to return to Nigeria.





PROTECTION OF VICTIMS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

A Paper Presented By:

DANIEL ATOKOLO
ZONAL COMMANDER
NAPTIP, LAGOS ZONAL COMMAND

DURING TEACHERS TRAINING COURSE, ORGANIZED BY NIGERIAN WOMEN ASSOCIATION VERONA, ON 7TH NOVEMBER 2019



Outline

- Background of Human Trafficking
- What is Human Trafficking
- Key Elements in Human Trafficking
- Types of Human Trafficking
- Definition of victim
- Policy issues in the National Policy on Protection and Assistance of TPs
- Some recommended steps in Treatment of Victims
- Some Silent Provisions of Human Rights Declaration Related TIP
- Human Rights that are Violated in Relation to TIP
- Rights of Victims Cont'd
- Obligations of Victims
- Facilitating factors of Human Trafficking
- Purposes of Human Trafficking
- Scope of Human Trafficking
- Effects of Human Trafficking

National Implementing Strategy

NAPTIP's Manual



Milantonan



Background of Human Trafficking

- Human Trafficking is a resurgence of the abolished transatlantic slave trade and remained unknown until 1980's.
- It re-emerged in recent times as a globalized and modernized form of slavery thereby repeating the history, methods of recruitment and the socioeconomic, cultural, health and educational consequences associated with the transatlantic slave trade.
- It is illegal but continues to thrive because many are ignorant of it and is currently ravaging several countries of the world.



Background of Human Trafficking Cont'd

- The Federal Government of Nigeria in response to combating the crime of TIP and its attendant human rights abuses in its entire ramification established the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) in 2003 following an Act of the National Assembly as amended in 2005 and repealed in 2015.
- The Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Enforcement and Administration Act 2015 (TIPPEA ACT), in Section 82 in line with Article 3(a) of the Protocol to Prevent Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, defines Trafficking In Persons as:



What is Human Trafficking

"the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means, of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.



Technical Terms in Human Trafficking Definition

- Use of threat or force: instilling fear into someone and/or taking away someone's freedom of movement and personal choice
- Deception: giving false information about destination, working conditions and/or nature of work to be done
- Debt Bondage: using someone's labour/services as security for debt, while the value of the labour is not actually subtracted from the debt, or the length and nature of the labour/services



What is Human Trafficking Cont'd

- Sexual Exploitation: Abuse of children and youth through the exchange of sex or sexual acts for drugs, food, shelter, protection, money, or other basics of life
- Equally, it includes using children for phonography and explicit websites
- It could also mean taking advantage of sexuality or attractiveness of a person to make gain or profit



What is Human Trafficking Definition Cont'd

- Domestic Servitude: Practice of taking persons especially young boys and girls from one place to another, distributing them as house helps for domestic work in circumstances that are exploitative in terms of low or no wages, long hours of work and other forms of cruel treatment
- This is usually accompanied by restriction of freedom and practices similar to slavery and usually detrimental to the developmental growth of the child



Key Elements of TIP

- Act recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, or receipt of a person
- Means threat or use of force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or vulnerability, or giving payments or benefits to a person in control of victim
- Purpose exploitation (includes exploitation of prostitution of others, sexual, forced labour, bonded labour, slavery or similar practices and removal of organs



Types Of TIP

Internal Trafficking

- Internal trafficking occurs within a nation's borders
- Victims involved are usually moved from rural to urban areas
- Its dominant feature in Nigeria is the trafficking of children for domestic labour, hawking, begging and prostitution
- It is believed that its driving force is poverty, ignorance and moral depravity on the part of the parents and guardians

Types Of TIP Cont'd

External Trafficking

- External trafficking cuts across national borders
- Victims involved are moved from less developed to more developed countries and vice versa
- It focuses on sexual exploitation and prostitution of young women, domestic service and forced labour
- Its driving force is greed



Definition of Victim

According to the United Nations Declaration of basic principles of justice for victims of crime and abuse of power, "victims are persons who individually or collectively have suffered harm, including physical and mental injury, emotional suffering, economic loss or substantial impairment of their of their fundamental rights through acts or omission that are in violation of the criminal laws operative within member states."



