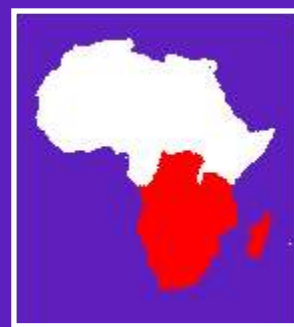


# On Human Trafficking

A Bulletin of News, Information and Analysis on Trafficking in Persons in Southern Africa  
International Organization for Migration • Pretoria • South Africa



Issue 11 / 2006

## Majority of Victims of Human Trafficking Suffer from Medical and Psychological Problems

*The majority of IOM-assisted victims of human trafficking require professional medical and psycho-social assistance if they are to fully recover from their ordeals, a recent review of the Organization's counter-trafficking programme reveals.*



IOM Jakarta's counter-trafficking programme has provided over a thousand victims of trafficking in Indonesia with return, recovery and reintegration assistance in the last year. One of the highlights of this programme is support for medical recovery centres in Jakarta, Surabaya, Makassar and Pontianak where all consenting beneficiaries are provided with comprehensive medical care, counseling, and temporary shelter. They are the only facilities of their kind in Indonesia. Data collected reveals new and

troubling information about the extremely difficult living and working conditions trafficked victims face and the grave impact on their physical and mental health.

"There are victims whose medical and psychological conditions are extremely serious," said IOM's Dr. Tea Zakaria. "I recently handled a case where a victim was so deeply traumatized that she literally cut off one of her hands."

"The length of time it takes them to heal depends on a variety of factors such as the person's individual level of resilience, family support and available resources. But in each case, an enormous amount of help is needed."

Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) and psychological disorders are so prevalent among victims, regardless of their backgrounds, that several months ago IOM started voluntarily testing all its recovery centre clients regardless of whether or not they

displayed symptoms, says programme director Kristin Dadey.

"It is shocking to see the range and depth of medical and psychological conditions that victims are suffering," she said. "Without appropriate medical and psychological interventions there is the very real danger that these people, who have already suffered so much, will be further harmed, and in some cases, in life threatening ways."

Medical data on STIs revealed that an alarming 75 percent of victims tested positive for Chlamydia, a sexually transmitted infection that can have severe consequences on one's reproductive health.

Other STIs detected included Gonorrhoea, Syphilis, and even HIV.

► *Cont. on p. 8*

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The views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of IOM

## Mozambique Ratifies Trafficking Protocol

On 20 September, 2006, Mozambique ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime of 2000, as well as the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, both supplementing the Convention against Transnational Organised Crime.

This brings the number of ratifications in Southern Africa to twelve. So far, the countries in the region that have ratified the UN Protocol against

trafficking in persons are: Botswana, Congo DR, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, and Zambia. Only Angola, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe are yet to ratify or accede to the Protocols.

In May 2006, the Senate of Zimbabwe consented to the ratification of the Protocols. However, an instrument of ratification must be deposited at the UN Secretariat before a country is considered party. ■

# Editorial

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the 11th Issue of the EYE on Human Trafficking, the third of 2006. As promised, this issue focuses on the theme 'Working Abroad', in response to mounting concerns about the potential hazards faced by Africans seeking dream jobs in foreign destinations. It is a sad truth that human traffickers often prey on the vulnerability of persons who are eager or desperate for work abroad. We hope that by exposing these hazards through true-life stories, and discussing both precautionary and reactive measures that people can take upon finding themselves deceived into an exploitative

situation, the experience of working abroad can become in every instance, mutually beneficial to both employer and employee.

The release of this Issue also coincides with the 14th Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa (MIDSA) workshop, scheduled for 11th-13th October in Mauritius. The theme for this workshop will be 'Irregular Migration', including human smuggling and trafficking to, through and from Southern Africa. While civil society actors play their part in enhancing safe migration across borders, these workshops create a regional platform for cohesion between governments in managing migration challenges across the region. It also facilitates the creation of national, bilateral

and multilateral initiatives by the different governments represented.

As always, we continue to bring you counter-trafficking news, information and analyses, as a means of raising awareness, energising existing counter-trafficking initiatives, and informing and assisting the creation of new national and regional platforms to combat human trafficking.

Please do not hesitate to contact us for enquiries, suggestions, comments, or reactions. ■

*Nde Ndifonka*  
Editor,  
*EYE on Human Trafficking*

## SA Women Lured into Forced Labour in Israel

*"[She] said I would save a lot of money. I gave up my house, my car, gave my furniture to some people who have now sold them, knowing that I will be working in Israel for a long time and making money. But you can see...I have nothing left now. They paid me nothing, and I have come back to nothing."*

Working abroad is a dream for many in Southern Africa, but there are often hidden risks associated with attractive opportunities overseas. This is according to one South African, Lisa\*, who recently returned from an unfortunate experience in Israel. First brought to light by a Johannesburg newspaper, The Star, on August 31, 2006, Lisa's story is one of deception and slave labour far from home. IOM carried out an enquiry into this case.

