

Ioannina, 18-19 February 2003

Following the 2<sup>nd</sup> Preparatory Seminar to the 11<sup>th</sup> Economic Forum, the OSCE ODIHR's Anti-Trafficking Unit took the opportunity of attendance by most anti-trafficking focal points from OSCE field missions to convene an internal co-ordination meeting in order to discuss priorities, strategies and events for 2003. This was the 4th meeting of this kind after meetings in Vienna (June 2000), Pristina (September 2001) and Sarajevo (June 2002).

On the afternoon of February 18<sup>th</sup>, the ODIHR's Anti-Trafficking Unit facilitated an exchange between the anti-trafficking focal points of the field missions and the Co-Chairs of the *Informal Working Group on Gender Equality and Anti-Trafficking in Human Beings*, Ambassador Del Marmol and Dr. Gracheva. The UNICEF/UNOHCHR/ODIHR consultant for the SEE RIGHTS project Ms. Limanowska and the Deputy Chair of the Stability Pact Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings, Mr. Warnath, also were invited to present their activities. The main focus of the discussion was the drafting and consultation process for the OSCE's Anti-Trafficking Action Plan and an update on the SEE RIGHTS project. OSCE field missions expressed their willingness to contribute to the development of the OSCE Action Plan stressing that they hope it will highlight their potential implementing role. Furthermore, representatives of the Chairman-in-Office, the Office of the OSCE Co-ordinator on Economic and Environmental Activities and the OSCE Strategic Police Matters Unit also participated in the meeting and had a lively exchange with the field missions. All participants agreed that there needs to be enhanced co-ordination and increased information exchange between Vienna, Warsaw and the field missions.

During the second day, the ODIHR's Anti-Trafficking Unit informed the field mission representatives about its current work, while the field missions presented their various different mandates and anti-trafficking activities including how they respond to individual cases of trafficking (see summary attached). An extensive debate took place on the concept of National Referral Mechanisms (NRM) and the ODIHR's project to develop a Handbook on NRM. OSCE field missions expressed the need for such assessment tools and guidelines and welcomed the ODIHR's initiative. The ODIHR appreciated specific feedback from the field regarding the current response to individual cases and the identification of urgent needs, which the establishment of effective NRMs could address.

Additionally to the recommendations of the prior OSCE internal co-ordination meetings the following specific recommendations were proposed during the working sessions in Ioannina:

- ODIHR and OSCE field missions should circulate a brief monthly update summarising their current and planned anti-trafficking activities.
- ODIHR should circulate updated list of anti-trafficking focal points in OSCE field missions to all relevant contacts in Vienna.
- ODIHR and OSCE field missions should develop a list of available anti-trafficking resources and materials, which have been developed or translated by them. ODIHR should post and maintain this list on its web site.
- ODIHR and OSCE field missions should exchange existing standards for their anti-trafficking work.
- OSCE field missions should consider developing regional anti-trafficking projects in co-ordination with the ODIHR.
- Enhance visibility of OSCE field missions' anti-trafficking work, in particular through joint preparation and statements for up-coming OSCE meetings.

**AGENDA**

***Internal OSCE Anti-Trafficking Side Meeting***

*19 February 2003 Ioannina, Greece*

**Introduction / General Exchange**

- Mandates and capacities
- Revisit Recommendations from Sarajevo internal OSCE regional co-ordination meeting
- 2003 projects and priorities

**Co-operation and Co-ordination Efforts**

- Information exchange / examples of good co-operation / ODIHR as clearinghouse
- Possible joint regional projects
- Sharing models of best practice
- Donor priorities and more co-ordinated strategy towards donors

**National Referral Mechanism**

- Responding to individual cases / need for guidelines
- Shelter / safehouse
- NGO-Police Co-operation (models, experience, MOU samples)
- Victim Identification procedures
- Follow-up of repatriated victims

*Lunch Break*

**2003 Events**

- Eco Forum
- ODIHR-ILO Conference
- HDIM
- Stability Pact Task Force Meetings
- Possible ABA/CEELI sponsored Eurasian Anti-Trafficking Conference

**Other**

- Future project ideas?
- Financing of project activities and urgent actions
- Public Affairs – strategy / proposals to improve OSCE profile and recognition

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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The anti-trafficking focal points of the OSCE Centres in Almaty, Bishkek and Tashkent, as well as from the OSCE Mission to Tajikistan and the OSCE Office in Podgorica were not able to attend this meeting.

