

Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human beings 2007–2010

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Prevention and support

Women who have been trafficked are victims of a criminal act and need support in Denmark. Experiences harvested from previous efforts have provided a picture of which efforts meet the needs of women in connection with their prepared return. And our efforts build on those experiences.

The activities aim at improving outreach work and expanding the present services offered to victims. Overall, activities shall be designed so as to improve the prepared return.

The activities furthermore aim at strengthening professionals' skills sets, so that support can be provided at an earlier stage and in a more targeted manner, at reducing the demand for women trafficked into prostitution, as well as at strengthening international collaboration and entering into new partnerships that focus on preventive social work.

Such preventive work will be implemented in collaboration with the authorities and international organizations both domestically and in the exporting countries. The international efforts will be described in a separate section.

In respect of police-related measures, the Danish National Police's Domestic Investigative Center (Rigspolitiets Nationale Efterforskningscenter [NEC]) will carry out national and systematic police monitoring of, among other crimes, trafficking in human beings. This systematic monitoring means that the police districts must continuously report to NEC all available information that may be significant in the combat against human trafficking. At the NEC the information will be processed and supplemented by other existing information from, e.g., the customs and tax authorities as well as international cooperation partners; and the information will then be analyzed.

The purpose of the systematic police monitoring is for the police, on the basis of an extensive and current background knowledge, to implement and target concrete investigations proactively—in other words, without waiting for a complaint. The Danish National Police will moreover provide investigative assistance to police districts that work within the area of human trafficking.

The strategy to strengthen the police effort against prostitution kingpins is indicative of the fact that international police collaboration is of great importance: trafficking in women is an international crime problem. International cooperation with regard to combating trafficking in women is thus being prioritized highly, among other places, within the frameworks of Interpol, Europol and the Baltic Sea collaboration concerning organized crime, just as a number of initiatives have been implemented under the auspices of the Police and Customs Collaboration in the Nordic Countries (the so-called PTN collaboration - 'Politi- og Toldsamarbejde i Norden'). The Danish National Police is participating actively in these international activities.

In concrete cases the NEC will be able to provide aid from the Nordic police liaison officers abroad and police liaison officers from abroad in Denmark. Also, a Danish seconded police officer has been stationed for a two-year term at Interpol's headquarters in Lyon, and has been designated trafficking in women as a key work area.

In addition to this, the Thai authorities have given their commitment, to the greatest extent possible, that they will assist the Danish police in the implementation of an intensified intervention against prostitution kingpins with a connection to Thailand.

It is moreover indicated in the strategy that especially Europol and Eurojust systematically need to be called in in cases where such assistance can help in the investigation of prostitution kingpins.

In addition to the police-related effort, the following activities are implemented in the social services area:

1. Communication and information campaigns

Information campaigns are implemented to inform potential customers and clients and the public at large about the women's situation. In addition to campaigns, there will be efforts developing other forms of information work, e.g., debate arrangements and educational materials to increase social awareness about trafficking.

Victims of trafficking in women must be clearly informed about their rights and the services and options for help and aid they have in Denmark. In regard to this, EU nationals have further rights than other aliens. The various victim groups shall receive targeted information about their situation.

Responsible Government Agency: Danish Ministry of Social Affairs

2. Outreach work

Social workers with cultural and language skills shall perform outreach work involving prostitutes in the escort environment, in massage parlors and in the streets to inform the women about their rights and options for help and aid in Denmark. The goal is to be able to offer the victims an opportunity to leave the prostitution environment, away from the kingpins.

The outreach work is spread out geographically. This work will be coordinated with the efforts involving other groups of prostitutes, both Danish and those from abroad. Outreach work in the escort environment will receive greater focus.

Responsible Government Agency: Danish Ministry of Social Affairs

3. Meeting places

It can be difficult to get in contact with prostitutes who have been trafficked. Experiences from other countries have shown that women from abroad in prostitution utilize meeting places as a support option, because, there, they have the opportunity to meet other women and receive information about healthcare services.

Local meeting places will be established where victims can speak with social professionals knowledgeable about human trafficking and meet other women in the same circumstances. Such meeting places will have "open house" arrangements some days/evenings of the week. These locations will provide a venue for legal and social counseling. And the centers can offer victims general health counseling and information about treatment options in the healthcare system. The women can thus walk in for general information and counseling as well as to be offered to be accompanied by a social worker to actual treatment.

Responsible Government Agency: Danish Ministry of Social Affairs/Danish Ministry of the Interior and Health

4. Shelters, crisis centers and support during their stay

Women trafficked into prostitution shall have the option of staying in a crisis center that suits their specific situation.

The women will be granted a reflection period, which will give them an opportunity to consider their situation, cooperate with the police, and have their return home prepared. This reflection period will be extended so that human trafficking victims, who cooperate on a prepared return, can be granted a travel deadline of up to 100 days. A personal action plan will be prepared for the women outlining what will occur during the extended reflection period.

Victims of trafficking in women react in different ways once they are removed from the kingpins and the environment. Some show signs of post-traumatic stress disorder, while others are in a state of denial about their situation as victims of trafficking.

The Danish Immigration Service will arrange, in collaboration with the VKM, for the victims to be offered health treatment, psychological assistance, legal assistance and social-pedagogical assistance during their stay to process their experiences. Other activities can also be offered to support the women.

Responsible Government Agency: Danish Integration Ministry/Danish Ministry of Social Affairs

6. Expansion of international network

To ensure a properly managed return home, the international network needs to be expanded so as to create close contacts to the NGO's and social authorities in the women's respective country of origin. The goal is to be able to offer all women that they will be received by an organization once they return home. Also, good contacts with the authorities in their home country shall be established so that they can assist the victims upon their return home.

Responsible Government Agency: Danish Integration Ministry/Danish Ministry of Social Affairs

7. Mandate and division of roles

According to the evaluation of the first action plan, there was some confusion about which actors were responsible for what and what was their mandate. To ensure transparency, efficiency, professionalism and clarity for both victims and other actors, an overview will be drawn up of the division of roles and responsibilities for the social organizations.

Responsible Government Agency: Danish Ministry of Social Affairs/Danish Ministry of Refugee, Immigration and Integration Affairs/Danish Ministry of Justice

8. International preventive initiatives

Denmark—in collaboration with organizations in the countries of origin—supports projects that work to strengthen women's rights and prevent trafficking in human beings and the exploitation of women and children. The Danish Government will particularly push to have initiatives placed on the agenda in such venues as the EU, the Nordic Council of Ministers and other international and regional forums.

Responsible Government Agency: Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs/Danish Ministry of Social Affairs

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