

A high-contrast, black and white close-up photograph of a person's eye. The eye is dark and looking slightly to the right. The skin around the eye is visible, showing some texture and shadows. The lighting is dramatic, with the eye being the brightest part of the image.

Nordic Expert Seminar on Trafficking for Forced Labour



REGERINGSKANSLIET

Produced by the Ministry of Employment, December 2007
Photo Johnér Bildbyrå AB/Stefan Berg
Printed by XGS Grafisk Service
Article no A7012

Seminar on Trafficking for Forced Labour

Trafficking in human beings (THB) is the modern equivalent of the Transatlantic Slave Trade. It consists of a contemptuous abuse of poverty and the individual's pursuit of a better living. The trafficking is controlled by organised crime and the annual turnover exceeds 30 billion USD. The purpose of trafficking is to exploit people sexually, in forced labour, in begging, for petty crime or for the forceful removal of organs.

The ILO has estimated that 360 000 people are involved in forced labour in the industrialised parts of the world: 75 percent of whom as a consequence of human trafficking. In the Nordic countries, the emphasis has hitherto been on sexual exploitation, and we possess a lot of knowledge within this area. However, human trafficking for forced labour is on the rise in all of Europe, and it could be considered naive to view our countries of being exempt.

To address these issues, a Nordic Expert Seminar on trafficking for forced labour was held in Stockholm on 8–9 May, 2007. The event was hosted by the Swedish minister for Employment, Mr Sven Otto Littorin, and the Swedish Minister for Justice, Ms Beatrice Ask.

The seminar was organised in cooperation with ILO Special Action Programme to combat Forced Labour (SAP-FL), the OSCE office of the Special Representative and Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, and the UNODC Anti-Human Trafficking Unit as a part of its Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking.

The goal of the seminar was to gather experts representing ministries, law enforcement, migration authorities as well as labour market parties.

This report was written to provide a summary of the discussions and presentations held during the seminar.

Welcoming address by the Swedish Minister for Employment

A welcoming address was held by the Swedish Minister for Employment, Mr Sven Otto Littorin. The minister highlighted the need for cooperation within and across national borders.

Mr Littorin stated that trafficking in human beings is a profit-motivated crime. It must be a fundamental policy to ensure that crime does not pay. The minister affirmed that we need to raise public awareness about the features and scope concerning trafficking in human beings for labour exploitation. Furthermore, we need to find ways for cooperation between on one hand workers unions, labour inspectorates, other actors in the field and on the other hand, law enforcement agencies. We should put emphasis to the need of consistent national legislation in line with what has been agreed upon at the international level. This will also enhance the possibilities to make international judicial cooperation more effective.



*Swedish Minister for Employment
Sven Otto Littorin welcoming to
the seminar.*

Form

The seminar was divided into four working sessions:

1. **Identification of trafficked persons for the purpose of labour exploitation;**
2. **Demand reduction in trafficking for labour exploitation in the Nordic countries;**
3. **Identification of children as victims of trafficking and effective measures of assistance and protection;**
4. **How to utilise available resources and strengthen cooperation in the most efficient way.**

Each working session was preceded by an introductory presentation held by delegates from the four participating countries. These presentations prepared the ground for the ensuing discussions.

Introductory remarks

Mr Roger Plant; Head of the ILO SAP-FL

Trafficking in human beings for forced labour is a global problem. Fortunately, the interest on the matter is growing. However, our knowledge of non-sexual exploitation is still limited, which indicate that we need more resources to tackle the problem. Other problems are the lack of will to face the problem as well as the lack of cooperation between different countries.

Mr Plant emphasized that the phenomena we are trying to combat is when people are forced to work without a possibility to withdraw their labour voluntarily. The ILO is a mandate based organisation and the definition of forced labour has been the same since 1930. In the Nordic countries, illegal migrant workers face the highest risks, but members from less developed EU-countries can also be exploited.

One of the problems we face is that the definition of forced labour is too general in our legislation. Furthermore, the legislation does not give enough guidance for what constitutes forced labour. Thus, we need to reach a broad consensus that forced labour is a criminal act. Moreover, we have to investigate why forced labour can occur in our regulated labour markets.

