

ANTI HUMAN TRAFFICKING UNIT NEWSLETTER

EU ANTI TRAFFICKING DAY 18TH OCTOBER

October 2015

10TH Edition

EU Anti Trafficking Day

The AHTU visited the **2 Sisters Food Group sites in Longford and Naas** 13th & 14th October to raise awareness of human trafficking and the measures being taken to combat it in Ireland. This is one of the biggest food production companies in the UK and Ireland and we are very grateful to them for this important opportunity to raise awareness of this issue among their work force and the local business communities.



We also had a stand at the **Safer Blanchardstown Information Day** which took place in the Town Centre on Friday 16 October. There was a great response from the public and our merchandise with contact details of where to report your suspicions of human trafficking were greatly received.



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TIPS

The US Congress, through the US Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), as amended, requires the Secretary of State to submit an Annual Report to Congress assessing the actions of countries around the world in the fight against modern day slavery. The 2015 Report was published on 27 June 2015.

- Countries assessed as meeting the minimum standard for the elimination of severe forms of trafficking as set out in the TVPA are classified as Tier 1.
- Countries assessed as not fully complying with the minimum standards, but making significant efforts to meet these minimum standards are classified as Tier 2.
- Countries assessed as neither complying with the minimum standards nor making significant to do so are classified as Tier 3.

Ireland has obtained a Tier 1 (top range) rating for our efforts in addressing human trafficking in the past year. We also received a Tier 1 rating for the past six years. While we did receive a Tier 1 rating there are a number of recommendations to be implemented going forward (as is the norm for all countries, including Tier 1 countries). These recommendations will be addressed within the context of the development of the Second National Action Plan to Prevent and Tackle Human Trafficking.

Sisters of Charity

In July the AHTU hosted the Sisters of Charity Anti-Human Trafficking Team during their visit to Ireland. This was a very enjoyable and informative session with participants from the USA, Zambia, UK, Scotland, Nigeria and Australia. Thanks to Inspector Paul Molloy from the HTICU who gave a very well received presentation.

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Notices

Ruhama Have Moved – but still business as usual for our services!

After many years in All Hallows College, Drumcondra, Ruhama are pleased to announce that we have moved to a new home at 25 Cork Street, Dublin 8. Please note our new address for any correspondence. Our telephone numbers remain the same. Despite all of the packing – and unpacking - it is business as usual for our frontline services and our caseworkers have been busy responding to many complex cases: offering support and advocacy to women affected by prostitution & sex trafficking. In our Education and Development section, we are delighted to have a group of women participating in the Steps to Excellence for Personal Success (STEPS) programme at present. Additionally, after the summer recess our English and study support tutors are now meeting up with their students in our new classrooms. A particular highlight for us was the visit last week of one of our former service users who has just been awarded her degree. She presented us with her thesis for which she received honours, and we'd like to congratulate her and wish her luck and continued success as she prepares for her Masters!

National Action Plan

The 2nd National Action Plan to Prevent and Combat Human Trafficking in Ireland was recently issued for consultation to civil society organisations active in this field. Submissions by 13 organisations and one individual were received by The Anti Human Trafficking Unit of the Department of Justice and Equality (AHTU) during this consultation phase. This new Plan seeks to build on progress made to date and to address issues raised in independent international evaluations of Ireland's response to this important issue. The new National Action Plan will outline both the Government's strategic approach to this issue as well as setting out a clear work programme for the relevant state authorities to collaborate with civil society and agencies in other jurisdictions in advancing the fight against trafficking and enhancing the protection of victims. Among the significant proposals contained in the draft Plan are:

- A fundamental re-examination of the victim identification process and the role to be played in that process by all stakeholders including non-governmental organisations
- A related review of the National Referral Mechanism to ensure that it remains fit-for-purpose and is adequate to address the complexity of both well understood and more recently identified forms of trafficking.
- Examination of the ongoing appropriateness and efficacy of all victim support services.
- Examination of criminal justice measures, including Garda investigative methodologies.
- Enhanced data analysis systems, including proposals based on *Multiple Systems Evaluation* to examine the feasibility of determining the undetected level of human trafficking in Ireland.
- The development, in conjunction with civil society, of a Training & Awareness Needs Spectrum to inform and better coordinate the role that can be played by all stakeholders in this key area.
- Specific measures in relation to enhance the effectiveness of anti-trafficking policy and practice concerning labour exploitation.
- New evaluation methodologies for examining the effectiveness of the Plan implementation, including consideration of the role of standing independent evaluation.

