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**Trafficking in Women and Children:
Greece, a country of destination and transit**

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Trafficking in Women and Children: Greece, a country of destination and transit

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Trafficking in migrants¹ can be understood as an activity where the two phenomena of organised crime and illegal immigration intersect. It occurs because the possibilities of regular migration to industrialised countries have declined: more stringent entry controls push migrants into using illegal channels and these involve severe forms of labour exploitation.

Gender and age² determine to varying degrees the risk, vulnerability and exposure to exploitation. Among the three categories of trafficking in migrants (men, women and children), women and children are more vulnerable during the trafficking process.

According to the Convention on transnational organised crime and its Protocol on trafficking,³ trafficking in persons means «the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of threat or use of force or other form of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other form of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to services, servitude or the removal of organs». The consent of a victim is irrelevant.

Trafficking in women and children is not a new phenomenon.⁴ Over centuries, women and children were bought, sold and sexually exploited. However, recent developments have led to its promotion and expansion: since the 1970s and especially during the 1990s it has become a flourishing and lucrative industry in Asia and Europe. The problem is acute in Eastern Europe and especially in the Balkan countries. The above mentioned conditions continue at the beginning of the 21st century often in a highly organised and systematic manner, resulting in a modern form of slavery under which conditions today live thousands of women and children in the European Union.

Trafficking is a different notion from prostitution of women,⁵ which itself is an activity covering the spectrum – from individual women acting independently to highly organised arrangements in which women are controlled by pimps or criminal enterprises. As Scambler⁶ points out, women «sex workers» are a heterogeneous body of workers, many of them are autonomous, it is inappropriate to characterise them as passive victims; they are not dupes but require resourcefulness and expertise to cope from day to day and to sustain their livelihoods. However, other scientists have estimated that 80-95% of all prostitution is pimp controlled.⁷ Others⁸ distinguish between forced and free prostitution, in which the forced type involves the exploitation of women. Okolski⁹ believes that prostitution of foreigners does not necessarily involve illegal border crossing, nor always imply illegal employment: on the contrary, exploitation, abuse and humiliation are often suffered to a similar degree by foreign and national prostitutes and are inherent in the profession.

Pornography¹⁰ is the abuse of the basic right of liberty and expression and trading it is an outrage upon fundamental human rights of third parties. Pornography is manifested via publications, photography, films, videos and computer games. Before the emergence of the Internet, an active trade in illicit videocassettes was carried out in sex shops. The new digital era creates and fuels «special preferences». Absolute discretion, dozens of branches of pornography and harmless sexual intercourse without personal contact convert the Internet into the paradise of pornography in general and child pornography in particular.

Trafficking in children¹¹ for the commercial sex industry and pornography is even more pronounced than that of women. Around the world, children are being sought for a variety of illicit purposes, (e.g. forced work, forced begging sometimes after mutilation by unscrupulous traffickers) and are being bought, abducted or lured away from their families, often to be transported across borders and then sold for adoption (especially children from Latin America and Eastern Europe with emphasis on war orphans) or for the removal of their organs, tissues and other body material, although information on this activity is limited. The most widespread form of trafficking in children is for the purpose of commercial and sexual exploitation. According to the Protocol to the United Nations Convention against transnational organised crime child is considered any person under eighteen years of age. Three main forms of sexual

exploitation were defined by the World Congress Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children:¹² i) prostitution; ii) trafficking and sale for sexual purposes: transferring persons from one party to another in exchange of money or other recompense; iii) child pornography. In many cases, these three forms are interconnected. The Council of Europe¹³ gives the following definitions: a) sale of children means any actor transaction whereby a child is transferred by any person or group of persons to another for remuneration or other consideration; b) child prostitution means the use of a child in sexual activities for remuneration or other form of consideration; c) child pornography means any representation by whatever means, of a child engaged in real or simulated explicit sexual activities or any representation of sexual parts of a child, the dominant characteristics of which is depiction for a sexual purpose. The United Nations¹⁴ considers the commercial sexual exploitation of children as invisible, mobile, global, escalating, and a highly profitable business. The advent of digital photography and new digital technologies allow child pornography to be copied, stored and transmitted quickly and with perfect accuracy. The abundance of child pornography available in cyberspace means that traditional printing and photography are likely to be eclipsed by digital technology as the dominant media for the production and distribution of the material.¹⁵ UNICEF and UNESCO reports¹⁶ indicate that international criminal organisations in Eastern Europe and Russia are becoming increasingly involved in trafficking children from these areas into Western Europe for use in many of the richer nations' child prostitution and pornography markets.

Greece, according to studies and surveys,¹⁷ is an important transit and destination country of trafficking. The focus of crime syndicates is not only the sexual exploitation of foreign women and children but other forms of exploitation as well, such as false marriages, domestic non-declared labour and forced labour under unacceptable working conditions. Trafficking in human beings for sexual exploitation is worldwide and, in Greece, a very serious and complicated social, economic, penal and police problem.

Although statistics are imprecise, estimates in other countries and in Greece have to be mentioned before analysing the trafficking of women and children as a violation of human rights, as a lucrative business with vast profits and minimum danger and as a criminal act of the procurers and other intermediaries. We shall evaluate measures to cope with this problem and how it can be combated; finally, the particularities of Greece as a destination and transit country in the context of the EU will be examined.

1 ESTIMATES AND STATISTICS

Persons involved in trafficking for prostitution and pornography are the victim as sexual object, the exploiter-trafficker and the client.

1.1. TRAFFICKED WOMEN AND CHILDREN

The problems associated with statistical data on illegal migration and trafficking have pointed numerous researchers and organizations:¹⁸ statistics are based on border apprehension data, police or court records and estimates are attempts to calculate trafficking usually based on views of officials.

1.1.1. SOME GLOBAL ESTIMATES

UNICEF¹⁹ has estimated that trafficking in women and children for commercial sexual purposes in Asia and the Pacific alone has victimised over 30 million people during the last three decades. Documentation of the European Union and of the International Labour Office (ILO) and expert studies²⁰ conclude that there is a flourishing of violent or non-violent transportation of women and children in the EU countries but no real data are available. Because of the clandestine, hidden and criminal nature of these activities, statistics are imprecise, the collection techniques differ among countries and women who have been trafficked are reluctant to identify themselves.²¹ Surveys carried out in EU countries²² have collected data from various sources: police files of criminal cases, information from the Ministry of Justice, data on victims of trafficking in women, and qualitative material from open interviews with victims, police, public prosecutors, pimps, social workers and prostitutes. The extension of the problem is unknown because of tremendous constraints on the victims to remain silent and hidden: few of the trafficked girls can or want to denounce their experiences to the police.²³ The known victims cannot be considered a random sample of all women. Those women had the courage to report their exploiters to the police or to solicit help from government agencies and NGOs.

Trafficking in women from the East to the West has rapidly gained in proportions. Since the 1970s, traffickers have been supplying bordellos and marriage markets of the major European cities with ten of thousands of young women from South East Asia, especially from the Philippines and Thailand and other parts of the third world as well as from Poland.²⁴ Prostitution is a flourishing industry in most, if not all, Asian countries and increasingly involves women and children who have been trafficked across borders.²⁵ Since the 1990s, trafficking in women has involved primarily women from Central and Eastern Europe as well as from Balkan countries (especially Albania and Bulgaria).²⁶ According to NGOs working in this field, each year between one and two million women and girls are being trafficked globally.²⁷ The IOM and the European Commission²⁸ estimates that 500.000 women were trafficked in 1995, most of them illegally to the countries of the EU; research by the NGO International Campaign to End Child Prostitution (EPCAT) has pointed out large numbers of women and girls from Russia, Ukraine and Belarus being transported westwards. The US Government and NGOs working in the field estimate that annually between 50.000 and 100.000 are trafficked into the United States alone.²⁹ UNICEF³⁰ has estimated that almost one million children are sold, abducted, or forced into prostitution each year. The IOM³¹ estimated in 2000 that worldwide, 700.000 women and children are

trafficked each year. For Bulgaria in 1998, it was estimated that 10.000 Bulgarian «white slaves» - as they call them - were abroad, among them 1500 in Greece.³² In the year 2000 according to IOM sources,³³ 300.000 women from countries of Central and Eastern Europe are working as prostitutes in Western Europe and 35.000 among them are working in Italy.

More than 500.000 teenage girls – out of a population of 3 million – are believed to have fallen prey to migrant traffickers and were forced into prostitution in Western Europe.³⁴ According to ECPAT³⁵ one million children, most of them from Asian countries, are forced into prostitution each year. Visitors from Europe to Asia amount to 250.000 per year. The number of children exploited for commercial sex is 200.000 in Thailand, over 650.000 in the Philippines and 400.000 in India.³⁶

1.1.2. ESTIMATES AND STATISTICS FOR GREECE

Information about trafficked women in Greece comes from police statistics, surveys, studies and journal publications. According to the estimates and the survey carried out by the Non Aligned Women's Movement³⁷ any survey concerning trafficking and prostitution is impeded by the enormous profits made by some individuals or crime syndicates and by the taboo and hypocrisy of the population, making it difficult to obtain data. A survey in Athens³⁸ has shown that 36,8% of the victims of procurement and 60% of the victims of white slavery were of foreign nationality and most of them were illegally in Athens. The Greek Police report on organised crime in Greece³⁹ showed that trafficking in women for the purpose of sexual exploitation and prostitution in general has greatly increased with the passing of time, especially during 1999, but it is not clear whether there is a real increase in this phenomenon as compared with other years, or if this increase is due to the more vigorous presence and activity on the part of the Police Authorities and to the measures that have been taken in this respect. The prostitution of minors and pederasty seem to have decreased. However, it is a fact that these two crimes are covert and not denounced, whereas the cases that come to light are much fewer than those that actually take place.

A. By «legal» or undocumented status. There are women legally residing in Greece either engaged and brought to Greece as «artists» or entering legally as tourists. For instance, on the basis of data from the police⁴⁰ during the period 1991-1995, 13.677 immigrant women were engaged and brought to Greece as «artists» and of those 1.277 were arrested for prostitution. The police ascertained that later on there was a decline in the number of foreigners introduced into the country as «artists». There are also prostitutes illegally residing in Greece, either having crossed the frontier clandestinely or having entered the country legally as tourists, but who subsequently remained in Greece illegally when the 3 months tourist visa period had expired. According to estimates by Lazos,⁴¹ these constitute some 24% of the total number.

B. By nationality. The study by the Non Aligned Women's Movement⁴² showed that in 1991 there were 15.000 Filipino women in Greece, of which 20% practised prostitution as their main or partial means of livelihood. Most of them were live-in servants taking care of children, elderly and invalid persons; in their free time, about 5% worked as prostitutes. Most of the women from Thailand worked as prostitutes and only 10% of the 1.200 Ethiopians. A general rise in prostitution was marked among women from Eastern European countries during the 1990s although no data is available. After 1991, trafficked women came from almost all Eastern European countries and the countries of the Former USSR. According to a survey⁴³ in 1991, there were 5.500 Greek and 1.500 immigrant female prostitutes in Greece. In 1996, the number of Greek prostitutes has come down to approximately 4.300 whereas that of immigrant women has risen to 6.100; thus, whereas in 1991 the ratio of Greek women to aliens was 7:3, in 1996 the ratio became 2:3. Over the period 1980-1990, most foreign prostitutes were of Asian origin, primarily from Thailand and the Philippines. In 1996, women in the sex market from Central and Eastern Europe amounted to 52-53%, and from Balkan states 32-33%. The

Albanians represented 7-8% of the total. The Police Report⁴⁴ concerning organised crime in 1999 has shown that most foreigners come from the Balkans and Eastern European countries: Albania, Romania, Russia, Bulgaria, Moldavia, Georgia, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Ukraine, Lithuania, Letonia, Belarus, etc. Police statistics underestimate the real number of foreign women working as prostitutes because they refer only to women arrested (see Table I) and those working in bars etc. (Table 2). However, these data are of interest because they are broken down by nationality. Another estimate shows that 50-55% of prostitutes in Athens are from the former Soviet Bloc.⁴⁵

Table I shows that in 1999, 88 immigrant women were arrested for working as prostitutes without a licence in brothels. Of those, 43% originated from Albania, 25% from Romania and 10% from Russia.

Foreign women working in brothels without permit and arrested in Greece, 1999

Country of origin	Arrested women
Albania	38
Bulgaria	2
Germany	4
Georgia	3
Kazakhstan	2
Belarus	1
Moldavia	1
Ukraine	4
Portugal	1
Romania	22
Russia	9
Singapore	1
<i>Total</i>	<i>88</i>

Source: Greek Police (2000a)

Table 2 shows the number of foreign women working without documents (illegally) in bars, cafe-bars, clubs and other establishments subject to health control. Out of a total of 1.341 women working «illegally» 21% were employed in cafeterias, 38,9% in bars, 13,4% in coffee-bars, 1,3% in refreshment bars and 5,7% in various other establishments. *These figures represent only a part of the unknown reality of foreign women working under exploitative conditions.* Table 2 shows a part of the so called «hidden prostitution», which is covered by socially accepted professions such as waitresses, hostesses and dancers in public and private establishments. Other forms of hidden prostitution are masseuses, strippers, pornographic video actresses, entertainers and beauticians.

Table 2
Foreign women in Greece working illegally in bars
and other establishments subject to health control etc., 1999

No	Country	Cafeterias	Bars	Cafe-Bar	Entertain	Refreshment	Sundry
1.	San Domingo		9	2	3		
2.	Azerbaijan		1				1
3.	Egypt		1				
4.	Ethiopia		3				
5.	Albania	10	42	26	3		6
6.	Armenia			1			
7.	Austria		1				
8.	Australia		4				
9.	Bulgaria	8	49	20	11	1	16
10.	Brazil			1			
11.	G. Britain	1	1		5		
12.	Germany				2		
13.	Georgia	6	7	5	2	1	1

No	Country	Cafeterias	Bars	Cafe-Bar	Entertain	Refreshment	Sundry
14.	F. Yugoslavia	4	2	3			2
15.	Denmark		4		2		
16.	Ireland		1				
17.	Kazakhstan	2	7	1	2	1	2
18.	Kirgistan	1					
19.	Belarus	3	12	1	7		
20.	Lithuania		2	2	2		
21.	Moldavia	13	72	26	63		8
22.	S. Africa		2				
23.	Hungary		3		2		
24.	Uzbekistan	2	3		1		
25.	Ukraine	21	104	29	68	9	14
26.	Peru		1				
27.	Poland	2	8	3			1
28.	Romania	25	124	32	70	1	20
29.	Russia	181	51	22	12	4	6
30.	Singapore						1
31.	FYROM	2					
32.	Slovakia		2	3	1		
33.	Sweden		1	1			
34.	Thailand		1				
35.	Jamaica		1				
36.	Czech Rep.	1	2	1	7		
	<i>Totals</i>	<i>282</i>	<i>521</i>	<i>179</i>	<i>264</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>78</i>

Source: Greek Police (2000a)

A survey in Athens⁴⁶ has shown that 36,8% of the victims of procurement and 60% of the victims of white slavery were of foreign nationality and most of them were illegally in Athens; The Southern Regional Report published in 2001 estimates around 10.500 migrant prostitutes, 40% from the Balkans, 2% from Africa and 6% from Western countries.

C. By age and educational status. Foreign and Greek sources⁴⁷ point out that young girls aged 12-15 years old are the preferred «commodity» of the pimps. Prostitution rings procure young adolescents, including boys from Albania, to work in the brothels and sex clubs of Athens. According to the Police Report on organised crime,⁴⁸ child prostitution is limited in Greece: however, few cases are denounced to the authorities or covered by the press, many fewer than those in reality.

In Greece, about 5.800 children under 16 years of age live in the Greek streets according to UNICEF's data. Among them, 55% are children of refugees. A survey with a sample of 955 children has shown that few among them go to school and a large proportion of these live in Athens without their parents. Those children are the victims of forced labour, forced begging and sexual exploitation.⁴⁹

Trafficking in children presents some particularities, noted by the Council of Europe:⁵⁰

a) The high degree of invisibility. Sexual exploitation of children is hidden and the victims are terrorised and without defence. Sexual exploitation is also operated legally: for instance, respectable travel agencies organise trips in countries where child prostitution is flourishing.

b) The invisibility of the problem is increased by its international character, e.g. the pornographic material is produced in one country with children originating from another, and the destination of the product is a third country.

The Council of Europe's⁵¹ Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography stipulates that each State Party shall ensure that sexual exploitation, transfer of organs of the child for profit, and engagement of the child in forced labour are fully covered under its criminal or penal law, whether these offences are committed domestically or transnationally or on an individual or organised basis.