Ms Kristiina Kangaspunta; Head of the UNODC Anti-Human Trafficking Unit

Ms Kangaspunta described the UNODC as the UN body responsible for the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, which supplements the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

Consequently, the UNODC views trafficking in human beings from a criminal justice angle, although one has to arrive at a balance between criminal justice on the one hand and victim protection on the other. In spite of this, Ms Kangaspunta's experience from, e.g., Finland is that reported abuse of Romanian citizens in agriculture generally is considered as a labour market issue: hitherto no connection has been made in the media to trafficking in human beings.

One often finds that control of victims are perpetrated by abuse of their vulnerability. One has also to address the fact why we do not have any prosecutions and convictions in the Nordic countries. Still, experiences from countries such as Austria tell us that trafficking for forced labour, e.g. domestic servitude, is more common than sexual exploitation.

In many countries, too little weight has been given to prevention. One ought to ask what efforts are made to get the public aware of that cheap goods and services can be produced by victims of trafficking?

The UNODC, together with other UN agencies, governments, the private sector and NGO:s, has launched a Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking. The ultimate goal of the Global Initiative is the end of human trafficking and slavery. The strategy for achieving this goal starts with efforts to increase public awareness. Another element is to coordinate existing but disparate efforts by international and national groups, governments, the private sector, NGO:s and by concerned individuals to end the practice. As the UNODC has allocated few resources for combating trafficking in human beings, one has to increase the cooperation with various actors.

Ms Eva Biaudet; OSCE Special Representative and Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

The victims of human trafficking are subjected to exploitation such as debt bondage in both formal and informal sectors, however apparently on a lesser scale in the Nordic countries than in other comparable economies. The abuse constitutes a denial of the basic rights of victims, and it is shameful that many countries have been less than successful in their efforts.

Most of the victims are migrants, unaware of either their rights or national legislation. The victims are marginalised, discriminated, and dependent on their exploiters: still, many of the victims reside legally in our countries.

The problem of THB is centuries old and its root causes are multifaceted. In order to tackle the modern phenomena, we have to take action in various areas. E.g., we need to start with acknowledging the importance of migrant workers for our economies.

The exploitation can be curbed by changing our attitudes, most importantly by accepting that trafficking in human beings is a problem of supply and demand. The causes for exploitation must be addressed in all countries, furthermore we must investigate in which ways our demand for ever cheaper goods and services in certain cases may provide incentives for exploitative practises.

In many countries, the legislation on trafficking for forced labour is quite new. Therefore, we have few convictions, which, in turn, point towards the importance of creating better methods regarding identification of forced labourers as well as protection of victims bearing the topic of gender sensitivity and the rights of children in mind.

The key to success is coordinated efforts through interagency cooperation. Bearing in mind increasing global unemployment, we face a risk of increasing human trafficking. As we, between our countries, have a lot in common we can gain considerably by sharing experiences within the field of combating trafficking in human beings.

1 Identification of trafficked persons for the purpose of labour exploitation

The topic was introduced by Ms Kajsa Wahlberg, detective inspector at the Intelligence Service within the National Criminal Police in Sweden. Since 1998, Ms Wahlberg is the National Rapporteur on trafficking in human beings (THB). The National Rapporteur report on trafficking for sexual purposes. Additionally, the rapporteur collect information, operative and other, on trafficking for, e.g., forced labour.

The discussion in the working group was lively and enriching, drawing wide participation from authorities in the Nordic countries and experts from international organizations on the issue of victim identification for the purpose of labour exploitation. Despite the fact that THB for labour exploitation is being identified as a growing problem at the international level, there is still a knowledge gap in most countries concerning this problem, thus making it difficult to identify victims, investigate the crime and to prosecute the criminals.

When asked to identify sectors of the economy most prone to exploitation and THB most of the Nordic delegates based their information on rumours of occurring exploitation in the following sectors: construction, ethnic restaurants, children trafficked for begging and petty crime, as well as new economic activities such as car washing and newspaper vendors/distributors. In general the participants agreed on that knowledge on this issue is weak and there are only few convictions, which they attributed to the fact that legislation on THB is new. Delegates reported only a few cases of THB for labour exploitation, among them ethnic Roma children trafficked for begging and petty crime.

During the session participants stressed the need for concrete and practical recommendations from the seminar, as well as the necessity to look at conditions of work which are incompatible with human dignity, thus paying attention to exploitation. Furthermore, participants emphasized the need to implement existing instruments at national level as a key element in the fight against THB, along with protection of trafficked persons in order to avoid hasty deportation.