Definition of Victim Cont'd

- The term victim also includes, where appropriate, the immediate family or dependents of the direct victim and persons who have suffered harm in intervening to assist in distress or to prevent victimization (UNGA Res 4/34 29 Nov. 1958)
- Victim of TIP: A person trafficked, voluntarily or involuntarily for the purpose of exploitation such as child labour, commercial sex, pornography, armed conflicts, drugs, sex with animals/object, rituals, organ harvest/sales, baby sales, seduction, servitude, debt bondage or slavery by the use of deception, force or fraud.



Policy issues in the National Policy on Protection and Assistance of Trafficked Victims

- Reception
- Identification
- Sheltering
- Health
- Counseling
- Family tracing
- Retune/Reparation
- Integration
- Integration
- Empowerment
- Follow up/After care
- Disengagement
- Preventive



Some recommended steps in Treatment of Victims

- Provide victims with emotional support
- Provide medical and legal support and legal assistance where necessary
- Provide food, shelter and other basic needs
- Allow access to embassies or consulates of countries of victims
- Do not deny them resident visa in the course of legal action
- Assist in counseling, rehabilitation and offence in the cause of his/her ordeal
- Do not prosecute even if the victim has committed an offence in the cause of his/her ordeal
- Victims should be removed from the arrest scene as soon as possible and not taken to the same police venue as the suspect
- Victims ready to provide evidence against the suspects should be properly counseled
- Any evidence provided by the victims should be built into the interrogation of the suspect

Some Silent Provisions of Human Rights Declaration

- Raticed: All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brother hood.
 - Article 4: No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.
 - Article 5: No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.



Human Rights that are Violated in Relation to TIP

- Right to life
- Right to liberty
- Freedom of Movement
- Freedom of Speech
- Freedom of Worship
- Freedom of association
- Right to education
- Right to health



- The United Nations High Commission for Human Rights has provided guidelines and principles that incorporate the rights of victims of TIPs.
- Victims must be acquainted with these rights and their obligations as part of the rehabilitation and integration process.
- Rights of victims includes:
- There shall be no form of criminal investigation against the victim on the ground of his/her status;
- Victims shall not be compelled to stay in the shelter to undergo rehabilitation;
- A victim shall not be abused in any form while undergoing rehabilitation and integration

- Security of the victims shall be ensured while undergoing rehabilitation
- That a victim who volunteers to give evidence against trafficker(s) shall be protected during and after prosecution;
- A victim shall be entitled to medical counseling services during the period of holding, sheltering, rehabilitation and integration;
- A victim shall be assisted to achieve financial sustenance;
- That victims have the right to an independent legal counsel if such victims decide to take action against their traffickers;

- The right to privacy of the victim shall not be infringed upon;
- The social integrity of the victim shall not be brought to disrepute;
- The right to own private property by the victim shall be protected;
- The right to retrieve all his/her belongings from the country of deportation shall be facilitated and protected;
- After the identification process, a victim shall be protected from being put under Police or Immigration Detention;

- A victim shall be protected from any form of maltreatment or degradation during reception, sheltering and rehabilitation;
- Adequate information on the rights, privileges and obligations of the victims shall be provided on arrival;
- The health status of a victim should be handled with confidentiality; and
- Victims are entitled to routine medical check on arrival at the shelter.

Obligations of Victims

- A victim that has consented to rehabilitation shall comport himself in a manner that will not jeopardize the objectives of rehabilitation;
- A victim shall make himself/herself available at all times for the purpose of information/formal education to achieve the purpose of rehabilitation/integration;
- A victim shall comport himself/herself in a manner that will not be detrimental to the well being of other victims and care providers;
- A victim shall subject himself/herself to the rules and regulations as well as the daily routine of the shelter while in residence;
- A victim who has consented to rehabilitation shall complete the rehabilitation programmes designed for him or her; and
- A victim shall disclose relevant information concerning his or her health status to counselors to enhance the quality of care.

