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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Research design and direction, the case studies and report writing have been done by IOM, Yerevan. The Armenian Sociological Association was responsible for supervising the survey and conducting its data entry and analysis. The surveys were conducted by individuals identified by “Businesswomen” and “Hope and Help” NGOs. The OSCE office in Yerevan did research on the Armenian legislation related to trafficking. UNICEF provided detailed comments on the draft of the report, particularly on the section concerning children. The Research unit of IOM at Geneva provided helpful comments and advice on the draft report.

The Ministries of Internal Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Education, Health, Justice and Social Security, of the Republic of Armenia provided valuable guidance and information as did the consular sections of the embassies of Germany, France and the United States of America.

Returning migrants and victims of trafficking interviewed shared their experiences without which this study would not have been possible.

The research study was primarily funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands.

PREFACE

Trafficking in human beings has become a global problem and a number of developing and transition countries are affected as countries of origin. Unfortunately Armenia is not an exception. Based on a shared concern and priority to stop the violation of fundamental rights of women, children and migrants, the missions of IOM, OSCE and UNICEF in Armenia have combined their efforts, in cooperation with the Government of Armenia, to address the issue of trafficking in human beings. Internationally, all three organisations have been in the forefront in raising awareness of the issue and ways to tackle it. One of IOM's six migration management service areas is dedicated to counter-trafficking; its projects in the sector cover several countries.

We hope that the research and its recommendations, the first study on the subject in Armenia, will give insight into the nature and incidence of trafficking from Armenia and provide a sound basis for policy, legislative and programme intervention by the government, civil society and the international community to address the issue.

Ambassador Roy Reeve
Head of Office
OSCE/Armenia

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IOM/Armenia

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UNICEF/Armenia

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In terms of irregular migration, Armenia is an origin country and to a much smaller extent a transit country. In the period since 1991, it is conservatively estimated that of a total population of less than four million, 800,000 to one million people have migrated, either legally or illegally. Push factors have been the sharp rise in impoverishment (particularly in urban areas), drastic cuts in social spending and the removal of exit controls since 1991 with the collapse of the Soviet Union. Displaced populations, refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Armenia, are particularly hard hit and have further migrated in large numbers.

Preliminary research by IOM indicated that trafficking makes up a portion of irregular migration in Armenia. Given this and the trends in CIS countries such as the Ukraine and the Russian Federation, there was a clear need to go beyond the sketchy information available and collect more comprehensive information on the trafficking situation in Armenia including an analysis of existing legislation to combat the issue.

The aim of this research project is to contribute to the prevention of trafficking in migrants from and via Armenia by providing reliable information on the nature of the problem. The main purpose of this research is to provide a sound basis for program and policy intervention. Chapter 1 of the report provides an introduction and background to the study, including why it was felt necessary, the definition of trafficking used in the study and the research methodology used. Chapter 2 looks at nature and incidence of the problem in Armenia. Chapter 3 describes and analyses the legislation in place to combat trafficking in Armenia. The concluding chapter provides recommendations to deal with the issue.

The definition of trafficking in human beings that is applied in this research is based on that contained in the Protocol on Trafficking attached to the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime.

The UN protocol defines Trafficking in Persons as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the 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 or of the giving or receiving of payment or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation includes, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.

The combined components that define trafficking are therefore:

- Migration: there is movement across or within national borders.
- Intermediaries: are involved and obtain gain by coercion, deception, or illicit means.
- Victims: are exploited or their basic human rights violated.

There are similarities and differences between trafficking and alien smuggling; the latter is limited to the illegal facilitation of border crossing.¹

¹ IOM, "Trafficking in Migrants: IOM Policy and Responses", Geneva, May 10, 1999.

While it is important to distinguish between people who are forced or tricked into being trafficked and those who choose to migrate, people who choose to migrate but are then subjected to exploitation and abuse are classified in this study as trafficked persons. The study is divided into two parts. This report, which is concerned with the trafficking of women and children, is the first part. IOM will publish a second report that will deal with the issue of irregular migration and smuggling of Armenian and transit migrants.

Given the clandestine nature of the subject, the project faced difficulties in collecting extensive information. To overcome this obstacle, the research relied on more than one source of information and used a combination of social research methods. First, structured interviews were held with 59 returnees (returning migrants) identified mainly in three major cities/towns in Armenia, 43 of whom the study determined were trafficked. The returnees were all women. From primarily among the 59 returnees IOM carried out 13 in-depth case studies. IOM further relied on information provided by key informants in government structures, children boarding institutions and orphanages, and tour operators in Armenia. Finally, a research team of two persons travelled to Dubai to speak there with Armenian victims of trafficking as well as officials of the United Arab Emirates government.

This study has shown that there is trafficking of women and children from Armenia. On one hand a primary cause is the relative and absolute impoverishment and lack of decently paid job opportunities since the collapse of the USSR and the subsequent transition to a market economy. All those surveyed who travelled abroad did so for economic reasons. Over 60 per cent (36 women) of interviewed women said that the creation of work places would be the most effective measure to reduce and prevent trafficking. Against this background of the need to secure a income and the particular difficulty in doing so, on the other hand are gender roles and inequalities make women particularly vulnerable to certain forms of trafficking such as that of the sex trade, to serve the needs of men.

Of the 59 returnee women surveyed, 43 (73%) were victims of trafficking. This includes 28 women that were subjected to sex work. Even though ten women expected this when they went abroad intentionally for paid sex work, they faced exploitative conditions, including in all cases restricted movement and passports taken and in others very long working hours, occasional forced and unpaid work, no freedom to refuse clients, forced to have unprotected sex and violence at the hands of middlemen. The other 18 women not only suffered most or some of the above conditions but also in the first place had intentions of employment or marriage when going abroad but also were in fact subjected to sex work. A further 12 women were subject to exploitation and abuse by employers such as occasional forced and unpaid work, violence, restricted movement and confiscation of passport, very long hours and in two cases, forced sexual relations. Additionally two women also faced problems related to occasional forced and unpaid work and very long working hours as domestic workers were possibly not trafficked victims and hence have not been included as such in the study. Similarly one person subjected to sex work was possibly not a trafficked victim and has not been included as such in the results. Nine of the case studies are of trafficked victims. Most of the trafficked women travelled in the period from 1997 onwards.

In the survey 65 per cent of those engaged or trafficked in the sex trade are under the age of 30, including two minors. If we take into account respondents who faced other problems as well the average age is higher. None of the trafficked women in the survey were married, with 73 per cent being divorced, illustrating the vulnerability of this social category to trafficking in Armenia. Forty-

one per cent of the trafficked women were from Yerevan and nearby, 20 per cent from Vanadzor and 29 per cent from Gyumri. The three cities/towns (along with Kapan in Southern Armenia) comprise the main urban centres in Armenia (even though except Yerevan, the other three are by no means large) and it is fair to assume trafficking from Armenia is more an urban than rural phenomena although small towns are exposed to it as well (e.g. Sevan). The survey and the case studies illustrate that all the trafficked women identified in the study were facing economic hardship before they went abroad and come from the poorer strata of urban society.

The findings of the survey indicate that the trafficking of women from Armenia is mainly directed to the United Arab Emirates (U.A.E) and Turkey. Apart from the push factors mentioned earlier, and the demand for such services in the destination countries which are in close proximity, trafficking results from the actions of local recruiters, pimps or employers abroad, who are in search of profits and in league with pliant or poorly paid officials willing to turn a blind eye or falsify travel documents in exchange for money. The nature of trafficking from Armenia to the U.A.E. is related entirely to the sex trade whereas in Turkey it is a mix of exploitation related to both the sex trade as well as employment (the majority of cases).

An analysis of the survey results and more in-depth case studies indicates that recruitment follows a pattern. Most often, the first chain in the link is a neighbour, friend or acquaintance that is the local recruiter. She or he is linked with the employer or pimp who is located in the destination country. The local recruiter often has worked or continues to do so as a commercial sex worker abroad. The second type of recruitment seen is when middlemen such as foreign tour bus operators (in this case Turkish) and people supposedly arranging jobs abroad recruit economically vulnerable women for employers or pimps abroad. In the case of the U.A.E. (Dubai) the pimps located there are usually Armenian women with Arab partners.

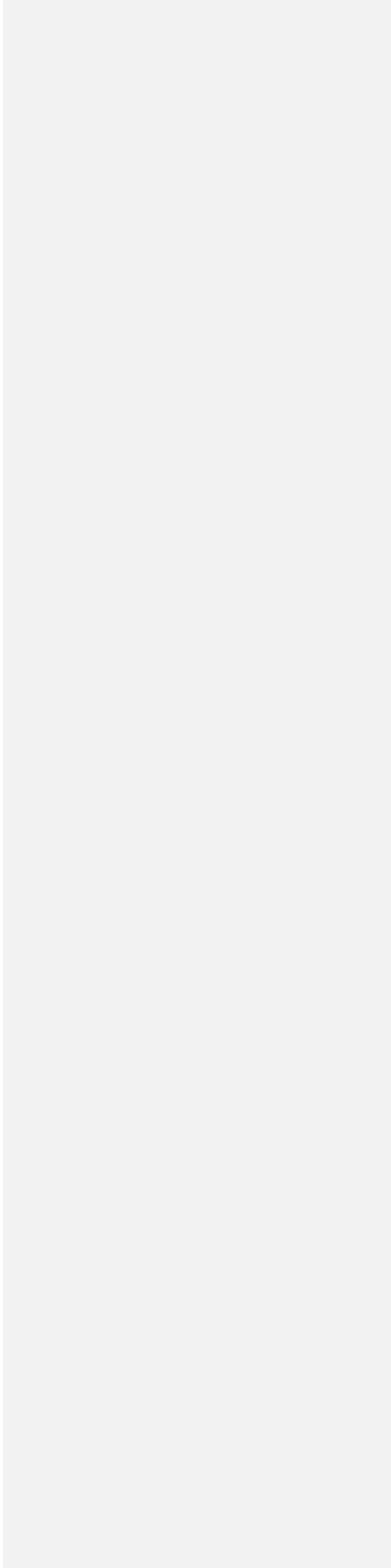
The passage of minors unaccompanied by their parents, as evidenced in the case studies and survey, points to the complicity of corrupt officials in the trafficking chain.

Problems faced by trafficked women include: indebtedness, sale of assets, isolation and no freedom of movement, extortion, financial exploitation, violence, sale of women and forced exposure to life threatening health problems. The study has shown that minors are among those being trafficked for sex work abroad. Children in the state residential institutions are a high-risk group for prostitution, at home or abroad. While the regulations for legal adoption are quite stringent, the corruptibility of many public officials make the system open to abuse.

The study has further concluded that while the Armenian criminal code does address a number of trafficking related offences, there are shortcomings in the legislation and moreover its implementation does not serve as a deterrent for traffickers. There has been only one indictment so far and even though the victims included minors, the traffickers received only a mild sentence. The Government of Armenia has signed six international instruments related to the issue of trafficking as well as a number of bilateral and multilateral agreements. However it has not yet signed the important UN convention and its protocols related to transnational organized crime, trafficking and migrant smuggling, although is reportedly in the process of doing so.

