



Newsletter for EBF Anti-trafficking Network

June 2013

OSCE high-level conference to focus on combating Trafficking in Human Beings 10-11 June 2013

Representing a Swedish network of NGO's I was in Kiev at the "OSCE high-level conference in Kyiv to focus on combating trafficking in human beings". It was the Foreign Minister of Ukraine who made the invitation and all 47 member countries had at least one person representing. I went to this meeting because this is one organization that combines the efforts of countries across all sides of Europe. It is not a wealthy and powerful organization, but what says counts as much as United Nations counts. Ministers spoke and the President of Ukraine had sent a message about the importance of this meeting. On the first evening the Foreign Minister holds a reception at the hotel Continental International, with good food. There I had a long and nice chat with a person from German Federal Ministry of Social Affairs and a woman from Latvia. My Russian is not too good, so many delegates from the Russian speaking region was "out of reach" unfortunately.

This conference was not for decisions but to make the action plan from 2003 updated and also give recommendations to nations. This report is made to forward information that I regard as most valuable for us as a network.

OSCE

OSCE means "Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe". With **57 States** from Europe, Central Asia and North America, the OSCE is the world's largest regional security organization. It offers a forum for political negotiations and decision-making in the fields of early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation, and puts the political will of its participating States into practice through its unique network of field missions.

The OSCE has a comprehensive approach to security that encompasses **politico-military, economic and environmental**, and **human** aspects. It therefore addresses a wide range of security-related concerns, including arms control, confidence- and security-building measures, human rights, national minorities, and democratization, policing strategies, counter-terrorism and economic and environmental activities.

All 57 participating States enjoy equal status, and decisions are taken by consensus on a politically, but not legally binding basis. And is regarded a region within United Nations.

PARTNERSHIP, PREVENTION, PROSECUTION, PROTECTION

OSCE works with four P; Partnership, Prevention, Prosecution and Protection.

Partnership was a very important word in the conference, to partner across borders but also between Authorities and the civil society. Congressman Christopher Smith from USA also spoke of the necessity of working with faith-based organisation because they are often doing real changes. He was presented as the leading man behind the first Anti-trafficking action plan in the United States. Another speaker who made a Christian remark was Joy Smith from Canada, a Member of Parliament who spoke about her own family, the value of committed persons and backsides and also possibilities of politics. She is the driving force behind the changes of laws in Canada to enhance the protection of children.



Otherwise there was not much from the church-based work. The Holy See, the Vatican State, has a delegate in OSCE and made some moral statements about the inhumanity of Human Trafficking and the shame and disgrace that it can continue in democratic societies. Experts in the conference were representing the following organisations:

IOM-Ukraine, Airline Ambassadors International, La Strada- Ukraine, Task Force against THB (trafficking in Human Beings) in the Council of Baltic Sea States, Anti-Slavery International, UNODC, Interpol, ARSIS from Albania, CIS Coordinating Council of Prosecutors General, Russian Investigation of St Petersburg, GRETA (EU monitoring group), Criminal Police Service in Belgium and ECPAT. My observation was the non-existence of the big work done by the churches.

Prevention was discussed from the point of Awareness-raising, Training for professionals and co-ordination of governmental institution and Civil Society. Recruiting and reaching the destination was two other important areas for prevention, and also demand was high-lighted. Information to all

immigrants what trafficking means and how to contact help was also mentioned by the Belgian Police. The Airline Ambassadors spoke of how flight attendances can discover suspicious trafficking by asking innocent questions and observe. They have the possibility to let the Captain of the plane call the air field and the police get time to get ready and on place to make a “normal” Custom control. This chain would work without putting anyone at risk.

SIGNS TO LOOK FOR

This is the sign of trafficking to look for (3 signs present should make them call the air field):

- Fear of uniforms
- Uncertainty where to go
- Scared and nervous
- Stories that sounds well-rehearsed
- Unfit clothing, not clothes for travelling or clothes that misfit.
- Try to give an adult impression
- No passport or tickets on their own
- Controlled by someone else. Are not allowed to answer when spoken to, and can't go to toilet alone.
- Avoid eye-contact
- Bruises on the body

Signs of Traffickers:

- Answer for the other person
- Observe the other all the time
- Give evasive answers
- Don't remember the name or other info about the child
- Call themselves as a relative

Prosecution was an issue for many countries, and the conviction was very low all over the field. In Holland they had started special courts with judges specialised to trafficking, and had the ability to understand the situation of witnesses as living as victims of a crime, and the complexity of the trafficking issue. This has raised the conviction rate to 65% in these courts. Begging and the double punishment they could be having were also presented. A beggar who is forced to beg and living in an abusive situation, can also be prosecuted for begging and put in prison.