Facilitating factors of Human Trafficking

- Poverty
- Large family sizes those who cannot afford to cater for so many children
- General unemployment, especially amongst young graduates
- Collapse of social safety nets; including abuse of the traditional fostering system by family members
- Ignorance about the reality of life in Europe and other parts of the world
- Peer pressure
- Globalization
- Conflicts



Facilitating factors of Human Trafficking Cont'd

- Increasing global demand for illicit sex
- Demand for cheap migrant labour
- Wide-spread illiteracy that facilitates deception by traffickers
- Breakdown and erosion of cultural and moral values
- Greed on the part of traffickers/parental figures/victims who easily fall prey to promises of monetary rewards
- Activities of juju priests who put psychological pressure on victims through oaths
- Porous borders



Purposes of Human Trafficking

- Labour Exploitation
- Bonded Labour
- Domestic Work
- Sexual Exploitation
- Forced Marriage
- Illegal Adoption
- Pornography
- Sports
- Begging
- Organ Removal/Harvesting
- Rituals
- Military Conscription



Scope of Human Trafficking

- Due to the clandestine nature of Human Trafficking accurate statistical data is hardly available.
- It is estimated that no fewer than I million and 2 million people are trafficked worldwide annually.
- The 2017 U.S Report says that not less than 27million victims of TIP are recorded worldwide annually.
- However, the Global Slavery Index (GSI) has it that over 45.8 million people are living under slavery conditions across the world.

Scope of Human Trafficking Cont'd

- All countries are involved in one form or the other as origin/source, transit or destination while some fall within the 3 categories.
- Majority of the African Countries fall under the 3 Categories and Nigeria is one.
- Trafficking in Women to Europe is more prevalent in W/A than other sub regions.
- Some elements that create vulnerability to Human trafficking are culturally accepted as a way of life.
- Thousands of children are trafficked within, into and out of African borders.



Effects Of Human Trafficking

- Denial of human rights
- Depression
- Aggressiveness
- Low self esteem
- Stigmatization
- Lack of trust
- Impaired development of the child
- Untimely pregnancy in the case of the girl child
- Serious diseases such as STDs, HIV/AIDS



Effects Of Human Trafficking Cont'd

- Dehumanization and denigration of the human person
- Psychological trauma and disorientation
- Exposure to the use of psychotropic substances and drug abuse
- Failure and drop-out from school; leading to educational disruption
- Death at any point in the trafficking process



National Implementing Strategies

- NAPTIP deploys a 5Ps Strategy in the implementation of its mandate: Policy, Prevention, Protection, Prosecution and Partnership
- Policy: Policy frame work for the Agency in the years under review:
 - NAPTIP Communication Strategy 2014
 - National Referral Mechanism 2015
 - Iner-Ministerial Committee on Human Trafficking
 - Standard Operating Procedure on Investigation and Persecution of Cases – 2016
 - NAPTIP Training Manuel Policy
 - The Re-enacted Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Enforcement and Administration Act (TIPPEA) Act 2015. It was aimed at accommodating more offences, proscribe stiffer punishments for offenders ambiguity from the law e.t.c

National Implementing Strategies Cont'd

Prevention: Used to promote awareness, knowledge and understanding of TIP through the use of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials, Public Rallies, Conferences, Workshops and Seminars, Advocacy visits, Community dialogues, Mass Media Campaigns as well as establishment of NAPTIP Vanguards, Clubs in schools, National Youth Service Corps, etc.

