

Globalisation, Sex Trafficking and Prostitution

The Experiences of Migrant Women in Ireland

TRAFFICKED WOMEN AND GIRLS

- 102 women over a 21-month period, Jan 2007 and Sep 2008
- 26 aware of a further 64 women who were trafficked into Ireland
- 11 per cent were children
- Vast majority from impoverished regions in Africa and Central European/ non-E.U countries

CONDUSIVE ENVIRONMENTS for TRAFFICKING

- **Extreme poverty (for all women)**
- **Family pressure/dislocation including being orphaned**
- **War and violence**
- **Childhood sexual abuse**
- **Fleeing from a forced marriage**

Common Pattern of Traffickers

- **TARGETING, COERCION AND DECEPTION**
- **TRANSPORTATION**
- **SEXUAL AND PHYSICAL VIOLENCE**
- **CONTROL AND CAPTIVITY**
- **DEBT**

The Irish Sex industry

- 1,000 women in indoor prostitution in Ireland at any one time
- Internet advertises at least 800 women, sexually explicit pictures of each woman and detailed lists of the sexual acts which can be bought
- 51 different nationalities of women advertised
- 3 to 13 per cent of the women are Irish, 97 per cent are migrant women
- Age range is 18 (with some evidence that girls as young as 16 years are involved) to 58 years. Average age is 25
- Apartments hotels and call outs to the home of the buyers are the main locations (19 of the 26 counties were named)
- Women can now be ordered to his home on a detailed form outlining her body, nationality and the sexual acts the buyer wants

PROFILE OF MEN

- One in 15 men in Ireland reported that they buy sex
- Tend to be highly educated, incomes in the middle range, professionals
- 61 per cent are married or in a relationship
- High proportion buy sex during the daytime and in the evenings after work
- 16% buy sex every two weeks or more frequently, 46% less than monthly
- 37% also pay for sex with women in street prostitution
- 54 per cent visit pornographic sites on the internet
- Vast majority of the men are Irish and white

Womens Experience of Recruitment into Prostitution

- *A friend offers to pay flight*
- *Contact with a club/entertainment*
- *Arrive in Ireland with debt*
- *Prostitution Agency*
- *Severe Exploitation*
- *Moved around to different apartments*
- *Available 24/7*
- *Offered cocaine and alcohol*
- *No money paid for six weeks*
- *Entrapment*

Some Health Impacts

- 37 per cent had bacterial vaginosis
- 31 per cent had candida infections (thrush).
- 22 per cent had hepatitis A.
- 20 per cent had hepatitis B.
- 14 per cent had Chlamydia. 10 per cent had urinary tract infections
- 6 per cent had cervical cell abnormality
- 14 per cent had vaginal/genital warts

Continuum of Exploitation of Prostitution and Trafficking

- **Different Tactics:** of traffickers and pimps: *Violence, Coercion, deception, enticement*
- **Same Intention:** *Supply of women and girls to the sex industry*
- **Result:** *sexual exploitation, harm, abuse*

Recommendations

- Support services, exit routes and safe returns
- Regularising immigration status
- Legislation and enforcement: criminalising the buying of sex and decriminalising the selling of sex
- Addressing the growth of the sex industry
- Trafficking of minors
- Prevention in origin countries
- Compensation