Networking Against Trafficking in Women and Girls

Trafficking in women and girls for the purpose of sexual exploitation in the form of prostitution, pornography, escorts, and such is a growing phenomenon in Europe and throughout the world. As a result of poverty and limited work opportunities, young women from the developing world, and increasingly, from Eastern Europe, leave their countries in search of work. These women become prey to traffickers who promise such work as dancing or as hostesses. Instead, these women end up living in slave-like conditions, under the full control of the profiteer/pimp.

To address this growing problem, Kvinnoforum runs a networking project against trafficking.

Objectives

To raise awareness on trafficking in women and girls.
To build a network nationally and regionally around the Baltic Sea across organisational, geographical and ideological boarders.
To develop strategies and specific activities to counteract trafficking and support the victims thereof.

Projects

Current Activities for Kvinnoforum’s Trafficking project:

Managing a collaboration between Swedish Authorities to improve support to victims of trafficking.
Carrying out a mission from the Swedish Foreign Ministry to assist organising Conference on Rehabilitation of victims of trafficking in Bangkok in September 2003.
Kvinnoforum UNFPAs trafficking expert: On the 2nd-4th of October Kvinnoforum co-ordinated a strategic workshop concerning strategies for work against trafficking for the UNFPA in Bratislava, Slovakia. Board members Anita Gradin and Bam Björling and project manager Carolina Wennerholm participated. It was concluded at the workshop that trafficking needs to be addressed as a development problem and that the elimination of the demand must be prioritised in future policy-work. Read the press-release from UNFPA here. Kvinnoforum wrote the background documentation for the meeting and will put together the final documentation. This material will be published by the UNFPA before the end of the year.

Caritas: On the 6th of September Kvinnoforum arranged a seminar concerning the social efforts in favour of the victims of trafficking. Around 40 participants from authorities departments, NGOs, women’s shelters and media representatives took part. Kvinnoforum presented an overview mapping the social protection for victims of trafficking - women, girls and boys - in Sweden today. 67 parties are included in the overview. The seminar and the report is part of a European project with 8 participating countries co-ordinated by Caritas Diocesana in Rome and financed by EU/STOP II. The Ministry of Health and Social Affairs has decided to partly finance the project. An English summary of the report can be downloaded here (in rtf-format). See also the web site of the entire STOP II project run by Caritas Roma: http://www.sysma4.com/stop/

World Child Foundation: Together with Swedish Ministry of Helth and Social Affairs’s "Special Group on Children at Risk at the Baltic Sea Region", the World Child Foundation and Swedish Save the children, Kvinnoforum has developed project-ideas for preventive and rehabilitating work with girls in Vilnius, Lithuania. A network co-operation started with a roundtable-conference in Vilnius April 2002. The Swedish Migration Board: A cooperation between Kvinnoforum, The Swedish Migration Board Region Stockholm and Swedish Save the Children started in 2002. Together they produced a training in gender-knowledge and developed tools for the Migration board to handle victims of violence against women and trafficking. With Funding from EU.

"Resource Book for Working Against Trafficking in Women and Girls, Baltic Sea Region" The third edition of the resource book was released in February 2002. The book is aimed as a tool for different actors working against Trafficking in and around the Baltic Sea Area. The book is a result of the
cooperation between six different organisations working against Trafficking. The Swedish Ministry of Foreign affairs financed the resource book.

During 2001 Kvinnoforum continued its networking activities in the region:

- Networking: telephone, e-mail advice, meetings and conversations
- Travel and visits to organisations, researchers and authorities in the region
- Seminars and workshops
- Continuous contact with media
- Continuous update of web site
- Continuous dissemination of information through Q Web, globally and nationally
- Expert advice

With funding from the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

1999-2000 "Training and Capacity Building against Trafficking in the Baltic Sea Region". This project was based on the identified need of capacity and training in trafficking among NGOs in the Baltic Sea Region and has focused on the development of workshops, national networks and resource centres. Kvinnoforum extended its co-operation with one NGO in each participating country:

- Monika, Multicultural Women’s Association, Finland
- PRO-centre, Denmark
- AIDS information and Support Centre AIDSI TUGIKESKUS, Estonia
- Latvian Gender Problem Centre, Latvia
- Lithuanian Women’s NGO "PRAITIES PEDOS", Lithuania

These have been appointed as National Focal Points and during the year they conducted a training workshop for NGOs, authorities (ex. police, social well fare units) and other interested parties on trafficking. Each workshop resulted in the identification of a national network for continuous work against trafficking. The situation and interest in this work varies between the countries and thus the focus of the workshop varied somewhat. The partner organisations have also served as information and resource centres on issues related to trafficking. Activities include lectures, networking, telephone questions, e-mail advice, meetings and conversations, continuous contact with media (press conferences, interviews, contact advice), continuous update of web site, continuous dissemination of information to network members through the web, globally and nationally and expert advice. With funding from the European Commission's Daphne initiative Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

1998-1999 "Crossing Borders against Trafficking in the Baltic Sea Region". Network building in the Baltic and Nordic Countries. In partnership with Latvian Gender Problem Centre and Monica-Multicultural Women’s Association in Finland a team travelled in the Nordic and Baltic countries and visited NGOs, governmental institutions, researchers and others who had activities related to the field of trafficking.