Child pornography on the Internet⁵² increases every year. In the sex sites thousands of photos of naked, sexually abused and often tortured children and adolescent girls and boys, with legends referring to very expensive children-lovers, and hard pornography with children, advertisement of porno-cassettes, multimedia packets, and special web sites only for subscribers, are at the disposal of perverted paedophiles around the world. Without any control, without difficulties through the Internet and E-mail the exploiters of children's body and soul satisfy their abnormality and gain enormous amounts of money. The users are hidden behind the anonymity of an e-mail address, they feel safe behind their computer. They are protected by the chaotic organisation of the Internet, although the FBI, estimating that about 100.000 web sites exist, employs hundreds of specialists and powerful computers in order to find the «heads» of these operations.

According to newspaper information⁵³ in Greece, cases are not rare of children being used for child pornography resulting in porno-films in which the actors are under age boys and girls between 7 and 16 years, most of them looking foreign. Many such films have been confiscated in Athens video-clubs. However, the number of these children is unknown.

Several studies⁵⁴ have shown that women from less developed countries tend to be older and less educated, compared with women from Central and Eastern Europe who tend to be very young, most of them under 25 and many underage. In many cases they are well educated and sometimes multi-lingual.

D. By family status. Some studies⁵⁵ have shown that women from less developed countries tend to be married and have children. As women from Eastern and Central Europe are very young, this is less likely to happen.

In Greece data and studies referring to the family status of trafficked women do not exist. A survey on the judicial practice⁵⁶ of the phenomenon of procurement is our only source of data, and this shows that most of the victims are unmarried women.

According to Greek newspapers,⁵⁷ some have contracted false marriages, and some married women practice or are forced into prostitution, even by their own husbands.

E. Indications that foreign women and girls prostitutes were employed in the sex industry in their country of origin or at some point in transit. The studies of Psimmenos⁵⁸ registered the experiences of 30 women and young girls from Albania working in prostitution or sex clubs. Most of them were dependent on drugs and other chemical substances and they did not come to Greece in order to work in the sex industry. A minimal number had worked as prostitutes in Albania. Newspaper information coincides with scientific studies abroad⁵⁹ indicating that often women and girls are employed abroad in the sex industry before coming to Greece. Those originating from villages work as prostitutes in big cities of their own country, and in different transit countries. In Greece, they work in the provinces, even in small villages, having previously come to the large towns, especially Athens.

1.2. THE TRAFFICKERS

The number of the traffickers is unknown, and some surveys refer only to the number of traffickers and procurers arrested. A survey in Athens⁶⁰ has shown that the majority of the procurers were of Greek nationality.

Police data for the year 1999 are presented in Table 3.

*Table 3
Procurement/trafficking by country of origin with foreign female victims. Greece 1999*

Country of origin	Arrested women
San Domingo	8
Albania	46
Abhazia	3
Australia	1
Bulgaria	105
Germany	4
Georgia	26
Kazakhstan	4
Belarus	14
Lithuania	3
Moldavia	68
Netherlands	1
Hungary	2
Uzbekistan	3
Ukraine	57
Romania	104
Russia	41
FYROM	3
Slovakia	5
Thailand	2
Czech Rep.	6
<i>Total</i>	<i>513</i>

Source: Greek Police (2000a)

Unfortunately, this table does not include Greek procurers, who according surveys and other data represent the greatest number e.g. the police report ⁶¹ has shown that most of the crimes of sexual exploitation are committed by Greeks. These data refer only to the first five months of the years 1998-2000. A survey in Athens ⁶² has shown that the great majority of procurers were of Greek nationality.

1.3. THE CLIENTS

The number of clients is unknown but there are indications showing that it is increasing. For example, the survey of Lazos⁶³ in Greece showed that during the period 1991-1996, the prostitutes' clientele increased by 60% while promiscuous sexual contacts increased by 100%.

2

TRAFFICKING AS A VIOLATION OF FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMAN DIGNITY⁶⁴

Trafficking in women and children for sexual exploitation, affects a growing number of countries. The life and working conditions of the victims are incompatible with international instruments on fundamental human rights: the conventions, declarations and norms in place at the international level, are not vigorously implemented⁶⁵ because they do not always constitute legal text binding the member states. The implementation of international instruments depends on the awareness of the problem at the national level. However, countries «exporting» and «importing» victims are not conscious of the problem or do not want to refer to it.⁶⁶

Appendix B presents the principal international instruments concerning trafficking in women and children.

2.1. CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF TRAFFICKING

The supply side of trafficking for the prostitution market covers the spectrum from willing recruits to women and children coerced or tricked into prostitution.⁶⁷ In other words, trafficking networks bring women and children from a variety of countries of origin to transit and destination countries, sometimes voluntarily, sometimes under false pretences and sometimes through the use of coercion.

In many cultures, child sex abuse and the commercial sex trade in children are wholly abhorrent. In some countries, however, there is a far greater level of tolerance. The resulting asymmetries in what is or is not permissible behaviour, the desire of developing countries to attract tourists and the desire of potential consumers of child sex to move beyond the moral restrictions and legal prohibitions of their own communities, have all contributed to the growth in trafficking children.⁶⁸

2.1.1. THE MAIN CAUSES OF TRAFFICKING IN THE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

Trafficking is not a national but a world phenomenon, affecting countries of origin, transit and destination. The causes of trafficking are explained by the miserable situation in the countries of origin described below, is one but not the only reason explaining white slavery. The role of the traffickers is more important. (See below 3,2).

A. Development gaps between states, economic and social inequalities.⁶⁹ Differences in affluence in the country of origin and destination are frequently the root causes of certain migratory flows involving trafficking. As a result of the development of communications and increased travel and international business, differences between rich and poor are more visible. Fast population growth is another factor. Forced prostitution is a result of lack of economic and social participation, economic degradation that alienates women's labour through processes of rapid urbanisation and migration resulting in underdevelopment and unemployment. All of these factors lead some women to seek a better life elsewhere, in industrialised nations. In countries of South East Asia, Thailand, the Philippines, Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan economic crisis has led to the deterioration of political conditions and the enlargement of geographical, economic, political and social inequalities, producing refugees and missing persons, including vulnerable groups of women and children who are victimised by procurers. Within the Central and Eastern European countries, the former USSR and the Balkans,⁷⁰ great income inequalities

between rich and poor, lack of employment opportunities, high unemployment with women being more severely affected than men, and marginalisation of women are the main factors. In Russia,⁷¹ almost one quarter of the population lives below the poverty line, women account for nearly two thirds of the unemployed, and as much as 85-90 % in some regions. The combination of poverty, urbanisation, absolute and relative overpopulation, unemployment and the development of mafias are the main causes of trafficking concerning the countries of origin.

The 1999 UNICEF Report⁷² points out that «debt has a child's face»: external debt as percentage of GDP is much higher than the regional average (11%) in countries facing trafficking in children (Thailand 63%, Philippines 53%). The 2000 UNICEF Report⁷³ refers to millions of «lost children» from the less developed countries, primarily girls forced into the world of commercial sexual trafficking and exploitation.

B. Poverty.⁷⁴ Poverty alone provides an insufficient explanation for trafficking: Trafficking fees are too high for the very poor and many trafficked women and children do not originate from the poorest regions of the developing world. However, poverty in rural areas can lead the villagers to sell their daughters; desperation in urban areas can draw young girls into prostitution as a means of survival. In many poor regions of the world, the sale of a woman or a child provides food and clothing for the family. Poverty is linked with single parent families, unemployment, low salaries and social expenditure as well as tax policy in each country.

It is worth citing the example of Thailand⁷⁵ where the impetus of migration has been changing over time. In the 1960s, poverty forced young Thai women to migrate to cities in search of cash work so that they could send remittances to their families. Ignorance and information made them fall prey to agents and traffickers in the sex trade. In the 1970s, as rural households became used to higher standards of living from the remittances sent by their daughters, parents began urging their female children to seek work in the urban sex industry. In the 1980s and 1990s, Thailand experienced high economic growth but also increasing income inequalities. This produced two effects: a) it raised the demand for sex services among those with higher income inside Thailand and abroad; b) agents and traffickers went to villages to recruit women for sex services in urban Thailand and abroad. In the mid 1990s the inflow of low cost recruits from Burma, Laos, China and other neighbouring countries, prompted more Thai sex workers to go overseas for higher income Thailand became a centre for both importing and exporting young women.

C. Major political events.⁷⁶ Conflicts or post conflict situations, war, oppressive political power, the disruption of traditional, legal or social structures, political, national, religious conflicts and natural disasters, have resulted in many vulnerable women and children across several countries. As a result of increased communications, differences between safe and unsafe societies are more visible than ever. In specific instances the demand has been related, at least in its early stages, to military bases overseas or to large scale military involvement in regional conflict: the mass presence of civilian and military international personnel has been shown to increase demand in the sex market, as happened in Bosnia-Herzegovina after the Dayton Agreement as well as in Kosovo.⁷⁷

Asylum seekers and refugees fleeing war and political persecution across the world the world are not a new phenomenon. New and unprecedented in the 1990s are the historic changes in Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union and Albania, as well as the ethnic war in former Yugoslavia.

The trafficking from Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union and the Balkans⁷⁸ began with the break-up of the Soviet Union and has spread rapidly in recent years due to socio-economic decline, growing economic hardship and the chaotic post-communist situation in the newly independent states.

D. Various causes of a cultural nature⁷⁹ affect trafficking. Very limited opportunities for education and marginalisation which affects many women make them easy targets for

professionally organised networks that recruit women and assist them in their migration. It also stems from women's dependence on men and from the lack of awareness of potential victims of the dangers. Cultural attitudes also play an important part in the prosperity of the sex business. In many societies, women and children are still viewed as second-class citizens or even inferior beings who do not deserve the same rights and liberties. Discriminatory attitudes and patriarchal perspectives extend to the belief that one of the main purposes of the female is to please the male, especially sexually. Sexism and gender roles are taught from childhood and in some countries are intensified by traditional religious doctrine.

E. Growth of sex tourism.⁸⁰ Among the causes of trafficking in children are the growth of global tourism including sex tourism in countries such as Thailand, Sri Lanka and the Philippines. In these countries, child prostitutes are available and customers act with a high level of impunity. Countries with a sex tourism industry are more likely to have their women and children trafficked abroad. The parallel in the Western countries is the explosion of a huge underground trade in child pornography in videos and magazines.⁸¹ Sex tourism and pornography reduce women and children to mere sex objects and marketable commodities.

F. Government policies.⁸² Some government policies support the export of labour in general, including women for sex services, as a way to solve local unemployment problems and to attract foreign exchange. The example of Thailand⁸³ is pertinent. Two major factors have contributed to the rise in the global trafficking of Thai women: the domestic sex trade (including sex tourism) and the national labour export policy.

The countries of transit and destination, especially the EU countries⁸⁴ have imposed strict national rules concerning regular immigration. With high unemployment rates across Europe, EU governments have enacted legislative restrictions on immigration. Criminals specialised in moving persons from one country to another provide an alternative to legal immigration.

G. Motivations of trafficked women.⁸⁵ These vary according to nationality and country of origin, geographic location, age, marital status and personal circumstances.

2.1.2. THE SITUATION IN THE COUNTRIES OF TRANSIT AND DESTINATION THE CASE OF GREECE

All the rich countries, and many poor ones too, are countries of transit and destination. Trafficked women and children work in sex services in Japan, the USA, Australia and the industrialised countries of western and northern Europe as well as in other developed and less developed countries. In many countries, surveys and studies⁸⁶ have shown the various facets of the problem.

Among the EU countries the Netherlands, Germany, France and Italy are the major receiving countries. The country of origin of trafficked women and children differs from country to country and according to the period examined.⁸⁷

Greece is both a transit and a destination country. However, in some EU countries like the Netherlands there is an impression that Greece is a country of origin as well, because many Albanians speaking rudimentary Greek have been «trained» in Greece and supplied with false passports by Albanian pimps.

A. Where and how do they come from.⁸⁸ The victims come from almost all over the world: more from some regions and countries than others. Trafficking routes are neither

exhaustive nor static. The traffickers take women and children from one country to another in the developing world as well as from east to west and south to north. Victims of kidnapping come from every geographic region, social class and age group. Organised criminal gangs may take girls off the streets of Paris, London or Frankfurt and sell them to intermediaries in Africa or the Arab world. Kidnapped women face even more significant barriers to escape. Language barriers, solitude and the insensitivity of nationals to a non-native's plight all contribute to an increasingly hopeless situation for these women. The main continents and countries of trafficking are:

a) Asia, Africa and Latin America. Among the countries which supply women at the global level are prominently: in Asia, Thailand and the Philippines; in Africa, Ghana, Nigeria and Morocco; and in Latin America, Colombia and Brazil.

b) Eastern and Central European countries. A substantial growth in trafficking of women from eastern to western Europe has been noted during the 1990s. After the fall of the Berlin Wall and the emergence of the CIS, a large number of Central and East European countries have become source and/or transit countries supplementing and sometimes replacing previously significant sources of women from Asia and Latin America.⁸⁹ These include the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Poland, Rumania, Lithuania, Russia, Ukraine, Moldavia, Latvia and Belarus.⁹⁰

c) The Balkan States.⁹¹ Albania, Bulgaria, and the former Yugoslavia are countries of origin. Trafficking in women for sexual exploitation has become a significant problem in Bosnia-Herzegovina (BH) since 1993. However, this country is primarily considered a country of destination rather than a country of origin and transit. By the year, 2000 defenceless women and minors from Kosovo were being forced into prostitution by criminal gangs with great experience into trafficking.

From where and how do they come to Greece?⁹² Owing to its geographical position, Greece is a country of transit through which women and children go to other European countries, and a country of destination for trafficked women and minors. Greece, as other southern European countries, is heavily dependent on tourism, trade and shipping, thus facilitating the entry of visitors from all parts of the world. Many women have entered as tourists or visitors under the surveillance of traffickers (having the possibility to stay legally for 3 months) and then simply stay on. The role of Athens airport in the global network of air travel from Asia, Africa, Eastern and Central Europe is important. The survey carried out by the Non Aligned Women's Movement⁹³ has shown that 93% of Greek respondents believe that foreign women are *forced* into prostitution by international prostitution rings; 87% referred to economic reasons and only 7% believed that they do so through choice. Another survey⁹⁴ has shown that 26-28% of foreign prostitutes were forced into prostitution by traffickers using physical and or emotional violence. No one has the possibility of refusal. Only 20-23% knew that they would have to work as prostitutes.

In Greece during the 1980s, most foreign prostitutes were of Asian origin, mainly from Thailand and the Philippines. In the 1990s, the East Europeans constituted the greatest number. A survey⁹⁵ has shown that in 1996 the east Europeans comprised 52-53%, central Europeans and those of Balkan origin 32-33%, with Albanians at 7-8% of the total. Statistics of the Greek Police⁹⁶ show the predominance of eastern and central European countries, especially the two Balkan countries Albania and Bulgaria.

Journal information⁹⁷ refers to the villages of Bulgaria, the Ukraine, Russia, Romania, Moldavia, Albania and all the countries of Eastern Europe and the former USSR, and Former Yugoslavia, especially after the Kosovo war. Women from those countries have displaced Greek prostitutes in the sex market because they are very young, they have a variety of visual characteristics and offer a multitude of sex services. Trafficked women and children aged 16 years old or less are conveyed to Greece and Cyprus, with or without documents. Sometimes they have short-term visas or false passports.

Since the mid 1990s a great number of women and minors⁹⁸ have entered through the Albanian, Former Yugoslavian and Bulgarian borders illegally with the help of residents living near the borders who know «illegal routes», corrupt policemen, as well as Greek owners and managers of bars, clubs, and other intermediaries. Sometimes pimps transfer women and minors into containers, risking their death from suffocation. A great number pass through the valley of the river Strymon and the gorges of Belles and Rodopi and through the borders of FYROM and Greece. Often they walk many kilometres during the night. In the towns of Sadanski and Petritsi in South Bulgaria, the Balkan centre of white slavery, there is bargaining in women. Greek owners of night clubs or their foreign correspondents pay the pimps and wait for a suitable time to cross the borders. First stop is Thessaloniki, for women coming from Bulgaria and other East European countries while Albanian women arrive in Ioannina and nearby cities, and then the pimps decide where they will work. This can be anywhere in Greece, even in the islands – especially Crete. The «promotion» into Greece is done by private transport, taxis or buses. In addition, dozens of foreigners are conveyed from Bulgaria by bus and train.⁹⁹

The girls come either from dissolved families or from orphanages¹⁰⁰ which, for financial reward, give the girls for adoption to people with ballet or theatre schools, who afterwards send them to Europe in order to work as prostitutes. The younger the girl, the higher the amount from

selling her. A girl aged 10-11 years can have two careers up to the age of 25: first, working in a paedophile network and then (if she survives) to be sold to prostitution networks with clients interested in older women.

B. Places where prostitution is practised. Many surveys and studies¹⁰¹ have shown the places where prostitution is practised – brothels, bars, saloons. Mention has to be made of the Netherlands¹⁰² where 75% of the prostitutes behind the no more than 10m² windows in the Red Light district are foreigners.

