

ANTI HUMAN TRAFFICKING UNIT NEWSLETTER

February 2016

11TH Edition

IN THE NEWS

REACH Project

In November 2015 the AHTU, Ruhama and partners held a closing conference in Brussels to mark the completion of the REACH project. This project was co-funded by the European Commission and its aim was to raise awareness of trafficking as a form of violence against women and girls and improve responses to this issue across the whole island of Ireland. REACH is the first 'all island' initiative of its kind.



Noelle Collins. Women's Aid Belfast at the REACH Project Closing Conference in, Brussels.

Women and Girls campaign

In February 2015 the first initiative of the Project was launched. The aim of this campaign was to reach out to women and girls in both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland who have been trafficked, or are at risk of being trafficked into prostitution. The targeted awareness raising activities sought to inform women and girls on the island of Ireland (who find themselves in a difficult situation in the sex trade) of the support that is available to them and where they can seek help. This campaign was developed following a unique consultation process with women who have had a variety of experiences within the sex trade. This consultation facilitated the development of the message of the campaign and the most effective modes of delivery to reach the women and girls most in need of support.

Men and Boys campaign

The second campaign aimed at men and boys was launched in April 2015. The campaign's main objective was to target men, the majority of whom do not buy sex, and to encourage them to make a stand against prostitution and sex trafficking. The campaign slogan 'We don't Buy it' was selected as a brand for this campaign with the intention of giving the majority a voice and a way of reclaiming the 'norm for men'. The campaign was delivered by way of a multi-media mix (outdoor, radio, public relations, online and social) which combined both traditional and digital forms to ensure targeted reach and maximum attention. The campaign achieved very wide reach both online and in traditional media, and was well received by the target audience. Feedback from the campaign suggests that this audience particularly liked the positive approach that the campaign took in encouraging men to collectively make a stand against prostitution and sex trafficking.

Frontline professionals - Training module / the 'APP'

The final element of the REACH Project involved the development of an 'APP' aimed at frontline professionals. The aim of this strand was to develop clear, plain English information materials targeting professionals in health, social work, law enforcement and immigration. Having accessed the APP such professionals will then be equipped to be able to respond to disclosures/signs of trafficking or exploitation in an appropriate manner and guide potential victims to the services and supports available.

More information on this Project is available on www.reachproject.eu

*

Council of Europe

17th meeting of the Committee of the Parties

The 17th Meeting of the Council of Europe Committee of the Parties took place in Strasbourg on the 30th of November 2015. Ireland was represented by Martin Switzer, Deputy to the Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe and Mick Quinn of AHTU.

The Chair invited the representatives from a number of countries including Ireland to take the floor concerning the measures taken by the authorities in their countries to comply with the Committee's recommendation on the implementation of the Convention. Mick Quinn noted that a draft new National Action Plan had been published for consultation in September 2015 and that a variety of stakeholders had made submissions and he referred to the round-table meeting in Dublin, on 15 December 2015 to discuss the development of a model for the identification and referral to assistance of victims of human trafficking in Ireland which was supported of the Council of Europe. He also referred to some of the points made in the report submitted by the Irish authorities in October 2015 -

http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/trafficking/Docs/CommitteeParties/Reply_REC/CP_2015_18_IRL_RR_en.pdf.

Roundtable on Identification

It was agreed with State and NGOs that Identification was the key issue to be addressed in the National Action Plan. Responding to this broad consensus it was agreed to prioritise early work on the identification process and funding was sought from the Council of Europe for a facilitated discussion on this important issue. The roundtable on victim identification was convened as a joint initiative by the Irish Department of Justice and Equality and a NGO coalition comprising of the Migrant Rights Centre Ireland (MRCI), the Immigrant Council of Ireland (ICI) and Ruhama with funding provided by the Council of Europe. The event was chaired by 1st Vice-President of GRETA, Professor Siobhán Mullally. The aim of the meeting was to examine multi-agency models of victim identification from other EU countries and their applicability in the Irish context, to explore gaps as well as identify what is currently working in the Irish system, and to design a potential new framework for identification and referral to assistance to victims of trafficking in Ireland.

The roundtable was a timely opportunity for all key anti-trafficking stakeholders to meet, discuss and agree on what works and doesn't work in the current system of identification and to generate a consensus on key elements (actors, process, standards) of a new multi-agency framework or other model for the identification of VoTs. The event also presented an opportunity for participants to familiarize themselves and learn from good practice and challenges in Scotland and the Netherlands with representatives from the Legal Services Agency in Scotland as well as from the Dutch Ministry of Security and Justice and the Dutch NGO CoMensha presenting their work and experience.