This study has laid a strong foundation that will enable the government, civil society, and the international community to jointly devise and implement follow-up activities. The study proposes recommendations for the prevention and reduction of trafficking in women and children from

Armenia which fall in five main areas: awareness raising, prosecution of traffickers, protection and assistance to victims, further research in selected topics and economic development.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background²

People trafficking is not a new practice. A most blatant example of this practice was the slave trade from Africa, which extended from the sixteenth to the eighteenth centuries. Today people migrate for many reasons: some are seeking better opportunities, others are in search of safeguard: escaping from war, persecution, violence, poverty, environmental disasters or human right violations. At the same time, various states have imposed stricter border controls and entry requirements. In most parts of the world the possibilities for legal migration have decreased. In destination countries there remains a persistent demand for various categories of foreign labour in both formal and informal sectors. The combination of these factors has led to a sharp rise in the level of irregular migration and trafficking in migrants.

As a result of the above, a market for services that facilitate irregular migration such as provision of fraudulent travel documents, transportation, clandestine border crossings, transient accommodation and job brokering has increased in recent years. Criminal networks have found good ground in these areas to enlarge their activities and profits.

Trafficked persons, dependent on agents and employers, are extremely vulnerable to exploitation in an insecure and unfamiliar environment and in need of income to maintain themselves and their families as well as pay back the debt incurred to traffickers. This often results in confinement in sweatshops, factories, fishing boats, organized criminal activity, begging, forced sex activities and other forms of forced labour. In such situations the victims are not only economically exploited but are subject to violations of their fundamental human rights. The persons are prevented from escape by debt bondage, retention of passport and travel documents, security guards, violence or threats of violence.

These problems can also affect regular migrants who were misled about the purpose of their travel at the time of recruitment or who became targets of traffickers while looking for employment upon arrival in their destination. Well-known examples include women who arrive on entertainment visas, only to find themselves forced into sex work.

Irregular migrants who have been trafficked are in a vulnerable position in the destination country as they are often subject to deportation. Most are hesitant to report crimes against them. Even though the trafficker may be convicted, the only certain outcome for the victim is that s/he will be deported and the initial investment to migrate lost.

Traffickers target men, women and children. Exploitation and violation of fundamental human rights apply to both men and women. However gender affects the degree and type of risk, vulnerability and exposure to exploitation. Women and children are more vulnerable during the trafficking process due to the use of coercion and particular kinds of forced labour and servitude.

² This section is primarily an extract from: IOM, "Trafficking in Migrants: IOM Policy and Responses", Geneva, May 10, 1999.

Today, trafficking in human beings has become a global business, generating huge profits for traffickers and organized crime syndicates, creating serious problems for the governments of the countries involved and exposing victims to exploitation and violation of their human rights. Traffickers benefit from non-existent or relatively lax sanctions in many parts of the world, an insufficient level of coordinated and effective measures to eliminate or reduce the practice, and a lack of awareness on the part of potential migrants of the dangers of being trafficked.

1.2. Definition of trafficking in human beings

The UN defines Trafficking in Persons as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the 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 or of the giving or receiving of payment or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation includes, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.

The combined components that define trafficking are therefore:

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While it is important to distinguish between people who are forced or tricked into being trafficked and those who choose to migrate, people who choose to migrate but are then subjected to exploitation and abuse are classified in this study as trafficked persons.

1.3. The context in the Commonwealth of Independent States⁴

Trafficking in women

Motives and conditions pushing women from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) to migrate are quite similar to those applicable to women from many developing countries. The destination countries are those of Western Europe, North America and the Middle East. According to research carried out in Western Europe by the Dutch non-governmental organization STV (Foundation against Women Trafficking), trafficking of women from the CIS and Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) is carried out by criminal organizations through deception and coercion, often resulting in prostitution. Women are also recruited by people they know.

³ IOM, "Trafficking in Migrants: IOM Policy and Responses", Geneva, May 10, 1999.

⁴ Other than the references to the IOM/OSCE study for Kyrgyzstan, this section is an extract from: UNHCR, "NGO Manual on International and Regional Instruments Concerning Refugees and Human Rights", Volume 4, No. 2, Geneva, July 1998.

Bogus marriage agencies transport women for large sums of money. Bogus beauty contests and modelling tours are organized, resulting finally in prostitution. Bogus jobs are promised by mala-fide employment agencies, and women forced into prostitution. Data from the IOM Migration Information Programme survey of STV victims shows that, at best, the majority were able to keep no more than 25 per cent of their earnings from prostitution.

Approximately three quarters of the victims of trafficking assisted by STV in 1994 were women under the age of 25. From the CIS the victims are largely from, but not limited to, the Russian Federation and Ukraine. The irregular status of women in prostitution or labour discourages them from reporting abuse. Such women are also prone to mental health pressures and, in the case of sex-workers, HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) infection. Aside from security concerns, the threat of deportation is another powerful inhibiting factor. Shame also stops many victims from informing their families and seeking help.

A recent study by IOM and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in Kyrgyzstan (November 2000) estimated that as many as 4,000 women were trafficked from the country in 1999.

Trafficking in children

Trafficking in children occurs for the purposes of child prostitution, illegal and false marriage, illegal adoption and child labour. The huge illegal sex trade in children (prostitution, pornography and trafficking for sexual purposes) is currently believed to involve worldwide about two million children under the age of 16. In many settings girls constitute the majority of the victims.

Although little thorough research in trafficking in children in the CIS region is available there is general agreement that the trends observed in CEE fully reflect the situation developing in the CIS. National and international trafficking in girls follows the same pattern as trafficking in women and largely goes from east to west. The source countries are primarily, but not limited to, the Russian Federation and Ukraine. The IOM/OSCE study for Kyrgyzstan referred to earlier details disturbing cases of trafficking in children. The recruitment pattern is the same. In many cases child traffickers falsify documentation by increasing the age of the children.

Trafficking in boys for sexual purposes from the CEE has been documented. Subway Berlin, a social project, reported that of the boy prostitutes who visited their centre, 50 per cent were from Romania, 20 per cent from Germany and the rest from Russia, among other countries.

1.4. Trafficking from Armenia

In terms of irregular migration Armenia is an origin country and to a lesser extent a transit country. In the period since 1991, it is conservatively estimated that of a total population of less than four million, 800,000 to one million people have migrated, either legally or illegally. Push factors have been the sharp rise in impoverishment (particularly in urban areas), drastic cuts in social spending and the removal of exit controls since 1991 with the collapse of the Soviet Union. Displaced populations, ethnic Armenian refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), are particularly hard hit and have migrated in large numbers.

Preliminary research by IOM indicated that within the element of irregular migration there are also trafficking phenomena. This affects both Armenian nationals as well as stranded transit migrants. In 1999 a number of would-be illegal migrants from South Asia were stranded in Armenia en-route to Western Europe after they had been duped by intermediaries to whom they had paid what are for the victims substantial sums of money. Armenian nationals may also have been victims of trafficking in the following ways:

- Common to a number of countries in the CIS, preliminary research by IOM in Armenia has delivered a strong indication that migrant women are engaged in organized sex-trade in certain Gulf and Middle Eastern countries, and Turkey.
- Common to a number of countries in the CIS, there was a strong indication that at least in relation to one Western European country there are sham marriages, which result later in exploitation of the women concerned.
- Scores of Armenians travelling by bus have been returned from the borders in Ukraine and Hungary suspected for wanting to enter Austria without proper documentation. Fraudulent documents and false pretexts have been used to obtain visas from certain embassies in Armenia. It is quite likely that in such situations, intermediaries such as tour operators/travel agencies and other entities have profited regardless of the outcome for the persons concerned.
- Despite its relatively small population, Armenia ranks among the top ten origin countries for asylum seekers in Germany in 1999 and in Belgium in 2000. Most applications are rejected and over the years there have been both voluntary returns as well as deportations. It is quite likely that such a large movement involves intermediaries and perhaps traffickers.

The Armenian authorities are concerned about its citizens who may be victims of trafficking as well as the increase in illegal transit and stranded migrants in the country. In February of this year IOM facilitated a meeting between representatives of five western European governments and representatives of the three South Caucasus countries to discuss practical cooperation and activities to prevent irregular migration and facilitate cooperation and activities to prevent irregular migration and facilitate the voluntary and sustainable return and reintegration of migrants. It was agreed to take up information campaigns in all three countries to inform potential migrants of the risks of illegal migration and trafficking and to combat misinformation by unscrupulous agents.

1.5. Aim and purpose of the study

The aim of this research project is to contribute to the prevention of trafficking in migrants from and via Armenia by providing reliable information on the nature of the problem, which will serve as a sound basis for programme and policy intervention.

Given the recent trends observed in the country, most notably increased migration, there was a need to go beyond the sketchy information available and collect more comprehensive information on the trafficking situation in Armenia including an analysis of existing legislation to combat the issue. Preliminary research by IOM and national partner NGOs has indicated instances and the likelihood of trafficking of men and women from and via Armenia.

The Armenian authorities are concerned about its citizens who may be victims of trafficking as well as the increase in illegal transit and stranded migrants in the country. OSCE and UNICEF share with IOM the concern and a priority to deal with the issue. A joint initiative was therefore launched with

IOM as executing agency. The project has drawn and built on IOM's institutional experience and expertise in counter-trafficking activities.

Research objectives

- To gather in-depth information on the incidence and nature of trafficking: the extent, the victims, the intermediaries, the methods of recruitment, the methods of trafficking, the routes, and the transit, destination and origin countries.
- To gather information and analyse the policies and legislation governing counter-trafficking.
- On the basis of the above to develop initiatives to address the problem through policy and legislative measures such as criminalizing trafficking and improving border management, as well as operational measures in awareness raising and public information and direct assistance to trafficked migrants.

1.6. Methodology

Based on IOM's experience with similar research projects in the CIS and CEE as well as its own preliminary study, IOM Armenia has evolved the following research design.

As this is the first study of its type in the country, two dimensions were investigated: trafficking in women and children and trafficking and smuggling in migrants. An underlying theme in both aspects was an analysis of legislation to deal with the issue. This report describes the patterns and mechanisms found in trafficking of women and children. The second part of the study focusing on irregular migration will be presented in a subsequent report.

Trafficking in women and children

Four social research methods were used to conduct this study. First, structured interviews were held with 59 returnees identified mainly in Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor cities/towns. The questionnaire is attached in Appendix 1. The returnees were all women. Interviewers were selected from two local NGOs that had worked with commercial sex workers and returning (women) labour migrants, respectively. The interviewers identified potentially trafficked women, i.e. commercial sex workers and returning women labour migrants for interviews. As the interviews were anonymous, a supervisor was present whenever an interview was conducted to monitor that the interview was genuine. In addition, IOM researchers also conducted some of the interviews based on information on victims provided by the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Secondly, 13 in-depth case studies were made of victims, traffickers and others (a dancer and a commercial sex worker). Thirdly, two researchers travelled to Dubai as observers. Finally, semi-structured interviews were held with key informants in the Ministries of Interior, Foreign Affairs, Health, Education, and Social Security, in the Border Guard services, children boarding institutions and orphanages, travel agencies, tour and bus operators in Armenia, and finally with Immigration Service officials in the United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.).

In addition, a literature survey of secondary sources included IOM and NGO studies on irregular migration among women. IOM further analysed overseas employment and marriage advertisements appearing in the local media.

Analysis of legislation

The present study also included a comparative analysis of national policies and laws pertaining to the control of trafficking of migrants with international conventions and standards. It also included a review analysis of recent court cases and law enforcement mechanisms to combat trafficking in migrants. A specific analysis of the national legislation on the protection of minors, or the lack thereof, was also carried out.