Lisa's ordeal began when she and another woman, Fiona\*, saw a job advertised in a South African newspaper, offering au pair jobs in Israel for women over forty years old. The recruiter, a South African woman named Olga\*, told Lisa and Fiona that they would be working for a kind family personally known to her for many years. Olga promised a salary of US\$ 800 per month, and free room and board. She also told the two women that they would have time off on weekends, and would be able to travel and see the country. According to Lisa and Fiona, Olga, who works for a real estate agency, was paid US\$ 900, and given a three weeks paid holiday in Israel, for recruiting them.

Excited at the prospect of international travel, and working in a foreign country, Lisa and Fiona both accepted the offer. According to Fiona, "It was a difficult time in my life, and I thought I needed a break. It was a good opportunity to leave the difficulties I was facing and go somewhere new. I always wanted to visit Israel. I thought I was going for work, and that I would save some money at least. I did not know that it was a trap." For Lisa, the prospect of saving money by working abroad made her accept the offer. "Olga said I would save a lot of money. I gave up my house, my car, gave my furniture to some people who have now sold them, knowing that I will be working in Israel for a long time and making money. But you can see...I have nothing left now. They paid me nothing, and I have come back to nothing."

What Olga had failed to tell the women was that it is against Israeli law for foreign nationals to work as au pairs in Israel, and that the 3-month tourist visas she had procured for them did not permit them to work in Israel in any capacity. Neither did she tell Lisa and Fiona that they would have to work very long hours, with no holidays or sick leave, for little or no pay.

Olga travelled with both women on May 15, 2006. With tickets paid

by the families that were to host them, they boarded an El Al Airlines flight at Johannesburg International Airport (JIA), and flew directly to Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv. Upon arrival, Lisa and Fiona were met by their host families at the airport, and were driven to the town of Nirit, about 40kms from Tel Aviv.

Fiona had to begin work immediately. Olga had told her that she would only clean and baby-sit within regular working hours, but she soon realised that she was expected to do all the household work including cleaning, cooking, washing and babysitting. She also had to work from 07h30 until 21h30 every day, and she was given no holidays, nor was she granted sick leave. Contrary to Olga's promise of free weekends and the chance to travel around Israel, Fiona's time off was restricted to Fridays from 1300 until Saturday evening, a period when all the shops are closed; even then, she could not find transport facilities to enable her to leave Nirit. As soon as she realised that she had been deceived by Olga, Fiona wanted to return home to South Africa, but she had no return ticket and no money, and her employer, Dan\*, told her that she was at his mercy. This went on for six weeks, and she was paid only US\$ 400 for that period, less than half the amount she had been promised. One night, while her employer and his wife were out, Fiona decided to escape. She found her way to a church and then to a shelter for abused women, which provided her with an immigration police hotline number for migrant workers. She explained to the immigration police that her friend Lisa was trapped in similar working conditions, was very ill, and had no means of escape. The police visited the house where Lisa had been placed, and removed her. Fiona's friends in South Africa sent her money, which she used to buy a ticket to return home.

The conditions in which Lisa found herself were worse. Once she arrived in Nirit with her employer, Nico\*, she had to work from 06h30 to 22h00 every day, sometimes even waking up as early as 04h00 to baby-sit the family's newborn baby. This went on for ten weeks, for which she received no pay. Like Fiona, she was also off duty from Friday 1300 until Saturday evening, but she was too

# SA Women Lured into Forced Labour in Israel



tired to go anywhere, and there was a very poor transportation system in the area in which she stayed. Nico confiscated her passport, and told her that if she wanted to leave, she would have to buy a new air ticket, which she could not afford. He was also verbally abusive. Lisa was ill for six weeks, and developed a severe ear infection. In spite of this, she was forced to keep working every day without any medical attention or sick leave. She pleaded with the employer that she needed medical attention, but he just ignored her. Lisa was so ill that she had lost 14kgs by the time she was rescued by the immigration police in August, 2006. The immigration police charged Nico for withholding her passport, and procured an air ticket for her to return home to South Africa. Lisa claims that both Nico, and Fiona's employer, had a lawyer prepare letters stating that she and Fiona were just visiting, and in which they falsely claimed that they had tried to convince Lisa and Fiona to return to South Africa, but that the two women had begged them to help them remain in Israel. When questioned by the immigration police, Nico claimed that she had asked him to keep her

passport, and that he had created a bank account for her into which he had deposited large sums of money. But Lisa says that Nico opened the bank account simply to create the impression that he was paying her, and that she never had access to the money in the account. Meanwhile, Lisa's recruiter, Olga, had contacted her family in Pretoria, telling them that Lisa was lazy and did not want to work, although she was being paid a lot of money.

