

Appendix to the Danish Government's action plan to combat trafficking in women September 2005

Lately, trafficking in children has attracted increased international focus. Exploitation of and trafficking in children represent one of the worst violations of human rights. This is why particularly tough measures must be used to fight the criminal networks that back trafficking in children, another key issue being support to the children who fall victims to trafficking. This appendix enhances the target group of the initiatives in the Government action plan to combat trafficking in women, so that the action plan will also cover trafficking in children.

All children have special rights if they are victims of human trafficking. But we will need a different response to children trafficked into theft and illegal work than to children trafficked into sexual exploitation. Children victimised by trafficking into sexual exploitation may have more in common with women trafficked into prostitution than with children trafficked into theft and illegal work. We already have an emergency response to children trafficked into theft and illegal work, one aspect being a number of places established in 24-hour institutions. Thus, initiatives in this action plan primarily target children, who are victims of trafficking into sexual exploitation. The Ministry of Refugee, Immigration and Integration Affairs has prepared a memo on guidelines and initiatives for children trafficked into theft and illegal work, available (in Danish) at our website www.lige.dk.

An aspect of enhancing the target group calls for a charting of children trafficking into Denmark to provide an overview of the scope and volume of the problem. The charting will include trafficking of children into theft and illegal work as well as into sexual exploitation.

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Minister for Social Affairs and Gender Equality

Introduction

Children falling prey to trafficking into sexual exploitation have several things in common with women being trafficked into prostitution. But they still have special needs and rights. Thus, the Government enhances the activities launched under the action plan to combat trafficking in women to include children, and combines it with new initiatives targeted at minors' needs and rights. The launched as well as the new initiatives aimed at children trafficked into sexual exploitation can also be divided into two main areas: support to victims and prevention of child trafficking.

SUPPORT TO VICTIMS

< Expanding the model of prepared repatriation

to include children who are in Denmark as victims of trafficking into sexual exploitation. The model will include elements such as:

< Training in identification and in determining

age. Professionals will be trained in identification and in determining the age of children to ensure support to trafficked children as early as possible. These training aspects will be embedded into the current training programme.

< **Appointment of guardian** to represent the child and develop an individualised **action plan** and make sure that the child gets the optimum support and is placed at a **shelter**. In each case, an assessment must be made to decide whether the child could be placed in one of the shelters set up to accommodate victims of women trafficking or whether detention places should be used. The child will not be repatriated before the guardian is certain that the child will be received correctly in his or her native country. In some cases, the child must be escorted back to his or her native country. Such decisions entail individualised assessment of each child's needs.

< **Enhancement of partnership agreements** between police, social and health sectors and relevant NGOs to include children.

Summary of activities

< **The international network** will be expanded to encompass Danish and international children's organisations.

< **The embassy network** will be expanded to include children in its activities.

PREVENTION OF CHILD TRAFFICKING

< **Charting the problem and scope.** A survey will be made to determine the scope of the problem.

< **Problems related to children will be included in seminars** and theme days already held in NGO and GO networks.

< **All police districts have appointed a representative for cases on human trafficking.**

The representatives are charged with facilitating efficient relations between police and the relevant NGOs in cases involving human trafficking.

< **Specific focus on prosecuting backers.**

Under section 262 a of the Danish criminal code, human trafficking is a punishable offence. The provisions of section 262 a (2) of the Danish criminal code are especially targeted at trafficking in children. Combating human trafficking is an area of high priority for the police force.

Expanding the model of prepared repatriation

to include children who are in Denmark as victims of trafficking into sexual exploitation. The model will include elements such as:

< **Training of professionals.** Professionals in contact with the children must be qualified to identify and determine the ages of victims, thus ensuring support to children as early as possible. These training aspects will be embedded into the current training programme.

< **Appointment of guardian** who can either be a local government social worker or an NGO social worker. Together with relevant organisations, the guardian is responsible for preparing an individual action plan and placing the victim in a suitable temporary institution. The guardian will also be responsible for escorting the victim back to his/her native country, if necessary. Responsible ministry: Department of Gender Equality, Ministry of Social Affairs / Ministry of Justice

< **Enhancement of partnership agreements** between police, social and health sectors and relevant NGOs to include children.

< **The international network** will be expanded to encompass Danish and international children's organisations.

< **The embassy network** will be expanded to include children in its activities. Children will be put on the agenda of teacher

training colleges.
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Support to victims

Prevention of child trafficking

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The Government action plan to combat trafficking in women is also available at the website of the Minister for Gender Equality: www.lige.dk

APPENDIX TO THE DANISH GOVERNMENT'S ACTION PLAN TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN

< **Charting the scope of trafficking in children.** A general survey will be launched to determine the scope of children trafficking into Denmark, so that Denmark can dimension measures to fit the scope and problem. The survey will include all children being trafficked into Denmark, irrespective of the purpose.

< **Problems related to children will be included in seminars**

and theme days already held in the NGO network.

Special theme days will focus on children's special rights and needs, and experts of the area will be invited to enhance the knowledge of the network participants.

< **All police districts have appointed a representative**

for cases on human trafficking. * * * * *

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< **Specific focus on prosecuting backers.** Children trafficking

is a punishable offence under section 262a (2) of the Danish criminal code, specifically targeted at children trafficking.