

### Where to seek more information:

If you want to report a human trafficking case or find out which office is doing what to help eliminate trafficking in women in Cyprus, or to learn more on the protection measures followed by the Cyprus government please contact:

#### Attorney General

**Address:** Apelli, 1456 Nicosia  
**Tel:** + 357 22889100  
**Fax:** + 357 22667498  
**Email:** roc-law@cytanet.com.cy

#### Police Department

**Address:** Police Headquarter, 1478 Nicosia  
**Tel:** + 357 22 888919  
**Fax:** + 357 22 808599  
**Email:** chiefpolice@police.gov.cy

#### Headquarters of the Social Welfare Department

**Address:** Prodromou 63, 1468 Nicosia  
**Tel:** +357 22406655, + 357 22406656  
**Fax:** +357 22667907  
**Email:** central.sws@sws.mlsi.gov.cy

#### Civil Registry and Migration Department

**Address:** Ministry of Interior (Civil Registry and Migration Department)  
**Tel:** + 357 22 804400  
**Fax:** + 357 22 804598  
**Email:** migration@crmd.moi.gov.cy

#### Officer for the Commissioner of Administration (Ombudsman)

**Address:** Era House, Diagorou 2, 1097 Nicosia  
**Tel:** + 357 22405500  
**Fax:** + 357 22672881  
**Email:** ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.cy

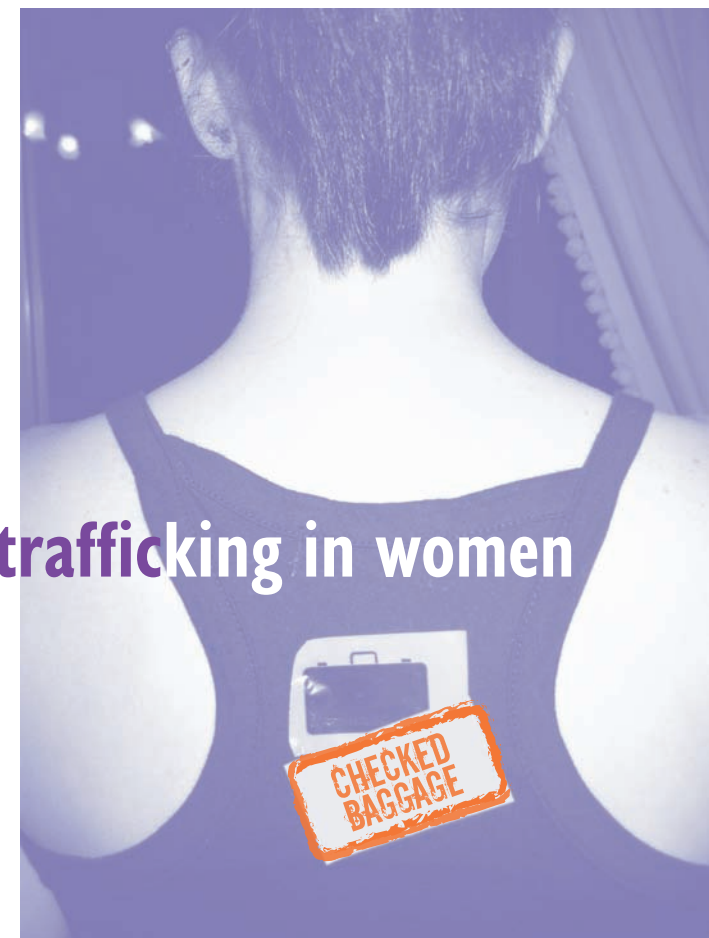
#### KISA - Action for Support, Equality and Antiracism

**Address:** Arsinoes 48 Nicosia  
**Tel:** + 357 22 878181  
**Fax:** 22 773039  
**Email:** kisa@cytanet.com.cy

If you are interested in research related to trafficking of women or in more academic information please contact:

#### MIGS- Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies

**Address:** Intercollege, 46 Makedonitissas Avenue  
P.O. Box 24006, 1703 Nicosia  
**Tel:** + 357 22351276 (ext. 115)  
**Fax:** + 357 22 353682  
**Email:** info@medinstgenderstudies.org



trafficking in women

yes no  
to responsibility to tolerance

## What is human trafficking and when does it occur?

Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery.