Protection is a complex work that also had the fewest speakers. ECPAT spoke about how to interview children. The conclusion from the three speakers was that Protection demands multidimensional and interinstitutional support, and in this field the contact with NGO was most present. In the country reports the number mentioned of have been given this support was under 100 persons for many countries, one country reported 11 living in shelter.

There is now a changing face of trafficking. Beginning of Life in Moldova found that there was less violence used, and more manipulation for now, so they made a chart of signs of manipulation. This was not at the conference but should have been. This was also mentioned at the conference. Another change is that Labour trafficking, Child Trade and Organ Trafficking is the most expanding business for the moment. All children do not end up in sexual industry, but are used for labour, drug

transportation, begging, theft and pickpocketing etc. Another form of labour increasing is the Domestic Servitude, where mostly women end up in homes as domestic slaves. Also AU pair has changed the face from being a cultural exchange to become a cheap domestic worker. Many end up in situation where they are enslaved, have to work long hours and provide sexual services for the family men and his friends.

Most recommendations can be summarised as better implementation of laws, better partnership and cooperation across borders and with civil society and better knowledge about changes in the field of THB.

Statistics:

Here is some statistics that was mentioned:

- 20 000 000 have been in forced labour in the world, according to OSCE.
- Ukraine discovered 200 cases of THB 2012.
- 2-4 million people have been involved in trafficking. The turnover is counted to 8 billion dollars per year.
- 600 000 – 800 000 is trafficked every year, according to ILO
- 55 % women and 45 % men are trafficked according to IOM.
- 43 % is in forced labour
- 20 % in domestic servitude
- 27 % in national trafficking
- This has changed the last 5 years.
- Law enforcement has its biggest resources for sexual exploitation, which have made the other form of trafficking be more low-risk areas.
- 4,5 million are victims of sexual exploitation 2012, according to ILO. La Strada says sexual exploitation is increasing, and at least 50 % is about this.
- 75 % are women, 27% children in sexual exploitation.
- 84 % are trafficked for sexual exploitation, said La Strada.
- 3 out of 1000 have been in forced labour the last 10 years.
- 36 % of the cases about trafficking in Baltic Sea Countries are about labour trafficking.
- 50 – 100 millions are working in domestic servitude in the world.
- 1,5 million street children are trafficked and 100 million are living in the streets. (ILO)
- 65 % of the street children are victim of the system, or the non-existing social system.
- 1200 children were deported from Europe 2012.
- 150 States have ratified the Palermo Protocol.
- 135 states have criminalised THB.
- 16 % of the states had no convictions in court during 2007 – 2010
- 27 % had 1 – 10 convictions per year during that period
- 25 % had between 10 – 50 convictions for one year.
- 20 % did not give any information
- Convictions for THB is as rare as murder in Norway, 0,3%.
- 6 500 victims of THB have been receiving help from IOM in Europe.

NEWS:

- In Canada a new law “Offence of child trafficking” is taken in the Parliament. Canada took a National Action plan to Combat THB 2012. Canada is working on a “Victims Bill of Rights.”
- CIS intergovernmental programme runs until 2017.
- Ukraine has a new Action Plan and new laws against THB. In Ukraine the hotline for consultation about trafficking and working abroad had 44 000 calls 2012. 64 % of them were women, 36 % men. 56 % had a higher education of those that had been trafficked for labour. In the hotline people can also complain about the Authorities action which has led to some improvements.
- Azerbaijan is starting a new Authority to help victims and a new special police unit.
- Russia has new programme to give new identities to Victims of THB. Russia wants to increase international police cooperation. Russia needs to improve their work with slave labour, trafficking in children and with organs. Russia is looking to Media and internet. In Russia traffickers went to poor people with a home and said they would help them to something better, and then they trafficked them and then sold their apartment and took the money.
- Turkey had their first Action plan against THB 202 and a new was decided 2009 to harmonise with the standards of EU. In Turkey 200 has been helped through the hotline. 600 victims have been in NGO shelter care.
- In USA they want to go for the money and that way stop the traffickers. USA has a website www.slaveryfootprint.org where you can check how many slaves are promoting your lifestyle. In USA Obama wants a comprehensive 5 year plan to give support for victims. It has 4 goals: to improve cooperation, Raise awareness, make it easier to identify and include people that have been Victims of THB to be integrated in the system, and finally make substantial support to victims. When I ask the US delegate later about this, he said it would be a tricky business to get it through, but was hopeful because a majority in the congress was supporting the fight against trafficking.
- The *European Council Act against Trafficking in Human Being* is ratified by 40 out of 47 countries. The latest was Hungary 2013. Estonia, Greece and Turkey has signed the protocol but not implemented the laws. Czech Republic, Russia, Monaco and Lichtenstein have not signed it yet. Belarus has signed it even though they are not member of the European Council.
- GRETA has made 28 country visits as a monitor for EU and European Council, and 20 reports are ready and can be watched at www.coe.int/trafficking.
- Moldova made a Task Force against THB 2003. Has a hotline in cooperation with La Strada, but were asking for an international hotline. They have had 2100 calls and an average of 300 every year.
- Kazakhstan is discussing a special fund for victims of THB.
- Lithuania wants to do more.
- Internet as a mean to trick humans into trafficking was discussed and recommendations were to start look how this can be stopped.
- In Portugal a person can stay up to 1 year for rehab if they are a victim of THB. This can be prolonged if the security for reintegration cannot be maintained.
- Armenia has a Task force, support for victims and wants to improve the company of the witness.

- Croatia has a new victims programme, A National Referral Mechanism 2012 -2015, for cooperation government and NGO.
- Switzerland has an Action Plan taken 2012, are looking to partner in these areas. A big issue is Domestic servitude in Switzerland in the field of THB.
- One suggestion was a hotline for professionals who have questions how to handle suspected THB.
- Ireland is working for a higher participation and coordination in this field. Has a new law about Forced Begging.
- UK has an Anti-slavery day act and is trying to be more proactive in the work. They want to support Prevention overseas, have tougher border and harder punishment for the traffickers. All to increase the protection of the Human, a victim centred approach.
- Ideas that was recommended is that nations shall help and support each other how to write and decide laws.
- Toolkit for nations to spread regional experiences of implementation policies.
- OSCE office is a resource for states in their work against THB.
- Prosecutors need to be involved in awareness-raising
- Some words to use in future discussions: Multilateral cooperation, Result-oriented Discussion, Interinstitutional complexity, multidisciplinary integration, implementation, national referral mechanism, multiplying diversity.

CONCLUSIONS

This is a short version, and I think a lot more could be said and other have slipped my ear without any notice. If any info is valuable I would be happy about that. Anyone who goes to a conference and writes a report is welcome to share it in our network.

OSCE have a “Alliance of organisations against Human Trafficking” who meets in June every year and is a meeting point with NGO’s.

For Baptist churches to wants to get into national system, the American Embassy can be one way. USA congress spoke of the need of Faith-based organizations and a programme Manager at the American Embassy in Ukraine told me they were open for supporting our work.

Another aspect that was NOT mentioned at the conference was the School system, neither when spoken of Partnership or Prevention. The experience the bilateral project Sweden –Moldova has given us shows how crucial the schools are to have as a partner. This is an area where churches can try to find a way to cooperate.

It is hard for NGO’s to recommend Governments, because it all comes down to that issue of resources where NGO is in need of resources from the Government. It is not a question of Government taking over the activity, so the recommendations become vague, like government need to address the issue of trade with children. The most ideas came from the politicians who wanted to get things done.

Another comment is that when the high-level politicians spoke all media was present, but when the experts presented their material the media was gone.

Human Trafficking is an issue that are related to terrorism, security, Human Rights, religious freedom etc. This was obvious in the conference and also makes some things much more difficult to deal with. The complexity increases the demand for more well-trained specialists. But there is a great deal churches can do, that no one else can. The text this Sunday in Swedish church is about "Lost and Found" and my own conclusion is that this is what the delegates really should debate.

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