Data processing, analysis, documentation and dissemination

The data coming forth from the survey have been processed electronically. The report and the findings of the research and the recommendations for policy and operational measures will be disseminated at a seminar to be organized in Yerevan.

Inputs

IOM coordinated the research and was responsible for project design, training of interviewers, semi-structured interviews, case studies, participant observation, analysis and report writing, and finally dissemination.

The Armenian Sociological Association (ASA), a national NGO, was an implementation partner and shared responsibilities with IOM in several research tasks, such as survey data entry and analysis. The surveys were conducted by individuals identified by “Businesswomen” and “Hope and Help” NGOs.

The Government of Armenia, particularly the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Internal Affairs, provided important information and cooperation.

OSCE hired a lawyer who assisted in the legislative analysis and comparison. OSCE further provided a project focal point, who also travelled to Dubai as part of the research team. UNICEF appointed a focal point to provide feedback on issues applying to the protection of women and children. IOM, OSCE and UNICEF will work towards implementing the recommendations of the report, including influencing state policy and legislation.

Funding for the research project was provided by the Government of the Netherlands and UNICEF. OSCE provided in-kind contribution mentioned above.

1.7. Constraints

Given the clandestine nature of the subject, the project faced difficulties in collecting extensive information. To overcome these obstacles, the research relied on more than one source of information and used a combination of social research methods.

2. TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN FROM ARMENIA

2.1. Extent of the problem

Due to the clandestine nature of trafficking information on the number of trafficked women and children is difficult to collect. This research has looked at the following sources to establish and give a picture of the scope of the problem.

Court records: the study identified seven cases related to organized prostitution and pimping in Armenia, one case of trafficking women to the U.A.E., and one case on illegal adoption in the period since 1991. The trafficking case mentioned had 25 witnesses, women and minors, trafficked or engaged in Dubai in prostitution.

Police records: the majority of records analysed are connected with prostitution, rather than trafficking per se. Police records on lost children and women are scattered and have not been compiled. Records of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on criminal activities of Armenian citizens abroad do not contain information on trafficking.

Border Guards: some observations were made on the seasonal nature of trafficking, but the Border Guards have no records available.

Air companies and bus agencies: Turkish bus operators interviewed indicated crude numbers of women and minors travelling to Turkey which vary according to the seasons. Armenian Airlines officials, operating two flights a week to Dubai, reported the presence of at least two deported women on every return flight to Yerevan.

Press reports: Noyan Tapan News Agency (Yerevan) reported in December 1997 that a criminal group of Armenian nationals trading in children were arrested in Belarus. The group were taking the children from Armenia to Poland via Brest in Belarus. Further, Noyan Tapan reported in October 1998 that a Ukrainian and an Armenian woman had been arrested in Egypt and charged for organizing trafficking networks in tourist centres of the country. Seventeen Russian, Ukrainian and Armenian prostitutes who had disguised themselves in Islamic attire for purpose of hiding their "profession" were arrested as well.

Survey, case study and visit results: Of the 59 returnee women surveyed, 43 (73%) were victims of trafficking. This includes 28 women that were subjected to sex work. Even though ten women expected this when they went abroad intentionally for paid sex work, they faced exploitative conditions, including in all cases restricted movement and passports taken and in others very long working hours, occasional forced and unpaid work, no freedom to refuse clients, forced to have unprotected sex and violence at the hands of middlemen. The other 18 women not only suffered most or some of the above conditions but also in the first place had intentions of employment or marriage when going abroad but also were in fact subjected to sex work. A further 12 women were subject to exploitation and abuse by employers such as occasional forced and unpaid work, violence, restricted movement and confiscation of passport, very long hours and in two cases, forced sexual relations. Additionally two women, possibly not trafficked victims, faced problems related to

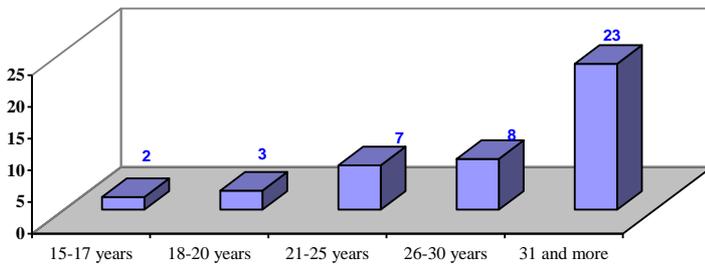
occasional forced and unpaid work and very long working hours as domestic workers and hence have not been included as such in the study. Similarly one commercial sex worker was possibly not a trafficked victim and has not been included as such in the results. Nine of the case studies are of trafficked victims.

One of the respondents mentioned that she was trafficked in a group along with 14 minors. She reported that the system worked as a conveyor, some were returning while others were replacing those returning in a continuous movement. Eighty-five per cent of all the interviewed knew cases of women who were invited as dancers, waitresses and other professions, and finally forced to be engaged in commercial sex. Forty-five per cent knew many cases. During the visits to six night clubs/bars in three days in Dubai the research team counted about 60 women and minors from Armenia. During conversations the women told the research team that there are many more women, and that many of their friends from Armenia are in Dubai. IOM interviewed a pimp in detention, who said that she was transporting a minimum of five women per flight to Dubai during a period of two years. Annually this makes over 500 women. On the day this particular trafficker was arrested, she mentioned 27 women were in the process of being transported to Dubai from Yerevan Zvartnots airport, five of them by her.

2.2. Who are the trafficked women, from where and why?

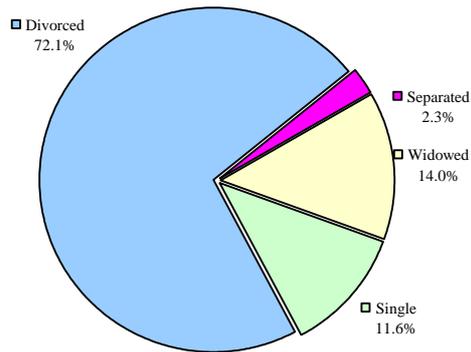
In the survey 65 per cent of those engaged or trafficked in the sex trade are under the age of 30, including two minors. If we take into account respondents who faced other problems as well the age profile is different (Figure 1).

**Figure 1
Age Profile (Trafficked Women)**



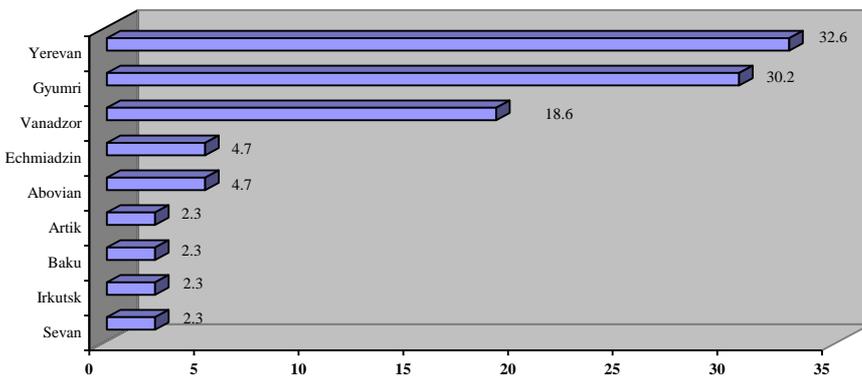
None of the trafficked women in the survey were married, with 31 (72%) being divorced, illustrating the vulnerability of this social category to trafficking in Armenia. The marital status of the trafficked women is reflected in figure 2. Forty-two per cent of the trafficked women were from Yerevan and nearby, 18 per cent from Vanadzor and 30 per cent from Gyumri (Figure 3). The three cities/towns (along with Kapan in Southern Armenia) comprise the main urban centres in Armenia (even though except Yerevan, the other three are by no means large) and it is fair to assume trafficking from Armenia is more an urban than rural phenomena although small towns are exposed to it as well (e.g. Sevan). One of the victims surveyed was an ethnic Armenian refugee from Baku.

Figure 2
Marital Status (Trafficked Women)



When my husband died I was left alone with my four children... I could not find a job in Armenia. My neighbour who was also looking for a job told me that many of her friends had found work in Turkey through bus operators... When we arrived in Turkey we went directly to the office and found a man waiting for us. He proposed us a job at the canteen of a factory he owned. We agreed that he would pay us US\$ 200 a week for ten hours of work per day... We worked for a month and got no salary. At the beginning of the third month the man gave me US\$ 100... Later when I asked for my pay he threatened me to report to the immigration police about my expired visa. I was scared... Once he told me that he would be very favourable to me if I agreed to have sexual relations with him... I could not go back home because I had no documents and was afraid of the immigration police... So I had to accept his rules in order to get my passport. As soon as I received it I immediately bought a bus ticket to Yerevan. (Case study 6).

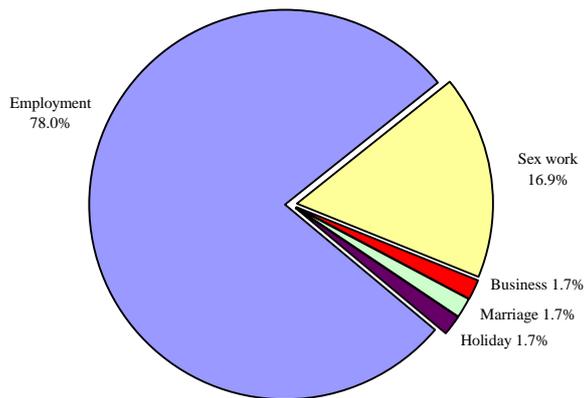
Figure 3
Place of Origin (Trafficked Women, in Percentage)



Reasons for travelling abroad

The diagram below (Figure 4) illustrates the reasons for travelling abroad among women surveyed. Over 75 per cent (45 women) went abroad for employment (other than sex work). Eighteen per cent (11 women) went abroad knowing that they were going to earn a living through prostitution. The above reasons and the case studies illustrate that all the trafficked women identified in the study were facing economic hardship before they took the decision to work abroad and come from the poorer strata of urban society. Twenty-three per cent of the trafficked victims had university education, around the national average. Those with secondary education comprised 57 per cent. On the return of the respondents to Armenia, when the survey was carried out, 39 per cent were unemployed, 25 per cent engaged in commercial sex, 15 per cent engaged in small business, and 8 per cent were minor employees. The average national unemployment rate is 11 per cent (1999). Most of the trafficked victims were either unemployed (16 persons) or engaged in commercial sex (15 persons).

Figure 4
Reasons for Travelling Abroad (All Respondents)

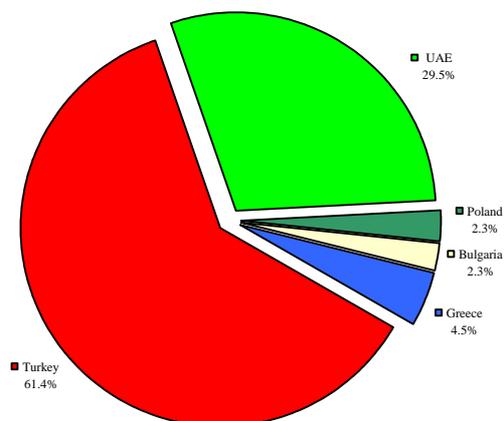


2.3. Destination countries

Of the 43 trafficked women, 13 (30 %) went to the U.A.E. and 27 (63 %) to Turkey. All those travelling to the U.A.E. were engaged in prostitution, expected or not, as were five women (18%) travelling to Turkey. Among those travelling to Turkey 22 women (81% of women trafficked to Turkey) were subject to abuse related to unpaid work and exploitation or in some cases forced sexual relations. Most of the women surveyed travelled in the period from 1997 onwards. Figure 5 below illustrates the countries of destination for trafficked women. Greece figures in as well with two women victims travelling there. Recent IOM research in Central Asia has documented the U.A.E. as a major destination country for trafficking in women from the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan. Over the past decade, since the collapse of the Soviet Union, Turkey has also been a

destination country for women trafficked or commercially exploited from Ukraine and Russia. Armenia as a country of origin in close proximity and facing a sharp increase in poverty and unemployment falls within these patterns.

