

In this newsletter.....see information of the REACH Project and the forthcoming Conference plus NGO updates

## **ANTI HUMAN TRAFFICKING UNIT**

### **NEWSLETTER**

**January 2014**

#### **IN THE NEWS**

**Since our last issue. . . .**

#### **REACH Project under the European Commission Progress Call for Proposals on Violence Against Women**

The Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) in collaboration with Ruhama submitted a proposal to the European Commission under its Progress Call for Proposals on Violence Against Women on 16 May 2013. This proposal was approved by the EU Commission in November 2013. The project which commenced on 2 December 2013 will span a period not exceeding two years. The project primarily focuses on the issue of human trafficking against women and girls in terms of:

- Raising awareness of the issue (including rights of victims and supports available) among victims and potential victims;
- Promoting a message of zero tolerance of human trafficking as a form of violence against women and girls, among men and boys;
- Developing innovative training and support to frontline actors including the development of a 'mobile app'.

Working closely with the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit and Ruhama, other partners on this project include:

- The Health Service Executive
- The Child and Family Agency
- Department of Justice in Northern Ireland.

#### **REACH Project Opening Conference**

A conference bringing together State, Civil Society and International Organisations will be held on Wednesday 5th March 2014 to facilitate discussions through presentations and a series of workshops on innovative approaches in regard to the following activities:

- Campaign to raise awareness of the issue of human trafficking targeting women and girls who are victims/potential victims of human trafficking;
- Demand reduction campaign among men and boys;

- Developing innovative training and support for frontline actors including the development of a 'mobile app'.

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**\*\* SAVE THE DATE \*\***

The REACH Project Opening Conference takes place on **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2014** in the Atrium, Department of Justice & Equality, 51 St Stephens Green, Dublin 2.

### **Recent PQ's**

To view recent Parliamentary Questions about human trafficking click the following links.

<http://www.oireachtas.ie/documents/op/Oct13/Questions/pq241013.pdf>

<http://www.oireachtas.ie/documents/op/Nov13/Questions/pq051113.pdf>

<http://www.oireachtas.ie/documents/op/Nov13/Questions/pq131113.pdf>

<http://www.oireachtas.ie/documents/op/Oct13/Questions/pq221013.pdf>

<http://www.oireachtas.ie/documents/op/Dec13/Questions/pq031213.pdf>

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### **CSPE packs for schools**

AHTU published a notice on their FB page for schools to contact them if they

### **Minister Shatter publishes Annual Report of Trafficking in Human Beings in Ireland for 2012**

The Minister for Justice, Equality and Defence, Alan Shatter TD, published the Annual Report of Trafficking in Human Beings in Ireland for 2012 in December 2013.

The 2012 report is the fourth such report to be produced by the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit of the Department of Justice & Equality. It is based on information provided by An Garda Síochána, Non-Governmental Organisations and the International Organisation for Migration. The Report is published on the State's dedicated Anti-Human Trafficking website [www.blueblindfold.gov.ie](http://www.blueblindfold.gov.ie).

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### **STEP Project under the European Commission THB Call for Proposals**

In October, 2013 the Anti Human Trafficking Unit submitted a proposal under the EU Commission THB Call for Proposals, the purpose of which is to develop an educational resource for all disciplines e.g. social sciences, medical professions, legal professions, agriculture, etc. within third level institutions. It is proposed that this resource, which will be developed by academics, will be placed on the curricula in each of the different disciplines. The project is designed to reach out, by way of a comprehensive training programme, to persons who are the future employees and managers, not only in Ireland, but across the European Union.

In addition to the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit of the Department of Justice and Equality in Dublin there are seven other partners as follows:

- Trinity College Dublin - Lead Education Facility
- Immigrant Council of Ireland - Lead NGO
- Department of Justice in Northern Ireland

require CSPE packs for their Human Rights studies.



### **Presentations**

In October 2013 presentations were given by AHTU to

- MA Migration students in UCC;
- Students in Trinity College Dublin;
- Participants at a Sisters of Mercy Training Day.

