



City of
Amsterdam

EU migrants and the risk of human trafficking

‘The role a municipality can play’

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Content

- What is human trafficking?
- Prostitution policy
- Role of the Municipality of Amsterdam
- Debate



What is human trafficking (THB)?

- Definition
- Various types:
 - Sexual exploitation
 - Labor exploitation
 - Other forms of exploitation



Municipalities and human trafficking

Examples of areas where a link with THB is possible

- Housing inspection in relation to building permits
- Supervision and inspection activities in relation to public order
- Public Health Service
- Department of Civil Affairs, Municipal Personal Records Database
- Inspections of the prostitution industry



Prostitution is legal in the Netherlands

- **Abolition of the brothel ban in 2000, with goals:**
 1. Prevention of involuntary prostitution (including minors).
 2. Improving social position of prostitutes.
 3. Reducing scale of prostitution involving illegal immigrants.
- **Licensing system:** regulation of the prostitution sector on municipal level.



Municipal Prostitution Policy 1

Goals of prostitution policy

- Controlling and regulating the prostitution business
- Improving the combat of involuntary prostitution and sexual exploitation
- Improving the labor conditions for sex workers



Municipal Prostitution Policy 2

Licensing system for the industry

Requirements are for example:

- Minors (under the age of 21) are forbidden to work in prostitution
- License holders need to prevent involuntary prostitution taking place in their brothel, business plan is required
- Windows must be rented directly to the prostitute and intake with duty of self-reliance
- Health advisors must have access to women working in brothels



Municipal Prostitution Policy 3

Supervision

Supervision & inspection of the industry:

- By police and council supervisors
- Report to City Council and police
- Consultation with the industry



Working in prostitution

The sex worker should:

- Be at least 21 years of age
- Speak Dutch or English, German, Spanish
- Be registered at the Chamber of Commerce and the Tax Office
- Dutch nationality or the nationality of another country in the European Economic Area (EEA) and a valid residency status
- A registered address in the Municipal Records Database



Role of the municipality

- Prevention
- Administrative approach
 - Pick up signals of human trafficking
 - Method of reporting (internal)
 - Integrated approach
 - Administrative measurements
- Care
 - Assistance of victims of human trafficking
 - Empowerment of sex workers
 - Information



(Health) care

- **Amsterdam Coordination Point Human Trafficking: ACM**
 - Specialized shelter for victims of human trafficking
 - Financially supported by the municipality
- **Prostitution & Health Centre: P&G292**
 - Improvement of the physical health of sex workers
 - Strengthening their mental and social health
 - Improvement of their social and legal position
 - Financially supported by the municipality
- **NGO's**

- ✘ Amsterdams
- ✘ Coördinatiepunt
- ✘ Mensenhandel





Labour exploitation

- Raising awareness (training)
- Collecting signals of human trafficking
- Administrative measures
 - municipal permits
 - zoning plans





Care

- **Amsterdam Coordination Point Human Trafficking: ACM**
 - Specialized shelter for victims of human trafficking
 - Financially supported by the municipality
- **FairWork (ngo)**



EU-migrants vulnerable to human trafficking

- Work in prostitution
- Unskilled work through questionable employment agencies
- Low level of education
- In need of 'help'
 - Traveling to destination country
 - Finding a workplace
 - Finding a house
 - Register at the Municipality



Perception of human trafficking

- Often migrants don't consider themselves victims
- Economic drive still exists
- Differences between European countries
- Might not see the benefits of reporting to the police



European projects

- **Participation in EU-project, January 2012 – October 2013:**
 - development of common guidelines and procedures on the identification of (potential) victims of trafficking
 - together with France, Greece, Bulgaria, Romania, Spain





European projects

- **Participation in the Dutch Presidency of the European Union in 2016**
 - member of the Organizing Committee
 - contribute to the development of a Handbook on multidisciplinary cooperation against THB for Labour Exploitation
- **Support project Salvation Army: ‘Back to Romania’**
 - prevention of retrafficking
 - together with NGOs Not for Sale, Adpare



**Team
Work!**

Manual for experts on multidisciplinary cooperation against trafficking in human beings for labour exploitation

**Team
Work!**

**EU
2016**



Recommendations

- Awareness raising
- Internal reporting method
- Prevention in source countries
- Information in schools



Debate



Questions?

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