Order of interventions

– Key themes and issues raised

- Participants recalled the need to raise awareness among the authorities dealing with immigration, law enforcement, labour, social and children's issues, in order to recognize the problem, thus contributing towards more efficient identification of trafficked cases and assistance to the victims;
- In general participants agreed on the need to develop indicators that can assist in the identification of trafficking cases, as well as to reach out to those at risk. Moreover, there is a need to identify sectors of the economy that could be vulnerable to THB, while devoting appropriate resources to the law enforcement authorities in order to prioritize their activities;
- Participants signalled the need to map out the situation of trafficking for labour exploitation throughout the chain, in order to better understand those cases, as well as the need to strengthen cooperation

with labour inspectors. As a result, one participant stressed that the primary focus should be first on labour conditions and inspections of working places, followed by police action;

- Strengthening cooperation between the different counterparts working on THB is necessary, in particular the need to increase the involvement of trade unions to reach out to migrant populations which are most affected by this problem. Trade unions can contribute to raise the awareness among those exploited concerning their rights, thus encouraging individuals to come forward in order to report their case to the competent authorities. However, participants stressed that in most cases those affected by this problem are usually outside the system of trade unions (i.e., irregular migrants, domestic workers, etc.). Despite problems, more efforts should be made to identify weak areas prone to exploitation, such as in the low paid/less controlled sectors of the economy (e.g. temporary and low skilled jobs) in order to identify appropriate actions;
- A number of participants emphasized the need to ensure victim protection, while asking how this issue is being dealt with in practical terms among the Nordic countries. Furthermore, participants raised the issue of what is being done when a victim is identified by the authorities and what are the needs of prosecutors when building such complex cases. In general, participants agreed that THB cases are complex and laborious to investigate, thus stressing the importance

of information exchange, intelligence gathering and the need to increase more direct and active cooperation at regional and bi-lateral levels. In this regard, the Baltic Task Force on Organised Crime was cited as an example of good practices. On-going intelligence led work involving the law enforcement, as well as NGO:s and trade unions could contribute towards better identification of the problem;

- It is important to recognize that criminal networks are involved in a number of criminal activities which operate parallel to trafficking in human beings, such as drug trafficking, weapons, etc.;
- One way of breaking the current patterns of lack of knowledge and starting to recognize the problem is to work towards a better balance between victim protection and assistance, as well as addressing criminal issues. It is important to recognize that trafficked persons fear deportation. Thus, in order to increase the number of self-identification among victims, it is important to have an appropriate mechanism of protection in place;
- Participants agreed that more actions should be geared towards employers in order to combat this crime, and they also agreed on the need to have employers' active participation in the process of identifying and implementing practical solutions to address this problem;
- Trade unions are a crucial partner, while having the potential to contribute a great deal to increase victim identification. During discussions partici-

pants stated that there are a number of tools regarding guidance, check-lists and indicators which have been developed by a number of governments, international organizations and NGO:s. However, as stressed by a number of participants in the group, indicators are “living documents or mere check-lists”. Therefore, there is a need to constantly update and adapt such instruments due to the on-going changes in the field of THB and facts on the ground;

- Participants pointed to the need for a strong partnership between law enforcement and civil society combined with appropriate allocation of resources to support measures in order to protect trafficked persons and strengthen pro-active research in this field. Interdisciplinary working groups were also mentioned as a good practice both in terms of better identification of cases and as a way to improve coordination and cooperation at national level;
- It is important to take stock of lessons learned and to identify situations which render individuals vulnerable to exploitation;
- One problem area identified by the delegates is the lack of a clear definition concerning exploitation of children when dealing with cases of those forced to commit petty crimes, as well as the need to expand the discussion on identification to include not only victim identification, but rather identification of such crime and the networks involved;
- Another participant highlighted that prosecutors and judges need time and good case references in order to build and prosecute cases for THB. This takes time, especially when dealing with a complex and new phenomenon.

Suggestions

1. There was a general consensus among the group about the need to address the lack of knowledge regarding THB, as well as the need to raise awareness among those working with potential victims, including trade unions, labour inspectors, personnel in the ministry of health, social affairs, immigration, etc.;
2. It is necessary to strengthen cooperation among different actors, including trade unions, civil society and local authorities/administrations. In addition, it seems essential to increase resources allocated to labour inspectors, while linking their work with law enforcement and others responsible for combating THB;
3. The development and use of indicators was recognized by most participants as a helpful tool regarding victim identification. In addition, several participants stressed that outreach work is also a useful tool which can contribute toward an increase of self-identification and reporting of cases;
4. More exchange of information and good practices was also supported as a practical way to develop capacity building of practitioners. Thereby it is possible to promote the acquisition of necessary skills to combat the phenomena of THB.