**ODIHR – Anti-Trafficking Unit**

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**Guests on 18 February 2003**

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## **HOW OSCE FIELD MISSIONS ARE CURRENTLY RESPONDING TO CASES OF TRAFFICKING**

At the regional meeting in Ioannina, the participants began a working session by responding to two questions:

1. Does your Mission deal with individual cases?
2. Does your Mission have standards or guidelines in place to deal with cases of trafficking?

A quick summary of the responses follows:

### **ALBANIA**

YES. – Through the “Victim Assistance Team” that is funded by ODIHR we participate directly with individual cases. Police informs the Director of the Project about the cases of Albanian victims of trafficking that are repatriated (returned/deported) to Albania from other countries. Legal advice is provided directly to victims, by Victim Assistance Team while they are within the Police Premises. Our activities are based on internal recommendation released by the General Director of Police on behalf of the Ministry of Public Order to all police directorates in Albania.

In addition the OSCE Presence in Albania is part of a Referral Mechanism that exists between the State Police, IO’s and NGO’s, which provide assistance to foreign victims of trafficking. In December 2001 Memorandum of Understanding was signed among Government, UNHCR, IOM, OSCE and ICMC (this last actor is no longer involved), concerning the pre-screening of foreign nationals which enter Albania illegally. One of the tasks within this MoU is the identification of victims of trafficking and building of a referral system. OSCE Presence Field Stations have an active role to report about cases to the organisations involved.

The OSCE Presence in Albania is involved in the drafting of the law on “Witness Protection”. It is envisaged for the near future that the OSCE Presence in Albania will implement a project on “Trial Monitoring”.

Regarding guidelines there are no specific ones for victims of trafficking in Albania. In our work we use the international guidelines (ex. Palermo protocol, OSCE/ODIHR Reference Guide for Anti-Trafficking Legislative Review and GAATW).

### **ARMENIA**

OSCE Office has mandate to respond to human rights violation complaints – so far NO trafficking cases received.

Other than international guidelines no specific standards developed to deal with cases of trafficking.

### **AZERBAIJAN**

NO, not involved in individual cases → Monitoring YES

Planning to develop standards relating to security issues (for example, for shelter)

**BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**

YES, direct contact is rare, but does happen mostly through field offices either contacted by local counterparts or directly approached by victims. OSCE ensures that victims have legal representation. OSCE views it as its role to ensure that all authorities are aware of the legal framework and obligations. OSCE monitors legal proceedings and trials.

YES, there is a temporary instruction on the treatment of trafficked victims (developed together with Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees)

OSCE will develop guidelines for trial monitoring and victim assistance

**CROATIA**

NO, but has provided some limited advice to the police on a small number of individual cases

Formal requests by NGOs and IOM to monitor trials

**FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA**

YES.

- Monitor police interviews of individual trafficking cases and the follow-up measures taken/ existing victim assistance mechanism)
- Monitor/observe trafficking court trials and overall legal procedure related to trafficking cases.

Rule of Law Unit Anti-Trafficking Objectives

RoL Unit Guidelines for Individual Trafficking Cases (i.e. info on the existing victim assistance referral mechanism to provide personnel with adequate information about the existing National Referral Mechanism)

RoL Unit Standard Operating Procedures (to provide field guidelines to OSCE Staff members on how to deal with individual cases in general, such as police abuse)

RoL Unit Guidelines on the handling, storage and transmission of sensitive information

**GEORGIA**

So far NO individual cases, but responds to complaints of human rights violations.

NO relevant standards or guidelines.