All around Greece exist informal brothels and in the big cities some «legal» ones. Immigrants from Albania are taken to Ioannina and other neighbouring towns (Kastoria, Veroia, Katerini, Kalabaka) before the procurers decide where they are to be channelled. The largest area around Larissa, Volos, Karditsa and Lamia are stopping places where the women work in bars, brothels, massage parlours and other secret brothels. Many are transferred to Athens, Crete and other islands, where the flourishing commerce of sex trade is exercised.¹⁰³ The study of the Non Aligned Women's Movement¹⁰⁴ distinguishes between prostitution exercised: a) in the bars, existing even in small villages, and hotels: these are well-known by the police; b) in the «massage parlours»; and c) in the brothels. However, in Greece there are some very peculiar forms of prostitution: women brought by bus to provincial cities and villages, «ordering» of women having special characteristics, or for the weekend, prostitution of Albanian women at very low prices where sometimes the pimp is their own husband. There are also special agencies importing women as dancers or entertainers, with legal documents for 6 months or less. Trafficked women without residence permits cannot work in the streets because there is a risk of being arrested. The Police Report¹⁰⁵ distinguishes between: a) foreign women already living in Greece who, with false promises of economic and social ascension, were persuaded to work in bars, cafeterias, clubs, dance clubs etc; and b) women recruited from abroad, as noted above.

A survey¹⁰⁶ of Greek judicial practice has shown that the premises where these activities take place are 'massage parlours' and brothels. Other studies¹⁰⁷ refer as well to the massage parlours and brothels.

According to newspaper information,¹⁰⁸ the work premises of trafficked women – apart from «massage parlours», bars and brothels – are: special flats managed by the pimps; the house of the client; and the streets – for the benefit of the procurer. Foreign women, who usually do not speak Greek, are transferred to clients by collaborating taxi-drivers, waiting for the end of the «service» and ready to interfere if something happens to the «commodity». Secret brothels in Athens and other Greek cities, rooms in cheap hotels and basements in several buildings, where young foreigners are imprisoned and tortured by unscrupulous procurers (both foreign and Greek) who «train» with in-group rapes, beating and humiliating young women in order to force them into prostitution. After the Kosovo war prostitution rings multiplied: Albanians traffickers procure adolescents and women for the brothels, sex clubs and the streets of Greek cities, towns and even villages for about €15-90 (5.000-30.000 drachmas).

C. Living and working conditions. Surveys and studies¹⁰⁹ in many developed countries, especially in the EU, point out the dramatic and inhumane living and working conditions of the migrant trafficked women. The costs of the services facilitating migration have to be repaid, often under long-term arrangements. The fees together with high interest rates lead to a debt bondage, creating more dependencies between the traffickers and the trafficked persons. Some women are trafficked as regular migrants with work permits e.g. as dancers in the entertainment business. More vulnerable to exploitation are women in an irregular situation: they are forced to work in slave-like conditions. This means 12 hours a day, non stop; they receive very little from the brothel owner or procurer, since 70% or more of their earnings go to the traffickers, while they pay for their food and lodging, and are often robbed of their income. Sometimes they are not allowed to keep any of their earnings in exchange for their transport and living costs: the pimps just give them food and the minimum for personal hygiene. The

traffickers control women by emotional and physical manipulation, alcohol and drug dependency, by isolating them from the local society, compelling them to work and live in the same place. This is easily achieved due to their poor grasp of the local language and their illegal status in the host country. A typical isolation strategy is to trick or coerce a woman into surrendering her passport making her in effect a «non-person». They are deprived of their human rights and freedoms, are forbidden to leave the places without permission, threatened by deportation, violence and humiliation if they ask the authorities for help. They may be locked into apartments or secret rooms in bars. The newcomers are under surveillance of a bodyguard and are obliged to give all their earnings to their pimps. Sometimes the methods used to constrain women into prostitution are reminiscent of the concentration camps of the nazi regime, «small Dachaus»: There is a preparatory period of three months during which they are raped, beaten, and without adequate food and water. A great number of the women bear the marks of severe beatings. Since 1999, defenceless women from Kosovo have been forced into prostitution by unscrupulous criminals with extensive experience in the trafficking of women and children. In the Netherlands,¹¹⁰ Albanian traffickers exploit adolescents who work in the streets and windows holding false passports to prove that they are over 18 years; they are kept under constant surveillance by bodyguards and forced to hand all their earnings to the traffickers. The criminals stop at nothing, systematically intimidating social workers to deter them from helping their victims. An example is relevant: in 1996 the police discovered 15 women from Eastern Europe, 3 of them minors, recruited under false pretences, not allowed to leave the building, sleeping in a dirty cellar and working 9 to 19 hours a day. In Belgium,¹¹¹ the illegality of immigration status means that women are subject to control by pimps who employ a system of imposed debt or indentured labour in order to control them.

In Greece, living and working conditions vary according to the experience or not of prostitution before arrival, the different types of consent, the extent of any deceit, coercion or violence, the amount of contracted debt and the mode of repayment. A survey¹¹² has described the life of trafficked women as follows: humiliation by the pimps and the clients; blackmail (e.g. the threat of handing them over to the police); non-satisfaction of vital needs (hunger, thirst); destruction of personal belongings (photos, etc.); retention of their earnings, threats, intimidation, beatings, and even murders. Their opinion about the social environment through pimps, clients and policemen was hostile. Prostitution in Greece «entails new heights of violence as well as degradation and exploitation of the prostitute». 26-28% of the foreign prostitutes entered into prostitution through direct and prolonged use of physical or psychological violence. No one among them has the possibility of refusing. Only 20-23% knew the purpose for which they came in Greece. This survey ended with the striking result that 36% of the foreign prostitutes are characterised by clear loss of the sense of space – only 27% knew in which neighbourhood of Athens they were, and 32% did not know where Athens is! With regard to sense of time, 33% did not know what day of the week it was, 56% did not know the date (up to 8 days out) and 10% did not know the month. Some of them did not know the year: When questioned in 1996, 4% answered, “1995, 1996, 1994, something like that”. The study by the Non Aligned Women’s Movement¹¹³ points out that trafficked women are forced to work as prostitutes without the possibility of leaving or changing their working conditions. They are denied their freedom and are economically and sexually exploited.

Some authors refer to Albanian victims and procurers. It is worth mentioning two studies¹¹⁴ of the trafficking of women from Albania to Greece for sexual exploitation. a) The first study involving prostitution of underage Albanian girls, some as young as 12 years old, which is facilitated by the development of agencies and networks linking origin and destination and responsible for recruitment and transportation. While some (mainly adult) women migrate specifically to work in the sex industry, others are recruited as ‘entertainers’ or ‘models’ and then forced into prostitution by unscrupulous agents and friends. The working conditions in the sex industry are worse than in any other branch of migrant activity, frequently involving violence and subjugation to male dominance. Albanian women in Greece are at the bottom of the sex industry ladder – often stereotyped as dirty, uneducated and cheap. Prostitution is regarded in

Albania as a criminal act, a terrible loss of honour and a source of shame for the family. Albanian prostitutes in Greece are forced to live between two worlds, neither of which is prepared to accept them; b) the second study underlines that Albanian women are usually involved in «protection» networks, whereby some man takes all the woman's money. Another study¹¹⁵ registered the experiences of 30 women and young girls from Albania working in prostitution or sex clubs. Most of them were dependent on drugs and other chemical substances. The Albanian mafia with its complex networks (often running in tandem with trafficking in drugs, guns, money laundering etc.) is involved in trafficking in women and children – both girls and boys. The mafia, as well as individual criminals, try to earn easy money¹¹⁶ by exploiting young girls, forcing them into prostitution.

Newspaper information¹¹⁷ points out that using violence the pimps oblige their victims to work many hours without having the right to refuse a client. The illegal foreigners are more vulnerable than those who have work permits as entertainers, dancers, etc. The procurers and the brothel or other establishments owners keep them imprisoned in a world of financial and social exploitation with the fear of being arrested and deported or of suffering reprisals at the hands of the procurers. They are subject to coercion by the pimps and the clients. Sometimes they «work» from the morning up to two after midnight. After inhuman tortures, they are forced to work and «serve» sometimes more than 50 clients per day. In Albania, girls are bought from their families for about €1300 (Dr 400.000). The members of the gang rape them in order to see what they are worth and then they are sold in Italy at double the price.

D. Why the victims do not react. The aim of the traffickers and pimps is to transform their victims into irresolute obedient beings. If a girl tries to escape, she is threatened and beaten. Sometimes they are denounced to the police and expelled/deported: in this case, the police unwillingly assist the traffickers in their programme of torture and discipline. Accounts of women who have escaped from their torturers are shocking: women who had the courage to denounce their exploiters have spoken about mutilations and tortures which they themselves or others have endured.

A survey¹¹⁸ explains the reasons why trafficked women accept the violence of the pimps and stay with them: a) one out of five believes that this is the best alternative solution, because she earns money for the satisfaction of consumption needs, for the needs of her family or for buying drugs; b) the great majority are characterised by inertia, because of fear, routine, physical and psychological exhaustion, the feeling of futility and the belief that everywhere exists the same hostile environment.

The parents of trafficked women and children often believe that their daughters are married or/and work in homes taking care of children and the elderly. Sometimes they know the truth but they do not speak because they are afraid for their other children.

Even when there are efforts to combat trafficking and traffickers, the women are often afraid to testify against those who have been exploiting and abusing them – a reluctance that is even greater in those societies where the women are treated as the perpetrators rather than as victims of crime.¹¹⁹

E. What usually happens in case of expulsion-deportation.¹²⁰ Expulsion-deportation punishes the victims and mainly eliminates the possibility of their denouncing their exploiters, since there are no witnesses for the prosecution of the procurers when the trial takes place. States arrest the women and/or deport them with little concern for what happens to them upon their return. Most of the receiving countries enforce only their immigration laws to punish and deport women, rather than considering them as victims of trafficking.

In Greece, the Police Authorities have arrested many young women from Bulgaria, who have been brought illegally into the country by prostitution rings. As the Greek State does not make available money for airplane deportation, they are sent back to their country by rail: Greek police officers in collaboration with Bulgarian police send the young women in the train direction to Sofia so that in Bulgarian territory the Bulgarian police will take delivery of them.

However, armed mafia enter the train before the police, disembark the girls violently in order to send them back (80% of women deported by rail come back within 48 hours) or send them to another country to continue working as prostitutes. The traffickers work in collaboration with «Greek centres» in which policemen are sometimes involved. According to the press,¹²¹ Greek authorities believe that policemen of Bulgaria and FYROM collaborate with traffickers who are waiting beyond the Greek border in Promahona for women who are deported – with the result that eight out of ten women return to their pimps after one or two days.

The above-mentioned situation shows that deportation increases the profits of prostitution rings because they resell the victims to another «boss», as the traffickers force their victims to call them.

F. How the torture of the victims could be stopped. A woman or a child who has been the object of trafficking, may later on voluntarily prostitute herself/himself, since this is the only work this person knows and is unable to find any other means of livelihood. In some cases, they have saved money and can return home. According to UNICEF,¹²² in most cases trafficked children, even when their exploitation has ended, have very few alternatives and return to prostitution.

The problem is, how they will be free from the traffickers and in what physical and health condition? Usually, by the age of 35 they are old women.

According to Greek newspapers¹²³ there are only four ways to get out of the rings: to be mad, to be in a state of advanced pregnancy and so useless for their pimps, to be helped by a client, and the last exit is death.

2.2. THE ROLE OF THE MASS MEDIA

The presentation of the positive and negative role played by the mass media in the countries of origin, transit and destination is necessary for understanding the trafficking problem.

2.2.1. IN THE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN¹²⁴

Modelling agencies offering training to become a model, a hostess or a dancer, and marriage agencies selling «mail-order-brides» are the ideal recruiting places and cover-up for trafficking in women. Travel agencies, sometimes controlled by traffickers, are used for recruiting, making themselves known to the public by advertising in newspapers, magazines and television.

2.2.2. IN THE COUNTRIES OF TRANSIT AND DESTINATION

In these countries, the mass media play a positive and a negative role.

a) *The positive role.* The contribution of the mass media is important in order to inform society about the extent of the problem, giving information on the procurers' racket. A survey on the compulsory prostitution of foreign women showed that 80% male and female Greeks stated that their source of information regarding the prostitution network was the media; one out of five said that it was from their personal experience, a fact that shows how widespread the phenomenon is in Greece.¹²⁵ The mass media¹²⁶ refer to trafficking and white slavery only in cases of: i) trafficking in children e.g. in a flat in a residential area an Albanian pimp raped, tortured and forced into prostitution with 50 clients per day an Albanian girl aged 13 years old. ii) trafficking in women and procurement when there is a tragic end, e.g. when the tragedy of the victims ends by suicide, accident, or even murder. Suicides¹²⁷ of unfortunate girls are not a rare phenomenon. In order to escape from their torturers they jump off the top floor of a building and are either killed or crippled for life. In one case, a young woman hanged herself using her tights tied to the cistern of the toilet.

b) *The negative role.* The demand in all EU countries is enhanced by advertisements in the daily newspapers; there are even running ticker-tape type adverts on late-night television.¹²⁸ In Greece, the media and particularly the television, present a kind of «peeping Tom» image. The role of the daily newspapers is determinant, as they advertise in the most degrading manner the product to be consumed» under the headings of «Personals», «Telephone Acquaintances» or «Massage». There is a mass incitement to prostitution under the pretext of offering «massage» services to the clients. These advertisements, the so-called «pink advertisements», placed by prostitution rings and individual pimps, contribute to the daily nightmare of the women whom the procurers force into prostitution. In November 1998, a procedure was started to prevent this sort of advertisement in the newspapers, but no decision has been taken.¹²⁹

2.3. THE CONSEQUENCES OF TRAFFICKING

2.3.1. CONSEQUENCES FOR THE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN¹³⁰

Trafficking in women and children has a substantial human cost. From the perspective of those who control and benefit from the trade, these costs are irrelevant, especially when compared to the profits that can be made. From the point of view of the victims, the cost is enormous: their physical and mental health are in danger, they are in reality imprisoned slaves.

The human cost is also important for the sending and receiving societies. Trafficking for sexual exploitation causes problems in physical and/or mental health for the majority of women and children. Minors are particularly vulnerable. They endure long-term life threatening consequences, including psychological trauma, the risk of early pregnancy and its attendant dangers, HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases such as trichomoniasis, chlamydia, gonorrhoea and syphilis. Many trafficked women and children with health certificates proving that are negative on HIV tests, in reality are virus carriers or are suffering from AIDS. Some women and children are suffering from hepatitis B and tuberculosis. One consequence of the AIDS epidemic in Africa and Asia has been an increase in the number of children of either gender who are orphaned, have to fend for themselves at a very early age and have few alternatives to becoming involved in prostitution. Trafficking is a real danger for public health in both the sending and the receiving society.

Three among many dangers confronting «children on the streets» are sexual exploitation, maltreatment and AIDS.¹³¹ As the UNICEF 2000 Report¹³² points out, the abuse which trafficked

children endure has long-term life-threatening consequences including psychological trauma, the risk of early pregnancy and its attendant dangers, and HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections. Sexual exploitation of children is on the rise as the threat of AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases is contributing to the demand for ever younger child prostitutes.¹³³

2.3.2. THE EFFECT ON ECONOMIES AND ESPECIALLY THE STOCK MARKETS¹³⁴

Traffickers tend to invest the laundered money by acquiring property and enterprises. Depending on the surrounding economy, such penetration may be perpetrated through violence, extortion, usury etc: a distortion of competition mechanisms may be created.

2.3.3. OTHER CONSEQUENCES¹³⁵

Trafficking can involve costs not only for the victims, but also for the families and the support systems of the sending and the receiving society. Young women who go to work as prostitutes learn the skill of luring others to follow them, especially those who made money abroad: e.g. in Bosnia-Herzegovina, 40% of the previously trafficked women became recruiters themselves in order to escape from forced prostitution. The organised crime traffickers exploit the phenomenon of illegal migration for massive profits. Vulnerable illegal immigrants in general, and trafficked women and children in particular, can be forced to become criminals by the criminals who bring them into the country illegally, committing transnational crimes such as the smuggling of drugs or arms and money laundering.

3

TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN AS A LUCRATIVE BUSINESS AND A CRIME

According to the IOM,¹³⁶ «while trafficking in migrants continues to grow, its more heinous form of trafficking of women and children is a phenomenon which has increased at an even more alarming rate throughout the world». Trafficking in children for sexual exploitation exists in most regions of the world but has reached critical proportion in Asia.¹³⁷

Trafficking is a well-organised lucrative business¹³⁸ with political support and economic resources in countries of origin, transit and destination facilitated by the ease of travel and driven by the asymmetry between the number of people waiting to migrate (for whatever reason) and the restrictions imposed by governments on the number of immigrants legally allowed to enter their countries. Transport depends on the geographical proximity of the country of origin to the country of destination. Corruption or laxity of officials, but above all intermediaries, plays the most important role.