Figure 5
Countries of Destination (Trafficked Women)



2.4. Recruitment

For those abused or working as prostitutes, the initial information on work abroad was provided mainly by acquaintances, including those already working abroad. Recruitment through pimps took place in 8 per cent of the cases.

Following the initial information provided in most cases by friends or those already abroad, the travel abroad was organized mainly by middlemen or travel agencies.

The paragraphs below are excerpts of interviews with two traffickers.

I had been a prostitute here in my small town. There was no work. People could not buy my services or even give me some bread in exchange. Imagine in that dark and cold year of 1993 my friend who had already travelled to Dubai and was a “good friend” of an Arab man, came to my house proposing me to do the same work in Dubai, in a warm and beautiful place for a lot of money. Of course I agreed. Five other women and I received an invitation from her Arab friend’s company. In Dubai I found my own connections. Now I am travelling back and forth taking women from here. Money can open any doors. I am a respected person among my relatives and community in Vanadzor. (Case study 1).

I have been condemned to one-year prison term. I was arrested when I was sending five girls. I usually send five on each flight to Dubai. I recruit them here. My friend is there, and she and her friend send invitations from Dubai and take care of the girls there. When they arrested me 27 other girls were being sent to Dubai on the same flight. They said that all of them were my responsibility. Everybody

was released except me. As a compensation for serving one-year imprisonment term I received some money from my friend in Dubai (pimp) and bought an apartment. (Case study 2).

The story of this pimp and her judicial case was covered in the Armenian media (Golos Armenii newspaper published from Yerevan). She and her group had been transporting women for five years. All the major organizers have been released, on the grounds that “they have children”, and have returned to Dubai to continue the work they were doing. The leader of the group was hiding and the police could not find her. The main argument presented by traffickers during the judicial hearing as to why they were involved in this criminal business was that they had children of their own to support. It is worth mentioning that these women and others, who have been involved in trafficking and who were interviewed by the research team, described their work as charity and assistance to the families whose members they had trafficked.

Thirty-four per cent of all interviewed women mentioned that they had obtained information about opportunities abroad from people who were working outside the country. These people function as recruiters; some stay in the country of destination and do not return, as they are afraid of imprisonment by law enforcement agencies. Armenian law enforcement and more than one interviewee pointed to an Armenian woman who has been living in Dubai for a number of years and whose family members in Armenia recruit women and minors and transport them to her in Dubai. There are other women who are engaged in commercial sex abroad and who enjoy the reputation in Armenia of successful migrant workers. Some of them act as recruiters of unsuspecting young girls who are misled into thinking that a foreign paradise is awaiting them.

Fifty-one per cent of the surveyed women mentioned that they got information on work opportunities abroad through friends. Research findings indicate that women from Armenia are recruited mostly through informal channels. This is especially true in Armenian communities and neighbourhoods where people know each other. Local recruiters introduce their services as charity or assistance to the family. These recruiters are the first chain in a well-organized international criminal group that works across the borders. The pimp who was interviewed mentioned that her group gave small amounts of money to the family as advance, and then took the girls to a dentist and hairdresser to give them a “marketable appearance”. In some cases, while the girl is out of the country and the family has no news from her, the recruiters bring some money to the family and pretend that their daughter or mother has sent it to them. The recruiters do so obviously to create goodwill among the local population, and one of them mentioned the respect she had in the community.

Recruitment of women through informal channels has an important policy implication, because it means that regulation of advertisements for jobs in the entertainment industry or for domestic work may not have the desired impact on combating trafficking.

Online matchmaking: a number of Armenian women's profiles can be found on several Internet web sites that offer matchmaking services. It is difficult however to assess the circulation impact of the online matchmaking or to keep track of marriage advertisements either through Internet personals or newspaper advertisements. Given the fact that there is no wide Internet access in Armenia, the impact of communication and Internet personals in contributing to trafficking appears to be limited.

Newspaper advertisements: though the majority of interviewed women had arranged their travel abroad through acquaintances, friends, neighbours, relatives, and on word-to-mouth information,

some of them reported to have arranged their trips abroad through newspaper advertisements. The analysis of local media in Armenia revealed that the number of advertisements appearing in newspapers offering “highly paid jobs” abroad to attractive young women is on the increase. The research team monitored such advertisements appearing in well-known weeklies and followed up the trail of the promotion offers. These advertisements offer the services of a number of tour agencies located at a hotel in Yerevan, which arrange Schengen visas and other travel opportunities. Appendix five presents several samples of newspaper advertisements from Armenian newspapers.

Interviewers noticed also in the regions of Armenia advertisements of attractive jobs abroad, Schengen visas and US Green Cards. A number of women mentioned that Armenian representatives of Turkish bus agencies had travelled to their region, recruiting people for various jobs in Turkey, Greece, and Western European countries.

An analysis of the survey results and more in-depth case studies indicates that recruitment follows a pattern. Most often, the first chain in the link is a neighbour, friend or acquaintance that is the local recruiter. She or he is linked with the employer or pimp who is located in the destination country. The local recruiter often has worked or continues to as a commercial sex worker abroad. The second type of recruitment seen is when middlemen such as foreign tour bus operators (in this case Turkish) and people supposedly arranging jobs abroad recruit economically vulnerable women for employers or pimps abroad. In the case of the U.A.E. (Dubai) the pimps located there are usually Armenian women with Arab partners

2.5. Travel

Five trafficked women in the survey said that they had travelled on a passport with a false date of birth. Over 95 per cent of the trafficked women had a valid visa for the country of destination. Twenty-five per cent (11 women) reported that they had reached the country of destination through a transit country, most notably through Georgia (for Turkey and in one case Dubai) and in two cases Russia (for Poland and Dubai).

According to victims in the case studies they were not allowed to keep their travel documents during the journey, except for immigration control. According to border control officials in Armenia in most cases the passports, visas and other documents are in order. However, the real picture is somewhat different considering that alteration of birth dates of minors was reported as a common occurrence during all interviews. According to a young girl who had been trafficked to Dubai at the age of 15, she had received her passport from the regional passport department. There were also 14 other young girls travelling to Dubai with her. The youngest ones were provided with passports with false dates of birth in their towns of origin where they had been recruited. The children were also dressed to appear older (Case study 4). The alteration of the date of birth starts with a change of date in the birth certificate based on which the passport is issued. Sources indicated that local authorities received bribes to alter information contained in identification papers and documents. The U.A.E. immigration law stipulates that foreign women under the age of 30 unless accompanied by their husband or parent may be refused a visa. This has resulted in the falsification of documents, and traffickers flout this regulation by providing the traveller with a false parent or husband.

One striking example of how travel is organized was the case of a group of women including minors who travelled to Georgia by taxi, then on by plane to Moscow from where they flew to Dubai (Case Study 4).

Further, according to the pimp who is currently in prison in Armenia (Case Study 2), her group had established a mechanism whereby they had an official at Yerevan Zvartnots airport (it is not clear from which service or department) who facilitated departure of the women and minors travelling. He was informed in advance of the number and age of women who they were going to take on the flights from Yerevan to Dubai. A payment was made depending on the complexities of each individual case.⁵

According to a respondent who had travelled to Turkey women who are staying illegally in Turkey or who have been detained for practising prostitution are temporarily detained in a special immigration detention centre in Istanbul before they are deported. The respondent said that she and other women had been raped by officials of this detention centre. Pimps and employers use the immigration detention centre as a leverage for low or unpaid wages and other violations.

As demonstrated in this chapter, routes of migrant trafficking generally originate in countries, which are relatively poor with high unemployment rates, and terminate in comparatively wealthier ones. The route of trafficking is not necessarily the shortest one. Changing methods of moving people illegally in response to legislative and law enforcement activities is essential for the survival of trafficking organizations. Borders and other gateways may be strictly controlled on a temporary basis, thus requiring a change of routes via different transit points. Trafficking organizations successfully exploit the loopholes in border surveillance and controls, or simply cross borders when and where border controls are under-staffed, poorly equipped or where bribes can facilitate safe passage.

The passage of minors unaccompanied by their parents, as evidenced in the case studies and survey, points to the complicity of corrupt officials in the trafficking chain. Unaccompanied travel of minors from Armenia is made possible in three ways. First, through a false date of birth in the passport. This alteration is done either at the passport office or in the birth certificate itself at the municipality. Second, when exit control personnel at the borders permit it. Third, if documents are notarized either genuinely or falsely reflecting the permission of the parents to allow travel abroad.

Over half of those whose trip abroad was arranged by middlemen felt deceived by them. While most of the complaints were due to the difference between expectations and reality in working terms and conditions, several women reported that they were forced into prostitution or sexual relations, or unwittingly sent to a pimp.

Now I live with my two children and mother. I am an engineer. Who needs my knowledge here? It was my neighbour who told me that there was an agency recruiting women for cleaning jobs in Dubai families. I was very happy when I found that they were going to buy my ticket and pay me a small advance to get there. When we arrived in Dubai my passport was taken away and I was told to prostitute myself. I cried for two months. I was forced to do it because of the debts imposed on me... I was lucky that the police raided the hotel where I was staying and I was deported back. I heard that there are many real jobs in America, but I cannot go there because I have a deportation stamp in my passport. (Case study 7).

⁵ The day the pimp was arrested by the police, the official warned her that those who were younger and carrying fraudulent passports were to board the plane at the very end just before departure.

In 63 per cent of the cases the migrant had to pay the recruiter to go abroad. While this payment included legitimate travel expenses, the study found that 44 per cent of the surveyed cases ran into debt and 15 per cent had to sell assets to pay for travel arrangements and intermediaries' fees.

2.6. Deception and exploitation in destination country

As noted earlier of the 59 returnee women surveyed, 43 were victims of trafficking. This included 28 women that were subjected to sex work. Among them even though ten women expected this when they went abroad for paid sex work, they faced exploitative conditions including restricted movement, passports taken away, very long working hours, no freedom to refuse clients, forced to have unprotected sex, violence at the hands of middlemen and occasional forced and unpaid work. The other 18 women not only suffered most or some of the above conditions but also in the first place had intentions of employment or marriage when going abroad but also were in fact subjected to sex work. A further 12 women were subject to exploitation and abuse by employers, such as forced and unpaid work, violence, restricted movement and confiscation of passport, very long hours and in two cases, forced sexual relations. Additionally, although possibly not trafficked victims, two women faced problems related to forced and unpaid work and very long working hours as domestic workers.