National Implementing Strategies Cont'd

- Protection: Involves activities geared towards a successful rehabilitation and reintegration of trafficked victims into the society
- Prosecution: Involves arresting suspects on TIP, investigating cases, monitoring cross-border movements and prosecution of suspects in the court of law
- Partnership: Involves adoption of collaborative strategies among law enforcement agencies, NGOs, CBOs, FBOs, media, IOs and countries in the areas of information sharing, investigation to fight TIP

NAPTIP's Mandate

NAPTIP's mandate among others includes to:

- Enforce and administer the provisions of the TIPPEA Act;
- Coordinate and enforce all other laws on Trafficking in Persons and related offences;
- Adopt effective measures for the prevention and eradication of trafficking in persons and related offences;
- Investigate all cases of Trafficking in Persons including forced labour, child labour, forced prostitution, exploitative labour and other forms of exploitation, slavery and slavery-like activities, bonded labour, removal of organs, illegal smuggling of migra and persons;

NAPTIP's Mandate Cont'd

- Create public enlightenment and awareness through seminars, workshops, publications, radio and television programmes and other means aimed at educating the public on the dangers of Trafficking in Persons;
- Strengthen cooperation and conduct joint operations with relevant law enforcement and security agencies, international authorities and other relevant partners in the eradication of Trafficking in Persons;
- Adopt measures to identify, trace, freeze, confiscate seized proceeds, property, funds or other assets derived from Trafficking in Persons or related offences;
- NAPTIP is also mandated to administer the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Act 20

NAPTIP's Milestones

- Conviction of no fewer than 405 persons;
- Many cases still pending in both Federal and State High Courts as well as Appeal and Supreme Courts and many more under investigation;
- Over 14,000 victims have passed through the NAPTIP Shelters – successfully received medical and psychosocial supports, trained in education, various vocations and empowered with start-up kits to set up their own businesses and reintegrated to their families and society;



NAPTIP's Milestones Cont'd

- Development and publication of the National Policy on Protection and Assistance to Trafficked Persons in Nigeria and has been adopted by ECOWAS member States for care and support to victims of Human Trafficking;
- Development and publication of a Guideline on National Referral Mechanism for Protection and Assistance to Trafficked persons in Nigeria;
- Under the NAPTIP sponsorship, some victims have graduated from tertiary institutions; and
- Concluded work with the Nigeria Educational Research and Development Council (NERDC) on the infusion of Trafficking in Persons issues into the curricula of Primary and Secondary Schools in Nigeria is awaiting final approval by the National Council on Education (NCE).



Conclusion

- Nigeria being a source, transit and destination country has remained committed towards eradicating TIP through NAPTIP.
- Trafficking in Persons is evil and against the law and requires concerted efforts by the law enforcement agencies and every other relevant stakeholders to eradicate it.



Contact

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INITIATIVES IMPLEMENTED TO PROTECT AND SUPPORT VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN NIGERIA AND THE ROLE OF EDUCATION IN THE PREVENTION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Presented by Sr. Patricia Ebegbulem, SSL

7th October, 2019

Bakhita: St. Louis Empowerment Network / International Network of Consecrated life Against Trafficking in Persons (THALITHA KUM)

Bakhita Villa 11, Leye Omoniyi Close Off Odubakin Street, Boys' Town, Ipaja, Lagos State, Nigeria www.bakhita.ng, Phone: +234 (0)806 555 6555

INTRODUCTION

The protection and support of victims is central to our work of combating human trafficking and working to promote the dignity of the victims. Those of us who run Safe Houses in Nigeria have unanimously agreed that we refer to these victims of human trafficking as "Treasures". We want them to know that they are valued and treasured both in GOD's sight and in our sight. So in this Paper I will refer to them occasionally as Treasures.

