

HUMAN TRAFFICKING A COMPLEX REALITY

Bios and abstracts

Conference in 'DGI-byen', Copenhagen, Denmark, Wednesday April 14, 2010.
Arranged by the Danish Centre against Human Trafficking

Siddharth Kara

Siddharth Kara is the first Fellow on Human Trafficking with the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, and a founding member of Harvard's Advisory Collective on Human Rights. Mr. Kara's book, *Sex Trafficking: Inside the Business of Modern Slavery*, is the first of three books on the subject of contemporary slavery. Kara first encountered the horrors of slavery in a Bosnian refugee camp in 1995. Subsequently, he travelled to eighteen countries across five continents to further research these crimes. During this time, he witnessed firsthand the sale of human beings into slavery, interviewed over four hundred slaves of all kinds, and confronted some of those who trafficked and exploited them. In *Sex Trafficking*, Kara provides the first ever business and economic analysis of contemporary slavery worldwide, focusing on its most profitable and barbaric form - sex trafficking. In addition to his writing, Kara also advises several governments, private, and non-governmental organizations on antislavery policy and law. Kara holds a law degree from England, an MBA from Columbia University, and a BA from Duke University. Previously, he worked as an investment banker at Merrill, Lynch, then ran his own finance and M&A consulting firm.

Abstract of Presentation

Mr. Kara will provide an overall assessment of the nature, scale, and profitability of all forms of modern-day slavery worldwide. Focusing more specifically on sex trafficking, Kara will present a specific business model and economic assessment of the global sex trafficking phenomenon. This analysis will in turn reveal the optimal measures required to attack sex trafficking in the near-term. Kara will include seven specific legal, tactical, and policy recommendations designed to exploit vulnerabilities in the business model of sex trafficking, intended to help eradicate this brutal human rights violation once and for all.

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Undine Groeger

Undine Groeger works as a Project Manager for the anti-trafficking projects in the Caucasus region and in South – Eastern Europe for the ILO's Special Action Programme to Combat Forced Labour. In 2008, she was selected for the Junior Professional Officer Programme (JPO) funded by the German Government at a time when she was pursuing the completion of her research on "Combating Human Trafficking in Moldova – structural impediments and limited successes" in the framework of her post-graduation Master program in Eastern European Studies at the Free University Berlin, Germany. Before joining the ILO, she has worked with Doctors without Borders in Transnistria, the break-away republic of Moldova.

She holds a Master in International Management from the Ecole Superieure de Commerce de Paris and has also worked with UNODC in Vienna, the European Commission in Berlin and the German Embassy in Nepal.

Abstract of Presentation

Forced Labour is a global problem, and the ILO has been working since its inception to tackle the practice and the conditions that give rise to it. The ILO established the Special Action Programme to combat Forced Labour (SAP-FL) in 2001 to spearhead ILO activities against forced labour, including trafficking.

According to ILO estimates, a minimum of 12.3 million persons are in forced labour worldwide and profits of USD 32 billion are generated each year by victims of human trafficking. The presentation will give an overview of the SAP-FL approach and its best practices to improve efforts to combat forced labour and trafficking in today's global economy and make specific references to the situation in Europe.

Anders Lisborg - workshop 1

Anders Lisborg has been working on migration and anti-trafficking issues in Asia and Europe for over a decade and is the former Programme Officer of ILO Return & Reintegration project in Thailand and the Philippines.

Abstract of Presentation

Based on practical experiences and empirical research Anders Lisborg will in his presentation summarise lessons learned from reintegration programmes in Asia and provide insight on returnees real needs, challenges, and desires, and how the reintegration assistance they received helped or hindered their recovery.

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Anette Brunovskis - workshop 2

Anette Brunovskis is a sociologist and researcher at the research institute Fafo Institute for Applied International Studies in Norway. Over the past decade, she has researched human trafficking in Norway, the Balkans and Eastern Europe in a number of projects and has published widely on the topic. Her recent work focuses particularly on assistance to and identification of victims of trafficking, as well as social and political measures against human trafficking.

Abstract of Presentation

'Leaving the past behind? When victims of trafficking decline assistance.

While many victims of human trafficking for sexual exploitation are assisted within the numerous anti-trafficking programmes developed in countries of destination and origin, an increasingly noted trend has been that many identified victims decline the assistance offered to them. This presentation is based on and summarizes the findings of a recent research project undertaken in three countries in the Balkans, in cooperation between Fafo and NEXUS Institute, that analyzed a wide variety of reasons why victim decline assistance. The project found that reasons to decline assistance stem from victims' personal circumstances; because of the way assistance is organized; and due to factors in their social surroundings, including negative assistance experiences in the past. Many do not accept assistance because they feel it is not a real option, and are left to cope on their own with unattended post-trafficking problems. This research suggests that there is considerable room for improvement of services to trafficked persons.

Mike Dottridge - workshop 3

After initially working for a university in West Africa, Mike Dottridge spent 25 years working on human rights issues for two non-governmental organisations in London, Amnesty International and Anti-Slavery International. Since 2002 he has worked as an independent consultant for NGOs and inter-governmental organisations. Since the mid-1990s much of his work has focused on the way that children are exploited – being trafficked, put to work too young or forced to work – and ways in which exploitation can be reduced or stopped, particularly as far as children away from home are concerned. He has written several books about child trafficking for an NGO, Terre des Hommes, and for UNICEF.

Abstract of Presentation

Mike Dottridge's presentation on child trafficking on 14 April will review the purposes for which children in Europe are trafficked;

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Mention the difficulties of distinguishing trafficked children from other migrant youngsters and some ways found of reducing these;

Describe some of the responses to cases of child trafficking organised by government agencies or NGOs in Europe, commenting on whether any can yet be recommended as 'good practice';
{if I think there is time, mention some preventive techniques which have proved effective}

Summarise the measures appropriate to protect and assist children who have been trafficked, such as the need to have a system in place for determining the best interests of trafficked children from another country.

Siân Oram - workshop 4

Siân Oram researches how concerns for the health of trafficked persons have been integrated into the UK response to human trafficking. Siân has conducted training with front-line professionals on responding to the health needs of trafficked persons, and is a member of a number of UK working groups that aim to develop a victim-centred approach to human trafficking. Siân is a doctoral candidate at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), and holds Masters Degrees in Biological Sciences and in Reproductive and Sexual Health Research. She has worked with the Gender Violence and Health Centre of LSHTM for four years.

Abstract of Presentation

Trafficked persons often experience a number of physical, psychological and sexual health problems as a consequence of the abuse and deprivation that they have suffered. This workshop discusses the findings of a multi-country study into the health needs of women who have been trafficked into sexual exploitation and subsequently supported by post-trafficking services. At 0-14 days of entry into services 57% of women reported suffering more than 12 concurrent physical symptoms and 71% reported more than 10 concurrent psychological symptoms. Despite the women's physical and mental health having improved over 90 days of follow-up, at the end of the study their mental health remained markedly poorer than that of the general female population. The presentation also introduces a framework for conceptualising the as yet poorly documented health needs of people trafficked for forced labour. The health outcomes of trafficking mean that those who work with trafficked persons – including service providers, police officers, and immigration officers - need both to consider the implications of these health consequences for how they work and to take appropriate steps to safeguard the wellbeing of trafficked persons. Guiding principles for working with trafficked persons are presented, and recommendations are made for engaging the health sector in the response to trafficking.