Fiona and Lisa are back in Pretoria, South Africa, but their experience in Israel lives with them. Their greatest challenge is restarting their lives after losing everything they had prior to their trip to Israel. While Fiona has been able to return to her house and husband, Lisa has no house or car of her own and now depends on her friends for a place to live. In addition to her ordeal overseas, Lisa's belongings were sold by the caretakers she gave them to before leaving South Africa. Her experience has taught her that anyone is vulnerable to being trafficked, and her advice is that persons who are travelling abroad should be very vigilant. Had she found out that it was illegal to work as an au pair in Israel in the first place, or if she had known that she could not work with a tourist visa, she would not have fallen into the situation that she did. She laments the fact that Olga may still be recruiting women into the same trap; prior to leaving Israel, Lisa had in fact met another South African woman who had been recruited to work as an au pair for the same family. She too, just like Lisa, was unaware that working as an au pair in Israel is illegal, and that she

was not permitted to work with the tourist visa that Olga had organised for her.

After the assistance given to Lisa by Israeli law enforcement, IOM contacted the Embassy of Israel in Pretoria for comment. The Consul, Ms. Ayala Levy, reiterated that it is illegal for South Africans to work in Israel as au pairs, and anyone travelling for that purpose takes the risk of being arrested and prosecuted. She expressed the willingness of Israeli law enforcement to cooperate with South African officials to investigate and prosecute agents who recruit people for purposes of illegal labour in Israel. The Consul advised that anyone trapped in Israel in a situation similar to that in which Lisa or Fiona found themselves should report immediately to the police.

The South African Embassy in Israel has cautioned that South Africans should be careful when travelling abroad, and that there are other forms of exploitation, including sexual slavery, to which innocent people can be subjected to if they fall for the tricks of a trafficker in any foreign destination. They have stated that South Africans in distress should always approach the consular section of the Embassy for advice and assistance.

The Spokesperson for the Department of Foreign Affairs, Ronnie Mamoepa, has responded by issuing a statement addressed to the public, on the necessity of taking certain precautions before traveling to work abroad. The statement is published in full in this issue. ■

\*Not their real names.

## IOM Opens Reception and Support Centre for Returnees

**D**uring 2005, more than 97,000 Zimbabweans were deported from South Africa by the Department of Home Affairs and handed over to officials of the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) in the border town of Beitbridge. Zimbabwean deportees arriving in Beitbridge typically have little or no money for food or accommodation, or for onward transportation to their homes and families. Some may require medical attention. In response to the needs of these returning migrants, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Zimbabwe has constructed a Reception and Support Centre in Beitbridge, officially inaugurated by Zimbabwean and South African authorities on August 26th, 2006.

The reception centre is the first of its kind in Africa, offering essential in-transit services ranging from humanitarian assistance to deportees in the form of food parcels, transportation assistance, medical assessments (and where necessary, referrals are made for further treatment), overnight shelter for those too weak for onward travel,

counselling, and safe migration advice. Staff at the centre also take the opportunity to raise HIV/AIDS awareness among migrants through the distribution of New Start vouchers enabling migrants to access voluntary counselling and testing for HIV, and brochures in English and vernacular languages on STIs, HIV and safe migration. HIV mainstreaming also takes place by means of drama and music. Of the more than 35,000 irregular Zimbabwean migrants deported from South Africa since the reception centre opened in May 31, 2006, more than 16,812 have accessed these services through IOM.

Alongside the reception centre is a children's centre, also built and established by IOM to provide additional care and protection to unaccompanied minors at Beitbridge. The children's centre is now operated by UNICEF and Save the Children (Norway) in coordination with the Zimbabwe's Ministry of Social Welfare, and provides health, counselling, as well as

tracing and reunification services. Since July 2006, 358 unaccompanied minors have been assisted at the centre.

The reception centre plays a pivotal role in addressing the humanitarian needs of returned migrants and has increased the involvement of all relevant stakeholders in promoting and protecting the rights of migrants. IOM aims to use this as a base to initiate tripartite agreements involving the Ministries of Home Affairs in both South Africa and Zimbabwe on issues of cross border migration. ■



# What You Must Know Before Traveling to Work Abroad

*"Working abroad should always be a beneficial experience for both the employee and employer."*

**W**orking abroad can be an exciting and rewarding experience. It may be an opportunity to improve your economic situation, gain valuable work experience, and travel to new and interesting places. However, accepting a job offer without making adequate preparations and taking precautions can put a migrant worker in a vulnerable position, and optimistic migrant workers may find themselves in the hands of unscrupulous employers or human traffickers.