Thirty-six women reported that on occasion they had been forced to work without compensation. Fifty per cent of them (18 women) were in the sex trade. Nine women reported to have often suffered physical violence at the hands of employers or middlemen. Nine persons reported that they were often forced to have unprotected sex. Three persons indicated that they had contracted a sexually transmitted disease (STD) as a result. Fourteen women in the sex trade reported that they had no freedom to refuse clients, six mentioned that they were forced to work without condoms. Twelve women said they had to work all the time ("24 hours"). Thirty-seven per cent of the respondents reported that they were only able to retain half of their earnings or less. Twenty-five per cent reported that they had incurred a debt with their employers, in six cases equal to or over US\$1,000. Only 17 per cent felt that their working circumstances were satisfactory. The passports of close to 60 per cent of the respondents were taken away and their movement was restricted. Thirteen women reported that they were sold to pimps.

Significantly, 85 per cent of the respondents knew about women who had been initially invited to work as dancers and waitresses, but who had been forced to engage in commercial sex work upon arrival in the country of destination. Forty-five per cent answered that they knew many such cases.

My boyfriend told me that we could earn some money for our wedding if we went to work in Greece at his friend's company.... He took my passport and all necessary papers and said that he would take care of visa and travel arrangements. I was so happy... Instead of Greece we landed in Dubai... He took me to a hotel and said that he was going to see his friend... Two hours later a man came to take me to another hotel saying that I was his property. The man told me that my friend had sold me to him, that from now on he would have my documents and I had to do whatever he told me to... He said that every day I had to give him \$500, no matter how many clients I would serve... It was a continuous hell. Each day I served around 30 to 40 clients... That day I understood that it was an organized enterprise and that there were many women from many countries who shared the same fate. (Case study 3).

Seizure of documents and passport: all the trafficked women without exception spoke about the seizure of passports under a variety of pretences, thus putting women in an unfamiliar environment in a very vulnerable position.

Control over their movements and isolation: women mentioned those contacts with other people or movements without informing the pimp were not allowed. The pimp was buying even food or necessary clothing for the women according to one case study. Communication and movements were restricted by other means as well: the unknown cultural and language environment led to a natural isolation, and there was a deliberate separation of women coming from the same country.

After nights of work we were getting so tired that we could not do anything else but sleep. We did not communicate with each other. We were living in different hotels, even though we were from the same country and were together on the same flight. (Case study 4).

In this control of movements by the pimp, he or she is often assisted by hotel staff and sometimes other trafficked women. Trafficking is recognized as a well-organized criminal activity, based on profit maximization for all those who participate in exploiting the women concerned. It can involve the extraction of information and betrayal among the victims. As in organized crime or mafia structures, the trafficking network is a family of separate people, each fearful for oneself, who create an atmosphere of suspicion and subordination to the pimp.

The pimp was coming to collect money every day. I could not hide a cent. There was no place in the room, and the clothes we were given had no pockets. Neither could I hide the number of customers I was attending, because a man at the hotel reception received money to report to the pimp on the number of clients. (Case study 7).

Once I heard that my child in Yerevan was sick. I tried to hide \$100 in a piece of chocolate butter. Somebody reported to the pimp. I was terribly beaten and my money was taken away. (Case study 5).

Violence and threats: women reported that they had been beaten and that the conditions were so bad that one had tried to commit suicide. This was the case of a minor, who had tried to kill herself by cutting her veins. She attributed the scars to a bite at first, but later confessed that she had tried to commit a suicide (Case study 4).

If it were not for the women in the next room, I would have been killed. In his frenzy, the man was beating me. He squeezed my throat. (Case study 3).

Debt bondage and selling of women:

Meanwhile the pimp refused to give back my passport because of the debts he said he had incurred on account of me. I had to work and earn money if I wanted to go back home. Then he introduced me to another man telling that he had sold me to him and that I had to take my passport from him. The next day I was beaten like the first time. I was resold four times. (Case study 3).

Health issues: women trafficked into the sex industry are often coerced by their criminal captors to engage in activities that expose them to diseases such as HIV/AIDS. A survey on the incidence of STDs carried out by the Armenian NGO “Hope and Help” among 162 commercial sex workers demonstrated that 39 per cent had worked abroad, most frequently in Turkey and U.A.E. Twenty-seven per cent said that they suffered from STDs, including syphilis and gonorrhoea, and trichomoniasis (a vaginal infection).⁶

⁶ IOM supported action-research in STDs and HIV/AIDS among migrant female sex workers conducted by the NGO “Hope and Help”, 2000.

The 1999 Armenian report on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) states that the number of STD cases in Armenia has increased two to three times in recent years. In 1991, reported cases of syphilis were 6.9 per 100,000 persons, and in 1997 16.9/100,000. During the same period, gonorrhoea cases increased from 21.6 to 28.4 per 100,00 persons. In the last four years in Armenia 104 HIV positive cases and four cases of AIDS have been registered.⁷ In recent years there has also been an increase in the prevalence of sexually transmitted infections (STI) among young people. In 1995 the number of infected youth aged from 17 to 19 was 28/1000.

They were forcing us to have sex with at least 40 men a day, sometimes even more. You had no right to reject the customer, even when he did not want to use condoms. Of course I understood that I was at risk to contract a disease, but I had no right to turn the client down. (Case study 8).

Once I got so sick that I could not even move, but the pimp wouldn't pay attention to me... I told the pimp that I needed to see a doctor, but she said that it was very expensive and I could not afford it. The next day I was so weak that I could not even stand. I asked the receptionist to call my pimp. She came with a doctor, who said that I needed some medicines for the moment and an operation later on... Time passed by and she kept sending more and more clients to me, so that my health condition became worse... (Case study 5).

Deception and exploitation by spouses

There was little evidence of sham marriages or deception and exploitation by spouses among the surveyed women. However further research is needed in this area given the increase in brokered marriages and marriages through advertisements in recent years, involving young Armenian women and men living abroad. A consular official of a western European country reported in an interview with IOM in January 2000 that the embassy receives about ten applications a month to process entry permits for younger Armenian women marrying older men from the western European country.

2.7. Return

Thirty-three per cent of the respondents tried to escape their predicament, and 23 per cent of them succeeded. Of those who returned to Armenia 76 per cent returned by themselves, and 12 per cent were deported by the police. Only 5 per cent sought the help of the Armenian mission abroad.

During an interview for this study the head of the consular section of the Armenian mission in U.A.E. indicated that in the few months preceding this research the police had brought four Armenian women who did not have any identity documents. The Consulate assisted them in getting temporary papers so that they could be deported home. The Archbishop of the Armenian Church in Istanbul and interviewed women who had been trafficked to Turkey confirmed that the church and the local Armenian community there try to provide assistance to victims.

Members of the Armenian community in Dubai mentioned that they had visited prisons together with Embassy representatives and provided assistance. They had bought return tickets for the four deportees mentioned above.

On the flight back from Dubai the research team noticed two young women deported by U.A.E. authorities. A pimp operating from Dubai, who is reportedly sought by the Armenian police, came

⁷ CEDAW, Second Periodic Report for Armenia, Yerevan, 1999.

to see off the deportees. It is ironic indeed that the victims and not their pimp were deported. U.A.E. immigration officials and representatives of Armenian Airlines spoke of deportations on every flight. They described a relatively continuous movement of new women being brought and others being deported. The vicious circle does not end on departure from the foreign country as more problems occur upon their return home. The women mentioned harassment at Zvartnots airport in Yerevan by law enforcement officials who extort money with threat that otherwise their photographs will appear in newspapers and television as deportees and commercial sex workers.

Many women were apprehensive about the future.

I do not know what to do now. When I heard about jobs in Turkey it seemed to me the best solution. Now I am back. I have the same debts, the same problems and four children to take care of. (Case study 6).

2.8. Advice

When asked: “In your view, what should be done to help victims of trafficking like yourself?” 61 per cent of the interviewed women thought that creating work places in Armenia would be the best measure to reduce or prevent trafficking in women from Armenia. This was the opinion of all age groups interviewed.

2.9. Trafficking in children

According to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and its additional protocol on the sale, trafficking and use of children for prostitution and pornography, a “child” is any person under the age of 18 years.⁸

Trafficking of children is now acknowledged as a worldwide problem.

Leading factors encouraging the use of children for commercial sexual exploitation are:

- The demand from sex tourists and paedophiles,
- The fear of HIV/AIDS creating an increasing demand for younger sex workers and partners,
- The rapid expansion of the international promotion of the child sex industry through the information technology,
- The absence of appropriate legislation and effective law enforcement mechanisms penalizing these practices in countries of origin, and
- The national legal systems that provide for differing standards that complicate police work against criminal activities, which can flip back and forth across international borders.⁹

Recent research studies show that the trafficking of children in Armenia is a new phenomenon, closely related to sharp deterioration of the economy, social services and the impoverishment of

⁸ The Government of Armenia ratified the UN CRC in 1992. In 1994, the Government passed the National Child Protection Act whose regulations are mostly compatible with the principles and provisions of the CRC. At the time of this report, Armenia had not signed its access to any of the two optional protocols to the Convention approved by the UN General Assembly in May 2000. The second optional protocol refers to the use of child soldiers in armed conflicts.

⁹ “Trafficking in Women – Working Paper”, European Parliament, Civil Liberties Series, LIBE109 EN, Brussels, 2000.

Armenian families.¹⁰ The vast majority of children placed in residential-care institutions come from families who would gladly care for them if they could. According to a UNICEF study, 60 per cent of the institutions regularly accept children from the so-called “socially vulnerable” families.¹¹

The findings of this study show that children living in residential-care institutions and street children are the two children groups more exposed to trafficking. The present study found that child victims were mostly orphans or came from vulnerable families.

Children in the sex trade

Two of the respondents interviewed during this study were minors who had been trafficked. In three of the case studies there were accounts of minors being trafficked to the U.A.E.

I was twelve when my mother died. My father and my uncle had been using drugs for many years. Soon my father was imprisoned, I do not know for what offence. My uncle sold everything in our house to buy drugs. When I was 13 he forced me out to the street. I was living in the streets, sleeping under benches in the park... I went to the police and they sent me to Vartashen orphanage. Once my classmate told me that there was a woman in her neighbourhood helping young pretty girls to go to Germany to work for a fashion magazine... After a short while the papers were ready and we could start off. There were 14 of us, girls of different ages between 13 and 23. We went by taxi to Tbilisi, from there we travelled to Moscow and from Moscow to Dubai, as we found out later. The woman who had recruited me had 27 children ‘employed’, mostly from orphanages, or from the streets. She deals in this business for 12 years already. (Case study 4).

Though it has been extremely difficult to obtain statistical data on child prostitution, the majority of key informants for this study agreed that the phenomenon is on the increase. Key informants included directors of boarding schools, orphanages, and law enforcement officers who work with these children. Nevertheless, the sensitive nature of the problem makes it an issue that is difficult to acknowledge or discuss. According to the statement of a high-ranking official of the Ministry of the Interior, the absence of criminal investigation records is proof of the absence of the problem in the country.

During the present research, cases of child prostitution were mentioned by key informants in Vardashen (a boarding school for children with behavioural problems), Zeitun (a transit centre for juveniles and children in conflict with the law), and Vanadzor orphanage. The authorities of Vardashen explained that child sex workers of 13 and 14 years were admitted to the school. They also highlighted recurrent cases of child abuse within the centre itself.¹² Other key informants provided researchers with similar information from other orphanages and boarding schools.