2 Demand reduction in trafficking for labour exploitation in the Nordic countries

The working session was introduced by Ms Katja Lehto-Komulainen, legal adviser at the Central Organisation of Finnish Trade Unions. Ms Lehto-Komulainen called, among other issues, attention to the involvement of labour unions in the effort to combat THB.

The subsequent discussions focused on the increasing demand for cheap goods and services. In general, the problem of THB related to labour exploitation was believed to be relatively limited – at least according to the current findings. Problems related to lack of relevant legislation, current labour standards, collective agreements and awareness raising were discussed. In most cases, the problem complexes in the Nordic countries coincided. Further means in order to gain better control over the unregulated or poorly regulated sectors were called for, for instance regarding household work and restaurants. There were some discussions considering whether it is the *nature* of the job/sector or if it is the *lack of control* in the sectors concerned that was the greatest problem. A number of sectors especially prone to exploitation of trafficked labour were named, for instance the restaurant sector, agricultural work, domestic households, subcontracting in the construction industry and berry picking.

Order of interventions – Key themes and issues raised

- In general participants agreed that the problem related to THB for labour exploitation was believed to be relatively limited in the Nordic countries, at least the current data suggested this. But the problem of lack of reliable data in this field was also mentioned;
- The need, nevertheless, for revised legislation, labour standards and collective agreements was raised. Standards aimed at preventing the problem were mentioned, as well as refined collective agreements and a better definition of the employers' responsibility in this regard;
- One vital tool for combating problem are the collective agreements. They serve to set minimum standards for everyone, also those employers who have not concluded one. A successful fight against grey markets would also help the fight against THB;
- In cases of sub-contracting, the need for a more clearly defined employers' responsibility was mentioned. It was the responsibility of the subcontracting company to make sure that the workers were subject to all relevant legislation and protection. It was also mentioned, that despite a well regulated construction sector in the Nordic countries it still happened that large complexes, often for the public sector, were built by illegal – possibly trafficked – workers. The fact that it occurred in cases where the public sector were the end customer was problematic and probably related to the fact that public buyers were obliged to take the cheapest tender;
- Deriving from this, several participants voiced a need for mapping out where the gaps in the current labour laws and regulations *de facto* are. The

labour markets in the Nordic countries are relatively well regulated. Rather than focusing on further regulations it is necessary to closer examine the demand for cheap labour and services;

- The need as such for cheaper services within the domestic and cleaning sector was mentioned. With the growing demand for domestic help, one way of solving the “grey sector” common today could be to facilitate for such sectors to grow legally with subsequent tax reductions or similar reforms. Otherwise, the generally well regulated Nordic labour markets could in fact serve as a preserving factor, indirectly and unintentionally, leading to further expansion of illegal household helpers and thus increasing the risk of THB for labour exploitation;
- Related to this, certain sectors (sugar production was mentioned) are so labour intensive that the market economy made it very difficult to produce the goods at a given price level and at the same time pay higher salaries. In those sectors, price dumping must be halted through proper regulations;
- A similar experience had been made in the northern areas of especially Finland and Sweden in the field of berry-picking. No Nordic nationals are interested in working for the low wages offered, which in turn gives incentives to hire unregulated and illegal workers;
- The experience from the restaurant sector is that when there was one type of law infringement, such as for example hygiene problems or mismanagement of laws related to alcohol licensing, it was often paired with other types of violations, e.g. labour exploitation.

Suggestions

1. There was a general consensus among the group that the problem of trafficking for labour exploitation in the Nordic countries was a relatively small problem. Yet, the problem was described as a complicated matter involving several actors and sectors;
2. The main challenge in this regard is to identify cases of THB for labour exploitation;
3. There is a need for refined labour regulations, especially with regard to sub-contracting. The employer should be held accountable for controlling that all workers are subject to the relevant labour laws and other regulations;
4. Furthermore, in order to fight the demand, it is just as important to open up the well regulated Nordic labour markets for new, non-national, workers;
5. Efforts to address the lack of knowledge regarding THB for labour exploitation, as well as the need to raise awareness, including trade unions, civil society and local authorities/administrations is needed.