3.1. TRAFFICKING AS A LUCRATIVE LOW RISK BUSINESS¹³⁹

Trafficking in women and children is a lucrative business as international criminal networks and pimps have very important profits with very low risk for the traffickers from these activities compared with other forms of trafficking, in particular compared with trafficking in drugs. The traffickers profit, in addition to prostitution and other forms of sexual exploitation, by exploiting the trafficked person and introducing her or him into criminal circuits, which may include organised begging, pick pocketing, trade in children, illicit labour or drug trafficking.

Although reliable data are non-existent and figures are very difficult to obtain, some estimates give an idea of the vast amounts of money involved. According to the IOM and other sources,¹⁴⁰ Interpol calculated the income of a pimp living in Europe from a single prostitute to be around €110.000 (about 37.000.000 drachmas) a year. The profit from female sexual exploitation associated with the child sex business has been estimated as higher than \$5 billion.¹⁴¹ The IOM and the United Nations¹⁴² estimated the income from trafficking in women as amounting to \$8 billion per year.

It has been estimated that European criminal organisations pay about \$6.000 to Asian syndicates to buy a Chinese man or woman, who has to pay more than \$15.000 to their employers in Europe to purchase their freedom. The profit: \$9000 plus essentially free labour.¹⁴³

Although contemporary trade in child pornography is driven largely by personal rather than profit motives, the development of electronic payments systems via the Internet will increase the proportion of these exchanges in the future.¹⁴⁴

In Greece, in 1996 the income of the pimps was estimated at 70 billion drachmas. For Drs 1 million invested in the entrance and exploitation of one foreign women, the perpetrator earns Drs 27 million.¹⁴⁵ Newspaper headlines¹⁴⁶ estimated the annual income from prostitution in Greece in 1998 as being between 15 and 20 billion drachmas (€50m) and in the year 2000, more than 500 billion drachmas.¹⁴⁷ In 2000, one small prostitution network in Thessaloniki was discovered to have an annual turnover of 35 million drachmas (€105.000).¹⁴⁸ It is clear that in the vast majority of cases, most of the financial benefits accrue to others – criminal rings and individual pimps – rather than to the women themselves.¹⁴⁹ According to UNICEF data for the year 2000, children working as beggars or in the sex industry bring to their exploiters about a billion drachmas per month.¹⁵⁰

3.2. TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN AS A CRIME

Trafficking in women and children is a crime¹⁵¹ that is increasing in scope and complexity. Globalisation has significantly influenced the development of organised crime. Technological advances in communications, travel and infrastructure increase the opportunities for criminal activities of organised groups. Alongside the trade in illegal drugs, global markets for other illicit products trafficking in women and children has been developed.

Conceptions about these forms of trafficking are different in Europe compared with Asian and African countries. In some countries, trafficking is not a criminal offence and may be practised by «travel agencies». In others, trafficking has been criminalised and anti-trafficking legislation is in place.¹⁵²

In the receiving and transit countries, the prostitution market is demand-driven. The demand comes from owners of brothels, clubs or bars who pay the suppliers and put women to work. Procurers and other intermediaries enhance the demand in the receiving and transit countries by advertisement in the mass media (daily papers, magazines, on TV during the late night showings) and by use of mobile telephones. Corruption and the attitude of state and society also play an important role.

In the courts, all the witnesses are dubious. The client is unseen, the woman forced into prostitution is the martyr: she is frightened, subject to pressure, she never seeks the protection of the law because, and in many cases, she does not speak the language of the country. As she is residing in the country illegally, she becomes the victim of blackmail and violence, under the control of mafia or individual pimps. Convictions of procurers are few and the penalties imposed are light, because several countries expel/deport the women thus depriving the prosecution of valuable witnesses.

Appendix C details some national legislations to combat trafficking in women and children; Greek legislation and judicial practice are also presented.

3.2.1. WOMEN AND CHILDREN ARE VICTIMS NOT CRIMINALS¹⁵³

Increased prosecution of illegal immigrants by the countries of destination make women hesitant to report abuse to authorities; they know they will be treated as illegal immigrants and arrested, detained and deported. This is particularly true for women working in the sex industry. In cases where women are formally processed and sanctioned for working illegally as prostitutes, this punishment affects the victims and not the real criminals.

In the case of pornography¹⁵⁴ when the person is adult and consenting, it is the attraction of money that incites her/him in the crime; however, the children submit after deception, physical and psychological violence and also by the lure of money.

The survey undertaken by the Non Aligned Women's Movement¹⁵⁵ asked the question 'Who has to be prosecuted?' 89% answered 'the pimps' – those responsible for the prostitution rings, the «protectors».

3.2.2. THE CRIMINALS: TRAFFICKERS, INTERMEDIARIES AND AIDES¹⁵⁶

Traffickers and other intermediaries are the real criminals. Often the phenomenon of trafficking in women and children is controlled by powerful criminal organisations capable of establishing contacts among nations, of corrupting civil servants, policemen and others, of counterfeiting documents, or controlling black labour markets. The traffickers are often paid for the services facilitating migration, under long-term arrangements. Since the fees are high, the payment leads to a debt bondage, creating more dependencies between the trafficker and the trafficked person.

A. Who are the traffickers and their collaborators?

Existing «cross-national networks» facilitate the growth of criminally assisted illegal migration. One of the most important actors in the world of illicit sex is organised crime. Mafia groups are an essential part of the structure that controls the market and their involvement takes many forms: They might act independently or in co-operation with other individuals, such as authorities, pimps and other mafia groups. They make use of travel agencies or mediation agencies (sometimes in their hands) to traffic the women and take care of the false passports, visas, or other necessary documents. They also corrupt civil servants in order to obtain such documents.¹⁵⁷

Traffickers in the EU countries¹⁵⁸ consist of: a) small and occasional traffickers who recruit only a few women at a time, as and when the owner of a brothel or sex-club places an order. The local contact recruits the women, accompanies them to the destination country or arranges for their transport and delivery; b) large-scale traffickers with extensive networks, using a variety of legal and illegal ways to recruit women from different countries; c) medium size traffickers who tend to specialise in one or two countries, and are likely to use the women for their own clubs and brothels instead of selling them to a third party.

Europol¹⁵⁹ notes that members of the criminal organisations engaged in sexual exploitation are often of the same nationality as the women they control.

Sometimes the criminal group provides protection services to enterprising brothel owners.¹⁶⁰ The Italian mafia participates in trafficking women from Albania and other Eastern European countries. The involvement of Albanian criminal organisations is growing.¹⁶¹ In Italy,¹⁶² Albanian pimps are small-scale criminals, who – blinded by easy money – do not hesitate to throw into the street their female schoolmates, their childhood female friends, even their fiancées and wives. The pimps are often independent or grouped into small units.

The organised crime groups (mafia) in the EU countries¹⁶³ are characterised by the presence of networks, operating in all countries, the development of «domestic bilateral organisations» operating from country to country and of domestic organised groups (gangs). Traffickers come from different countries – Germany, Holland, Belgium, Italy, France, the Netherlands, Austria, the United Kingdom, Spain, Russia, China, Hungary, Romania, Poland, Czech Republic, Morocco, Pakistan, Turkey the former Yugoslavia, Albania and Greece. In the finding of credulous women from Eastern Europe and the Balkans, participation is by Albanians, Romanians, Russians, Bulgarians, Ukrainians and Greeks as well as their compatriots.

The mafia¹⁶⁴ have a high degree of specialisation, extreme violence and are increasingly decentralised and flexible in their organisation. The level of organisation and structure of trafficking businesses vary widely – including informal networks of migrants' relatives and friends in the sending, receiving and transit countries, owners of trucks or boats, to large trafficking rings and mafia with contacts all over the world. Criminal organisations either engage in the trafficking directly or facilitate the trafficking for agencies and entrepreneurs involved. Brothel and club/bar owners or managers and criminal groups pay the suppliers and initially put the women to work. Guards help to ensure that women do not escape and inflict punishment in the event that they try. The business would not run efficiently without the involvement of numerous intermediaries and aides such as escorts, owners of publicity and travel agencies, even taxi drivers.

Among the mafia groups, the Russian¹⁶⁵ is considered to be the best organised: using violence or threat of violence, expending resources to discourage co-operation of its members with the police and corrupting legitimate government authority. Many mafia members are former employees of the military and the National Security Agency KGB, providing services ranging from escorts and prostitutes for Russian and foreign businessmen, to sending groups of women to other countries to work as prostitutes.¹⁶⁶ The Albanian mafia¹⁶⁷ is considered to be the most cruel and violent for its ability to keep immigrant women in severe conditions. In Albania are

concentration camps where women are raped, tortured, and their families threatened in order to obtain the victim's obedience, raise no objection to forced prostitution and blindly obey their tormentors. According to the IOM,¹⁶⁸ young refugee women are abducted from the refugee camps by armed *scafisti*, members of Albanian organised crime, forcing these women into prostitution in Italy and elsewhere in Western Europe. Although there are pimps who exploit a few women, most belong to large trafficking rings who encourage demand in the receiving countries.

Traffickers easily find women in the poor and war-devastated former Yugoslavia, especially in Bosnia, FYROM, Kosovo, where the political situation is chaotic, the laws are not respected and trafficking in women flourishes under the protection of corrupted officials. They enter Western Europe through Italy and Greece.¹⁶⁹

The traffickers are not only men. Among them, women may represent a high percentage: in Bosnia-Herzegovina, about 40% of previously trafficked women have become recruiters themselves.¹⁷⁰

Concerning trafficking in children,¹⁷¹ the intermediary can be an agent who buys children in rural villages and transports them to the towns or cities where they are turned over to brothel owners: these can be either individual entrepreneurs or members of criminal groups. The intermediaries can also be a transnational criminal network that arranges for the children to be trafficked into countries where they work as prostitutes for other members of the network. In the case of pornography,¹⁷² the exploiter-trafficker can rarely be termed «small» but usually belongs to a network of organised crime.

The particularities of Greece. A survey in the mid 90s¹⁷³ has shown that there are two types of pimps: a) prostitution rings, who are rich, confront their future with optimism and control tens or hundreds of women and children; and b) the small and occasional traffickers controlling one or two women, who need money and feel the threat of the police and are pessimistic about their future. The «medium size traffickers» tend to vanish or be marginalised.

Apart from the above-mentioned Russian and Albanian mafia, as well as other mafia, Turkish and Pakistani criminal groups operate in the field of human smuggling;¹⁷⁴ Greek traffickers assisted by other nationalities are involved in trafficking in women and children.

The Police Report has shown that in 1999 most of the apprehended pimps are Greeks, followed by Albanians, Romanians, Russians, Bulgarians, Ukrainians, Africans and others.¹⁷⁵

Prostitution rings in Greece¹⁷⁶ are organised according to the norms of gangs sometimes with eminent leaders who are rich members of the local communities. An unknown percentage of Greek society lives and enriches itself by forcing into prostitution foreign women and children. Some own brothels and clubs in different cities. Natives organise trafficking activities in collaboration with pimps from Eastern and Central Europe, Turkey, Russia, Albania and other countries. The pimps belong to a ring including many kinds of impostors and criminals. Mafiosi, dealers, «escorts», blackmailers, swindlers, cheats, and even murderers. Some undertake to keep guard over the girls, others collect the money the women get and hand it over to the «procurer-businessman». Some Greek «businessmen» from Northern Greece wanting to invest in Bulgaria have chosen the gainful sector of trafficking in women! Greco-Bulgarian «illegal businesses» or «organised gangs» estimated by the Bulgarian police to number 300, include three owned by Greeks for which women and girls are recruited and sent to Greece. However, in Greece as in other EU countries, Albanian rings and pimps have the worst reputation for being cruel and merciless.

A peculiar form of intermediary¹⁷⁷ is that of specialised agencies offering cruises in the Aegean islands with sex services – the so-called «floating harems». Clients are middle-aged well-off men, young people who accumulated money, and rich elderly people restricted to voyeurism. The girls belong to two categories: i) top class models, women from all over the world working free lance and beautiful tall women from Eastern Europe under the surveillance of prostitution rings; ii) young Greek women who have failed in beauty contests, sometimes making appearances without speaking on Greek television.

B. The causes of traffickers' involvement.¹⁷⁸

The vast socio-economic inequities encourage the involuntary supply of the prostitution market which greatly benefits the agents, middlemen and organised rings who derive most of the profits from this business.

Trafficking in women and children is not the sole criminal activity of the offenders. Most of them are also involved in smuggling arms, drugs, money laundering, stolen cars, false documents, begging and theft.

For criminal organisations, individual pimps and various intermediaries involved in the market, this is not only a very high profit but a generally low risk activity. The role of trafficker-pimps is similar all over the world. Traffickers profit from lax or non-existent sanctions in many parts of the world and insufficient counter-measures. Penalties for participation in the trafficking of women are often minimal and sometimes non-existent. Convictions are few because the victims are expelled and there are no witnesses during the trials.

C. The traffickers' criminal modes of operation

Since the 1990s, trafficking has been growing and becoming more organised. The organisational model produced by Salt and Stein divided the trafficking process into three stages.¹⁷⁹

a) Recruitment.¹⁸⁰ In the countries of origin, some women and children are abducted in discos, in the streets, out of schools, etc. A few are sold by relatives, even by their own parents. The majority of the traffickers operate as «recruitment agents» in towns and villages offering job opportunities abroad, but usually the contacts that push women to emigration are friends and acquaintances, or amorous relationships. Occasionally women in bars and discos are approached by friends/acquaintances, with false promise of work: they are recruited as dancers, artists, language students, or tourists paying for travel costs in advance and delivering fraudulent documents, if necessary. Sometimes traffickers present themselves as producers, film directors and managers. Some traffickers own brothels, discotheques and bars. Advertisements in the newspapers, on the internet and even with legal agencies are often involved: the traffickers often carry out their work behind a legal façade and the women are persuaded to sign contracts that stipulate each party's obligations and financial returns. Through these usually innocuous-looking documents, the women become ensnared in a financial arrangement that leaves them in debt bondage and obligated indefinitely to their employers. This is the norm in the world of traffickers and their victims. The brains of the rings persuade their prospective victims to work in bars and clubs where they end up in prostitution. In Asia,¹⁸¹ the methods of trafficking include the normal lure of false opportunities: village girls are abducted and smuggled across the border to work as prostitutes

b) Transportation.¹⁸² Modes of transport include car, train, even airplanes. Different people in the network take care of transportation in the sending, in the transit and in destination countries. Local agents are often used as guides. Traffickers provide the necessary services facilitating migration: provision of information, stolen or counterfeit documents, official and unofficial transport, accommodation during the journey, border crossing services and introduction into criminal circuits. In this procedure, trafficked women do not have contacts with society and remain at the mercy of their traffickers. The routes of trafficking change according to the distance between countries of departure and destination, political situation, law enforcement effort and corruption. Organised crime groups are flexible and always prepared to adapt to changing circumstances.

c) Management.¹⁸³ The business is big with high turnover. Trafficking has complex structures of organisation, is carefully planned and supervised. The highest level is rarely known by lower elements involved in the trafficking business, making fighting against organised crime more difficult.

Once in the country of transit or destination,¹⁸⁴ using physical and psychological violence they force their victims into prostitution in order to pay for what their torturers have paid for their entry and stay in the place where they are exploited. The methods used to constrain them into prostitution are described above (2.1.2.C).

In Greece,¹⁸⁵ the traffickers sell their victims to owners/managers of private bars who re-sell, incite, and force even underage girls into prostitution and to brothel owners or managers. In order to minimise the possibility of arrest and to increase their profits, they move them about from place to place, either within the same town or to other parts of Greece, usually where the pimps have connections with corrupt members of the police so that they are not easily tracked down. Another reason for moving the women from town to town or even from country to country is to make it appear to the patrons of clubs, cafe-bars etc. and the clients that «fresh merchandise» is being offered. The women are often sold several times from one bar owner to another. Greeks and foreigner, individual pimps and prostitution rings, buy, exploit, and sell women. In the organised ring, some accompany and take care of the victims, and others are the collectors of the money, who give them to the «entrepreneur». As in other receiving countries, they keep the women imprisoned, do not pay them at all and maltreat them.

The traffickers who advertise in the newspapers or on the TV during the night programmes offer continuously «new commodities». Traffickers and other intermediaries rape and force into prostitution women with dozens of clients per day, obliging them to have sex without condoms and forcing them into abortion.

D. Why do traffickers prefer illegal women from Central and Eastern Europe?¹⁸⁶

During the 1980s, the traffickers brought women from Asian and African countries. In the 1990s, women from Central and Eastern Countries (CECs) of Europe, the newly independent nations of the former communist empire, have replaced women from the developing world as the main prey of criminal organised groups and individual pimps.

In all the EU countries,¹⁸⁷ the illegal migrants are cheaper for the clients and it is easier for the traffickers to oppress and blackmail them. The situation in the CECs during the 1990s – that is, the lack of controls, the inability of adequate response to crime and the high corruptibility of officers make them cross-roads to gain access to richer European countries. It is easier and cheaper for traffickers to bring women from the CECs to Western and Southern Europe than from the developing countries. Their transport fees are minimal and the visa for many of their citizens has been abolished in EU countries. Traffickers, brothel and bars owners prefer foreign women precisely because they are easier to manipulate/exploit and control, because usually they do not speak the language, are unfamiliar with customs and laws, cannot fall back on friends or acquaintances and are often mistrustful of the police.

