



DIGNITY

*working to deliver quality services for **victims of sex trafficking***

An initiative of Dublin Employment Pact and the Immigrant Council of Ireland

CARRIED OUT IN ASSOCIATION WITH:

Baggot St. Women's Health Project, Sonas Housing, the Garda National Immigration Bureau and the National Anti-Trafficking Unit of the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform

www.dublinpact.ie/dignity

DIGNITY

What is the Dignity Project?

Dignity is an interagency initiative working to deliver quality services for victims of sex-trafficking in Ireland.

What is sex trafficking?

The Council of Europe Convention on Trafficking and The UN Convention on Trafficking agree that trafficking in human beings consists of: *“the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability... for the purposes of exploitation...”* (2005). Trafficking for sexual exploitation is recognised as a problem in the European Union and a major form of violence against women and children. As an industry it is an enormous commercial concern, with an annual turnover world wide of approximately €14 billion. Globally, some 5-7 million people are moved from one country to another or within borders each year by others for profit.

A global problem

United Nations data and USA Trafficking In Persons reports show that 200,000 people were trafficked into North West Europe (2008) and that the vast majority of them (80%) were trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation. It is estimated that the number of organised groups arranging the trafficking of women is on the increase. The numbers of women from Eastern Europe, Africa and Asia is now evident in off-street prostitution across the EU , where these women are being sexually exploited. The growth of the sex industry and prostitution is both a feature of increasing trafficking for sexual exploitation and a factor in the growth of demand for victims.

What will the Dignity Project do?

The Dignity project is an EU Daphne funded project of transnational partners who will study and document the good practice that is identified in each partner country in services to victims of trafficking. It will then look at how best to replicate such models at the local level. The aim of the Dignity Project is to work towards an integrated, holistic victim-centered approach, including provision of services to those vulnerable to exploitation (women in prostitution), as well as health services, counselling, accommodation, advocacy services, education and skills development for victims. Victim witness support and protection will also be examined,

as well as victim integration and processes of safe returns to country of origin of victims.

In 2009-2010 partners will embark on a series of study visits, staff exchanges, seminars and publications to raise awareness and share experiences of the realities of trafficking for sexual exploitation and good practice policy and services. Partners will work to show how best practice models can be replicated across the participating member states of Ireland, Lithuania, Scotland/UK and Spain.

Dignity EU Project Partners

Dublin Employment Pact is a network of state agencies and independent organisations involved in employment and social inclusion projects across the Dublin Region.

Contact: Karen Reid: kreid@dublinpact.ie

Immigrant Council of Ireland is a human rights organization and an independent law centre. It advocates for the rights of immigrants and acts as a catalyst for public debate and policy change.

Contact: Nusha Yonkova:
nusha@immigrantcouncil.ie

Agencia para el Empleo de Madrid and APRAMP, Spain, provide services, including employment and training to men and women trafficked for sexual exploitation.

Contact Belén Garcia:
garciadb@munimadrid.es
www.munimadrid.es
or Rocio Mora: apramp2003@yahoo.es
www.apramp.org

Glasgow Community & Safety Services,

UK, provide services to women in prostitution, including supports to exit prostitution.

Contact: Ann Hamilton:
ann.hamilton@glasgow.gov.uk

Klaipeda Social and Psychological Services Centre, Lithuania, provides counselling and accommodation services to victims of trafficking, including women who have been returned home.

Contact: Vytautė Grybauskaitė:
vytaute.grybauskaite@moteriai.lt

Other groups working with Dignity in Ireland

Baggot Street Women's Health Project

is funded by the HSE to provide sexual and reproductive healthcare to women in prostitution and victims of trafficking. It provides support for women seeking to exit prostitution.

Contact: Linda Latham: linda.latham@hse.ie

Department of Justice Equality and Law Reform, Anti Trafficking in Human Beings Unit:

Contact Marion Walsh: AHTU@justice.ie
or Mick Quinn: mwquinn@justice.ie

Sonass Housing Association provides accommodation to women out of home due to domestic violence.

Contact: Sharon Cosgrove:
scosgrove@sonashousing.ie

Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB)

An Garda Síochána are the Irish National Police Force with responsibility for investigation of all crime including all offences involved in Trafficking in Human Beings.

Contact: Claire.L.McKeon@Garda.ie
HTICU@garda.ie

Project support networks

Eaves Housing, Poppy Project, London, UK

European Women's Lobby - European Policy Action Centre on Violence against Women (EPAC)

Nordic Baltic Network of support to women victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation

International Organisation of Migration (Dublin, Vilnius, London)

Globalisation, Sex Trafficking and Prostitution

The Irish situation

The Immigrant Council of Ireland recently published important research entitled "Globalisation, Sex Trafficking and Prostitution - The experiences of migrant women in Ireland" (2009). This research was carried out in collaboration with the Women's Health Project (HSE) and Ruhama, by Kelleher Associates, O'Connor and Pillinger and informs the work of the Dignity project.

The report presents stark evidence of the trafficking of women into and through Ireland for the purpose of sexual exploitation. It shines a light on the reality that large numbers of migrant women are being sexually exploited in indoor prostitution in Ireland and experiencing severe emotional, physical and psychological harm.

Over a 21 month period in 2007/08, 102 women and girls presented at services who, using the internationally agreed definition, are considered victims of trafficking.

Some of the key findings of the research include:

- Factors that put women at risk of trafficking and prostitution in countries of origin include poverty, family dislocation, childhood abuse, war & violence. Deception was a key factor in the recruitment of women and children, and many women experienced prostitution, rape, brutality and imprisonment prior to

arriving in Ireland.

- Women were forced or deceptively recruited into the prostitution industry upon arrival in Ireland. None of the women were aware that they were being recruited specifically to work in the sex industry before they arrived.
- 11 of the women were minors at the time they were brought into Ireland.
- Having been trafficked into the Irish sex industry, women's experiences include: captivity, isolation, shame, betrayal, beatings, rape and other forms of sexual abuse.

The report recommends an integrated approach to prostitution and sex trafficking in Ireland, and highlights the need for improved supports, services and protection for victims. Women need better access to services such as health care, psychological support and accommodation, as well as opportunities to exit prostitution and abuse safely, including recovery and reflection periods and protection from deportation or prosecution.

The Immigrant Council of Ireland is a human rights organization and an independent law centre. It advocates for the rights of immigrants and acts as a catalyst for public debate and policy change.

For more information and to order a copy of the research please contact Nusha at: nusha@immigrantcouncil.ie

DIGNITY *working to deliver quality services for victims of sex trafficking.*

An initiative of Dublin Employment Pact and Immigrant Council of Ireland



Carried out in association with:



This initiative is funded under the EU Daphne Programme



www.dublinpact.ie/dignity

Project Coordinator: Gráinne Healy

Contact us:

Dublin Employment Pact
22 Great Strand Street, Dublin 1, Ireland
Ph: +353 1 8788900
Email Karen Reid: info@dublinpact.ie