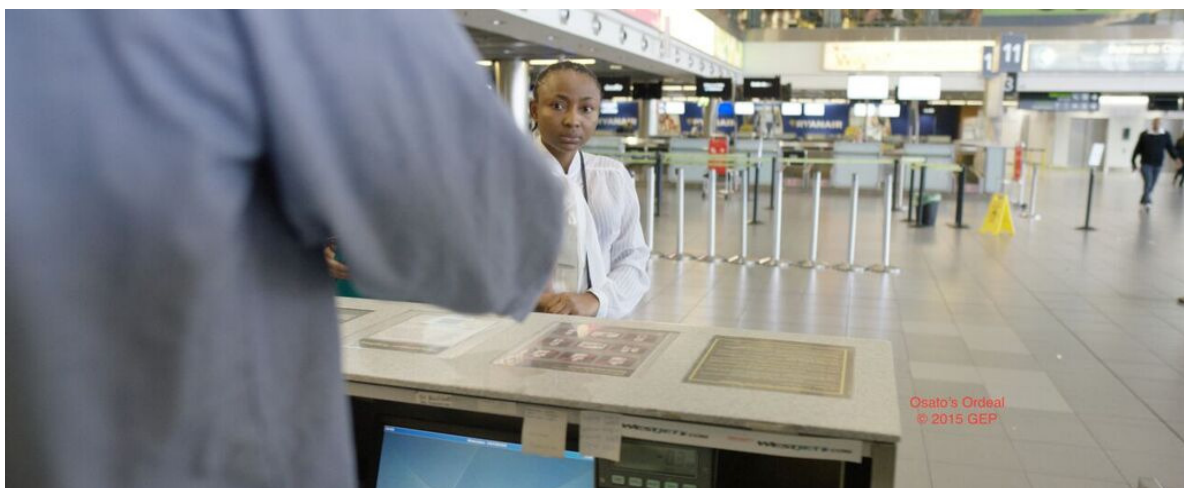
OSATO



The AHTU was contacted earlier this year by a film production company who are making a film called Osato. This person centred, often harrowing story depicts the plight of a nineteen year old Nigerian girl named Osato, who finds herself trafficked to Ireland for the purposes of prostitution. She is tricked into this situation by a family friend who promises Osato's mother, that she can provide her with passage to a better life abroad.

Loosely based upon the experiences of a woman who endured years of sublimation and abuse at the hands of her tormentors, the aim is to challenge the sometimes preconceived public attitudes towards those in the sex trade, and of those who procure the services of sex workers. In addition, the film strives to also dispel the myths and beliefs held by those who are either targeted and/or engaged as sex workers.

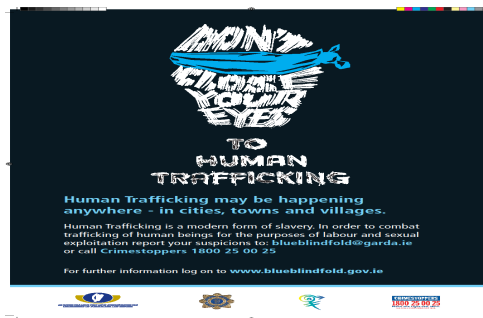
Keep an eye out for this interesting film which we understand is in the final stages of production and will be distributed in Nigeria and Ireland in the coming months.



Presentations

Staff from AHTU participated in anti-human trafficking training provided to members of An Garda Síochána in the Garda Training College, Templemore on 25 June and 15 September 2015. AHTU's contribution consisted of a presentation to attendees and participation in panel discussion/questions and answers session alongside NGOs and other state bodies. AHTU also made a presentation to students in DIT on 14th October.