Human traffickers can be very good at identifying and recruiting potential victims. They can make a job offer appear very enticing and realistic. The story about unsuspecting South African women trafficked to Israel to work as au pairs that was reported on page 2 of this issue illustrate how traffickers often successfully deceive would-be migrant workers about opportunities for employment abroad. It is therefore essential that migrant workers avail themselves of proper information when seeking employment overseas, and arm themselves with a back-up plan should things go wrong.

In Issue 9 of the EYE on Human Trafficking, the article 'Middle East Job Opportunities for South Africans' describes several recent cases of young South Africans who found themselves in rather unfortunate circumstances after accepting employment opportunities overseas. They were promised jobs with substantial salaries and comfortable accommodation, but ended up working for far less, and living in undesirable conditions. As a result of this article, IOM's toll-free help line in South Africa (0800 555 999) received a barrage of calls from the general public asking how to avoid finding themselves in a similar situation. In response to these requests for more information, as well as the increase of reports of trafficking victims from the Southern African region, we have compiled a list of basic precautions that one should take before accepting any offer of employment abroad.

## *Before you leave home*

### **Ensure the job offer is genuine**

Check to see that the recruitment agency is registered with the local Chamber of Commerce and, if possible, contact the company offering the job on a landline to confirm that they are recruiting, and that the conditions of employment are those promised by the recruitment agency. Offers from third parties, disreputable recruitment agencies, or people who approach you on the street should be treated with caution. You may also contact the local embassy of the country of destination to confirm that the company is reputable, and is permitted by law to employ foreign nationals in the manner promised. Beware of job offers that sound too good to be true and/or which offer to cover all of your expenses, including air fare and accommodation, up-front.

### **Obtain the correct working permit for the country of destination**

Ensure that you are traveling with the correct and legal documentation to work in the country of destination. Most countries will require you to apply for a working visa if you intend to work in the country. The application for the visa must be filled out and signed by you, the employee, and not by the agency. Be suspicious if the recruitment agency attempts to convince you that a visitor's or tourist visa is sufficient for you to work legally in the country in which you wish to find employment. This is very rarely the case. If you are unsure, you can contact the Embassy of the country to which you hope to travel and/or check the government website, which may provide travel information to prospective migrant workers.

### **Sign a contract before you leave home**

The contract should be in a language you can read, and stipulate your wages and deductions, your duties, working hours and breaks, benefits, leave, and procedures for resignation or termination. Be careful of accepting offers where you are required to pay back money to the employer if you do not fulfill the full term of the contract. The contract should clearly stipulate any amount paid for up-front by the prospective employer (for example, the cost of your airfare) and the conditions under which you will be required to repay this sum. Have an independent attorney examine the contract before you sign. Both you and the employer must sign the contract, and you should each be in possession of a copy of the contract.

### **Have contacts for people/organizations that can provide assistance**

Before leaving home, make sure you have the contact details for your country's Embassy or High Commission in the country in which you wish to find employment. It is also advisable to notify your embassy that you are in the country and give them your address and contact details. Have a list of emergency contact details in the country you are going to: e.g. migrant worker organizations, churches and shelters, the police, friends and family in the destination country. IOM offers counter-trafficking programmes in many parts of the world that may be able to provide assistance to you in case of an emergency. It is also advisable to agree on a contact schedule with family and/or friends at home before leaving for a new destination. Should something go awry, and you fail to contact them at the agreed time, they will be able to contact the relevant authorities for help.

### **Know your rights as an employee of the country you are going to**

Migrant workers are entitled to the same rights as all workers, and should be treated with respect and dignity. Before you work abroad, know your rights, and how to protect them. Be sure to investigate the minimum wages and other conditions of employment in the country to which you're travelling.

## *Once you arrive in your country of destination*

### **Do not give your passport away to anyone**

Do not give your passport over to the employer or anyone else except immigration officials. It is illegal in many parts of the world for an employer to ask to hold onto your passport for any reason, and you should never agree to do so, regardless of whether this is stipulated in the contract.

### **Make contact**

Once you have arrived in your country of destination, contact your local embassy and inform them that you are in the country. Also contact friends and family at home and let them know that you are safe and give them your contact details. If you find yourself in trouble, make contact with one of the organizations on your list, or contact the police or your local embassy.

Working abroad should always be a beneficial experience for both the employee and employer. While social services providers, government departments and law enforcement officials can be helpful in assisting persons who are victimised in the process, the ability and responsibility to prevent such incidences lie solely on the individual.