The roundtable aimed at providing an inclusive and constructive forum to discuss and jointly design a potential framework for the identification of victims of human trafficking in Ireland, which in turn would inform new policy in this area, and in particular feed into the review of the current identification system and the development of a new model which is taking place in the context of the development of the Second National Action Plan. The roundtable was held under the Chatham House rules and in an atmosphere of openness, cooperation and constructive dialogue to find common effective strategies and solutions towards a more effective and adequate mechanism for victim identification and assistance in line with Ireland's commitments in the fight against human trafficking.



The event was chaired by 1st Vice-President of GRETA, Professor Siobhán Mullally.

Photos from Letterkenny Institute of Technology's (LYIT) hosting of the UN GIFT Box



UN GIFT Box on display at LYIT



Some law students from LYIT



Updates from NGO's

ICI

On January 14th, 2016 the Upholding Rights! ELI International Conference was held in Dublin, successfully hosting more than 120 attendees, including project partners, representatives of the Gardaí and Department of Justice, legal experts, embassy ambassadors, and members of anti-trafficking NGOs. Internationally recognized anti-trafficking advocates presented at the conference, including UK Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, Kevin Hyland OBE, and Human Rights Barrister and Trafficking in Persons Hero 2015, Parosha Chandran, Siobhan Mullally of the Council of Europe and UCC, former UN special Advisor Asohe Aghatise.

*



On the 26th of January the ICI hosted a briefing on early legal intervention in the European Parliament in Brussels. It was followed by a training session using the ELI toolkit. Partners attended as well as civil society organisations based in Brussels. Five members of parliament and other parliament staff also attended. It was a great success with positive feedback from attendees. It marked the final dissemination activity of the two year project. The toolkit is available on the ELI website www.earlylegalintervention.eu

*

Doras Luimní

In November 2015 Doras Luimní launched a new workplace rights campaign called ***Fair Work Standards, Limerick***. The purpose of the campaign is two-fold: to raise awareness of employment rights among people in low paid work, and to prevent labour exploitation. The campaign will target the following work sectors: care and domestic work, the agricultural sector, security, retail, hospitality, construction and any other sectors where exploitation is likely to happen. This is based on our experience of direct support work with people experiencing exploitation. Information will be gathered through an anonymous survey where we ask employees if they get their basic labour rights, as stipulated by the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation. We are also asking employees to nominate their employer as a Fair Employer. The campaign will run until June 2016. Please see link to survey: <http://dorasluimni.org/fair-work-standards/fair-work-standards-survey/>

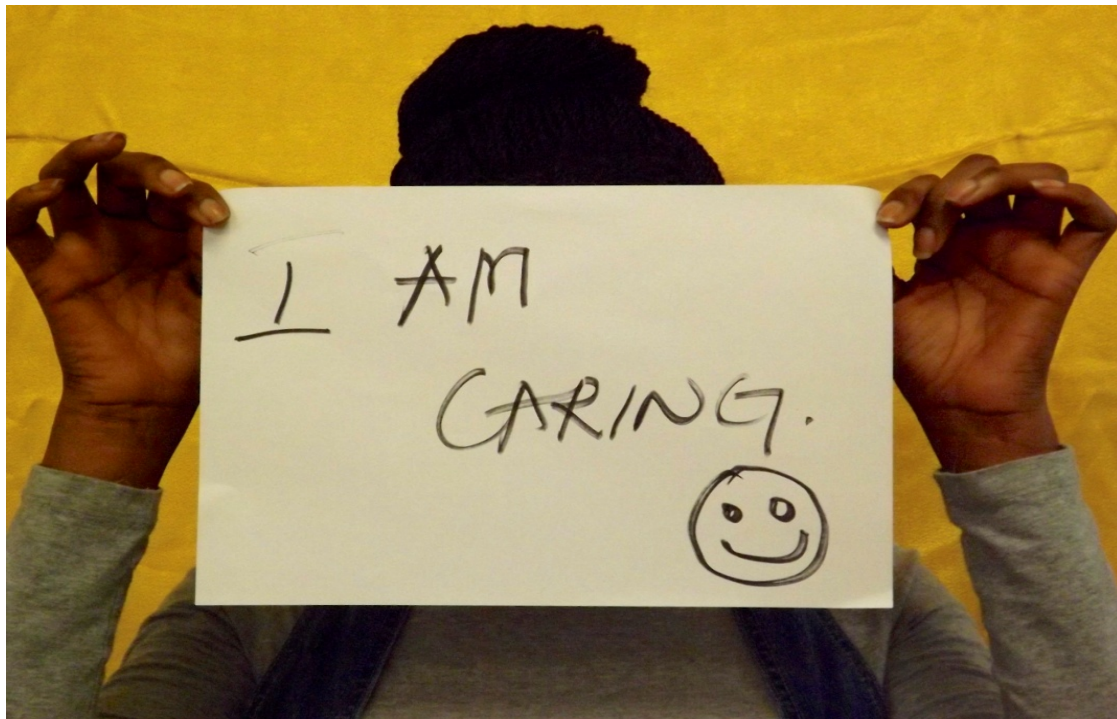
We are also very lucky to gain a new colleague. Mariaam Bhatti is the new Community Development and Outreach Worker with Doras Luimní. Mariaam will work directly with clients experiencing labour exploitation, forced labour and human trafficking.