In November a presentation was given by AHTU, HSE and AGS to 2nd year social care students in DIT Mountjoy Square.

In December presentations were given by AHTU to:

- 6<sup>th</sup> year students in Rockford Manor School Blackrock
- Students in University College Cork

\*

**Awareness Raising**  
If you are raising awareness of Human

- Ministry of the Interior in Cyprus
- Bulgarian National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings
- Mediterranean Institute of General Studies in Cyprus
- Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation

A decision from the EU Commission on this proposal is awaited.

## **UPDATES FROM NGOs**

### **Doras Luimní**

James Ledwith represented Doras Luimní at the EU Civil Society Platform against Trafficking in Human Beings in December 2013. The focus of the meeting was on progressing plans for an online platform to coordinate the work of 250 NGOs from across Europe. The website, which is scheduled to go live in Spring 2014, will facilitate information sharing in relation to service delivery, best practice development, and identification of strategies to address challenges and barriers. There was a lot of interest from European colleagues in our Street Outreach Programme which we run in partnership with The Red Ribbon Project <http://www.redribbonproject.com/>. Doras Luimní continues to work closely with local agencies on the issue of prostitution and human trafficking in Limerick city and is moving towards a coordinated agency response for 2014 via the Doras Luimní convened Limerick Anti-Trafficking Steering Group. We welcome the recent comments made by Judge Eugene O'Kelly in Limerick District Court who stated that the focus of Garda attention should be on the demand for prostitution and not on vulnerable migrant women. <http://www.limerickleader.ie/news/local-news/prosecute-those-who-pay-for-sex-says-judge-in-limerick-1-5722719#.Up3KkhDiQEU.twitter>

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### **Ruhama**

#### **Helping women recover from trauma**

Ruhama offers a comprehensive range of front line services, including Counselling, Art Therapy and Holistic Therapies, to help women recover from trauma and rebuild their lives. Recently, fourteen women participated in a six week workshop on trauma healing delivered by consultant Sarah Bird. As a non-talking form of healing, the women learned techniques to reduce levels of stress and increase their inner happiness and resourcefulness.

Trafficking..... AHTU have a range of accordion leaflets, pens, keyrings and posters available. Please contact ahtudivision @justice.ie with the name of your organisation and the quantity you require.

\*



AHTU Information Stand at the ISME Conference in November.

The AHTU had an information stand at the Irish Small and Medium Enterprises (ISME) Annual Conference.

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Do you know of a conference coming up? AHTU are available and willing to have an information stand at events to raise awareness of human trafficking.

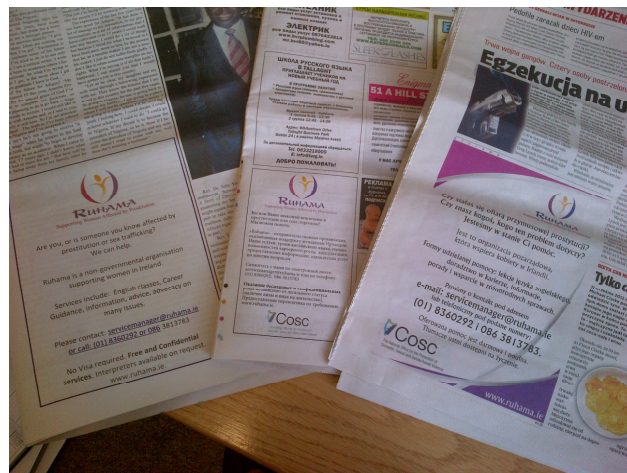
**Please contact ahtudivision @justice.ie for more information.**



Participants at workshop

## Ruhama advertising campaign targets migrant women in the Irish sex trade

Ruhama ran a four week advertising campaign to target migrant women, who make up the biggest cohort, in the Irish sex trade. The advertisements outlined Ruhama's services and were placed in the main migrant newspapers on sale in Ireland.



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