

Dignity Project
Dublin Transnational Meeting
3 November 2009

Address by Marion Walsh,
Executive Director, Anti-Human
Trafficking Unit, Department of
Justice, Equality and Law Reform

Introduction

- “ Government's response is set out in the **National Action Plan to Prevent and Combat Trafficking in Human Beings 2009 - 2012.**
- “ The Plan
 - 1. prevention**
 - 2. protection of victims**
 - 3. prosecution of traffickers**
 - 4. tackling child trafficking.**

- Interdepartmental High Level Group
- Anti-Human Trafficking Unit
- Consultative fora
 - “ Interdisciplinary
 - Roundtable Group
 - 5 Working Groups
 - ~ Awareness Raising and Training
 - ~ Development of a National Referral Mechanism
 - ~ Child Trafficking
 - ~ Sexual Exploitation
 - ~ Labour Exploitation

Legislation

- “ Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008
- “ extends the criminalisation of trafficking of persons for sexual exploitation to adults.
- “ introduced the crime of human trafficking for labour exploitation and for the sale of human organs.
- “ offence to sell or offer for sale or to purchase or offer to purchase any person.
- “ offence for a person to solicit for prostitution a person s/he knows or has reasonable grounds for believing is a trafficked person.

Legislation

- “ Immigration, Residence and Protection Bill provides for a period of recovery and reflection for suspected victims of trafficking.
- “ administrative framework, provides for a 60 day period of recovery, reflection and residency in the State.

Training and Awareness Raising

- “ Awareness raising training for over **130** people from different Government Departments and agencies.
- “ **'Train the Trainer'** course being finalised.
- “ Information seminar for diplomats in the Department of Foreign Affairs.
- “ Seminar to staff in the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment.
- “ "Blue Blindfold" awareness raising campaign.

Assistance to Victims

- “ Reception and Integration Agency accommodate potential/suspected victims.
- “ Access to RIA on-site medical facilities.
- “ HSE Women's Health Project.
- “ Provision of legal aid and advice by the Legal Aid Board.

Identification of Victims

- “ Responsibility rests with a member of the Garda National Immigration Bureau not below the rank of Superintendent.
- “ Recommends to the Minister that the person be granted a 60 day period for recovery and reflection.

Policing

- " Trafficking in human beings identified as a policing priority in 2009.
- " Dedicated Human Trafficking and Co-ordination Unit established in 2009.
- " Continuous professional development training course.
- " 250 personnel trained.
- " Awareness raising training provided to in excess of 1150 Gardai.

Garda Operations

- " Approximately 90 investigations.
- " Two persons surrendered in 2008 under the European Arrest Warrant Scheme.

Data Strategy

- " AHTU
 - Scoping the current data being collected by organisations.
 - Establishing a central database at the AHTU.
 - Adapting the data collection system to correspond with international systems.

International Co-operation

- " The G6 Trafficking Group, European Union, the Council of Europe, the UN and IOM, amongst others.
- " UK Human Trafficking Centre.
- " Provision of intelligence information.
- " Undertaking of arrests and searches.
- " Joint policing operation with Romania the prosecution of 3 people for trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation.

Future Actions - Prevention

- “ Awareness raising by means of targeted campaigns.
- “ Identify potential victims among vulnerable groups in certain sectors.
- “ Develop contacts with the media.
- “ Continue to distribute the Blueblindfold image.
- “ Module to be rolled out on the Civil, Social and Political Education programme in secondary schools.

Future Actions - Protection

- “ Information leaflet outlining the rights and services available to potential and/or suspected victims and contact details for relevant organisations.
- “ Information leaflet on human trafficking containing case studies relevant to the Irish context.
- “ Vocational training model for suspected victims of trafficking.