For further information, refer to the handbook *The Migrating Woman's Handbook*, published by the Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women, available on their website at [www.gaatw.net](http://www.gaatw.net). It is a very informative manual developed to help women and others working abroad make a safe journey. ■

## MIDSA Workshop in Mauritius to focus on Irregular Migration

An upcoming regional Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa (MIDSA) workshop, scheduled to take place in Mauritius from 11-13 October 2006, will focus on irregular migration. Themed 'Irregular Migration, including Human Smuggling and Human Trafficking to through and from Southern Africa', this will be the 14th MIDSA workshop since the inception of the Dialogue in November 2000. It will primarily be attended by high level officials from the ministries or departments of Home Affairs, Justice and Foreign Affairs of sixteen Southern African countries, including Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Congo DR, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

This workshop, organised by IOM's regional office for Southern Africa in Pretoria and the Southern African Migration Project (SAMP), will be the third MIDSA workshop to focus on irregular migration; in October 2002, a MIDSA workshop was held in Maputo on the theme of human trafficking, and in June 2003, one was held in Johannesburg focusing primarily on human smuggling. Officials attending previous MIDSA workshops have expressed concern at the

apparent increase in irregular movements within the region, mostly by persons in transit to South Africa or towards other regions of the world. Because irregular migration in Southern Africa is part of a global phenomenon, IOM has invited representatives of officials from other Regional Consultative Processes on migration (RCP) similar to the MIDSA consultation.

Participants will be called to share information on emerging trends of human smuggling and human trafficking in their countries, as well as their governments' initiatives to manage them. They will also be expected to make proposals for information sharing, capacity building, research assessments, and the role of the international community in assisting them. The workshop aims to take stock of past workshops and initiatives, and recommend comprehensive regional measures to address irregular migration, especially human smuggling and human trafficking. These recommendations are expected to be made in the context of the SADC Protocol on the Facilitation of the Movement of Persons, and developments and lessons from other regions of the world that face migration challenges. ■

## Public Statement Issued by the Department of Foreign Affairs, South Africa, on Working Abroad

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) has noted with concern matters related to working conditions of South African citizens abroad, reported in the media. The Department wishes to make an earnest appeal to South Africans that may have experienced problems, such as poor or exploitative working conditions, to report these to the Department's Consular Section at (012) 351 1000, or alternatively at [consular@foreign.gov.za](mailto:consular@foreign.gov.za).

Regrettably, the Department is not in a position to respond to media reports where the details of the alleged victims are not provided that allows a follow-up. Further, we wish to encourage victims to approach Government with these matters. It must be mentioned that where our people have fallen victim to such unscrupulous agents, they must report them to the Department of Labour and provide this vital information to the DFA.

It must be mentioned that the phenomenon of being lured by false promises is not a trend that is only applicable to South Africans. We appeal to our people to ensure that they have properly signed employment contracts, work permits and funds before they embark on the so-called dream job. Where possible, prospective job applicants to foreign countries must check with the diplomatic missions of those countries (in South Africa) the bona fides of the company (offering the employment) and the local employment conditions in the countries that they intend travelling to.

In the cases where our people have faced employment related problems, and where they have approached either the Department or our Mission, we have rendered assistance and advice. It must be mentioned that in many cases, the employment contract that was signed determined the relationship between the employer and employee. Our people are also encouraged to make use of the

local judicial process (in the country where the dispute may have arisen) to address employment disputes.

Government will ensure that our people are not victims of abuse or exploitation, both at home and abroad. However, it must also be noted that issues relating to employment are of a private nature between an employer and employee and are governed by contracts and labour laws. Our people are encouraged to use these facilities available to them to resolve disputes, while Government will intervene in cases of exploitation. Actions by both the DFA and missions will depend on the nature of the incident having to be dealt with.

Prospective employees must note that in certain countries there is the principle of "sponsorship" by the employer, where the employer is responsible for all aspects of the upkeep of the employee during the employment contract. This place so blight on both parties, and it is strongly recommended that prospective employees understand the conditions of employment before they undertake them.

The passport remains the property of the South African Government. It is illegal for a passport to be confiscated from the holder, except when a person is arrested or when a person is detained by a foreign immigration authority. It must be mentioned that in certain countries, an employee surrenders their passport to the employer for the duration of the contract as the employer is responsible for the employee, including any debt that the employee may incur. In these cases, employees are aware of the requirement prior to them accepting the employment. While Government does not condone this practice, the employee has the right to conclude such agreements. We are aware that many employees willingly accept the terms of such employment and most do not have problems. ■

*Issued by Ronnie Mamoepe*

*Spokesperson: Department of Foreign Affairs*



# NIGERIA: Domestic Workers or Modern-Day Slaves?

Human traffickers make good business taking poorly educated girls from Nigerian villages to toil as domestic workers in the sprawling urban throb of Lagos. But the girls, some as young as five years old, see little or none of their earnings.