KEYWORDS: PROTECTION, SUPPORT, VICTIMS, NIGERIA, HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Introduction

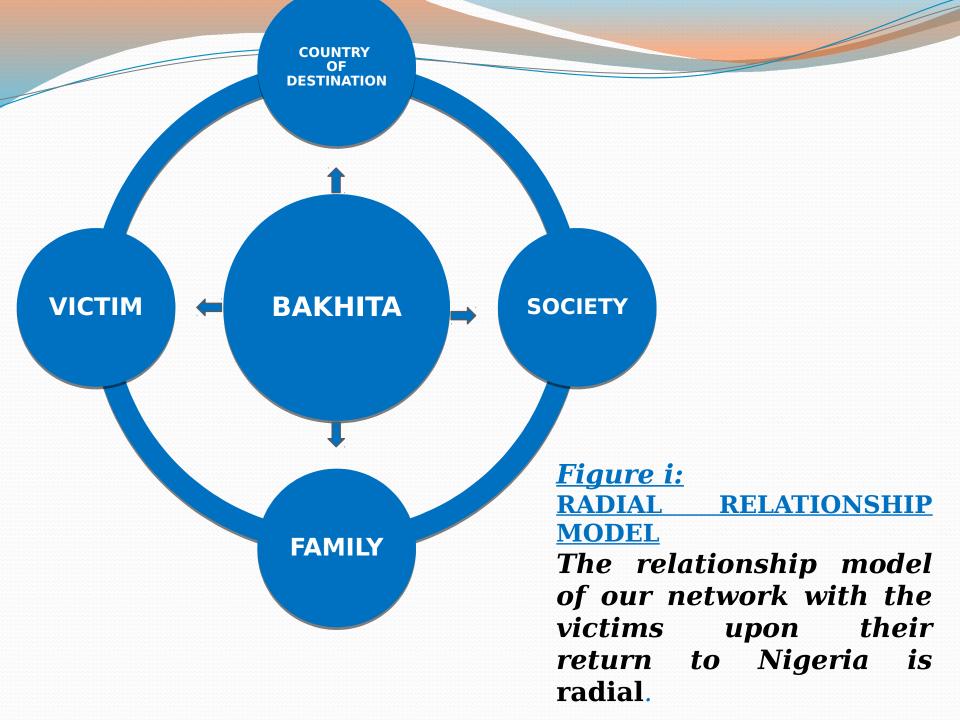
We begin with the clarification of terms. Who is a victim? And in what context are we talking of victim? This essay tries to discuss victim from the perspective of human trafficking. Trafficking for sexual exploitations and gratification is an enormous worldwide problem (Ebegbulem 2018: 19-9; Meda & Randall, 2014: 45). A trafficked person is a person confirmed to be victim. Trafficking for sexual exploitation has done enormous harm to the lives of thousands of people. All its victims have been damaged, bruised, dejected and rejected. A victim is someone who has suffered harm as a result of an offence which is against the criminal law.

Since we started fighting trafficking, our practice has been focused mainly on our **PRR** formulae. Our PRR is Prevention, Rehabilitation and Reintegration. Our prevention strategy is essentially based Enlightenment and Sensitization programmes and is aggressively pursued through awareness-creation. This is done through Rallies and campaigns, Seminars and workshops, Use of information, education communication (IEC) materials such as posters, flyers, stickers, books on the dangers of human trafficking, and the Use of media including social media. Our work of Rehabilitation and Reintegration is carried out on each victim of human trafficking. Rehabilitation takes place in the Shelter and consists of Counselling, spiritual direction and taking care of the needs of the victims.

Most of these victims come to us battered and shattered. The traumatic nature of their experience requires great care and this is what we give through counselling and spiritual direction.

In terms of victim protection and support we, at Bakhita promote 'global good practices'.

Our method of protection and support can be understood in a relationship model for rehabilitation and reintegration of victims.



Our method of protection and support of victims is in our efforts to make a tangible impact on the victim and reduce the influences of the past experiences (economic, psychological, emotional, spiritual) on the overall well-being of the victim. These ideas have been sustained both socially and ethically in order to ensure a successful rehabilitation and reintegration experience both on the victim and the staff.

2.3 OUR METHOD OF PROTECTION

At Bakhita, protection is given to the victim in legislative and informal ways.

Thus, our shelter's protection strategies cover the following; safe keeping, shelter, care, guardianship, support (financial, psychological) and security. We have to mention here that our protective measure is part of our triple Rs (Rehabilitation, Reorientation and Reintegration) activities.