Some particularities in Greece.¹⁸⁸ Managers of night clubs urge the waitresses, especially those who are living without documents in the country, to offer sex to various clients. The pimps make all arrangements by means of mobile phones, and the «deals» are closed and appointments are fixed through advertisements in newspapers under the title «Massage» and «Personals». As happens all around Europe, victims of the Albanian mafia are ill-treated, not paid and forced to «work» from the morning until 2 o'clock after midnight – cases of receiving as many as fifty clients a day have been mentioned. The secret brothels have been turned into minor Dachaus, where young immigrants are imprisoned and become martyrs in the hands of ruthless procurers. Rooms in cheap hotels and in the basements of buildings have been turned into «camps» where the pimps, both Greek and foreign, «train» the young women by means of gang rape, beatings, humiliation in order to force them to become prostitutes. Cases are not rare of procurers prostituting their own wives.

A survey carried out in Athens¹⁸⁹ has shown that during the period 1991-1995, there were 490 illegal brothels functioning in Athens. Procurers and victims were usually lovers or married couples; in a few cases, they were unknown or just acquaintances. It is a form of criminality with close personal or kin relationship, with a great number of «dark cases». Rarely do these crimes reach the police or get to court.

In order to obtain a legal residence permit for the women, mainly for those from the former USSR, the procurers resort to unimaginable wrangling and scheming. Two examples are relevant: a) in a few cases, a phoney marriage is arranged between a Greek man of an advanced age, or invalid, and of low social status and the procurer's victim so that the woman may acquire a residence permit in Greece; b) a network of procurers undertakes the task of securing legal residence permits for women who have been brought into the country on tourist visas and with forged documents. They present these women as mothers of minors, and undertake to find Greek volunteers to acknowledge children as their own. The role of the father is paid in exchange for 350.000 drachmas (€1.000). The immigrant women are provided with board and lodging with the aim of sending them to work in brothels as soon as their legal residence permits are issued.¹⁹⁰

3.2.3. THE CLIENTS

The prostitution market is demand driven. The demand comes from brothel, clubs or bars owners who pay the suppliers and put women to work. Above all, it comes from clients. Collapse of values and the view that with money one can buy, everything even the bodies of underage children, characterise the clients. During the 1990s, the clients' preference for a young submissive, docile and obedient coloured woman changed. Now the choice is for a woman from Central and Eastern Europe: white, beautiful, educated, but poverty-stricken, so that she may comply with all their wishes.

Are the clients accomplices or accessories in the trafficking and compulsory prostitution of women and minors?

A. The clients in other countries.¹⁹¹ Any business would collapse without customers. As long as there are men who prefer to buy sex rather than engage in reciprocal intimacy, paedophiles who seek to satisfy their perverted tendencies, and unscrupulous individuals ready to operate as intermediaries, there will be numerous unwilling victims. The clients incite the procurers to track down and recruit a larger supply of victims because: a) they continually seek more and more «paid sexual pleasure» and even more perversities; b) their number is ever on the increase; and c) the demand for lewd relationships is on the rise. In Germany and other EU countries,¹⁹² the demand for «prostitute services» and pornography –especially for «exotic» prostitutes and very young women and children – is growing. In the 1970s women came from Thailand and other developing countries while in the 1990s they have been replaced by women from Eastern European countries. Their high demand by clients is due to their «exotic» nature and relative novelty in the sex market.¹⁹³ In Bosnia- Herzegovina,¹⁹⁴ approximately 90% of the trafficked women stated that their clients were from the local community, with the local police as one of the major groups, while 10% indicated men from the international community.

The exploitation of children is due¹⁹⁵ a) to the prevalence in certain cultures of myths regarding the rejuvenating power of sex with virgins and young girls. The spread of AIDS has led many men to seek younger partners for commercial sex in the belief that they are less likely to be infected. This belief is erroneous since children are more susceptible to sexually transmitted diseases, less knowledgeable about the requirements of sex practices and unable to determine the terms on which their customers have sex; b) the exploitation of computer networks by paedophiles who share photographs and experiences; c) the increase in juvenile drugs usage.

Numerous Europeans and Americans used to spend their vacations participating in «sex tours» in Thailand, Brazil, Sri Lanka and other countries – holidays sold with the understanding that the provision of children for sex was included in the package.¹⁹⁶ During the 1990s, it became easier to find underage children in their own country.

In the case of pornography,¹⁹⁷ the client is encouraged by the anonymity provided by the Internet and telephone calls. Concerning child pornography¹⁹⁸ which is publicly accessible on the Internet or World Wide Web, what is deemed to be criminal in one jurisdiction might be quite legal in another.

B. The clients in Greece.¹⁹⁹ The most widespread way to find clients is through the media: daily newspapers, journals, even television during the night. The pimps and their (usually female) collaborators make all arrangements by means of mobile telephones, the «deals» are closed and appointments are fixed. The clients «discreetly» call foreign prostitutes 093 and 094 according to the initial numbers of the procurer's mobile telephones.²⁰⁰ «Civilised» clients of brothels buy children's flesh pretending that they believe the prostitute woman is adult. The clients, knowing the inhumane conditions under which trafficked women are living, perpetuate this situation, being accomplices to the violence exerted on the victims and the crime of trafficking in women and children. Seeking more and more enjoyment and satisfaction of their perversions, they increase the demand and this situation pushes the prostitution rings and the pimps to meet the offer by finding and recruiting a greater number of new victims. Medium income clients find women through classified advertisements in the newspapers. The Escort Agencies address higher incomes, as a girl costs about €300 (100.000 drachmas) for 24 hours. The press²⁰¹ provides us with information regarding the clients, who vary from procurers, marginal men of the night, to new rich, youth or more commonly respectable citizens, married or not, or businessmen who want to offer a «surprise» to their employers or business partners for the summer vacations, a gift of a few days' sensual pleasure to celebrate the «clinching of a deal».

The survey of the Non Aligned Women's Movement asked the question 'why are foreigners preferred to Greek prostitutes?' The answers were: because they are cheaper (38%), because they are more available and more liberated (38%) and that they are more beautiful and exotic.²⁰²

In our opinion, the clients using the «services» of foreign women, although they know under what conditions they live, and that they have been forced into prostitution, are accomplices to the violence exerted and in the crime of trafficking in women, particularly in the cases concerning minors. If there were no clients there would be no «business». They are the indispensable partners in the crime.

3.2.4. CORRUPTION OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND ESPECIALLY OF POLICE OFFICERS AND LOW RANK POLICEMEN

In many instances, corruption of public officials helps the traffickers and renders anti-trafficking legislation virtually ineffectual.²⁰³ Corrupt officials assist in provision of passports, visas etc. Corruption abroad is another important factor: although Greece has signed police collaboration agreements with FYROM and Bulgaria, the results are minimal because the police officers of those two countries with average monthly salary of 70 dollars are greatly affected by corruption.

A. Corruption in other EU countries.²⁰⁴ Trafficking in women and children has created considerable vested interests not only on the part of criminal organisations but also corrupt politicians, officials and law enforcement personnel who benefit either directly or indirectly from human commodity trafficking. Not only do police officers «turn a blind eye» to the sex trade in their jurisdiction but in some cases, they collaborate in women trafficking. Corruption affects

administration officials as well, for residence and work permits and all documentation required, resulting in the need of «new commodities» in all EU countries. Corrupt policemen and officials are paid in money or in kind. Even politicians provide protection for criminal organisations and brothel owners who control the sex trade.

B. Corruption in Greece. Prostitution rings function in concert with Greek centres where, most probably, the police take part by disguising the truth and hushing it up in one way or another. In many cases, the corruption of public officials constitutes an important factor rendering the legislation against trafficking ineffectual. We should distinguish:

a) *Corruption in Greek administration abroad.* A secret conference held in February 2000 was held in the Ministry of Social Affairs concerning the corruption of employees in Greek Consulates in the East European countries; they participate in networks that issue illegal documents permitting aliens to obtain Greek nationality.²⁰⁵ In this way, procurers and other criminals are able to live in Greece legally.

b) *Corruption in the Greek administration.*²⁰⁶ There are serious indications that a great deal of smuggling of Greek passports takes place «making it legal» to send prostitutes to the «red-streets» of prostitution in Europe, the headquarters being the port at Antwerp. There, networks operate in collaboration with Albanian, Greek and Italian mafia, possibly with the assistance of corrupt employees in key positions.

c) *Corruption of the police.* Officers and low-grade policemen participate in activities undertaken in other countries by organised crime. However, corruption is not the main problem of the police: the insufficient number of police in the Vice Squad of Athens, staffed by only 20 policemen, is unable to deal with the huge problem of trafficking.²⁰⁷

*The newspapers*²⁰⁸ point out that between 1989-2000, 650 policemen were accused and removed from office, 324 of them were officers of the Greek Police. Some examples are significant:

i) In Epirus, a porno-bar was employing immigrant women and the Ioannina Police did not intervene because of the involvement of members of the local police, but the neighbouring Igoumenitsa Police did so in order to break up a gang that was exploiting eight immigrant women, and was involved in drug trafficking, trading arms, blackmail, robberies and theft.

ii) When policemen of the Vice Squad were dismissed, a large network was broken up which had been kidnapping and exploiting women from the former USSR.

iii) Passports of deported women have been found in the house of a policemen, along with money and address books with clients' names.

iv) Retired police officers were arrested for money laundering from white slavery, having transformed a house into an illegal brothel: Their lawyer maintained that they offered hospitality by kindness because they have pity on the poor girls!

v) There are several cases where policemen offer «protection» or are organising prostitution rings. A striking case is one that occurred in the police station of Menidi (a small town near Athens) where 14 out of 20 policemen were involved in affairs such as forgery, blackmailing, certificates for false residence permits of foreign women working as prostitutes. They informed in advance the owners of clubs and brothels about police raids, so that they arrested only the women that the pimps wanted to get rid of.

3.2.5. HOW RESPONSIBLE ARE SOCIETY AND THE STATE?

A) The role of society. In all the EU countries,²⁰⁹ it is common knowledge that trafficking in women and children exists. In Greece it is well known by the police, the lawyers, the judges, even those judges who acquit the procurers-criminals-pimps for reasons of insufficient evidence, as well as by almost all the ordinary citizens.

Social indifference is startling and consequently this indifference makes people responsible to the degree that everyone keeps silent although they are aware of what is happening and they tolerate the situation without showing anger. No one denounces what he knows, nor does anyone react to the trafficking of foreign women. Doctors perform abortions, citizens let their flats for «massage parlours» knowing that they are transformed into informal brothels, tenants/owners of other flats in the same building either know or suspect what is going on, or are even perfectly sure that in their very building alien minors are often prostituted against their will. The tolerance shown by local societies is a considerable and ever widening characteristic of European societies in general. A characteristic example in Athens is the case of a 13 year old Albanian girl tortured by her compatriot pimp in a residential flat: the neighbours had suspicions because they heard noises, voices and screams during the night and they found used condoms in the entrance of the building: however, for several months they did not report the matter.

Why do people not report these things to the police? Responsible individuals who addressed the police, received threatening phone calls, or were victims of various violent assaults from procurers and, frightened, did not proceed with further activities.

B. The role of the state. In all the EU and other developed countries, indifferent Governments are directly responsible for the proliferation of the sex business. Many authorities are hostile to victims of forced prostitution seeing them as somewhat criminal rather than innocent.²¹⁰

In Greece, the role of the state is «regulating». Prostitution is accepted as a social relationship. The prostitute is «declared» and subject to controls, and the client is «invisible». However, non-declared prostitution is the main type.²¹¹ Civil servants are bribed by the procurers to issue residence permits. Rarely have inspections been carried out in the «businesses» (e.g. bars) nor are complaints lodged by regional authorities, local authorities or any other state authority that by law have the right and the obligation to act. The state may benefit from a woman's testimony as witness in a trial because it can lead to a crackdown on organised crime. However, as in other EU countries, witness protection and relocation programs are rarely offered for cases involving trafficking.²¹²

A survey²¹³ has shown that two people out of every three consider the state to be corrupt, one out of five that it is slightly corrupt and only one out of ten believes that the state is not corrupted. As a university professor²¹⁴ points out, Greek legislation serves organised trafficking and facilitates the traffickers in exploiting, blackmailing and forcing to remain silent their victims. Another survey²¹⁵ on how third party debauchery is made easy via the press (porno-ads or the so called «pink advertisements» showed that in 1995 there were two guilty verdicts issued regarding newspaper owners, but in the case of 15 other verdicts the accused were acquitted, and in two cases the court was pronounced «non-competent». According to a survey on illegal migration and crime in 1996, the sentences passed on the defendants charged with procuring ranged from 1 to 4 years.²¹⁶

Journal information²¹⁷ often mentions the relative impunity and the light sentences imposed on procurers. For instance, the case of a procurer who disappeared after a car accident in which a young Ukrainian woman lost her life; or the case of a procurer of a Belarus woman who committed suicide, where the procurer was acquitted because of the benefit of a doubt.

Child pornography with foreign children in most cases is hidden and the extent of the problem is unknown. However, in some cases the newspapers²¹⁸ refer to child pornography with foreign children, even coming from the United States.

Appendix C details some national legislations of overseas and European countries; the Greek legislation and judicial practice is also presented.

4

POLICY ON TRAFFICKING AND FORCED PROSTITUTION IN GREECE²¹⁹

The above-mentioned situation is a complex and multifaceted problem requiring urgent measures in the countries of origin, transit and destination. If this situation does not change, organised crime will further develop and the victims will remain silent and miserable. In the receiving EU countries, measures are needed not only for humanitarian reasons but also for reasons of public order and security. Different measures must be applied in order to prevent trafficking and protect the victims of this modern slave trade. It is necessary to harmonise criminal legislation and law enforcement strategies among EU states.

Strategies aimed at combating traffic in women should be based on the right to self-determination of women and in the decriminalisation of prostitution, together with the enforcement of the rights of immigrant women and children. Strategies should aim to create alternative for life and work in the country of origin and in the country of destination. The improvement of the social and economic situation of women in a disadvantaged position should be a basis for combating trafficking in women and children.

The prerequisite is that trafficking in women and children should be examined from a scientific point of view, and the results of investigations should be made public via the mass media.²²⁰ More intensive international collaboration is required to combat illegal immigration and organised crime in order to reduce the illegal trafficking in women and children.

What are needed are preventative measures for the victims, repressive measures for the offenders (traffickers and other intermediaries, corrupt police and administrators) and measures for social rehabilitation of the victims.²²¹

Appendix D presents the major international and European actions. What should be done in Greece is presented below.

4.1. REPRESSIVE MEASURES FOR THE OFFENDERS

4.1.1. ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL AND REPRESSION OF CORRUPTION²²²

All States including Greece should adopt or strengthen, implement and disseminate laws, administrative measures, social policies and programmes to prevent and repress corruption facilitating trafficking in women and children. Among the measures are: more strict frontier control, recommendations to embassies and consulates for rigorous control of passport and/or special visas for dancers, artists, entertainers, even home helpers; strict controls for legal entrance into the country from countries where no visa is necessary. Transit visas, entry visas, temporary residence permits, are of great importance in combating trafficking in human beings. Of vital importance is the up-dating of employees dealing with migrants, for instance embassy and consular staff issuing visas. Corruption involving diplomatic missions abroad must be wiped out and particularly in consulates of East European countries. These measures must be applied to the police in Greece and in administration or wherever else corruption is suspected. One should not generalise, because not all are corrupt are corrupters, but it seems that there are several cases of gifts having been accepted as well as benefits, cash and bribes. Corruption is the responsibility of us all, unfortunately society tolerates it. For a society to rid itself of corruption should be the wish of everyone. Criminality of all kinds, and particularly trafficking, cannot be combated without a complete restructuring and modernising of the police.

4.1.2. MEASURES TO CURB THE ACTIVITIES OF THE TRAFFICKERS AND FOR THEIR STRICT PUNISHMENT²²³

The punishment of the procurers is not enough to cover the vast social problem created by the exploitation of minors or by the violence used to force adults into prostitution. Equal treatment of the victim and the offender as if they were equally guilty is unacceptable. Preventative and suppressive measures are required. More specifically:

i) legislative-judicial action that would create an adequate legal framework for the punishment of the traffickers, *imposing severe penalties and mainly the confiscation of their profits and the imposition of extremely heavy fines*;

ii) opposition to «porno-ads» and to the mass media that promote them, recourse to the authorities who would take immediate action (take-overs, exposure of victimisers, misleading porno-telephone appointments, measures that have been put into practice in Sweden) the rallying of local societies in small towns through the existing associations;

iii) the publication in the mass media of the Eastern European countries about the dangers hidden behind promises of «companies and agencies» for migrants, so that women should not become easy prey to such misleading promises.