One official interviewed said that there are groups of people using children from centres like Vardashen to supply to hotels and traffickers. The source also mentioned cases in which the recruiters were giving drugs to young girls contacted and taken from these institutions. Previous studies have indicated the combination of voluntary and forced child prostitution in Armenia.¹³ Examples of forced prostitution in recent research include the case of a 21-year old woman who

¹⁰ Gordon Weiss, “The Losing of a Generation”, feature article by UNICEF/Armenia, January 2001. Available at <http://www.unicef.org>.

¹¹ Dr. Josi Salem-Pickartz and UNICEF/Armenia, “Children in Residential Care in Armenia: Situation Analysis”, Yerevan, August 2000.

¹² A report of Amnesty International on human rights in Armenia referred to child abuse cases in Vardashen.

¹³ Ronstorm A., “Children in The Caucasus”, Save the Children (USA), Yerevan, 1996.

picked up 14 young girls and forced them to have sex with men for five dollars and a woman known as “Mama Rosa” providing young girls to men.¹⁴ Such cases were also mentioned during interviews at the central prison of Abovian and the interviews with psychologists working in children’s institutions. Key informants interviewed mentioned the existence of “hostels”, or small apartments near the market areas in Yerevan, where homeless children are allowed to stay and provided with food in exchange of sexual services to customers.

Cruelty and violence

They were beating us awfully; we could not refuse a client even if we were feeling terribly sick. If someone spent more on food than she was supposed to (food is expensive in Dubai and we were often hungry and thirsty), the Arab partner of our pimp would beat us with a belt. It was so painful... The younger ones were crying all the time; they could not get used to all they were forced to do. They were like senseless objects after almost 24 hours of work. (Case study 8).

My friend, who was 13, was taken to a wealthy man. In the end the man asked her what she wanted from him as a present. The girl asked for two sacks of flour. Even the money given to the girls as a gift, was confiscated by the pimps. (Case study 4).

Demand for young virgins

The fear of HIV/AIDS among clients has increased the demand for young virgins. The traffickers earn huge amounts of money for supplying young virgins for a night to the wealthy in Gulf States. Usually, the child gets a fraction of the money that she is sold for, but in many cases, the pimp takes the money away from the child. After the first time with a client, when the child is no longer a virgin, payment decreases. (Case study 4).

Respondents mentioned that occasionally with the help of Arab clients they could find some protection. One of the children interviewed was keeping the photograph of a young Arab man who had an influential position in law enforcement bodies. He made the pimp return the passport to the child. He had also given the girl some money and presents. (Case study 4).

Return

Of the two minors in the survey one was able to return (from Dubai) because of the intervention of a client working in law enforcement and the other said she returned (from Turkey) on her own. At the time of the survey the latter was engaged in sex work and the former living with relatives. This respondent (returnee from Dubai), also a subject of a case study, found herself cheated at home and difficult to subsist.

As soon as I came back home, I decided to buy a small one-room flat because I had spent most of my life in the streets and I wanted to have my own home. As I was under eighteen I could not register property on my name, so I did it on my uncle’s name. A month later he needed money for drugs so he sold my flat and everything I had in it. (Case study 4).

Child adoption

¹⁴ Ibid.

Most births in Armenia take place in maternity hospitals and are managed by an obstetrician. During the last seven years home deliveries have become more common. Although official statistics on home deliveries are incomplete, a combination of national and regional official sources points to a five-time increase in the number of home deliveries since the early 1990s. Poverty, lack of transport, little money to pay for hospital expenses and limited access to health-care services account for the increasing number of home deliveries in Armenia.¹⁵ In many cases, these births remain unregistered. Local authorities in Vanadzor related the increasing number of home deliveries to the increased trends of illegal adoptions.

There are women who due to their social conditions are selling their babies to families and individuals who take them out of the country. The majority of legally adopted children are from maternity homes. Less than 10 per cent of adoptions per year take place from orphanages.¹⁶ Some officials indicated that the children might be taken to other CIS countries, as there are no visa requirements, thus making the falsification of documents easier. Laws regulating adoption by foreign citizens in Armenia are strict and well developed which, combined with stricter registration systems of children at embassies, limit the avenues for trafficking children abroad. Nevertheless, the apparent weaknesses in Armenian law enforcement undermine the legal principles and the actual application of national laws. As noted earlier, there has been a press report in December 1997 on a criminal group of Armenian nationals trading in children and arrested in Belarus.

Nevertheless further research is needed in the subject to determine, inter alia, the extent of cross-border illegal adoptions in Armenia and to what extent it constitutes trafficking (and exploitation of children) as against being 'limited' to human smuggling.

¹⁵ UNDP, "Women Status Report: Impact of Transition, Armenia 1999", Yerevan, 1999.

¹⁶ Government of Armenia, UNICEF, Save the Children "A Situation Analysis of Children and Women in Armenia – 1998", Yerevan, 1999.

3. GOVERNMENT POLICY, LEGISLATION AND RESPONSE

3.1. Overview of legislation

Armenia has ratified six international instruments that relate to the issue of trafficking and which have established monitoring and reporting mechanisms, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, CEDAW, and CRC. Unlike Georgia and Azerbaijan, Armenia has not yet signed the convention and protocols related to transnational organized crime, trafficking and migrant smuggling, but is reportedly in the process of doing so. Armenia has, however, signed eight bilateral and multi-lateral agreements related to combating trafficking. Appendix 4 contains information on relevant international instruments and agreements signed.

As a comparatively new phenomenon in Armenia, as well as other CIS countries, trafficking as such is not addressed in Armenian legislation. However, its components, such as illegal border crossings and the preparation of forged documents, are punishable under Armenian legislation:

1. Illegal border crossing: article 78 of the Armenian Criminal Code rules that the illegal crossing of the border (that is without a passport or official permission) carries a sentence of up to three years.
2. Extortion: depending on the severity, article 94 stipulates prison terms ranging from two to 12 years.
3. Rape, sex with minors: depending on the severity and circumstances article 112 punishes rape with three to 15 years of imprisonment or the death penalty. Sexual intercourse and lustful actions with minors is punishable by three to eight years imprisonment under articles 114 and 115.
4. Forced marriages and other: marital relations with minors and forced marriages are punishable from two to five years imprisonment under articles 117 and 118 or community service. Bigamy or polygamy (irrespective of marital registration) is punishable by imprisonment of up to three years or community service. Bogus marriage and bogus divorce are punishable by one year imprisonment, community service or a fine under article 220.2.
5. Pimping and prostitution: article 226 stipulates imprisonment of up to five years or community service for pimping. Article 179.1 (Administrative Code of the RoA) makes prostitution punishable by the levy of a fine.
6. Kidnapping: depending on the circumstances, Article 130 stipulates imprisonment of five to 12 years.
7. Falsification of documents: this is punishable by imprisonment of up to five years or community service. The user may be fined, imprisoned or sentenced to community service. Confiscation and use of passports and other important personal documents is punishable by one year in prison or community service.
8. Illegal entrepreneurial activities: such activities without state registration or license (where applicable) are punishable by fines or imprisonment, depending on the severity and circumstances.
9. Minors: if parents do not carry out their parental duties, leading to for example prostitution or sale of children, they can be deprived of their parental rights or sentenced under the criminal code. Committing a crime against a minor or inciting/involving minors to a crime is considered

an aggravating circumstance in determining a penalty. Children without parents, and children whose family is not able to care and raise them, are entitled to state aid in an orphanage or boarding school. At birth a child cannot be discharged from hospital without a provisional birth certificate which has to be regularized by city officials within one month after the birth. For travelling abroad the child needs a passport and a notarized consent of either one or both parents if they do not accompany the child. In February 2000 the government issued a Decree on Adoption which entered into force from April. An adoption of an Armenian child by a foreign citizen has to be approved by a high level Republican Committee as well as municipal and community level committees.

3.2. Implementation of legislation

In the course of the research IOM requested the Head of the Council of Courts Chairmen to receive information on court decisions on trafficking related cases. Information on one case was provided pertaining to illegal adoption. However, this case relates more to human smuggling than people trafficking and is covered in the subsequent report on irregular migration and migrant smuggling. According to a report in the Golos Armenii newspaper (dated June 24th, 1999), in 1999 the court of first instance of Malatsia-Sebastia community in the city of Yerevan sentenced four persons for involvement in pandering. They recruited women from different regions of Armenia and sent them to Dubai. A total number of 25 women including adolescents, who had engaged or were trafficked into prostitution in Dubai, were witnesses during this trial. Two criminals were sentenced to a one-year prison term (one of them for the second time for pandering), and two others to a one-year imprisonment with delay in the execution of the sentence.

The Ministry of Social Security provided the following information on adoptions: from July to December 2000 a total number of 93 adoptions were approved. In 26 cases the adopting person was a foreigner. In the first two months of 2001 there have been three such cases.

There are 23 recruitment or employment agencies that have an official license. However, their activities in brokering overseas jobs are limited. The new law on licensing will do away with the need for recruitment agencies to acquire a license. Travel agencies and tour operators are numerous with little supervision of their activities other than the need for business registration and taxation.

3.3. Gaps in legislation and implementation

International instruments: The Government of Armenia has not yet signed the important UN convention and its protocols related to transnational organized crime, trafficking and migrant smuggling, but is reportedly in the process of doing so.

National Legislation: While the Armenian criminal code covers a number of trafficking related offences, it does not serve as a deterrent for traffickers. There has been only one indictment so far (referred to above), and even though the victims included minors, the traffickers received only a mild sentence.

4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This study has shown that there is trafficking of women and children from Armenia. On one hand a primary cause is the relative and absolute impoverishment and lack of decently paid job opportunities since the collapse of the USSR and the subsequent transition to a market economy. All those surveyed who travelled abroad did so for economic reasons. Sixty per cent of interviewed women said that the creation of work places would be the most effective measure to reduce and prevent trafficking. Against this background of the need to secure an income and the particular difficulty in doing so, on the other hand gender roles and inequalities make women particularly vulnerable to certain forms of trafficking such as that of the sex trade, to serve the needs of men.

Trafficking from Armenia in women is mainly directed to the U.A.E. and Turkey. Apart from the push factors above, and the demand for such services in the destination countries, the pull factors, trafficking results from the actions of local recruiters and pimps or employers abroad in search of profits in league with pliant and poorly paid officials willing to turn a blind eye or falsify travel documents in exchange for money. Problems faced by trafficked women include: indebtedness, sale of assets, isolation and no freedom of movement, violence, sale of women and forced exposure to life threatening health problems. The study has shown that minors are among those being trafficked for sex work abroad. Children in the state residential institutions are a high risk group for prostitution, at home or abroad. While the regulations for legal adoption are quite stringent, the corruptibility of many public officials make the system open to abuse.

The research has laid a strong foundation that will enable the government, civil society, and the international community to jointly devise and implement follow-up activities. The study proposes the following recommendations for the prevention and reduction of trafficking in women and children from Armenia.

4.1. Awareness raising

Public information campaign: women and minors in risk groups, that is single women intending to travel abroad for work and children in residential institutions, should be informed through a multi-media information campaign of the problems and pitfalls that could lead to become victims of trafficking. Domestic commercial sex workers, vulnerable also to exploitation abroad, should be informed on safe sex practices and the dangers of HIV infection. Children in residential institutions should be informed of their rights and mechanisms for redress and grievances.