3

Identification of Children as Victims of Trafficking and Effective Measures of Assistance and Protection

Ms Anne Brandt Christensen, legal consultant on human trafficking at the Danish Red Cross introduced the topic. The Danish Red Cross assists children presumed to be victims of trafficking. In its work, the Danish Red Cross has developed indicators which are used to identify children at risk. A presumed child victim is interviewed and given information by the Red Cross staff during the first 24 hours at the Red Cross center.

A lively and enriching discussions followed Ms Brandt Christensen's presentation, drawing wide participation from authorities in the Nordic countries and experts from international organizations. Participants also benefited from the contributions made by a wide range of speakers covering responses from the law enforcement, immigration and social services on how to identify and place effective measures to optimize victim assistance and protection of child victims of trafficking.

Order of interventions – Key themes and issues raised

- There was general agreement that problems and needs related to child victims of trafficking are different from adults in terms of level of protection, consent, parental involvement in the process, societies responsibility of care vis-à-vis the children, etc.;
- It was emphasized that there is a need to treat children as victims and not as criminals, while ensuring that their rights are protected. Practice in a number of countries points to the need to streamline children at reception centres, so as to identify those at risk of trafficking, smuggling cases, bona fide unaccompanied minor asylum seekers, and others. Among the groups identified as victims or at risk of being exploited were as follows: Chinese, Central and Eastern European (including nationals from new EU Member States Romania and Bulgaria), ethnic Roma and Nigerian girls;
- Participants reiterated that the identification of children is very difficult, since there is a mix of situations: unaccompanied child asylum seekers, minors accompanied by parents or adults claiming to be their parents, children identified by law enforcement in the streets after having committed a crime, etc. While caring for the children there is a need to take into account different levels of security, including the need to shelter children at secret addresses;
- Of particular relevance was the fact that gaining knowledge of the children's personal story is crucial in identifying the right kind of assistance; yet this is one of the most difficult processes, given the lack of trust and time required to work with minors. There is a sense that these children are constantly 'on the move', thus there is a need to carry out close observation of the child (including use of personal mobile phones, fabricated stories, movements in and out of the shelter, etc), while exchanging information with all actors in contact with the minors (e.g., police, social workers, etc). This method of gathering information seems to be one of the main vehicles in piecing the story together while identifying the best intervention;

Suggestions

- A number of examples of good practices to sustain contact with the children were mentioned by Ms Brandt Christensen. E.g., use of contact cards containing a number of hotlines for assistance, flyers which can help on self-identification, trying to gain the children's trust by informing them of their rights and possibilities to stay, etc. In general, the most common forms of trafficking for exploitation identified in the Nordic countries are petty crime and/or begging;
 - Use of mobile phones and internet in order to keep control over the children at the centres is the most common modus operandi used by the criminal networks/individuals. In order to prevent that unaccompanied minors disappear from custody, one has to thwart the possibility of the children to get in touch with presumed traffickers. E.g., in Norway, the authorities confiscate mobile phones from children;
 - A general consensus among the delegates was that the Nordic countries are a transit region for the majority of the children found unaccompanied in the territory. Still, there are a number of cases in which minors have stayed under humanitarian grounds, e.g. in Norway;
 - An important question was raised concerning the responsibility for minors outside the asylum process. Among the challenging issues in relation to this problem were, e.g., children "in transit" in the country, returns to the first country of asylum-application despite family or other connections in the country of choice/or intended final destination. Children may also face risks while authorities try to reunite them with their families or relatives in another country. The exploitation may not be identified in cases the children are still en route to the final destination.
1. It is of utmost importance to strengthen the protection of children and to allocate appropriate resources in order to achieve concrete results. The authorities must decreasing the number of children disappearing from the system and it would be beneficial to guarantee a guardian to ensure that policies and initiatives are taken in the best interest of the child;
 2. In addition, a strengthened cooperation at international and bi-lateral levels is essential. Such cooperation should lead to better identification of children at risk and eventually the disruption of trafficking networks;

4 How to utilise available resources and strengthen cooperation in the most efficient way

The introduction was held by the Norwegian delegation's Ms Birgitte Ellefsen, senior adviser at the Organised Crime Section, National Police Directorate and Mr Thorstein Næss, detective inspector at the Organised Crime Section, National Police Directorate. The Norwegian delegation underlined the need of increased knowledge within various authorities. Norway's system of victim identification and protection has taken into account the benefits of increased cooperation.