It is worthy of note that Nigeria is the first country in Africa to put in place a comprehensive law against human trafficking in line with the Palermo protocol on trafficking in person (2000). The NAPTIP act (2003 amended 2009) has been commended for going further than what is given by Palermo Protocol (Olaturu-Olagbegu, 2013: 14).

Before any of our Treasures begins the process of rehabilitation in our shelter, they are taken to NAPTIP for documentation which carries with it a good measure of protection from their traffickers and society as a whole. Bakhita Ethics and Values, provides ways of protection of the rights of victim and means of reintegrating them as citizens. This protection takes the forms of social rights granted to all citizens. It satisfies the quest for basic equality and inclusion; having access to the basic 'social minimum.'

BAKHITA PROTECTION COMES IN VARYING SPHERES OF SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

(i) **LEGAL**: We provide legal aids to avoid embarrassment from immigration commission. This is why before their arrival; a formal arrangement is done so that while they are received from the airport, they will not be embarrassed on their arrival. Sometimes the immigration arrangements are made in alliance with national agencies.

(ii) SHELTER AND SECURITY:

Our treasures (victims) are kept in shelter where their basic necessities are met. Those of them who are deported, usually come empty handed and we try to reassure them that life is more important than material possessions and that once there is life, they can be what they want to be, by the grace and blessings of GOD.

Those of them that return voluntarily through SLAVES NO MORE in Italy or SOLWODI in Germany have better chances of settling down because they had been in shelters run by Sisters and have had opportunities of counseling and receiving pastoral care.

Furthermore, these organizations send them with budgets for their rehabilitation and reintegration.

(iii) SOCIETAL AND FAMILY STIGMATIZATION / IDENTIFICATION:

one of the problems these treasures (victims) face on arrival stigmatization. We, at Bakhita, try as much as possible to stop stigmatization. We keep them in the shelter (where they re-orientation undergo and rehabilitation processes), find their homes, counsel their parents before we re-unite them.

(iv). <u>PSYCHOLOGICAL AND</u> <u>SPIRITUAL SUPPORT:</u>

Because of the nature of trafficking, in Nigeria, where the victims are taken to shrines to take oaths of secrecy before their initial departure from Nigeria, these treasures need psychological and spiritual support. Thus the Nigeria traffickers rely heavily upon contracts with their victims through voodoo or juju ritual. The ritual process is both a controlling element for the traffickers, pimps and madams and one which acts as a significant obstacle in dealing with victims who have been subjected to this process.

(Ebegbulem 2018: 125-129 and Olaturu-Olagbegu, 2013:7). Most of them come back psychologically sick. We take them through lots of counselling trying to make them think differently from the effects of juju. We try to reassure them that GOD is the greatest Power and so as children of GOD, they have nothing to fear thus we counsel and pray with them.

(v). **RESCUE FROM DEBT:** Most of the victims are made to believe that they are in huge debt to their madams and the trafficking network. We try to protect them by investigating their stories to ensure that the connection with their traffickers is disconnected. Most times the traffickers are on the run. We get them to know their rights and using our connections, we try to access justice for them where necessary.

(vi). **CAREER AND ECONOMIC SECURITY:**

This is done by either assisting the victim to learn a trade, go back to school, open a business venture or acquire skills. After skills acquisition, these Treasures are empowered and equipped with materials to enable them run and operate their own businesses, to support themselves and their families.

This is one of the ways we tackle poverty which is a major ingredient in human trafficking in the developing countries. By establishing them in a trade, we reduce their vulnerability and the danger of being re-trafficked.

Reintegration further ensures their protection and consolidates the process of recovery.

Through our other rehabilitation projects, we try as much as possible to make sure our Treasures are given maximum social protection and live in DIGNITY as normal free citizens. Immediately after rehabilitation, reintegration proper begins.