Sensitization of public officials, media and NGOs: government officials, particularly those working with passports, birth certificates, border control, policing and embassies abroad, as well as legislators, the media and NGOs, should be sensitized through seminars and work-shops on the definition, nature and incidence of trafficking, and what role they can play in its prevention and control. The relevant government ministries should enforce the policy that trafficked persons should be treated as victims of human rights abuses and violations of national and international law, and not as criminals or illegal migrants.

Train staff working in Armenian embassies and consulates in risk areas: to offer appropriate and timely assistance to victims of trafficking. Staff should be able to refer victims to specialist care, and to counsellors, lawyers, physicians and so on with due attention to privacy and measures to establish cooperation with NGOs to provide services to the trafficked victims. They should be able to advise and assist with voluntary repatriation.

4.2. Prosecution of traffickers

There must be the political will to prosecute and punish traffickers and those who abet the process in line with best international practice. The legislative base should be accordingly strengthened and international conventions and protocols signed.

The government of Armenia should ratify the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and the two protocols – the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, and the Protocol Against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea or Air. The government should also harmonize national legislation according to the requirements set forth in mentioned convention.

The Government should regard the coercion of a person into being trafficked as a serious criminal offence, punishable with a lengthy term of imprisonment. If the offence concerns the trafficking of children and/or results in serious abuses of the victims of human rights, this should be punishable by the maximum term of imprisonment.

The Government should develop legal mechanisms for confiscating the assets of traffickers and making them available as a special fund to help the victims. The fund should help pay for any legal, medical, social and psychiatric services the victims would need.

In addition the government should:

- Introduce penalties for trafficking children in line with international recommendations.
- Look at ways by which corruption and complicity within the Ministries and departments responsible for issuing birth certificates, passports and controlling immigration can be reduced. This issue is linked with the larger issue of civil service reform whereby there is greater accountability and transparency as well as a smaller but better paid civil service. Judicial reform leading to an independent and honest judiciary is equally important.
- Review the registration system for groups establishing themselves as tour companies.
- Regulate and monitor all companies that arrange for young women to travel abroad (including marriage bureaux, dance companies, employment agencies, etc.).
- Encourage the media and Internet service providers to adopt self-regulatory measures to discourage traffickers from using these services for recruitment purposes.
- Cooperate with other CIS countries and major receiving countries to establish multi-agency coordinating bodies, responsible for monitoring and sharing information on criminal networks involved in trafficking.

Concerned and influential bodies such as the media, women's organizations, NGOs, and international organizations should impress on the government the need to take the above measures.

IOM, UNICEF and OSCE should provide international expert advice and assistance on current best practices in government policy and implementation related to trafficking.

4.3. Protection and assistance to victims

Preventive and prosecution related measures need to be combined with protection and assistance to victims. Steps recommended are:

- Establish links between international organizations, women's organizations and NGOs in Armenia and the main destination countries in order to develop coordinated programmes of assistance for victims abroad and in Armenia.
- Child victims of trafficking should be guaranteed with protection from prosecution and should be provided with immediate shelter and access to education and health care.
- The families of the child victims should be traced, and sensitive and appropriate measures should be taken to reconcile a child victim with his or her family with the full consent of the child.
- International and government assistance should be provided to develop comprehensive programmes to assist the victims of abuse resulting from trafficking. These programmes should provide assistance for economic integration, access to health, shelter, legal aid and psychological counselling.
- Develop a legislative base to protect the privacy and identity of the victims of trafficking. For example the identity of victims should not be revealed to the public during court cases and the media should be compelled to protect the identity of any minors who have been trafficked for commercial sex or any other purpose.
- International organizations, governmental and non-governmental organizations and representatives from television, radio and newspapers should examine the part played by the media on the trafficking issue, particularly in relation to monitoring advertising and protecting the privacy of the victims.
- Children in residential institutions are a risk group. An independent body should monitor their status with special reference to child abuse and trafficking.
- Develop a legislative base to ensure that the identification of an individual as a trafficked person is sufficient to prevent an involuntary immediate expulsion.
- Review and revise procedures applied during apprehension and deportation in order to establish procedures and mechanisms that provide a safe and dignified return and reintegration of the trafficked migrant to his/her home country.

The last two measures apply both in origin and destination countries.

4.4. Further research

As mentioned earlier in the report, further research is recommended in the following areas:

- Brokered marriages between older males from wealthy countries and young Armenian females.
- Child adoption from Armenia by foreigners abroad.
- Tracing the enrolment, stay and departure of children in residential institutions in relation to trafficking.

4.5. Economic development

Finally, as over 60 per cent of those surveyed mentioned, better economic conditions in the country through job creation is the most effective measure to reduce and prevent trafficking in women. It is beyond the scope of this report to look at the institutional, structural and economic changes necessary to bring this about, but the issue has been dealt with elsewhere.

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Bilateral and Multilateral Agreements Signed by Armenia Related to
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APPENDIX 1

Questionnaire

IOM/UNICEF/OSCE/ASA MSDP
Interviewer:
Questionnaire No.

Trafficking in Women Autumn 2000 Questionnaire

The purpose of this survey is to study the main issues related to certain problems of Armenian women working in foreign countries.

Please read attentively each question and the offered multiple choices. Underline the choice that reflects your opinion in the best way. If none of the choices suits you, write down your own answer. The questionnaire does not require your name and address and is anonymous.

1. Have you ever been abroad?

1. Yes
2. No

2. Why did you decide to go abroad?

1. Economic reasons
2. Other (please, specify)

3. For what purpose did you intend to go abroad?

1. Study
2. Employment (specify)
3. Holiday
4. Business
5. Marriage
6. Sex work

4. In practice did it subject you to:

1. Prostitution
2. Any other kind of bondage or abuse (specify)
3. None of the above

5. If yes, in which country/ies?

1. _____

6. During which years?

1. _____

7. Where did you get information on work/marriage abroad?

1. Newspaper ads.
2. TV/radio ads
3. Through friends
4. Through relatives
5. Those already working abroad
6. Other (specify)

8. Who organized your trip?

1. Tourist agency
2. Middleman
3. Employment agency
4. Marriage agency
5. I organized it myself
6. Friends
7. Relatives
8. Those already working abroad
9. Other (specify) _____

9. Did you have to pay the recruiter to go abroad?

1. Yes
2. No

10. If yes, for what purpose?

1. Official fees for documents
2. Ticket for travel
3. Services
4. Other (please specify) _____

11. Did this:

1. Put you in debt?
2. Make you sell assets?
3. Neither.

12. It is claimed that some countries do not allow women younger than 30, and that is why women arrange for a fake passport with a change of date of birth. Have you ever travelled abroad with such a passport?

1. Yes
2. No

13. Did you have a valid visa for country of destination?

1. Yes
2. No

14. Did you go there directly or via another country?

1. Via another country

15. If yes, which country?

1. _____

16. Did you have in the destination country?

1. An employment contract
2. A marriage certificate (if purpose for travel abroad was marriage)
3. Neither

17. Have you been deceived by middlemen who arranged for your trip abroad?

1. Yes
2. No

18. If yes, in what way?

1. _____

19. Have you been deceived by employers or spouse (if married abroad)? If yes, in what way?

1. _____

20. Was there any occasion when you were not paid and have been forced to work without compensation?

1. Yes
2. No

21. Have you ever been forced to stay and provide services after the expiration of your contract?

1. Yes and often
2. Yes, but seldom
3. No, never

22. Have you ever suffered torture or violence at the hands of employers/middlemen/spouse (if married abroad).

1. Yes and often
2. Yes, but seldom
3. No, never

23. Have you ever been forced to have unprotected sex?

1. Yes and often
2. Yes, but seldom
3. No, never

24. If yes, did you contact STD as a result?

1. Yes
2. No
3. I do not know

25. What percentage of your earning were you able to keep?

1. _____

26. Did you incur debt with your employer?

1. Yes
2. No

27. If yes, how much?

1. US\$ _____

28. How did you pay it?

1. _____

29. Working circumstances:

1. Satisfactory
2. Passport was taken away
3. Restricted movement
4. Working hours per day _____
5. No freedom to refuse clients

6. Forced to work without condoms
7. Other (please specify) _____

30. Was your family back home threatened?

1. Yes
2. No

31. Were you sold to other persons?

1. Yes
2. No

32. Did you try to escape?

1. Yes
2. No

33. If yes, did you succeed?

1. Yes
2. No

34. How were you returned back?

1. By police
2. By organizers
3. Yourself
4. Embassy
5. NGO assisted
6. Other (please specify) _____

35. Do you know any cases when women have been invited to work as dancers, waitresses, etc., but finally have been forced to engage in commercial sex?

1. Yes
2. No
3. I do not know how to answer

36. If the answer is “yes”, how many cases do you know?

1. Please, indicate _____

37. Have you ever personally sought the help of Armenian mission abroad?

1. Yes
2. No, never

38. If the answer is “yes”, did you get help?

1. Yes
2. No

39. If the answer is “no”, why did you not get help?

Please, indicate _____

40. Do you know there are women NGO with a mission to help women who suffered violence?

1. Yes
2. No

41. Have you ever sought the help or consultations of such NGOs?

1. Yes
2. No

42. Your Age

1. Younger than 15
2. 15-17 years
3. 18-20 years
4. 21-25 years
5. 26-30 years
6. 31 years and above

43. Marital status

1. single
2. married
3. divorced
4. separated
5. widowed

44. Education

1. Primary
2. Secondary
3. Graduate
4. Post-graduate

45. Place of origin _____

1. Please provide the name of town/region

46. Have you travelled with children?

1. Yes
2. No

47. Your current occupation

1. Student
2. Own Business
3. Commercial sex
4. Unemployed
5. Blue collar employee
6. White collar employee
7. Farmer
8. Other (specify)

48. Intentions for future

1. Return
2. Work/live abroad (country _____)
3. Work/live in Armenia
4. Occupation _____

49. Health situation at present:

1. Healthy
2. Pregnant
3. HIV infected
4. Contacted STD
5. Undergoing psychological treatment

50. In your view, what should be done to help victims of trafficking like yourself?

Thank you for your time and cooperation!

APPENDIX 2

Case Studies

Case study 1 (Trafficker)

“I had been a prostitute here in my small town. There was no work. People could not buy my services or even give me some bread in exchange. Imagine in that dark and cold year of 1993 my friend who had already travelled to Dubai and was a “good friend” of an Arab man, came to my house proposing to do the same work in Dubai, in a warm beautiful place for a lot of money. Of course I agreed. Five other women and I received an invitation from her Arab friend’s company. In Dubai I found my own connections. Now I am travelling back and forth taking women from here. Money can open any doors. I am a respected person among my relatives and community in Vanadzor.”

“Soon I’ll travel again. I am now preparing a group of women to take them to Dubai. Most of the women I have taken with me live much better now. I prefer not to take minors, but sometimes I cannot resist. To take them is more expensive, as one has to give bribes for every step: document preparation, crossing the border, and so on. Of course the profits are higher. The new regulations in Dubai make our work more complicated. But you can always overcome difficulties by means of bribes and creativity. Once I took my father with me, he stayed there four months and left, and I stayed longer to do my job. The next time I took my cousin with me, he also stayed for a certain period of time and left. I think as long as there is no job in Armenia this is a good way of earning money.”

Case study 2 (Trafficker)

“I have been condemned to one-year prison term. I was arrested when I was sending five girls. I usually send five on each flight to Dubai. I recruit them here. My girl-friend is there and she and her friend send invitations from Dubai and take care of the girls there.”