The prosecution of the traffickers is complicated. An end should be put to the practice of immediate deportation of the victims after the trafficker's network has been broken up, because this measure in most cases deprives the prosecution of evidence necessary for the condemnation of the procurers. Even when residence permits are granted to women willing to testify, the individual and her family run the risk of suffering retaliation from thwarted traffickers.²²⁴

4.1.3. CHANGES AT THE LEGISLATIVE LEVEL²²⁵

According to the specifications laid down by the Greek Penal Code, all offences concerning the sexual exploitation of minors, can only be prosecuted after a charge has been brought: this means that judicial authorities and the police cannot intervene *ex officio*. For the prosecution of crimes against sexual liberty and financial exploitation of minors:

i) If the minor is under 12 years of age, the charge against the trafficker must be submitted by the minor's guardian. It would be right for such crimes to be prosecuted *ex officio*.

ii) Although minors aged 12-17 years can bring charges of their own accord, in most cases they are morally, socially and financially unable to do so.

In our opinion, this legislation refers to a society of the past without the imported and extended phenomenon of trafficking – especially the organised mafia abducting and coercing children and women into prostitution. Changes are needed in legislation and in the practical field of competence of the authorities. New legislation could protect girls and boys under age and also adults from manifest compulsion and violence.

4.1.4. MEASURES TO CONFRONT THE CLIENTS AS ACCESSORIES AND/OR JOINTLY RESPONSIBLE IN CASES OF THE PROSTITUTION OF MINORS.²²⁶

One of the weak points of the Greek legislation is that it does not provide for the prosecution of clients in cases of prostitution – even when they know that the woman is a victim of trafficking.

For clients, changes are needed in the legislation. The existing legislation cannot protect girls and boys under age or women forced by violence into prostitution. In these cases, the clients are also responsible and should not only be punished but also pilloried.

4.2. PREVENTIVE AND PROTECTIVE MEASURES FOR THE VICTIMS

4.2.1. MEASURES FOR PREVENTING TRAFFICKING

Social policy measures must be taken at national and international level.²²⁷

- a) drawing up and implementing programmes aimed at considerably improving the financial situation of the poorest classes;
- b) education able to inspire respect of human dignity and other human rights principles.

The state should strengthen laws and administrative measures to prevent trafficking in women. The legislation in force today reflects a society of the past when the waves of unlawfulness, both Greek and imported, did not exist. In order to achieve an effective confrontation of the activity of organised networks that abduct children and lead them to prostitution by force, drastic steps must be taken.

Preventative measures²²⁸ against children and young adults prostitution include the control by police and social workers working together in premises which attract young prostitutes and their clients, e.g. railway stations, airports, harbours, lobbies of big or infamous hotels, discos, etc. The focus should be children from broken families, runaways, those sexually exploited at home, the homeless and drug addicted. Programmes aiming at the re-integration in their family environment or integration into special organisations (of health, vocational training, education) are the best help. However, often these initiatives do not really help, because the persons concerned do not address themselves. Information and sensitisation of different categories of citizens is necessary for an effective preventative policy.

4.2.2. MEASURES FOR INFORMING AND PROTECTING THE VICTIMS²²⁹

The problem is international and can not be combated at national level only. All states, including Greece, should promote public awareness through information, education and training about the preventative measures and the harmful effects of the offences of trafficking, prostitution and pornography. The victims should be supported and protected in order to be saved from the offender and should be able to feel that their position will improve and not worsen when they denounce the victimisers. The treatment of victims of trafficking, whose human rights have been infringed, should be the cornerstone of these areas, some of which are:

- i) The briefing of young women and minors who enter the country legally, on the relevant dangers and to which authorities they should apply should they find themselves in conditions depriving them of their freedom, or infringing human rights. The briefing of the financially and socially vulnerable in their countries of origin, is another prerequisite;
- ii) Facilities for the reception of these women should be developed, and the support they should receive if they manage to escape from their victimisers: e.g. health centres with medical

and psychological assistance from specialised personnel, information centres for the reception of victims, endeavours to incorporate them within the receiving country, or else the return to their homeland;

iii) The grant of a special residence permit to illegal immigrants who practice prostitution if they collaborate with the authorities by denouncing their traffickers;

iv) Expulsion-deportation with no concern of what will happen to them when they return home, punishes the victims and mainly eliminates the possibility of their denouncing their exploiters, since there are no witnesses for the prosecution of the procurers when the trial takes place. The protection of victims against traffickers is very important.

v) Money confiscated during investigations by the police should be given to the victims of the procurers so as to enable the former to return in safety to their country of origin and not to be re-introduced to Greece by gangs of traffickers.

vi) Financial assistance to the victims during their stay with a valid residence permit.

vii) The protection of witnesses from harassment by traffickers and procurers. Even when residence permits have been granted to victims who have decided to appear in court as witnesses, both the witness and her family run the risk of falling victims to reprisals from the traffickers.

viii) A new deadline should be set for the registration of women migrants, so that, whoever opts to take advantage of this opportunity may be able to legalise their position in Greece.

Witness protection and relocation programmes are rarely offered for cases involving trafficking. Additionally, while the state may benefit from a woman's testimony because it can lead to a crackdown on organised crime, the benefits to the witness are minimal. The examples of Belgium and the Netherlands where a stay of deportation for the duration of the trial, with no guarantee of residency after proceedings are completed, has to be condemned²³⁰ and the expulsion-deportation without interest of what will happen to them upon return has to be excluded.

4.2.3. MEASURES FOR THE REHABILITATION OF THE VICTIMS²³¹

The problem cannot be dealt with at national level.²³² Assistance must be given to victims of trafficking, prostitution and pornography to facilitate their integration in the countries of destination or social reintegration in the countries of origin and their full physical and psychological recovery. Among these measures are professional training of women and efforts to secure employment for them. UNICEF²³³ suggests the provision of shelter and basic educational services to child victims of sexual exploitation; the UNICEF home for children in Cambodia gives girl-victims the chance to learn a trade from which they can earn their living.

There should be the granting of temporary residence permits to foreign women who entered the country illegally and were engaged in prostitution, whenever they collaborate with the authorities against the traffickers.²³⁴

4.3. OTHER MEASURES²³⁵

Child pornography should be punished as a crime, and the possession of pornographic material should be penalised. Beyond penal sanctions, the social punishment is important. The abnormality of those «respectable» persons should be known by their families and environment. Sexual tourism and child pornography should be combated through international co-operation. Databanks concerning the condemned paedophiles, information campaigns and

the creation of a Lost Children's European Centre are among the necessary measures to be taken.

Preventative measures are needed in the public health sector, for both victims and clients that could become carriers of contagious diseases.

Also needed is the development of mutual trust and cooperation between victims and NGOs, victims and the police and NGOs and the police.

There should be established in each country of a special multidisciplinary council with the participation of representatives of all competent services and personalities from NGOs known to be active in the field and establishment of a European forum where all the national councils will be represented.

We believe that the Swedish, Australian and Canadian laws (see Appendix C) should be studied by all the EU countries in order to combat trafficking.

CONCLUSION

The situation described in this paper shows that trafficking is a violation of fundamental human rights.²³⁶ Women and children trafficked are not only economically exploited, but are also subjected to sexual abuse, violence, maltreatment and other violations. The human rights of women include the right to have control over, and decide freely on, matters relating to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health – free of coercion, discrimination and violence.²³⁷ Trafficking in women for sexual purposes and in children for the commercial sex industry or for forced labour as beggars (and often both) is a serious abuse of their human rights. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child considers that trafficking in children is exploitative and a violation of their human rights. A struggle is needed in order to deal with the miserable reality, to abolish the factors creating trafficking in women and children.²³⁸

Thousands of women and children today live in EU countries under conditions of real slavery, sexual exploitation and degradation. If there exists a social area in modern Europe where the meaning of human rights has lost its significance, it is the area where women and under-age girls and boys are victims of trafficking, Young foreign immigrants, including children who are prostituted by force, suffer new forms of violence and financial exploitation. New systems of indentured labour generate large benefits for agents, procurers, customers and for governments in the countries of origin who are keen to earn foreign exchange. The findings regarding the extent of violence hidden behind trafficking in women and children are tragic. The unfortunate women who left their homeland either with the hope of a better future or who were deceived, misled or worse still who fell victims of kidnapping, live a day nightmare. At 35 years, if they survive, they are old. This situation constitutes the violation of elementary rights of mankind in the modern slave markets.

The ever-increasing collapse of values, with the sole pseudo-value being money, contributes to the continuing and increasing participation of degraded procurers, the depraved employees and the corrupted officials. The turnover from trafficking for prostitution tends to be equivalent to the drugs trade. In many cases, the corruption of police and administration officials is an important factor rendering ineffective the legislation against trafficking in women and children.

There is always a gap between law on the statute books and law in practice. Legally binding commitments are not always respected in practice. Greece and the South European countries present more problems of law enforcement within the EU.

A trafficked person must be treated not as a criminal but as a fully empowered human being. It is important that any attempt to curb trafficking addresses not only law enforcement and immigration authorities, but the need to educate women – particularly young women and those who are economically vulnerable. Those initiatives must be coupled with economic initiatives that provide women and girls at risk with viable alternatives so that they can sustain themselves and their families.²³⁹

Important also is the role of the clients, whose number has greatly increased in recent years, because without the latter there would be no trafficking in women and children. The clients who receive these services bear a great responsibility: while they are aware of the infringement of human rights and the ill-treatment of these women by procurers, with their participation they are partners in the crime of violence.

The costs for victims, their families, the support systems and societies in the country of origin, transit and destination is enormous. This cost is not only high but it cannot be assessed in money: e.g. the families of the victims are under threat, their siblings may have the same fate. The repercussions on the physical and mental health of the victims of trafficking are serious. The victims of trafficking may have contracted AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, abortion complications and other health problems such as hepatitis, tuberculosis, etc. while suicide is common among this group of human beings. Although some trafficked women and children have health certificates showing that they have undergone tests for AIDS which

proved negative, in reality many are HIV positive. This state of affairs has a negative impact on public health.

After a period of callous exploitation, some women manage to save up money from their work. There are also cases of women who have learned the skill of luring others to follow in their footsteps.²⁴⁰

Greek legislation and judicial practice concerning the phenomenon of trafficking in women and children for prostitution is ineffective and unfair. There are light penalties for the procurers and other intermediaries who often remain unpunished; if they reach the courts, the sentences imposed on them are insignificant. Immigrant women, on the other hand, are punished by justice, administration and society with not only penal sanctions, but deportation and stigmatising as well. *Greater priority must be placed on weakening the scope of organised crime, rather than on punishing the actions of victimised women.*

The problem of trafficking in women and minors, girls and boys, with the purpose of leading them to prostitution, is a complex one, besides being an offence against human dignity. The violence and exploitation of these human beings is often over a sustained period of time and is far worse than the exploitation of other illegal immigrants. The problem is indeed complicated and has ramifications on a world wide level and is continually changing while certain of its many facets remain secret.²⁴¹

Public opinion is particularly sensitive about trafficking and sexual exploitation of minors, afraid for its own children, and desiring the immediate solution of this issue. All women's organisations should express, in various ways, their solidarity and their backing to these women victims of this contemporary barbarity. This has been done already in Greece by the League for Women's Rights, the Feminist Initiative Against Forced Prostitution of Alien Women, by the Non Aligned Women's Movement²⁴² and others as well as by NGOs (e.g. organisations for human rights, antiracism organisations etc.). It is also important to denounce state and private mechanisms that compel alien women to become prostitutes as well as denounce their clients who take advantage of this barbarous trade.

The societies of the countries of origin, transit and destination tolerate the existence of the modern slave trade with the help of corrupt policemen, administrators and even politicians. Are they considering agreements condemning trafficking and the new forms of slavery signed by Governments «wishfull thinking?»

How longer will the civilised world tolerate modern slavery which enriches the mafia? The economic and social situation and the position of women in their home country must be improved. The measures taken to combat trafficking and corruption are ineffective. Urgent steps must be taken, not only for reasons of public order and security but also for humanitarian reasons.

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APPENDIX A

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APPENDIX B

INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS AND ACTION CONCERNING TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN

1. BILATERAL AND INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS BEFORE THE CREATION OF THE UN²⁴³

The international agreement for the suppression of white slave traffic signed in Paris in 1904, the International Convention for the suppression of the White Slave Trade (1910) the international convention for the suppression of the traffic of women and children, by the League of Nations signed in Geneva, 1921, the Slavery Convention (1926) the International Convention for the suppression of the traffic in women of full age signed in Geneva, 1933. The two Conventions have been amended by the Protocol signed in Lacey Success the 12 November 1947 and ratified by Greece.

2. THE UNITED NATIONS

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights stipulates that «no one shall be held in slavery or servitude: slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms» (article 4).²⁴⁴ In 1966 it was completed by two International Covenants stipulating that «no one shall be subjected to torture, inhuman or degrading treatment and that slavery and slave trade in all their forms shall be prohibited».²⁴⁵

The 1949 UN convention for the suppression of the traffic in persons and the exploitation of prostitution of others.²⁴⁶ This Treaty does not formulate a definition of trafficking in persons and its main aim is the criminalization and punishment of acts associated with prostitution without much concern about the effective human rights protection of the victims of trafficking in persons.

The 1951 Refugee Convention and both the 1966 International Covenants²⁴⁷ prohibit slavery and the slave trade.

The 1965 International Convention on the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination.²⁴⁸

The declaration on the elimination of discrimination against women²⁴⁹ «all appropriate measures shall be taken to combat all forms of traffic in women and exploitation of prostitution of women (article 8) while the convention under the same title (1979) is a very powerful instrument, signed by most of the member states of United Nations

In 1974 a Declaration on the protection of women and children in Emergency and armed conflict was signed.²⁵⁰

The Convention against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.²⁵¹

The 1959 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of the Child and the 1989 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child²⁵² focused specifically on children and how they should and should not be treated. Article 34 of the convention required the adherents to «undertake to protect the child from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. For these purposes, States shall in particular take all appropriate national, bilateral, and multilateral measures to prevent a) the inducement or coercion of a child to engage in any unlawful sexual

activity, b) the exploitative use of children in prostitution or other unlawful sexual practices». Taken together these measures established an international legal and normative framework against the exploitation of children including sexual exploitation. The Commission on Crime Prevention²⁵³ proposes measures of prevention and punishment of illicit trafficking in children, and requests to conduct a survey on the basis of the existing international conventions analyzing the extent to which children are protected from becoming victims of international trafficking.

The Note by the Secretary General of the Fifty First Session, in October 1996 on the «Sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography»²⁵⁴ focuses on the justice system, law enforcement and problems at the international level such as disparity in the laws of the different countries that may act as an insurmountable barrier to effective prosecution of the offenders.

The United Nations General Assembly in a special session in 2000²⁵⁵ pointed out that in several countries new laws have been introduced or existing laws reformed to protect women from various forms of violence, including trafficking.

The United Nations Women 2000²⁵⁶ considers trafficking a rapidly growing global menace and refers to measures taken to combat it.

The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized crime,²⁵⁷ which addresses trafficking in women and children and migrant smuggling through two Protocols on trafficking in persons and on smuggling of migrants. The Protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in women and children includes the definition of the term trafficking in persons (article 3) and measures to provide the physical, psychological and social recovery of victims of trafficking, including housing, counseling and information, medical, psychological and material assistance, employment, educational and training opportunities (article 6). The Protocol also refers to repatriation of victims(article 8) and the prevention of trafficking in persons (article 9).

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) with many publications²⁵⁸ assists the United Nations in combating trafficking and exploitation of children. UNICEF is guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989).

The United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (ODCCP) the Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) and the Centre for International Crime Prevention (CICP) play an important role in the fight against organised crime²⁵⁹ in general and trafficking in women and children in particular.

Many other UN Resolutions, Reports etc. deal with the subject of violence against women refer to trafficking. A resolution of the Commission on Human Rights²⁶⁰ calls for the elimination of violence against women, in public and private life, of all forms of sexual harassment, exploitation and trafficking. A UN Final Report²⁶¹ considers trafficking in women, as a serious violation of human rights. A preliminary Report²⁶² considers «trafficking of women and children for the purposes of prostitution is a critical barometer of the nature of abuse that takes place within the sex industry. A Resolution of the General Assembly in 1994²⁶³ notes the increasing number of women and girl children who are being victimized by traffickers and acknowledges that trafficking is also victimizing young boys.

There is also a variety of other UN counter-measure strategies ranging from specialist rapporteurs, working groups on contemporary forms of slavery, programmes of action for the prevention of trafficking , to declarations etc.²⁶⁴

3. THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

European Convention of Human Rights (1950) which stipulates that no one shall be held in slavery (article 4) and the European Social Charter (1961) and the International Covenant on civil and political rights constitute the basic texts of the Council of Europe's activities.²⁶⁵

The European Convention on the legal status of migrant workers (1977)²⁶⁶ refers only to «legal» migrants and does not apply to artists, and other entertainers.

