

SEX TRAFFICKING IN BELARUS

Торговля людьми в сексуальных целях в Беларуси

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It is hard to perceive that in civilized society, that has come along a great path of historical development there is such a horrible problem as sex trafficking. It is now among the most fast-growing criminal businesses in the world. Despite Belarus being a calm, developed, favourable place to live in, sex trafficking has broken in our country, not recognizing any borders.

Sex trafficking can be defined as human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation, including sexual slavery. A victim is forced into a situation of dependency on their trafficker(s) and then used by them to give sexual services to customers [1].

Moreover, sex trafficking and human trafficking are not to be confused with human smuggling, because it does not necessarily involve transportation across national borders.

How does it work? Trafficked women and children, for instance, are often promised work in the domestic or service industry, but instead are sometimes taken to brothels where they are required to undertake sex work, while their passports and other identification papers are confiscated. They may be beaten or locked up and promised their freedom only after earning – through prostitution – their purchase price, as well as their travel and visa costs. Victims may find it difficult to speak out about their experiences because of fear, lack of trust or shame.

As Belarus is related to Eastern Europe, there is a need to refer to the statistics on this subregion. The share of sex-trafficking in all forms of exploitation in Eastern Europe and South Caucasus accounts for 55%.

Eastern Europe and Central Asia is a subregion of origin for victims of trafficking. While most of the detected trafficking remains within the subregion, victims from this part of the world have also been detected in or repatriated from other regions, such as Western and Central Europe, but also from the Middle East and East Asia.

Looking at detected trafficking within the subregion, Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation are mainly destination countries. The latter attracts victims from other Eastern European countries. Kazakhstan is a destination for victims trafficked from other Central Asian countries. [1]

Specifically, Belarus faced the following numbers: 1751 cases related to human trafficking were detected in 2018, which is 11% more than the previous year. Moreover, the number of sexually exploited victims was 132.

From 5 605 victims of human trafficking reported from 2002 to the first half of 2018, 4 973 victims have been subjected to sexual exploitation, to labour exploitation – 690, to removal of organs – 3.

To date Belarus is a country of origin of human merchandise. Belarusian women are being transported to EU countries, to the Middle East and some regions of the Russian Federation.

Despite the existence of a variety of international instruments containing rules and practical measures to combat the exploitation of persons, especially women and children, there is no universal instrument that addresses all aspects of trafficking in persons.

Complex measures are being taken in Belarus to counter human trafficking:

- 1) the improvement of the national legislation;
- 2) coordination of the activities of the state bodies, international organizations, public associations;
- 3) Professional training;

Last year the law enforcement bodies of the Republic of Belarus cut off 9 cross-border trafficking flows, which led to 5 other countries to exploit people: 3 of them to Turkey, 3 – to Russia, 1 – Israel, 1 – Greece, 1 – Poland. 26 victims illicitly trafficked via these flows were sexually exploited. [2]

Thus, the authorities of our country do their best to protect the community. But our life is very unpredictable and to keep safe everybody should stay alert and help each other.

Литература

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