THE ROLE OF EDUCATION IN THE PREVENTION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

1. Studies have shown that educating people at an early age about trafficking cuts the rates of trafficking within the community. It provides potential victims with information about risks of trafficking, the possibility of legal migration to work abroad, and provides them the skills to make informed decisions about migration by understanding if jobs are realistic and how to seek for help.

It also identifies long-term and short-term physical, sexual and mental health risks to deter dangerous migration. Secondary school children are often an age group that traffickers target now since there is less of a risk of the victim having HIV.

By educating them on the dangers and red flags of trafficking, it will be harder for traffickers to deceive potential victims and prevent the harsh reality from happening to them in the near and distant future. This is what informed my coming up with this Handbook for Schools - STOP TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN: It is a Crime against Humanity

2. This package includes information, lessons, and activities to help students and Teachers learn about trafficking especially for sexual exploitation.

3. PREVENTION is key to making young people aware of all the issues around human trafficking, (what it means, how and why HT occurs, who the traffickers are, how they operate, to enable young people to discern and report suspicious situations to sensitised adults, to inform them of their human rights and to give them information on what law enforcement agencies and supportive agents to contact).

HOW TO ACHIEVE THIS? THE ROLE OF EDUCATION

The model that inspires me the most is the "whole school approach" to fighting violence against girls and stop human trafficking.

The fight is no longer a separate activity but permeates all levels of the school and community

How? By creating **change** within school at all levels:

A partnership involving the school as a community made up of *staff and teachers*, *students and their parents* operating within the larger community (including law enforcement agents, religious institutions, amongst others) is necessary.

The school's policy, rules and regulations have to be aligned with the social norms and values. Nevertheless, being a sub-community, schools can be an experimental terrain for social change.

Within the school, these 3 critical areas of change have been identified:

Awareness - To increase knowledge of violence against women and girls, including a shared understanding across the school of the experiences of girls and young women.

<u>Attitudes</u> - To start to change attitudes that normalise and condone violence against women and girls.

Actions - To develop the skills of young people and staff to build respectful relationships and start to challenge violence against women and girls.

Starting by creating awareness is key to achieving a change in attitudes. When the attitudes of all actors start to change, we see a steady increase in positive action to end to all forms of bias against girls and prevent human trafficking.

Prevention of violence against women and girls is carried out at all levels of school life:

All subjects taught reflect women are equally human, the school is organised in such a way as to point out and challenge gender stereotypes. Adults (teachers, staff at large) are fully empowered to detect (subtle or not) signals of violence and to take measures that efficiently protect the girl student.

practices are implemented, safety **plans** are in place, action plans implemented (safe, supportive spaces are created; a champion, the go to person or team are trained and are accessible to students in need of support; posters or flyers declaring the rights of the child and the dangers of human trafficking are available; local law such as Childs right law of Lagos state is respected, The child's protection unit of the Domestic and Sexual Violence Response Team of Lagos state are well known partners, their contact info is made easily available).

Offenders are named and shamed, corrected and rehabilitated.

Parents are involved. Law enforcement agents are involved when necessary.

CAMPAIGNING: Raising awareness

- * **Events** assemblies and campaign stunts
- * **Informing others** leaflets and posters

Engaging the community

- * Running campaign events with parents or partners
- * Joining community campaigns

CONCLUSION

In this paper, we discussed a step-bystep method of protecting and supporting victims upon their return to Nigeria. Support and protection of victims is a radial relationship Model because from their destination country, they are received, re-orientated, rehabilitated before they are reintegrated to their families and then to the entire society

- Since this gathering has an international dimension, I will like to conclude with three recommendations:
- 1. From destination countries assist returners to have better future in their countries of origin.
- 2. If they are to stay in countries of destination, assist them with documents so that they can live and work in dignity (e.g. Italian practice).
- 3. Encourage destination countries to also embark on Prevention focusing on DEMAND.

nanks and God Bless

INSigHT (Building capacity to deal with human trafficking and transit routes in Nigeria, Italy, Sweden)

INSigHT addresses human trafficking (HT) from Nigeria to Italy up to Sweden, looking at less explored trends and target populations and working on prevention, protection and/ or rehabilitation systems in the involved countries, with particular focus on Nigerian children.