Several Recommendations and Resolutions of the Council of Europe refer to social exploitation, pornography and prostitution of young adults and children.²⁶⁷ Among them Recommendation 1065(1987) of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe relative at the sale and other forms of exploitation of children, the Resolution of the 16th Conference of European Ministers of Justice (Lisboa,1988) concerning sexual exploitation, pornography, prostitution and trafficking in children and young women, Recommendation No R(85)11 concerning the position of victims in the framework of the penal law, Recommendation R(89)7 concerning the principles relative to the distribution of videos with pornographic content.

A Seminar held by the Council of Europe²⁶⁸ in 1991 on action against traffic in women and forced prostitution as violation of human rights and human dignity, organized by the European Committee for equality between men and women.

Recommendation No R(91)11 of the Council of Europe points out the preventive and repressive measures concerning trafficking in children and young adults. It concerns sexual exploitation, pornography, prostitution and trafficking in children. The invisibility and mobility of the problem makes the prevention and detection particularly difficult and needs international and interstate cooperation necessary. The production and distribution of child pornography material assuming abuse of the children is considered as an offense punished by law. However, sanctions differ from one country to another. The possibility of pursuing charges against the consumers would facilitate the identification of a) producers and diffusers of the material, b) the children used as «actors» c) the sexual criminals / pedophiles who in general are collectors of such material.

The Optional Protocol²⁶⁹ to the United Nations Convention on the rights of the child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography of the Council of Europe stipulates that each State Party shall ensure that sexual exploitation, transfer of organs of the child for profit, and engagement of the child in forced labor are fully covered under its criminal or penal law, whether these offenses are committed domestically or transnationally or on an individual or organized basis.

The European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC) has agreed international cooperation between Member States for the protection of children undergoing or at risk of inhuman treatment, with the aim to prevent all forms of exploitation including child pornography.²⁷⁰

At a hearing organised by the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men in Paris, 2 April 2001, participants were informed of how Albanian women were sexually tortured and psychologically broken down before being «auctioned off like animals» to cater for the sex industry in wealthy West European countries.²⁷¹

4. EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES- EUROPEAN UNION

The European Convention on Human Rights (1950) refers to the respect of human rights. Exploitation of women through trafficking and subsequent forced labour certainly constitutes a form of, at least, inhuman and degrading treatment.²⁷² Title VI of the Maastricht Treaty (1992 entered in force in November 1993) also refers to the respect of human rights, although this belongs to the competence of the member States and makes special provisions in the field of justice and home affairs, which include immigration, drug addiction and cooperation in civil, penal custom and police fields, leading to the establishment of a formal co-operation structure for customs and police matters, as well as for criminal and judicial issues.²⁷³

In 1997 EU Council adopted the Joint Action to combat trafficking in human beings and sexual exploitation of children and in 2001 the EU Commission proposals for a Council Framework decision on trafficking in human beings.²⁷⁴

On 24 February 1997 the Council adopted a Joint Action concerning action to combat trafficking in human beings and the sexual exploitation of children (OJ L 063. 4-3-1997) . Article

29 of the Treaty of Amsterdam contains an explicit reference to trafficking in persons and offences against children. The Vienna Action Plan (OJ L 138 9.6.2000) and the Tampere European Council also clearly called for further legislative action against sexual exploitation of children. Legislative action is also indicated in the Commission's Scoreboard. (COM(2000)167 Final, 24-3-2000). On 29 May 2000 the Council adopted a decision to combat child pornography in the Internet (EE K 138/1, 9-6-2000). The Commission has proposed two framework decisions on combating trafficking in human beings and the sexual exploitation of children. Some of the main issues are the definition of the word child, which include any person below eighteen years of age; the definition of child pornography, the possession of pornographic material which should be criminalised, the uniform framework of penalties in Member States, the protection of the victim, the information and training of bodies involved, as well as dissuasion and prevention mechanisms.²⁷⁵

The EU Charter on Fundamental Rights (2000)²⁷⁶ refers to the prohibition of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (article 4) and to the prohibition of slavery and forced labour (article 5).

The Commission of the European Communities with two communications²⁷⁷ to the Council and European Parliament refers on trafficking in women and lists measures taken by international organizations UN, IOM, Council of Europe and Interpol and makes recommendations for further action. Numerous recommendations to EU member states call for continuing and new activities including support to new preventive information campaigns in countries of origin and transit. Developments of joint projects between the Commission and international and regional organizations, research on the participation of intermediaries in the trafficking chain, including clients of prostitution, training of migration officials, arrangement for temporary residence permits for trafficked women acting as witnesses.

A communication by Commissioner Anita Gradin on Trafficking in women for the purpose of sexual exploitation whose aim was to promote a coherent European approach to this issue, including measures to improve international and European co-operation and putting measures in place at national level.²⁷⁸

The European Council has adopted a joint action extending the mandate given to Europol Drug Unit's to include trafficking in human beings, especially in women and children.²⁷⁹

The STOP Programme²⁸⁰ for sharing information among member states in trade in human beings and the sexual exploitation of children.

A communication including effective steps to combat child pornography in Internet and a Green paper on the protection of minor and human dignity were adopted by the European Commission on 16 October 1996.²⁸¹

Also has to be mentioned the SHERLOCK Programme run by the European Commission with a view of making more effective the action against false papers used especially by clandestine immigration networks.²⁸²

A pre-accession Pact on organised crime between the Member States of the EU and the applicant countries of Central and Eastern Europe and Cyprus was approved on May 1998. The main purpose of this Pact is to develop a joint annual strategy to identify the most significant measures against organised crime.²⁸³

The European Commissioner responsible for Employment and Social Affairs²⁸⁴ believes that it is shameful that at the beginning of the 21st century the public debate on the whole issue of violence against women has barely begun.

The Justice and Home Affairs co-operation structure is discussing guidelines and measures for prevention against organised crime with a view to establishing a global strategy against it.²⁸⁵

The European Drug Unit (EDU) set up in 1993, was a first step towards establishment of EUROPOL. Among the criminal activities covered were illegal drug trafficking, crimes involving clandestine immigration networks, illicit vehicle trafficking, and since 1996 trafficking in human

beings.²⁸⁶ The EUROPOL Convention entered in force on 1998 - among other activities- is charged with combating illicit trafficking in human beings and child pornography.

In their meeting on 28-29 May 2001 the Ministers of Justice and of Home Affairs of the EU Member countries agreed to the provisions on several texts aimed at combating irregular migration including migrant smuggling in the Balkan States. Among those a Draft Framework decision on combating trafficking in human beings.²⁸⁷

5. INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION (ILO)

The ILO Convention 105 concerning Forced Labour.²⁸⁸

The unanimous adoption in June 1999 of the Convention No 182 on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour by the International Labour Conference of the ILO²⁸⁹ offers enormous leverage in ending the worst forms of child labour. These include such practices as child slavery, the forced recruitment of child soldiers, forced labour, trafficking, debt bondage, serfdom, prostitution, pornography and various forms of hazardous and exploitative work which is likely to harm the health, safety or moral's of children.(article 3)²⁹⁰

6. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)²⁹¹

Since its beginnings IOM has maintained and developed standing relationships with the United Nations in the fields of migration and refugees and has signed cooperation agreements. e.g. the Cooperation Agreement in 1995. With several publications such as reports, and Reviews (International Migration, IOM News, Trafficking in Migrants) analyses and refers to the problem of trafficking in general, and in women and children in particular. In collaboration with other International Organizations organizes Conferences e.g. the European Conference on Trafficking in Women in Vienna 10-11 June 1996.

Extremely important are the counter-trafficking services IOM : a) Provides: shelter and assistance for victims of trafficking, in collaboration with NGO, international organizations and government agencies. Legal and medical counseling and assistance to trafficked persons in cooperation with NGOs, Ministries or other concerned parties. b) Offers voluntary return and reintegration assistance and mass information campaigns in the countries of origin in an effort to make potential migrants aware of the risks of irregular migration and trafficking. c) organizes training to increase the capacity of governmental and other institutions to counteract trafficking in migrants, d) undertakes research to focus attention on the problem of trafficking e) organizes seminars and forum activities in order to raise general awareness on trafficking.

7. OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Numerous Agencies concern trafficking to be a matter of priority. We cite among others a) Agencies in Policing such as INTERPOL ²⁹² which has a membership of 178 countries each one having a National Crime Bureau (NCB) and is increasingly involved since the mid 90s with smuggling and trafficking in human beings. b) Human Rights Agencies e.g. Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International etc.

APPENDIX C

NATIONAL LEGISLATIONS

I. OVERSEAS LEGISLATION

US President Clinton in 1998 issued a Presidential Directive in steps to combat violence against women and trafficking in women and girls. Among measures envisaged were greater efforts to protect victims, partnership with non-governmental groups, more effective use of criminal law, enhanced cooperation with source, transit and destination countries and public awareness campaigns.²⁹³

US Congress²⁹⁴ recognizes the need for improved legislation to combat trafficking with the Trafficking Victims protection Act (1999).

In Australia offenses involving sexual slavery entail 25 years imprisonment. Canada also penalizes the client, especially in cases of street prostitution.²⁹⁵

2. SOME EUROPEAN LEGISLATION ON TRAFFICKING

In all European countries and particularly those belonging to the EU, laws exist regarding the suppression of trafficking and penalizing the traffickers. Prostitution is covered by legislation. It is not considered as a criminal act, but its practice is regulated.²⁹⁶ In all EU countries slave-trade-procurers are acquitted when they are arrested, they receive very light penalties, almost negligible in comparison with those imposed on drug traffickers, whereas their victims are disparaged and spurned, and expelled after a summary procedure.

Only the client is not taken into account but in fact is protected by legislation. However, if there were no clients there would be no business. Contemporary legislators in all countries except Sweden do not dare modernize the law, the courts have to cope with an out-dated legislation.

According to the legislation in the Netherlands (1993) and Belgium (1995), victims are entitled to a temporary visa and protection if they press charges against a trafficker and they may subsequently apply for a permanent residence permit. However, this legislation has been criticized because the victim has to prove that she has been forced into prostitution and the victims have the right to stay in the host country only until the end of the trial and then they are deported. Even when there are efforts to combat trafficking and traffickers, women-victims are often afraid to testify against those who have been exploiting and abusing them – a reluctance that is even greater in those societies where the women are treated as the perpetrators rather than as victims of crime.²⁹⁷

In the Netherlands²⁹⁸ prostitution in itself is not an offence. Neither women nor men can be prosecuted for it and customers can not be prosecuted for soliciting. Running a brothel and giving opportunity to prostitution is a crime. As in most EU countries, criminal prosecution is not taking place. French sociologist M.V.Louis criticizes the Dutch legislation placed under the sign of «tolerance» and considers the exploitation of the human body as a right in the international sex market for the greatest satisfaction of clients and pimps.²⁹⁹ The Netherlands NGO Payoke³⁰⁰ points out that most traffickers spend only two or three years in prison and they are not deported after serving their sentences. The criminals stop at nothing, systematically intimidating social workers to deter from helping their victims.

Some European countries provide victims of trafficking with temporary shelter, legal assistance, medical treatment e.g. Belgium with a pilot project since 1996³⁰¹ and Italy.³⁰²

Sweden is the only country to have passed a law (408/1998 in force since 1-1-1999) prohibiting the purchase of sexual services and foreseeing the punishment of the clients. Any man arrested soliciting sexual intercourse with a prostitute is liable to pay a fine or to be imprisoned for 6 months.³⁰³ This law is applied anywhere: in the streets, in brothels, in private clubs, in massage institutes and it aims at limiting violence against women. Before the application of the law the Police has placed video-cameras in Stockholm's district of ill repute in order to track down law breakers. This law punishes the demand and not the offer. Swedish legislators believe that the woman is the victim who has suffered and has been humiliated enough.³⁰⁴

The important fact is that more and more countries are criminalizing sexual abuse of children by their citizens while overseas. In addition some of the countries in which sex tourism is most rampant have begun to adopt a more primitive approach, sentencing to prison foreigners for child abuse.³⁰⁵

3. THE GREEK LEGISLATION AND JUDICIAL PRACTICE

A. GREEK LEGISLATION

In Greece prostitution is not considered as a criminal act but it is regulated by law. The basic law 1193/1981 concerns sexually transmitted diseases, and requires several conditions for the legal profession of prostitution. Greek law requires the registration of all women working in prostitution, imposing the obligation of weekly medical examinations. Non registered prostitutes are considered to be guilty of an illegal act.³⁰⁶

However, very few women want the word «prostitute» to appear on their identity card. Besides, more foreign women living in the country legally, practice their profession «illegally». Thus a clandestine market has been created which is mostly made up of migrant women who flee from weekly controls. Therefore they undergo all the persecutions entailed by the illegal practice of a legal profession.

Articles 348-351 of the Greek Penal Code³⁰⁷ deal with the phenomenon of trafficking and sexual exploitation of women and minors in Greece. More specifically article 348 refers to those who by profession facilitate third parties to commit sexual assault, an offense punishable by up to 1 year's imprisonment, and the penalty for the same crime is up to 3 years' imprisonment plus a fine if deceitful means have been used, even if the procurer is not acting by profession. The hotel owner is also considered to have committed this offense, as well as the press that publishes «porno-ads» provoking the public to make telephone calls, and carry on conversations, arrange meetings with the aim to commit debauchery. Article 349 refers to procurement. The procurer is sentenced to prison for 9 months up to 3 years. This sentence is enhanced when the victim is under 16 years of age, or when the crime has been committed by the use of deceptive means, or by a relative by blood or marriage. Article 351 refers to the crime of trafficking in human beings, punishable by 1-3 years imprisonment, plus a fine with possible extension to 5 years for the offense of women trade. The crime of procurement comprises a) the procurement of minors and their corruption and b) procurement as a profession or for profit, of women to work as prostitutes. Aggravating circumstances are: the procurement of minors under 16 years of age, the crime being committed by deceptive means, by close relatives of a minor, or by other persons closely affiliated with the victim. As regards trafficking in women to work as prostitutes, the perpetrator may be any person regardless of sex, whereas the victim has to be an adult woman. The offender acts by profession when he/she does so with the purpose of obtaining a source of livelihood from the repetition of the act. He/she works as a speculator when he/she enjoys an income from procuring. Consequently from the above it transpires that procurement is a punishable offence and its penal confrontation varies according to each case.

Law 2374/1999³⁰⁸ renders unfeasible the legality of the so-called «oldest profession». Among the many prerequisites needed for a certificate-permit, one is the non existence of any condemnation for certain crimes. Besides, the distance from other buildings, squares etc. required in order to establish the activity on question, is such that it is improbable to find a suitable site in any town. This law also penalizes women working as prostitutes without certificates in imprisonment up to 2 years. The procurers take advantage of these conditions of lawlessness to develop the activities of their network. They find the opportunity to offer what is not legally available.

According to recent legal reforms (Law 2710/2001/FEK.A.91)³⁰⁹ the foreigner until his/her deportation is detained in special premises. This law has changed for the better the administration deportation procedure (see articles 44-46). Article 44.7 regulates the deportation of alien women, victims of forced prostitution. In case these women have brought a charge against their procurer, the former's deportation may be suspended by order of the public prosecutor until there has been a final decision on the legal complaint made by the women victims. These women are also to be exceptionally provided with residence permits.

The traffickers-procurers waiting for their trial are free. When arrested and imprisoned their collaborators continue «the job» and themselves after jail go on the same «business».

The research report on illegal migration and crime³¹⁰ referring to court statistics has shown that in 1996 statistics among 240 cases of sexual offenses 9.6% refer to procuring and 90.4% to illegal prostituting. The procurers were ethnic Greeks: Greek Pontians constitute the bridge for the trafficking in women coming from the former URSS.

Child pornography raises difficult questions which will not be resolved quickly.

Some jurisdictions ³¹¹define child pornography rather broadly and trusting in the discretionary processes of the Criminal Justice system to do the right thing.

In Greece child pornography³¹² is not dealt with by the provisions of the Greek legislation as an independent offense. It is regulated by article 29 of Law 5060/31 «types of insult one's honor» as modified by L.D. 2493/53. The Law 2328/1995 about the legal status of Television and radio (article 14 refers to the protection of minors) and from article 348 of the Penal Code (leading a third party to debauchery). The possession of material with child pornography is not considered as a criminal act according to the Penal Code. However Greece is bound by the Recommendation R(91)11 of the Council of Europe on sexual exploitation of children and pornography.³¹³ A Commission on Child Pornography is working in the year 2001 and probably soon the possession of pornographic material will be considered as a criminal, punishable act.

The report of the Greek Police³¹⁴ has shown that in Greece only 5 cases of child pornography material through the Internet have been investigated after denunciations made by foreign authorities. In only one case was a charge brought.

The newspapers³¹⁵ refer to some cases of child pornography with foreign children even coming from the United States. However most of the cases are hidden and the extension of the problem is unknown.