**KOSOVO**

YES. – The first point of contact with the victim is the Trafficking and Prostitution Investigations Unit (TPIU) who then communicate with the OSCE Human Rights Officers in the Victim Advocacy and Support Section. The OSCE Human Rights Officers conduct a brief interview to screen the victim. If there is any indication that the victim has been trafficked s/he is then transported to Pristina by the TPIU to undergo a more extensive interview by IOM. If the victims wished to be repatriated she then goes to a Shelter managed by an International NGO where she stays until she can be repatriated by IOM. This procedure is clearly spelled out in the Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs) signed by the OSCE, IOM, TPIU, and an International NGO.

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Currently, the OSCE is facilitating a Working Group to create Standard Operation Procedures for Internally Trafficked Victims. The Domestic SOP will be model after the very effective SOP for Internationally Trafficked Victims. Additional parties signing the SOP will include the Department of Justice (Victim Advocacy and Assistance Office (VAAO)), a Kosovo NGO, and the Department of Social Welfare, of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare. The OSCE is also supporting the Kosovo NGO which manages the Shelter for internally trafficked victims in addition to providing support for a second shelter for minority victims of trafficking.

The OSCE, Pillar 3 of UNMIK is in the final stages of signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Pillar I of UNMIK (includes police and the Department of Justice) to financially support the opening of an Interim Security Shelter (ISF) for all Victims of Trafficking (both international and internally trafficked in addition to minors). The ISF will provide a space for Victims of Trafficking to have some time to consider whether or not they want to testify in court, be repatriated, etc.

The Legal System Monitors of the Human Rights Department currently have access to all court cases including the monitoring of Trafficking Trials. Currently, they are finishing a report on Witness Protection; one section focuses on Trafficking of Human Beings.

The OSCE has a fund for Legal Assistance of Victims of Trafficking.

#### **MOLDOVA**

YES, involved in individual cases

Development of standards planned – National Referral Mechanism & Witness Protection (2 years proposal) also interested in developing standards for the media and trial monitoring. Interested in development of standard procedures for handling of sensitive information among field missions, with national authorities and with partner international organisations.

#### **SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO**

YES, monitoring and facilitating partner in National Referral Mechanism

A-T Task Force was established within OSCE mission

Planning to develop standards on identification and minimum standards for treatment of victims, as well as guidelines for media

#### **UKRAINE**

YES, from time to time, but not on a regular basis.

NO relevant standards or guidelines developed.

#### **UZBEKISTAN**

NO, not dealing with individual cases.

NO relevant standards or guidelines developed.

## **Calendar of Upcoming Events**

### **March**

*28 March 2003*

Stability Pact Task Force, Portorož, Slovenia  
Contact: [natascha.knecht@bmaa.gv.at](mailto:natascha.knecht@bmaa.gv.at)

### **April**

*2-4 April 2003*

Council of Europe, Lara Project, Zagreb  
Contact: [anna.sorensen@coe.int](mailto:anna.sorensen@coe.int)

### **May**

*20-23 May 2003*

OSCE 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Economic Forum, Prague  
Contact: [pm-ceea@osce.org](mailto:pm-ceea@osce.org)

*23-24 May 2003*

Conference "Prevention through Legal Solutions"  
Halina Niec Human Rights Association, Krakow  
Contact: [office@niecassociation.org](mailto:office@niecassociation.org)

### **June**

*3-6 June 2003*

OSCE Annual Meeting of Police Experts  
Contact: [tim.delvecchio@osce.org](mailto:tim.delvecchio@osce.org)

*9-10 June 2003*

Daphne program seminar, London  
"Best practices in the protection and assistance to the victims of trafficking in human beings"  
Contact: [e.pearson@antislavery.org](mailto:e.pearson@antislavery.org)

*27-28 June 2003*

Conference "Trafficking in Persons"  
Human Rights Law Centre, University of Nottingham  
Contact: [www.ccc.nottingham.ac.uk/law/hrlc](http://www.ccc.nottingham.ac.uk/law/hrlc), [catherine.lovesy@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:catherine.lovesy@nottingham.ac.uk)

### **October**

JHU Bologna Conference

### **Autumn**

ODIHR/ILO conference  
Contact: [baerbel.uhl@odihhr.pl](mailto:baerbel.uhl@odihhr.pl)

Baku Conference?

Contact: OSCE Office in Baku