The ensuing discussion was dynamic and focused on beneficial cooperation between authorities and social partners. In general, the different roles of various authorities and NGO:s as well as lack of coordination can constitute obstacles to cooperation. Another problem is related to secrecy laws which, in certain cases, impede the flow of information between governmental authorities. Various experiences from the Nordic countries illustrate that whenever cooperation between, e.g., governmental bodies is organised in a structured manner, favourable outcomes will follow.

Order of interventions

– Key themes and issues raised

- Lack of cooperation and coordination could result in inefficient identification of victims, inefficient use of police-resources regarding the gathering of evidence as well as inappropriate use of resources concerning assistance and protection of victims;
- However, increased knowledge on trafficking for forced labour can be gained if governments and NGO:s get together and discuss trends and specific cases. Such cooperation is, usually, mutually beneficial especially when combating forced labour outcomes of trafficking;
- Governmental authorities stressed the importance of establishing a clear framework on how coordination between authorities should work out, including whom should have the ultimate responsibility. Furthermore, the expected outcomes of a cooperation ought to be evaluated in a premeditated way. It is important to ascertain the responsible body for each measure laid down in a coordination plan. By their expertise, NGO:s can help authorities to evaluate different measures;
- Participants underlined that in order to reach the best possible results of cooperation, one should strive for pragmatism. E.g., a social worker that suspects that an individual is a victim of trafficking should have the means to get support from multiple sources in order to get quick answers. It is, obviously, crucial that he/she should have enough knowledge on how to proceed;
- In the absence of a national coordinator, social workers, governmental officials and other parties often lack information of whom to turn to in or-
- Participants recognised that authorities have different roles and interests in the society: these interests may diverge. In a selection of cases, such as the goals of NGO:s vis-à-vis the goals of governmental agencies, the conflicting interests can be even more complex;

der to get necessary assistance. In order to overcome this particular problem, a information-manual has been prepared for municipalities in Norway;

- In general, participants agreed on the need of better communication between authorities and the importance of developing routines for inter-disciplinary cooperation. An example of this approach can be found in Norway where the police authorities inform, in advance, the social services whenever a raid on suspected traffickers is imminent;
- Cooperation between authorities already exist in the Nordic countries in areas covering topics such as residence-permits for victims of trafficking and the regulation of restaurants. Lessons can be learned from these particular cases of cooperation. Insights can also be gained from the know-how gathered from the work on trafficking for sexual exploitation;
- A general notion among the participants was that a lot of the ongoing cooperation between authorities took place on an *ad hoc*-basis. Many participants concluded that this work is held back by hard-to-fathom secrecy laws;
- Information exchange on best practises between countries can lead to positive outcomes. One such example is the work organised by the County Administrative Board of Stockholm on combating fraud in the restaurant sector. The project has proven a success in Stockholm, and Norwegian authorities has applied a similar model in Norway;
- Participants indicated the importance of acting quickly regarding information on possible trafficking. However, it is more difficult to act on anonymous tips. The general point of view appeared to be that it is difficult to maintain anonymity as many parties need to be involved.

Suggestions

1. In order to combat trafficking for forced labour in the most efficient way, authorities cannot go alone and work independently from each other: it is vital to have a broad approach;
2. There was a general consensus among the group that governments, either through ministries or specialised agencies, should bear the overall responsibility on the work on combating trafficking for forced labour;
3. It is essential to adapt a pragmatic approach. One has to be prepared to adapt to changing circumstances along the way, and devise plans that, when required, admit improvisation;
4. As far as possible, mechanisms enabling improved communication among authorities as well as between authorities and NGO:s have to be formed. Furthermore, authorities should increase their international cooperation;
5. The coordination of the authorities' and other parties' work should be according to a plan laid out by either the governments or other competent bodies, e.g. a national rapporteur. Consequently, the evaluation of how goals are fulfilled should be carried out by the same party.

The way forward

– Closing remarks from the ILO, UNODC and OSCE

From the ILO perspective, the Nordic region will show leadership in the area of THB. Still, it is clear that not enough is known of the phenomena. Authorities possess information on children that are forced to commit petty crimes, however, this is not the end of the problem.

The ILO, UNODC and OSCE would like to cooperate with the Nordic countries. Furthermore, in order to combat forced labour, collaboration between governmental authorities, labour unions and the private sector is essential.

There is a need for further analytical studies of the situation in the Nordic area. The director of the European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations (HEUNI), Mr Kauko Aromaa, has offered to facilitate such a report together with UNODC, OSCE and ILO. In addition to produce an analytical report, we have to recognise that it is time for action.



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