As a University professor³¹⁶ points out Greek legislation serves organized trafficking and facilitates the traffickers exploiting, blackmailing and forcing to remain silent the victims. Sometimes the criminals are collaborating with corrupted policemen in order to keep the discipline among the women they exploit and often the authorities without willing and knowing facilitate the traffickers e.g. by arresting and deporting women that for several reasons they do not want any more. If this situation does not change organized crime will develop and the victims will remain silent and miserable.

The Penal Code has to be reviewed under the light of the new social conditions and the extension of men prostitution, because the above mentioned articles refer only to women.³¹⁷

Law 2721/1999, mentioned above, will hurry the usual victim, the prostitute, and strengthen the position of the exploiters.

B. THE GREEK JUDICIAL PRACTICE

A survey³¹⁸ has shown that in 1989-1990 the courts of Attica have imposed sentences for procurement in 5 cases (2 men and 6 women) for trafficking in 2 cases, for facilitating a third party to debauchery 6 cases (4 men and 5 women).

A survey³¹⁹ on the judicial practice of the phenomenon of procurement-sexual exploitation of women where a large proportion of victims of procurement (36,6%) and trafficking (60%) were of foreign nationality, chiefly Albanian and a most of them live in Greece illegally showed how vulnerable these women-victims are, as well as the very light sentences imposed on the procurers. The main conclusions of this survey are that: i) in most cases more than one victim is involved and in several cases more than one perpetrator ii) it is a form of organized crime that had not assumed large proportions until 1996 iii) in the Athens area and in Piraeus, 499 illegal brothels were spotted, iv) Procurers and victims belong to the lower socio-economic strata, members of the underworld, with no harmonious family life, v) the procurers practise by profession the procurement and sexual exploitation of the women, vi) in one out of 10 cases the police are involved as well, vii) the overwhelming majority of the perpetrators are Greek, viii) there is a close relationship between the procurers and their victims, usually lovers, even sometimes married couples, ix) very few cases come to the knowledge of the police and even fewer reach the law courts, x) most of the court cases end in verdicts of guilt and the sentences imposed to the procurers vary from 1 to 3 years plus fine, xi) disclosures of these crimes are very rarely the result of charges brought by the victims, xii) most of the procurers are married men, residents of Athens, whereas most of the victims are unmarried women.

A Survey³²⁰ on how third party debauchery is made easy via the press (porno-ads or the so called in Greece «pink advertisement» showed that in 1995 there were two verdicts of guilt issued regarding newspaper owners, but in the case of 15 other verdicts the accused were acquitted, and in 2 cases the court was pronounced «non competent».

According the survey on illegal migration and crime in 1996 the sentences passed on the defendants charged with procuring ranged from 1 to 4 years.³²¹

C. THE NATIONAL COMMISSION OF GREECE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS³²²

Founded by Law 2667/1996 is aiming to counsel the Greek State on human rights issues and includes a Section for the implementation of Human rights to foreigners.

APPENDIX D

TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN: CONFERENCES, INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGNS AND PROGRAMMES, CITIZENS' GROUPS

The United Nations General Assembly in a special session of the year 2000³²³ pointed out that in several countries new laws have been introduced or existing laws reformed to protect women from various forms of violence, including trafficking.

1. INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGNS AND PROGRAMMES

IOM³²⁴ has implemented information campaigns since the early 1990s, conducted in partnership with governmental authorities, NGOs, media and research institutions. The first campaigns were multi-year programs targeted in all potential migrants: in Romania (1992-1996) and in Albania (1992-1995). IOM has conducted similar campaigns in Philippines (1997-1999) Vietnam (1998-1999) and Ukraine (1998) in Czech Republic, Hungary and Bulgaria. Testimonies of victims of trafficking have proved to be most effective. In the Philippines campaign a theatre performance was used to convey the direct experiences of trafficked women. Information campaigns are a useful element for humanitarian action.

The Center for International Crime Prevention (CICP)³²⁵ in cooperation with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) has initiated a global program to enable governments and the international community to respond to trafficking in human beings, which is a transnational crime.

European Union's action against trafficking of women and children for sexual exploitation, has been realised by STOP Programme³²⁶ (6,5 m ecus 1996-2000) by financing activities involving judges, public prosecutors, police departments, immigration officials, civil servants and other concerned public officials. The agreement of the Justice and Home Affairs on a joint action of the EU countries to combat trafficking in human beings and their sexual exploitation³²⁷

Various Community programs such as the DAPHNE Program (prevention of violence and protection of victims women and children), Leonardo (Development of training policy to assist victims, Integra (assist with retraining of victims find an alternative work, The prevention of AIDS and Health programmes), PHARE (Central and Eastern Europe), TACIS (Newly independent states) Women in development Budget –line , MEDA (Democracy Mediterranean Basin (North Africa) could be used. ³²⁸

UNICEF ³²⁹ suggests the provision of education and social services for children victims of social exploitation such as those provided by a children's home in the streets in Cambodia under the auspices of IOM. This programme gives the opportunity to young girls victims of

social exploitation to learn a profession giving her the opportunity to earn money and inspiring them the sense of safety and confidence in their future.

2. CONFERENCES REFERRING TO TRAFFICKING

In different conferences held in different parts of the world are included proposals to combat trafficking. Among the numerous conferences on trafficking we cite the most important.

In all the World Conferences on Women the subject was discussed and measures were proposed. a) in Mexico(1975)³³⁰ «specific legislative and other measures should be taken to combat prostitution and illicit traffic in women especially young girls. Cooperation with international bodies and non Governmental organizations to prevent such practices and rehabilitate the victims», b) in Copenhagen (1980)³³¹ they refer to the «exploitation of others and traffic in persons» c) in Nairobi (1985)³³² was stipulated that «forced prostitution is a form of slavery imposed on women by procurers» d) in the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing³³³ the problems of violence against and trafficking in women for sexual exploitation were examined and the effective suppression of trafficking for the sex trade was considered as «a matter of pressing international concern».

The World Conference on Human Rights³³⁴ held in Vienna in June 1993, stipulates «Gender based violence and all forms of sexual harassment and exploitation including those resulting from cultural prejudice and international trafficking are incompatible with the dignity and worth of human person must be eliminated».

A World Ministerial Conference on organised transnational crime held in Naples in 1994 adopted a political declaration and Global Action Plan against organised transnational crime.³³⁵

The conference held in 1995 in the Netherlands³³⁶ examined the problem of trafficking in women and measures to prevent and combat it. The UN Commission on Crime prevention and Criminal Justice,³³⁷ considers that violence against women violates both human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The EU Conference on Trafficking in women for sexual exploitation organized by the European Commission and IOM in Vienna (10-11 June 1996) which brought together government representatives, European Parliamentarians, NGO's and other agencies, working in the area. This Conference reflected a significant shift of thinking, that is the recognition of the growing trend of trafficking in women for the purpose of prostitution, since only six months previously a preparatory meeting between Member States representatives, some participants have claimed that the problem was not relevant to all member states of the UN and there were only sporadic cases in some countries. In this Conference they discussed the problem and formulated concrete recommendations for action to combat trafficking in women for sexual exploitation and to provide assistance to its victims.³³⁸

In 1997 has been held in Manila an International Conference on trafficking and sexual exploitation of women and children³³⁹

Conference of Ministers on the prevention of illegal migration , in Prague on October 1997.³⁴⁰

The European Union has agreed on a plan to protect foreign women trafficked and forced into prostitution at a Ministerial Conference in the Hague³⁴¹ in 1997, emphasizing that women exploited by traffickers should be treated as victims rather than criminals. This conference resulted in a Declaration on European guidelines for effective measures to prevent and combat trafficking of women for the purpose of sexual exploitation. This covered cooperation at international and European level, and action to be taken at national level on prevention, investigation, prosecution and assistance to support victims. Some EU countries have centers for reception and rehabilitation if the victims.

The Working Group meetings held in Vienna (1998) and in Bratislava (1999) on the relationship between organized crime and trafficking in aliens recommended bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the field of tackling the phenomena of trafficking and smuggling.³⁴²

The World Congress Against sexual exploitation of children held in Stockholm in 1996 and the International Conference on Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Women and

Children which took place in Manila on 6-7 November 1997 concluded at some mechanisms which need strengthening.³⁴³ The convocation in Stockholm of this Congress, emphasized the protection of children through more effective laws against child trafficking, child pornography as well as the provision of hotlines, mobile services and shelters; the recovery and reintegration of children, the collection and diffusion of information regarding all aspects of the problem and appropriate responses; and international cooperation at all levels.³⁴⁴

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation³⁴⁵ (SAARC) prepared in 2000 a draft for a convention on combating trafficking in women and children. In the Philippines³⁴⁶ the week 12-18 January 1996 was marked as Child Sexual Abuse Awareness Week.

The United Nations General Assembly in a special session the year 2000³⁴⁷ pointed out that in several countries new laws have been introduced or existing laws reformed to protect women from various forms of violence, including trafficking.

3. CITIZENS GROUPS

Fourteen women foreign Ministers expressed their support to measures against trafficking in a letter addressed to the UN Secretary General Kofi Annan³⁴⁸ thanked him for focusing international attention on trafficking and stated: «We recognize the importance of close international cooperation to defeat the traffickers at every stage of their criminal activities».

Citizens groups have been extremely successful in raising public awareness of issues relating to the sexual exploitation of women and especially children for instance ECPAT (End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism), the United States National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the Netherlands Hotline for Child Pornography on the Internet, etc. Groups such as Ethical Hackers Against Paedophilia might threaten the use of techniques, often illegal, to disable the computers of those suspected in child pornography. However, because of its questionable legality, such activity is not officially encouraged.³⁴⁹

IMARD (International Movement against all forms of discrimination and racism) has launched an international project against trafficking in women in East and South East Asia in recognition that the victims of trafficking are discriminated against in many ways and deserve special attention. The project aims to collect and exchange information on how to empower victims and potential victims, to clarify the root causes and build awareness, to study the strategies of transnational criminal networks and means to combat them.³⁵⁰

Several Organizations e.g. the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women³⁵¹ l'Office Central pour la Répression de la Traite des Etres Humains, created by General de Gaulle in France, fight against the systematic organized abuse of the victims.

Even individuals struggle against trafficking. According to the newspapers³⁵² in Albania, a woman with the nickname Albanian Robin Hood, Vera Lesco, makes investigations in order to stop trafficking in women and minors. She visits the residence of poor families informing them, meets young girls living secretly for Italy, facing alone new unscrupulous wild men decided to limit her actions by threatening her. She informs the police, the families and the press.

In Greece Women's organisations such as the League for Women's Rights, the Feminist Initiative Against Forced Prostitution of Alien Women, the Non Aligned Women's Movement and others as well as by NGOS (e.g. organisations for human rights, antiracism organisations etc.) struggle against trafficking and express their solidarity to women and children victims.

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- ²⁹⁵ «What happens in Sweden and in Canada», *To Vima*, 15 May 2000 («Τι συμβαίνει σε Σουηδία και Καναδά», *Το Βήμα*, 15 Μαΐου 2000.)
- ²⁹⁶ S.Edwards, 1997, pp.57-82 describes the law regulating domestic prostitution, soliciting, procurement and pimping, the consumers, in England and Wales.- N.Christodoulou, 1992-1993. For instance the Greek Law 1193/1981 requires age of 21, declaration to the police, regular medical examinations, and forbids the functioning of brothels.
- ²⁹⁷ Ph.Williams, 197b, p.156.
- ²⁹⁸ B.Bruinsma , G. Meershoek, 1997, pp. 106-107.
- ²⁹⁹ M.V.Louis, 1997, p.8.

- ³⁰⁰ Y.Gery, 1999.
- ³⁰¹ *Trafficking in migrants*, 10, March 1996, p.4.
- ³⁰² G.Campani, 1998.- Council of Europe, 2001.
- ³⁰³ A.Jacob, «The problematic business of love», *To Vima*, (Le Monde) 22 January, 1999. («Η προβληματική επιχείρηση του έρωτα», *Το Βήμα* (Le Monde) , 24 Ιανουαρίου 1999.-) «Prostitution accused», *Exousia*, 10 June, 1998 («Η πορνεία στο εδώλιο», *Εξουσία*, 20 Ιουνίου 1998).
- ³⁰⁴ «Persecution of clients», *Ta Nea*, 22 October, 1998 («Διωγμός πελατών πορνείας» *Τα Νέα*, 22 Οκτωβρίου 1998.)
- ³⁰⁵ Ph.Williams, 1997b, pp.166-167. Thailand sentenced a German citizen to 43 years and le the Philippines an Australian to 17 years imprisonment.
- ³⁰⁶ For instance the Greek Law 1193/1981 article 6 Chapter B and C requires age of 21, declaration to the police, regular medical examinations, and forbids the functioning of brothels. See also Chapters B and C.- K.Spinelli, 1992, p.195.- N.Christodoulou, 1992-1993.- A.Roumeliotou H.Kornarou, 2001. P.Covre and R.Paradiso, 2001.
- ³⁰⁷ Greek Penal Code, articles 348-351.- K.Spinelli, 1992, pp. 197
- ³⁰⁸ 2734/1999,art.5 par.1^α.- N.Paraskevopoulos, 2000a.- N.Paraskevopoulos, 2000b.
- ³⁰⁹ Article 74 par.4 of Penal Code added in the Penal Code with Law 2721/1999.- See N.Paraskevopoulos, 2000b.- N.Sitaropoulos, 2001.
- ³¹⁰ A.Papantoniou et als, 1998, p.72.Among 36 women 2 were Albanian, 7 Greek, 1 Polish, 3 Russian, 1 Rwanda, 4 stateless, 18 Ukranian,
- ³¹¹ A.Grant et als., 1997, pp.174-175.e.g. Australian National Classification Code, Criminal Code of Canada.
- ³¹² See the above mentioned laws and A.Manganas, 1998, p.36-37.
- ³¹³ Conseil de l'Europe, 1993.
- ³¹⁴ Greek Police, 2000a, 200b..
- ³¹⁵ «Βρέθηκε το βράδυ στη Θεσσαλονίκη η ανήλικη Αμερικανίδα» *Το Βήμα*, 1 Φεβρουαρίου 2001.
- ³¹⁶ N.Panayotopoulos, 2000 a and b.
- ³¹⁷ A.Μαγγανάς,1994, σελ. 15.
- ³¹⁸ N.Christodoulou 1992-1993 (mimeo)
- ³¹⁹ A. Tsingris, 1998a, pp. 23-31. With a sample of 49 court decisions of the competent Court of Athens, during the period 1991-1996.
- ³²⁰ A.Manganas, 1998, pp.35-39. Third party debauchery via the press is a new kind of hedonism that does not come under the provisions of art.348 of the Penal Code because indecent sexual assault requires bodily contact and has to be practiced by profession. This however is not the sole topic of the newspapers. The porno-calls are considered as auto-gratification caused by sound coming from a foreign country. The so called pink telephones is considered in Greece as autosatisfaction listening from a foreign country. (αυτοικανοποίηση δι' ακουσμάτων από ξένη χώρα).
- ³²¹ A.Papantoniou et als, 1998, p. 72-73
- ³²² National Commission of Greece for Human Rights. 2000.
- ³²³ United Nations General Assembly Special Session, 2000, p.8.

- ³²⁴ «Information campaigns against trafficking», *Trafficking in migrants*, 20, December 1999-January 2000, p.1.- Focus on the Balkans», *Trafficking in Migrants*, IOM, 22, Autumn, 2000, p.2. See also *Trafficking in Migrants, Quarterly Bulletin*, different issues 1995-2000.
- ³²⁵ «Trafficking in human beings», *Update*, January 2000.
- ³²⁶ S.Waddington, 2000.
- ³²⁷ Joint Action 97/700/JHA. Official Journal L.63, Feb.24, 1997 in P.Turnbull, 1997, p.205,212.
- ³²⁸ S.Waddington, 2000.
- ³²⁹ Unicef, 2000a, σελ.7.
- ³³⁰ «Report of the World Conference of the International Women's Year, Mexico City, in: United Nations, 1995, p.191.
- ³³¹ «Report of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace», held in Copenhagen from 14 to 30 July, 1980, in: United Nations, 1995, p.274.
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- ³³⁵ Budapest Group, 1999 (Mimeo).
- ³³⁶ Trafficking in women for sexual exploitation purposes, Netherlands. 4-5 December 1995.
- ³³⁷ UN, Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Report of the Session, 21-31 May, 1996, Report of the Economic and Social Council. Supplement 10, Draft Resolution III, p.17.
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- ³³⁹ «Philippines», *Trafficking in migrants*, 17, December 1998., p.5.
- ³⁴⁰ Budapest Group , 1999 (mimeo). Held in the Context of the Budapest Process.
- ³⁴¹ The Hague Ministerial Declaration on European Guidelines for effective measures to prevent and combat trafficking in women for the purpose of sexual exploitation, April 1997.- *Trafficking in Migrants*, 15, June 1997, p. 4.- Budapest Group, 1999 (mimeo).
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