In November 1999, we completed the Resource Book, "Crossing Borders Against Trafficking in Women and Girls." This book provides a general background of trafficking, describes different approaches to the problem, shares knowledge about victims of trafficking, and describes the results of our work thus far. To facilitate network-building, the Resource Book lists over 80 Baltic Sea and Nordic organisations working against trafficking or interested in incorporating this work into their current activities.

The Resource Book can be downloaded in RTF format in two parts: the table of contents and the full text. Chapters are listed individually under On-line Articles and organisations are listed under Members by Country.

The project was awarded "Best Practice" by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Employment and Social Affairs as one of 20 projects on Gender Equality in the European Union 1996-2000.

With funding from European Commission's Daphne initiative and Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

1997-1998, a survey on initiatives against trafficking in the Baltic and Nordic countries, Russia and Belarus. Funded by the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The results of this project were published in a Report and a Resource Book in August 1998, You can read the full Report on-line.
Various projects with and research on marginalised women (prostitution, drug-abuse) nationally and internationally since 1988.

See further details on the work in Sweden and the Swedish Network against trafficking
Contacts: Per Larsson, Project Manager, per.larsson@kvinnoforum.se, or Jessika Rang Schmidt, Project Assistant, jessika.rangschmidt@kvinnoforum.se

Kvinnoforum has carried out its activities against trafficking in women and girls with the support from the European Commission (DAPHNE and STOP II), the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the European Refugee Fund and the Swedish Ministry of Health and Social Affairs.

Continuously updated information about coming events and activities within the Q Web interest sphere. For information on event in the Nordic region check out the site in swedish.

At the moment Q Web has 1762 members in 119 countries.

(9/10/04)
Newsletter from Sida
Read more here.

(9/8/04)
Angel Coalition
The Angel Coalition is a consortium of 43 NGOs throughout Russia that was created in 1999 in response to the growing international crisis of sexual trafficking. According to the UN, the U.S. State Department and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), more than 500,000 Russian women have been trafficking to more than 40 countries in the past 10 years alone.
For more information please visit this website.
Read more here.

(8/23/04)
Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI)
The SVRI has been launched to address the issue of sexual violence and aims to create a network of experienced and committed researchers, policy makers, activists and donors. The objective of the SVRI is to promote and disseminate action-oriented research to reduce and respond to sexual violence through: Identifying gaps; Building capacity; Supporting research; Raising awareness and Building partnerships. Focus areas: Sexual abuse and coercion of adult and adolescent women, Child sexual abuse, Sexual torture and Sexual violence in war situations and, Trafficking in women and children for sex. The SVRI builds on the experience of the World Health Organization's (WHO) Multi-country Study on Women’s Health and Domestic Violence Against Women and on the various initiatives supported by the Global Forum. It is funded by Global Forum for Health Research and hosted by the WHO.
For more information please visit this website.

(8/20/04)
Gender Training Course & Gender Conference in Thailand
Women’s Action and Research Institute is organising a Gender Training Course held in Bangkok, March 11-18, 2005. An 8-day comprehensive course on "Women, Men & Development", focusing on increasing the understanding of gender equality concepts and gaining practical skills in gender analysis, gender evaluation, gender planning, gender mainstreaming and gender auditing/budgeting. Followed by the Gender and Southeast Asia Conference held in Bangkok March 18-19, 2005. A 2-day conference on Gender & Southeast Asia combining academics and activism, providing a forum to share knowledge and experience, to build a network of support, and to develop joint strategies. Papers and presentations are invited that focus on experiences and "lessons learned"
in relation to gender in development work within the region. Deadline for application and/or submission of abstracts is October 30, 2004
For more information please visit this website. For information and registration please contact concourse02@yahoo.com.

**Call for papers**
The New Zealand Family Planning Association FPA) is pleased to announce that it will be hosting a [conference in Wellington, New Zealand, 29 October – 31 October 2004](#). The theme of the conference, Sex Matters will be to examine critical sexual and reproductive health issues for New Zealand and internationally.
For more information please visit this [website](#). Read more [here](#).

**16 Days of Activism**
**The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence** now in its fourteenth year, is an international campaign originating from the first Women's Global Leadership Institute sponsored by the Center for Women's Global Leadership in 1991. The 16 Days Campaign has been used as an organizing strategy by individuals and groups around the world to call for the elimination of all forms of violence against women by raising awareness about gender based violence as a human rights issue at the local, national, regional and international levels, establishing a clear link between local and international anti-violence work, providing a forum in which organizers can develop and share strategies, demonstrating the solidarity of women around the world organizing against gender based violence, and creating tools to pressure governments to implement promises made to eliminate violence against women. Since 1991, the 16 Days Campaign has included the participation of over 1,700 organizations in approximately 130 countries.
For more information please contact [conflict@netuni.uva.nl](mailto:conflict@netuni.uva.nl). Read more [here](#).

**Gender and Conflict Transformation**
This on-line learning course explores gender-sensitive approaches to conflict transformation. The course is offered by TNU The Network University in the Netherlands and will be held from 31 May to 25 June 2004 and will also be offered during the period from 20 September to 15 October 2004. For more information please contact [conflict@netuni.uva.nl](mailto:conflict@netuni.uva.nl).
Read more [here](#).

**Project**
**To Develop Methods for Measuring Women's Empowerment** is the aim of Kvinnoforum's new project in partnership with four southern African NGOs. The project wants to come in contact with persons with experience of measuring empowerment. Read more on a separate page or read the report on-line.
Read more [here](#).