Ruhama

Rebuilding lives through personal development

In 2014 Ruhama supported 304 women, including 88 of victims of sex trafficking. But, in Ruhama, these are more than just numbers. These are women who have suffered a great deal and are very vulnerable. We believe in the value of personal development and education support to rebuild self-efficacy. This is done by providing a tailor-made service to each woman, depending on her own self-identified needs. This Spring we will be starting our short courses that reflect bimonthly themes, the current theme is Healthy Nutrition. When a woman is ready, she is linked in with our Education and Development Officer, who will set her up with some in-house classes (e.g. literacy, computers, sewing) and externally-run training programmes. Based on the success of the previous years we will also be running the Sarah Bird programme, a trauma healing programme specially designed for women who have experienced sexual exploitation, and [STEPS](http://www.ruhama.ie/services/education-and-development/group-programmes/) (Steps to Excellence for Personal Success), both of which are also starting this Spring. Click on the link to find out more.

<http://www.ruhama.ie/services/education-and-development/group-programmes/>



'I am caring' a woman participating in one of the exercises in the STEPS programme

TEAMWORK Conference – Amsterdam 18-19 January

Multidisciplinary cooperation is essential for a comprehensive approach to address THB for labour exploitation to be effective. Different organisations can come into contact with different aspects of the trafficking process. In order to build a complete picture of cases of THB for labour exploitation, these organisations need to combine their information. They can then take joint or complementary measures to investigate cases of THB for labour exploitation, to prosecute the traffickers, to protect the victims and to prevent more cases from occurring.

The conference focused on strengthening multidisciplinary cooperation against THB for labour exploitation. The Netherlands, in cooperation with Luxembourg, the Slovak Republic and Malta, presented a manual on this topic. Expertise and ideas from experts from the Member States were collected during workshops organised to prepare the manual and through questionnaires.

Disrupting serious and organised crime is one of the priorities in the European Agenda on Security. The Agenda for the conference also stressed that organised crime often thinks globally but acts locally. It highlights that serious and organised crime can only be addressed effectively using a multidisciplinary approach. The multidisciplinary approach to tackling serious and organised crime is an overarching theme for the Netherlands EU presidency.

The Irish delegation to the conference was made up of representatives from AHTU, the Workplace Relations Commission Inspectorate, INIS and the Human Resources Manager from the 2sisters Food Group (Green Isle Foods).

*

Conference

A Cross Border Conference on Human Trafficking will take place in Newry, Co. Down in June, 2016

*

Facebook

We have now reached 1000 ‘likes’ on our facebook page. Visit and like our Facebook page “Anti Human Trafficking Unit Ireland” and help us on our way to reach our 2000th like!

*

Farewell

AHTU would like to thank our colleague **Ruth Dillon** for all her hard work over the last eight years. We wish her every success as she moves on to another unit within the Department.

Annual Report 2014

The 2014 Annual Report and it is now available on the Blueblindfold website at <http://www.blueblindfold.gov.ie/website/bbf/bbfweb.nsf/page/keystats-en>

*

Presentations

- In November AHTU gave a presentation to the Sisters of RENATE (Religious in Europe against Trafficking and Exploitation) at All Hallows College, Dublin.
- AHTU gave a presentation at the Garda Training Conference in Templemore.
- In November AHTU gave a presentation at a Human Trafficking and Forced Marriage conference in the European Commission Building in Dublin 2.
- In January AHTU gave a presentation to junior cert year students of Wesley College, Dublin.
- In February staff from AHTU gave a presentation to DIT Social Care students at the new campus in Grangegorman.

*

Anti-Human Trafficking Unit

Do you have or know of an event coming up?

AHTU are available and willing to have an information stand at events to raise awareness of human trafficking.



For more information please contact ahtudivision@justice.ie

This newsletter includes links to material and sources and is provided by way of information. The information and opinions included are not necessarily endorsed or supported by the Department of Justice and Equality.

Copyright 2016 Department of Justice & Equality.
All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is: AHTUDivision@justice.ie Follow us on Facebook: Anti Human Trafficking Unit Ireland