Tonia Ayo-Ola, 19, has worked for three months without a day off. Each morning she is up by 6 a.m. preparing breakfast for her "master".

She doesn't roll out her sleeping mat on the living room floor, until after the last person is in bed, often well after midnight.

"I have no friends, I never go out and no one comes looking for me. I am not happy. It is not that they are wicked to me but it is not like being with my family - I am not free," Tonia said.

Tonia has never been paid for her toil, though she knows the traffickers promised her family an unspecified sum of money at the end of the year, when she hopes to return home.

If the girls get any money at all after the traffickers have levied their "transport fees" and "commission" it is only a fraction of what they laboured for, said Justina Onifade of the United Nations Children's Agency, UNICEF.

Across West Africa, millions of girls like Tonia -- and less often boys -- are effectively sold into slavery as domestic workers. Sexual, physical and emotional abuse is widespread. Many are kept under lock and key, and have no contact with anyone outside their employers - no one to turn to for help.

Once away from their families, the girls are at the mercy of the traffickers who, in some cases, move them from household to household pocketing their wages.

Tonia Ayo-Ola's ordeal started when recruiters came to her village in Ogun State just north of Lagos and said they could fix her up with a job as a domestic worker with a well off family in the city.

A deal was struck with her brother, and the next thing Tonia knew she was heading to Lagos to work in a stranger's house.

As the largest city in sub-Saharan Africa, Lagos is a nerve centre for human trafficking according to UNICEF.

Tackling Nigeria's problem with internal trafficking is a first step towards addressing Nigeria's role as a hub for international human trafficking networks, according to Orakwue Arinze of the Nigerian government's National Agency for Prohibition of Traffic in Persons (NAPTIP).

"Internal trafficking is the ingredient

for international trafficking, as once [these girls] are taken from their family, anything can happen," Arinze said.

Child trafficking is one of the fastest growing organised crimes, with an estimated 1.2 million victims per year, according to UNICEF.

In a regional bid to tackle the problem, members of the regional economic body ECOWAS recently agreed on a plan of cross-border cooperation.

In an additional measure, the Nigerian government has passed a law making it illegal for under 18s to work in the household of non-family members. But labour is so cheap that domestic help is the norm, and few Nigerians are aware of the law.

NAPTIP officials say that it's a fight against poverty in a country where the UN estimates 70 percent of the population live on less than US\$1 a day.

"Poverty can make someone act like an animal, as it is animalistic to look at your children like something you can sell - in fact, even animals don't do that," NAPTIP's Arinze said.

NAPTIP is working with UNICEF to reunite trafficked domestic workers with their families. But UNICEF's Onifade said the task is complicated because some of the youngest children do not know their father's names or where they are from.

For others, UNICEF is working with the government to provide hundreds of domestic workers in Lagos with vocational or literacy classes to broaden their horizons.

At the Agege Vocational Training Centre, young women, girls and one or two young men, can choose from a range of classes, including hairdressing, fashion design and even "snailery", the rearing of African giant snails which are a favourite dish in southern Nigeria.

Just getting the girls out of the house and around other people can dramatically improve their situation, enabling them to meet peers and perhaps find support if they feel they are being abused or mistreated.

But the free programme will probably never reach the most vulnerable girls.

"At these centres girls are brought out of the house. They get to know their rights, they share experiences and get support," Onifade said. "That is exactly the reason some masters will never release them." ■

Source: IRIN News, 12 Sep, 2006  
[http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=55523&SelectRegion=West\\_Africa](http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=55523&SelectRegion=West_Africa)

## INDIA: PRAYAS - From Darkness to Light

PRAYAS Juvenile Aid Centre was born out of a devastating fire in one of the largest slums in Delhi, in India's Jahangirpuri state. The fire left many children and persons in trauma and destitution. In order to rebuild the lives of these children, PRAYAS was established in 1988 as a joint initiative of the Delhi Police, Delhi School of Social Work, and Shramik Vidhyapeeth. Starting off with 25 children, today PRAYAS caters to the needs of 50,000 neglected street and working children in the slums of Delhi, Gujarat and Bihar. In addition to all this the organization also provides health care and helpline services to thousands of children every year. The organisation deals with four categories of persons, namely: delinquent children, street and neglected children, sexually abused girls and women, and trafficked children and women.