According to the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, human trafficking is the recruitment, transportation, harbouring or receipt of persons by means of force or other forms of coercion for the purpose of sexual or labour exploitation. The consent of a victim of trafficking in human beings to the intended exploitation is irrelevant where any of the means mentioned above are used.

- Some examples of trafficking:
- abduction for sexual or domestic service
  - abduction for debt release
  - the exchange of women for the settlement of disputes
  - forced prostitution\*

Trafficking continues to exist and thrive due to increasing demand for sexual services and cheap labour.

*\* Force can be understood as the use of physical or psychological abuse, an act of aggression; the capacity for affecting the mind or behaviour of trafficked women; the possession and/or exercise of power.*

## How many women are victims of human trafficking worldwide?

- It is estimated that:
    - approximately 900,000 people are trafficked annually worldwide
    - 80 percent of victims are women and girls
- >> In recent years there has been an increase in the number of women and children being trafficked into the EU from Central and Eastern European countries.
- >> According to the International Organization for Migration approximately 120,000 women and children are trafficked into Western Europe each year.
- >> Trafficking is the fastest growing form of forced labour.

## Why are women vulnerable to human trafficking?

- There are many reasons why women are more vulnerable than men to being trafficked. Amongst these are:
- >> Unemployment and/or poverty. It is estimated that 2/3 of the world population living in poverty are women [this is often called the "Feminization of Poverty"].
- >> Demand for sexual and labour services in the destination countries.
- >> Lack of education and professional opportunity in the countries of origin [According to UNESCO more than 56% of the 104 million out of school children are girls].
- >> Persisting gender and/or race/ethnic discrimination and patriarchy/sexism.

## Don't women CHOOSE to take these risks?

- Women often choose to migrate in search of employment opportunities and a better future but their choices are very limited due to poverty, lack of education, and generally appalling socio-economic conditions in the countries of origin, as well as demand for sexual exploitation in the countries of destination. They are willing to take risks in order to improve their living conditions.
- However, this does not imply that women should have their fundamental rights and freedoms violated. Women are often deceived by traffickers with the promise of employment opportunities, or forced into prostitution through violence, threats, and deception. Also, there is an increasing trend in industrialised countries to use cheap and/or undeclared labour, which limits employment opportunities for migrant women, increasing their vulnerability to exploitation through prostitution and pornography.

## What kind of lives do trafficked women have?

- >> Trafficked women are isolated and often under strict surveillance.
- >> Traffickers and/or employers often withhold their personal documents and wages to repay "debts" [debt bondage].
- >> Most women working in the sex industry or in forced labour fully comply with their "employer's" demands for fear of deportation and physical or psychological abuse.
- >> Trafficked women often suffer from sleep deprivation and malnutrition.

## WHAT CAN BE DONE to prevent and combat human trafficking?

- >> International cooperation on trafficking in human beings should be strengthened.
- >> All EU member states need to implement their National Action Plans to prevent and combat human trafficking.
- >> A measure that has been promoted by the European Parliament is the criminalisation of the demand for sexual services in cases of coercion into prostitution - this means that it is not the victim but the client that ought to be punished. This measure should be implemented throughout the EU.
- >> Systematic awareness campaigns for the public need to be conducted.
- >> Systematic research and data collection must be conducted aiming at the better understanding of trafficking in women.
- >> Training seminars must be conducted for all relevant authorities and non- governmental organisations [NGO's] on victim protection and assistance - thus, the people working on preventing and combating trafficking should be well informed and trained.