The project in brief

• Our general objective is to increase the capacity of key local stakeholders, including educational institutions and practitioners in Lagos and surrounding areas to tackle HT and to deal with its evolving dynamics, trends, forms and modus operandi, with specific attention to girls.

We are part of an international partnership that operates also in Edo State, Italy and Sweden with the same objective.

With INSigHT we intend to improve key local stakeholders' knowledge and capacity to deal with THB by:

- Producing new knowledge on emerging trends, mechanisms and dynamics of recruitment of victims of trafficking in Nigeria, their transit and their potential rehabilitation in Nigeria, with focus on children.
- Strengthening the prevention and protection systems for children, in Italy, Sweden, and Nigeria, with specific focus on rehabilitation in Nigeria.
- Raising awareness among victim returnees and law enforcement officers on evolving trafficking dynamics, particularly as far as women and children are concerned.



Nigerian Women Association

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OUR CHILDREN CAN'T BE BOUGHT!

Don't turn your head away from human trade: we can help you prevent new slavery

Helping Education providers Raising Awareness on Human Trafficking

Dialogue with schools and teachers to prevent human trafficking

Strengthen relationships with territorial public institutions

Informal Channels of support for victims of human trafficking

Educational / informational meetings

Action funded by the European Union, contracted by ICMPD through the Mobility Partnership Facility









Nigerian Women Association Verona

Mission Statement

The mission of NWA is to serve our local community as well as our country Nigeria, through empowerment, cultural enrichment, and education of women, youth and children, thereby fostering togetherness and excellence in our collective pursuits.

Activities

NWA works to promote the integration of Nigerian citizens and families, providing support and guidance to families, children and individuals that find themselves in vulnerable conditions. NWA support victims of human trafficking in difficulties, through guidance to the services of competence and in the pursuit of job opportunities. In 2017, NWA established two chapters in Nigeria (in Lagos and Enugu). NWA is registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC/IT/NO/105408). Recently, the Association carried out successfully projects for social inclusion and reintegration in favour of returnees, victims of Human Trafficking in collaboration and with fund granted by International Organisation for Migration, Italy (IOM), co-funded by the Italian Local Authorities (Municipality of Venice, Municipality of Verona).

Helpdesk in Focus

If you are a teacher or educator, the future of the children you educate is in your hands. You are in that special role that can make the difference in children's life. You can guide and empower them, so they don't have to make choices that lead to new slavery, lifethreatening and undignified conditions. It's not easy to do it, and we are here to help you help them.

In Lagos, the Helpdesk represents the main instrument to achieve and open dialogue with local stakeholders. It is open twice a week by two female Professional Social Workers, from the Institute of Social Work of Nigeria, with whom the Association has developed an on-going collaboration, and one general practitioner. Courtesy visit to institutions and stakeholders, awareness-raising in the schools, training of secondary school teachers, road campaign, conferences and seminars will also complete our commitment to fight HT in Lagos and Enugu.



Helpdesk: levels of support



Prevention of Human Trafficking

- Information on law requirement and rules to legal emigration in EU countries, visa procedure, factsheets on social, cultural and economic data on Italy and Sweden
- Visits in the Helpdesk office by secondary school's students (at least 2 per month), booklets' distribution



Support for Human Trafficking Victims

• Support for voluntary returnees, victims of trafficking and prostitution in EU countries to ensure them access to local resources, for their social and economic reintegration



Focal Point for Nigerian public bodies, educational institutions, national and international NGO's

- Expertise and support to raise awareness on human trafficking, on the protection of the rights and dignity of women and mentor them to be successful in life
- Coordination and exchange meeting with local stakeholders engaged in awareness-raising
- Organizing workshops on awareness raising and legal emigration in the EU