For more than a decade, Prayas has promoted a rights-based approach in its anti-trafficking programmes across India by addressing the causes of vulnerability among marginalized populations, and the re-integration of trafficked persons through empowerment programmes. Prayas has a mandate to address issues of livelihood, poverty and unemployment in locations known as points of origin of victims of trafficking. The organisation cooperates with partners in India, Bangladesh and Nepal to address the challenges of migration on the sub-continent. Prayas has four priority areas for its programmes:

- Right to work and safe migration;
- Vulnerability reduction among potential migrant populations, particularly youth and women;
- Creating viable livelihood options, economically gainful employment opportunities, and empowerment of these marginalized populations; and
- Establishing social safety networks and rehabilitative options at destination points for the trafficking survivors and the vulnerable.

Prayas has also established strong linkages and partnerships with several corporate social responsibility (CSR) programmes of private sector companies to harness their valuable managerial skills and resources, helping to sponsor children and creating employment opportunities for skilled young people. There are ten Sanchay-Prayas business outlets in Delhi, managed by former trafficked persons, under the auspices of the Economic Rehabilitation Programme (ERTV), and in partnership with IOM. This initiative helps former trafficked persons to earn their livelihood in a respectable way. A beneficiary states:

"Now I have become more confident and with the help of Prayas I am going to start a new life very soon. I am now an independent person working at business parlours and earning my livelihood. At Prayas I am enjoying a new lease of life and look forward to a future of hope."

IOM's SACTAP and Prayas recently cooperated to assist a group of Indian women and children who were trafficked to South Africa earlier in the year. The assistance provided by Prayas included reception in Delhi, temporary accommodation, counselling, skills training and support to start sustainable income generating projects. ■

# ANGOLA: New Counter-Trafficking Initiatives Underway

According to the US Department of State's 2006 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report, Angola is a source country for small numbers of women and children trafficked, primarily within the country, for forced labour and sexual exploitation. Angolan children are reportedly trafficked internally for commercial agriculture, porting, street vending, and forced prostitution; some children are trafficked to Namibia and South Africa for domestic servitude and sexual exploitation. IOM's 2003 report "Seduction, Sale & Slavery Trafficking in Women and Children for Sexual Exploitation in Southern Africa" provides evidence that Angolan women are trafficked to South Africa for purposes of prostitution. Additional anecdotal evidence suggests that people are trafficked for forced labour within Angola, and UNICEF has expressed concern about the trafficking of children from the DRC to Angola to work in diamond mines.

Angola is still recovering from three decades of civil war, which ended with the signature of a peace agreement under the Luena Memorandum of Understanding on 4th April 2002. Infrastructure is still weak, and many areas are inaccessible, except by air. The UNDP Index, which ranks the world's 170 poorest countries, lists Angola in 160th place on the list. Poverty and lack of opportunities in Angola make it easy for traffickers to lure girls, boys and women with false promises of employment opportunities.

In light of these concerns, there is a need for public education and capacity building of law enforcement and other key stakeholders to raise awareness of human trafficking and encourage the positive identification of victims of the crime. So far, Angolan stakeholders have had little experience in addressing the problem of human trafficking

and many are still unable to distinguish trafficked persons from other categories of irregular migrants. Law enforcement officials have to know how to identify trafficked persons, and what kind of assistance these persons require.

The TIP Report states that The National Institute for Children (INAC) has provided several hundred police officers with training on the nature of human trafficking and how to respond to children found on the street. In 2005, 110 officials at border posts in 10 provinces received UNICEF training that addressed international trafficking laws and the collection of immigration and emigration data using new computers and software provided by UNICEF. The government of Angola has also been engaging in related initiatives, like the education of former child soldiers, and basic assistance to victims, including shelter in orphanages or placement with foster families, as a means of preventing and addressing human trafficking. A draft national plan to combat child trafficking is currently under review. These responses are, however, not sufficient to deal with the rising problem of human trafficking in Angola.

To make further progress in combating human trafficking in Angola, a counter-trafficking roundtable and workshop were held in Luanda between 25th and 26th August, 2006. These events were aimed at synergising key government, civil society and international stakeholders towards meaningful co-operation in developing and implementing new and holistic counter-trafficking strategies.

Hosted by IOM's SACTAP, the roundtable was attended by a number of key institutions, including Terre des Hommes (TdH), Save the Children UK, Angolan Women's Organisation (AWO), National Institute for the Child

(INAC), UNICRI, UNHCR, and the Angolan Ministry of the Interior. Key issues discussed were how communities receive returning victims of trafficking, and what can be done to prevent stigmatization of victims. The importance of victim protection through legislation was also on the agenda. The INAC also stressed the need for more data on trafficking in human beings in Angola. An INAC representative stated that with more data it would be easier for the Angolan government to fight trafficking, especially at the level of the Ministerial committee established to discuss and plan counter-trafficking activities.