AHTU Update



Updates from NGO's

The Immigrant Council of Ireland held a dissemination seminar in the Mansion House in Dublin on the 8th of September on the issue of Early Legal Intervention for victims of trafficking. The seminar was attended by members of the Department of Justice & Equality, An Garda Síochána, the Health Service Executive, Legal Aid Board as well as academics and independent researchers. NGOs from Women's Aid, Children's Rights Alliance and other immigrant support organisations also attended. The ICI had the honour to have the Swedish rapporteur on Human Trafficking Ms Kajsa Wahlberg also attend and she spoke about early legal advice in the context of the assistance given to victims in Sweden after identification. The seminar also focused on the EU Victim's Rights Directive which must be transposed by November 16th as well as the new Sexual Offences Bill due to be published in Ireland. Minister Frances Fitzgerald also had a meeting with Swedish rapporteur on Human Trafficking Ms Kajsa Wahlberg.



Photo of Swedish Rapporteur and ICI Anti Trafficking Manager Nusha Yonkova.

Women and girls' awareness raising campaign – A REACH Project initiative led by Ruhama

A key strand of the REACH Project involves targeted awareness raising activities that aim to ensure that all women and girls on the island of Ireland who find themselves in a difficult situation in the sex trade are aware of where and how they can seek help. The initiative's message is very simple – to let women and girls who have been trafficked or are at risk of being trafficked know that **free, safe and confidential support** is available specifically for them, and to encourage them to access it.

Thousands of posters and post-its featuring this message in English and a number of key community languages have been distributed by Ruhama and our REACH partners over the last eight months.

Materials have been targeted at hundreds of locations that women with experience of the sex trade told us are important – including immigration services, health services, language schools, migrant support services, direct provision accommodation, drugs projects and women's support services, to name but a few. If you would like to receive copies of these materials and find out more about this initiative please contact ruth@ruhama.ie or visit www.reachproject.eu



Isolated?
In debt?
Or just want to
change your life?
We can help.

Text REACH to:

**5
0
1
0
0**

**For free, safe
and confidential
support for women
in prostitution visit:
reachproject.eu or
Text: REACH
to 50100**

SHARE this message with any
woman who may need support



This project is Co-funded
by the European Union

REACH Support for
women in
prostitution

The REACH Project – Engaging professionals in the fight against sex trafficking

As part of its brief to combat sex trafficking, the REACH Project is endeavouring to enhance frontline professionals' responses to sexual exploitation across the island of Ireland. This strand of the REACH Project involves the development of an innovative, user-friendly mobile 'app' that will support professionals in responding effectively when their work brings them into contact with a potential/actual victim of trafficking. The app is aimed at professionals who do not have the capacity, nor the requirement, to be 'experts' in sex trafficking, but who do need to be equipped to identify the signs of trafficking, and understand how to respond in a proactive, victim-centred way. To guide the development of the app, three training sessions were delivered to the target audience in Dublin and Belfast entitled '**Introduction to good practice in identifying and responding to victims of sex trafficking**'. As part of these short introductory sessions professionals were given the opportunity to feed directly into the development of the app, which is currently in the final stages of production and will be available for download in the coming months. For more information on the app please contact Ruth Breslin: breslinruth@gmail.com

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Ireland Recruitment Best Practice

The Anti Human Trafficking Unit of the Department of Justice and Equality (AHTU) is participating in a joint Northern Ireland/Republic of Ireland project to collaborate in developing best practice in preventing trafficking for labour exploitation in the recruitment sector in both jurisdictions. UK and Irish recruitment firms and regulatory authorities are also participating in the project as is the 2nd largest food production company in the UK and Ireland (2 Sisters Food Group).

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EU Network of National Rapporteurs or Equivalent Mechanisms (NERM)

The EU Network of National Rapporteurs or Equivalent Mechanisms (NERM) met in Brussels on 19 and 20 October 2015. The meeting examined the links, differences and the need for conceptual clarity between trafficking in human beings and migrant smuggling. The meeting also looked at how to enhance data collection and comparable statistics on trafficking in human beings in the EU. EU Member States national statistical authorities were invited to attend. Mick Quinn from the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit and D/Sergeant Claire McKeon of the Human Trafficking Investigation and Coordination Unit of An Garda Síochána, represented Ireland at the meeting. There was also a meeting in Brussels of the EU Civic Platform on 20 and 21 October where Ireland was represented by Sarah Benson of Ruhama, Patricia Stapleton of Doras Luimni and Heilean Rosenstock-Armie of Immigrant Council of Ireland. To mark the ninth EU Anti-Trafficking Day, there was a forum on Implementing the Legal and Policy Framework jointly hosted by the EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator and the Luxembourg EU Presidency on the 20th of October.

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

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