This roundtable was closely followed by Angola's first counter-trafficking training workshop on August 25th, organized by IOM, at the police school of Luanda. The workshop saw the participation of 20 high-ranking government officials from different ministries and 70 police students. The participants received training on the definition of human trafficking, how to differentiate trafficking situations from other migration challenges, how to identify and assist victims, as well as the international and local legal frameworks for dealing with human trafficking. The Vice Minister of Interior, Mr. Ângelo de Barros Vega Tavares, opened the workshop by acknowledging that trafficking in human beings is a growing problem in the SADC region. He referred to the importance of the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. The director of the police school, Mr. Eusébio Costa, again highlighted the fact that more data on the extent of trafficking in persons in Angola is needed to target the problem effectively. ■



Top Left: Counter-trafficking roundtable. Bottom Left: Counter-trafficking workshop. Right: Participants stop for photos after the workshop

## South Africa's Private Sector Responds to Counter Human Trafficking

**D**iasporafric, a private sector company, specializing in business branding and consulting, has taken on a mammoth, yet noble task. It has planned a week-long, nation-wide human trafficking awareness raising campaign in South Africa. Human Trafficking Week will take place from 6-11 November, in partnership with IOM Southern African Counter Trafficking Assistance Programme (SACTAP), as well as media giants Metro FM, SABC and the Daily Sun. Among a host of awareness-raising activities planned for Human Trafficking Awareness Week, the highlight will be a football match between Kaizer Chiefs and Bloemfontein Celtic. Another main feature of the campaign will be the nationwide distribution of orange counter-trafficking bracelets that carry the IOM's toll-free help line number. The week will feature extensive media coverage, including interviews with IOM staff and other human trafficking experts on national television, newspapers and radio stations. The event will wrap up 11 November with a concert at the Bassline, in Newtown, Johannesburg, featuring top South African artists. The key message of this year's Human Trafficking Awareness Week will be: BLOW THE WHISTLE: 0800 555 999.

IOM's SACTAP has also been working together with international advertising agency Saatchi & Saatchi, to produce a counter-trafficking advert, which is scheduled for release on national television in South Africa during Human Trafficking Awareness Week. Saatchi & Saatchi have sponsored a creative team to come up with the concept and media strategy for the advert, which will include IOM's human trafficking help line. Eighty20, a company which supplies online

access to consumer information for some of South Africa's largest businesses, will also send out daily facts about human trafficking to its 2,800 subscribers during the course of the Week. In addition, outdoor advertising agency, Off the Wall, will be doing interactive promotions at selected locations in Gauteng, where they will hand out IOM anti-trafficking brochures, and speak to the public about the issue.

Over the next few months, IOM will also be engaging South Africa's mining sector in its awareness raising efforts. Brooke Patrick Publications will be publishing an article in the October issue of its Mining Mirror magazine, highlighting the problem of Mozambican women trafficked to mining towns on Gauteng's West Rand and the North-West province, typically for purposes of forced marriage and sexual exploitation. The magazine, which is distributed to mining management throughout South Africa, makes a call to mining companies to address the problem of human trafficking by implementing in-house awareness raising campaigns and including counter-trafficking measures in their code of conduct for workers. In partnership with Community Media for Development (CMFD), IOM will also be producing and organising a Portuguese-language industrial theatre road show targeting South Africa's mining communities.

IOM would like to thank its private sector partners for these important contributions in the fight against human trafficking in Southern Africa. If your company is interested in joining the fight against human trafficking, please contact our information coordinator, Karen Blackman, at [eye@iom.int](mailto:eye@iom.int), or by calling IOM-SACTAP in Pretoria on +27 (0)12.342.1120. ■

## Majority of Victims of suffer from Medical and Psychological Problems

*Cont. from p. 1*

Additional medical data shows that respiratory, urinary, and skin disorders were found to be the most common physical ailments, all indications that victims suffer from neglect and exploitation.

A review of their psychological conditions revealed over 80 percent of trafficked victims showed signs of psychological or psychiatric problems, some requiring extensive professional treatment and counselling. Twelve percent of victims developed severe problems and have been referred to psychiatrists for more thorough, longer-term treatment, including medication. Almost half of these cases have been diagnosed as

schizophrenia or other delusional disorders. Nearly one-quarter of those interviewed displayed symptoms of depression, including feelings of guilt, sleep disorders, weight loss and a loss of interest in other activities. A significant number showed symptoms of anxiety, including constantly being tense, nervous and afraid. They also have difficulty concentrating or making decisions and sometimes experience chest pain or partial memory loss. ■

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Call\* IOM's Human Trafficking Helpline for Victim Assistance & Information

**0800 555 999**

**TOLL-FREE**

**7am -10pm**

\* South Africa only



Department of Foreign Affairs - South Africa



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**NORWEGIAN EMBASSY**