“When they arrested me 27 other girls were being sent to Dubai on the same flight. They said that all of them were my responsibility. Everybody was released except me. As a compensation for serving one year imprisonment term I received some money from my friend in Dubai (pimp) and bought an apartment.”

“I started two years ago when my friend who was travelling back and forth to Dubai called me to ask for help. I was very happy. I had neither money nor a perspective to get it. It seemed to be a well-paid job. She was sending me the names of women whom I was supposed to recruit in Armenia. She was also sending me money to pay the families, to buy some clothing for the women and to take them to hairdresser and dentist. The invitations were coming from the company of her friend and I was organizing all the work in Yerevan. She was sending me money to give bribes for preparation of documentation and procedures at the airport. I had an informant who was telling me when something was wrong or was warning me about police searches. Usually we were recruiting women between the age of 20 and 24, but sometimes also younger girls.”

“I think we were helping many families. Most of the women thought that they were going to do house work, cleaning or management at homes of wealthy Arabs. Sometimes mothers asked to take their daughters so that they could help the family. We thought that we were doing charity, helping these families out. I sent five to six women to Dubai in each flight. Over the past years we had established a special border crossing mechanism for our clients. For example, if there were minors in the group they boarded at the very last moment so that the officials had no time to examine the documents carefully. The day when the police arrested me I felt that something was wrong at the airport. The informant gave us a sign that there was a danger, but it was too late. The police was there and arrested me as well as three other members of our group. That day I had only five women, but women recruited by others were all attributed to me. I found this out at the court hearing.”

“The pimp I was working with took good care of all women she recruited and paid them well. We rarely took minors, only when mothers offered them to us. I know what it means for the family to get additional sources of income. We find our informants among government officials in Armenia and Dubai. Yes, the pimp makes a lot of money, but she is not as greedy as the other pimps are, she shares with all of us. Depending on a case or situation we paid US\$ 100 to 150 per flight to officials.”

Case study 3 (Victim – U.A.E.)

“I met my boyfriend at my girl-friend’s house. He had been dating me for a month already when he told me he was going to marry me. My boyfriend told me we could earn some money for our wedding if we went to work in Greece at his friend’s company. We would stay for three months there to earn enough money and come back. I was extremely happy. I could not believe all that was happening to me. He took my passport and all necessary papers and said that he would take care of visa and travel arrangements. I was so happy and careless that I did not even ask to see the tickets or documents. The day of departure came. We took the plane and instead of Greece we landed in Dubai. As I had not been abroad before I could not really understand where I was. I could only recognize the Arabic signs and people dressed in Arabic robes. When I asked why we landed in Dubai he said we would have to stay for a couple of days in Dubai, and then later we would go to Greece. He took me to a hotel and said that he was going to see his friend and would be back soon. Two hours later a man came to take me to another hotel saying that I was his property. I could not understand, I kept saying that it was a misunderstanding and that my friend would come soon. I had come to Dubai for another purpose. The man told me that my friend had sold me to him, that from now on he would have my documents and I had to do whatever he told me to. He said that the next day I had to move to another place and serve all the clients he would send to me. I was shocked by what was happening. The next day he came and took me to another hotel. He said that every day I had to give him \$500, no matter how many clients I would serve. He was so violent. It was a continuous hell. Each day I served around 30 to 40 clients. I was not able to move or think. It went on for weeks. I was living between clients and tears. That was the rhythm of my life. I could not even realize what they wanted from me. The intensity of the process lasted for a couple of weeks. One day I got terribly sick. He left me alone and sent another Armenian woman to visit me. That day I understood that it was an organized enterprise and that there were many women from many countries who shared the same fate.”

“Meanwhile the pimp refused to give back my passport because of the debts he said he had incurred on account of me. I had to work and earn money if I wanted to go back home. Then he introduced

me to another man telling that he had sold me to him and that I had to take my passport from him. The next day I was beaten like for the first time. He was an extremely cruel man. He came every morning to pick up his money and beat me terribly. I had no right to speak or express my concern, everybody knew him well for his cruelty. I did not receive any money from him. He did not even buy food. It all depended on the client's will. I was resold four times."

"One of my clients was trying to kill me. If it were not for the women in the next room I would have been killed. In his frenzy the man was beating me. He squeezed my throat."

"Luckily enough there was a police raid in the hotel where I was working and I was taken together with other women to a police station and detained. My pimp did not do anything to release me from prison. I spent four months there. Though it was prison and the conditions were terrible, it was incomparable with what I had gone through before that. Nobody was cruel or rude to me there and I had to wait while my temporary documents from Armenia and the ticket for deportation were arranged. I came back without any money. All I had before remained with the pimp, I could not pick up anything. The most shameful thing happened at Yerevan airport. Everybody was treating me as if I were a prostitute, saying bad words. My life has changed since that time. Now you see me here in the street. I have become a real prostitute."

Case study 4 (Minor)

We met her at her grandmother's house when she had just arrived from Dubai. She could not talk in front of her grandmother and uncle. The conversation took place outside in a café.

"I was twelve when my mother died. My father and my uncle had been using drugs for many years. Soon my father was imprisoned, I do not know for what offence. My uncle sold everything in our house to buy drugs. When I was 13 he forced me out to the street. I was living in the streets, sleeping under benches in the park. He told me to sell myself if I was not able to find money in another way. I went to the police and they sent me to Vartashen orphanage. Once my classmate told me that there was a woman in her neighbourhood helping young pretty girls to go to Germany to work for a fashion magazine. I could not believe it. I was so happy. Later the woman told me that after she had arranged documents for me and other persons we would all travel together to Germany. After a short while the papers were ready and we could to start off. There were 14 of us, girls of different ages between 13 and 23. We went by taxi to Tbilisi, from there we travelled to Moscow and from Moscow to Dubai, as we found out later. The woman who had recruited me had 27 children 'employed', mostly from orphanages, or from the streets. She deals in this business for 12 years already."

"The hell I lived through at home continued in Dubai. They placed us in a hotel. They had special interest in young virgins. They were selling them at enormous prices to rich Arab sheikhs for one night, after which they were working with clients like other ordinary girls. We received only a fraction of what the sheikhs gave to the pimp. In some cases the girls received some special presents from the sheikhs. My friend who was 13 was taken to a wealthy man. In the end the man asked her what she wanted from him as a present. The girl asked for two sacks of flour. Even the money given to the girls as a gift was confiscated by the pimps."

"Two days later they took us to a night-club and explained the nature of our work and the amount that we should pay them every day. They explained that they had paid a lot of money for our

passports and travel, in total US\$ 6,000 for permission to fly and tickets. They were also paying for our room and food. Almost all the children were crying. They could not understand what was expected from them and how they were going to do it. The Arab partner of our pimp was getting angry when he was not getting the amount of money they were expecting us to provide. He was beating children with a belt and was very violent. I was also crying at the very beginning, but what could I do? Sometimes there were rich businessmen who hired us every time they came to Dubai. I was very happy when one businessman called me and said he was coming to Dubai. He spent his time only with me. He rented a room for me where I stayed and sometimes we went shopping together. The pimp also placed children with us when they were not able to earn enough money and requested the businessman to pay for them too, although at somewhat cheaper price.”

“After nights of work we were getting so tired that we could not do anything else but sleep. We did not communicate with each other. We were living in different hotels, even though we were from the same country and were together on the same flight. When our visas expired we travelled with our pimp to Iran to extend the visas. We stayed there for no more than two hours. Our passports were usually given to us at the airport and taken away after passport control. We could not run away or complain to the police since they assured us that they were bribed. .”

“One of my clients who was working for the immigration police threatened my pimp and took my passport back. Later on I was caught by the police again and deported through Moscow. As I was deported I could not even bring the small things that the clients had given to me. My Arab client promised to send those presents to me.”

“I have twice been in UAE. As soon as I came back home, I decided to buy a small one-room flat because I had spent most of my life in the streets and I wanted to have my own home. As I was under eighteen I could not register property on my name, so I did it on my uncle’s name. A month later he needed money for drugs so he sold my flat and everything I had in it. ”

Case study 5 (Victim – U.A.E.)

“I was working as a waitress in a café. When the café closed one of the regular clients saw me in the street and said that she was going to Dubai. She said there was a lot of work in cafes, bars and restaurants where I could get a better job and salary. The proposal seemed very attractive and I agreed to go. When I went to her house I met another women there. The woman told me that she was taking a group of women while it was easier to arrange. As I did not have money she paid the ticket for me and gave me US\$ 200 to leave behind for my family. She also took me to the hairdresser and dentist and bought me a dress. She said that I needed to look good in order to get a high salary. We travelled directly from Yerevan. All our documents had been changed. She paid the officials at the passport agency to get new passports for us, because all of us were younger than 30. One was even 17. At the airport everybody knew her, the police, customs and border guards.”

“When we arrived in Dubai one of the women had a problem with her invitation. After a conversation of ten minutes and a phone call to some place all problems were settled and they let us out of the airport. She took us to Sharjah to a small hotel that allegedly she had completely reserved for us. We stayed there for three days. Our documents were given to the receptionist at the hotel .On the fourth day she said that she could not keep us in this hotel, as it was too expensive. She moved us to a very cheap hotel and told us to stay there and receive our clients. When I heard the word

“clients” I was so surprised. I was prepared to work as a waitress. I asked the other woman what they thought about it. Nobody wanted to talk.”

“The next day our ‘organizer’ came accompanied by an Arab man. They explained to us that we had been sold to him and if we did not do what we were told he could do with us whatever he wished. It is his country and everybody would believe him. Police or immigration officials would not accept complaints. Everybody used his services and they were all his friends. From that day on my misery started: he was sending around 50 clients a day, sometimes even more. I did not understand what was happening. I had no right to be sick, I had no right to refuse or choose. I do not know how he had established the terrible conveyor but the line did not stop. Though we lived in the same hotel with other women from Armenia who had come at the same time, we almost did not communicate. When we had couple of minutes in the morning everyone was telling the horrible situation they went through and more horrible stories of other women, especially those from Russia. They told that they had found one young beautiful girl who had committed suicide in her room. The body disappeared the same day. No police came. Next day another woman was living in her room. Nothing happened. Later our ‘boss’ always presented her example to us, telling that other pimps were so merciless. Once I got so sick that I could not even move, but the pimp wouldn’t pay attention to me and kept on sending clients to me. I do not know how I got through that day. I was feeling so hopeless that I decided to die. I thought that whatever I would tell at home, whatever kind of excuses I would offer to my parents and son, nobody would believe and forgive me. I went to the balcony, thinking that throwing myself out would solve all problems. Immediately I was called in as the next client came. If I did not get terribly sick I would never see my home. I told the pimp that I needed to see a doctor, but she said that it was very expensive and I could not afford it. The next day I was so weak that I could not even stand. I asked the receptionist to call the pimp. She came with a doctor, who said that I needed some medicines for the moment and an operation later on. I asked for my documents to go home but the pimp said that I could not go and would take care of me there. Time passed by and she kept sending more and more clients to me, so that my health condition became worse. I had no choice, I called my mother and told her to go to the house of the pimp together with police, and tell her relatives that if she did not give my passport to me in Dubai the Yerevan police would put her relatives in jail. That threat worked out, she gave me my passport and a ticket and I came back home.”

“Once I heard that my child in Yerevan was sick. I tried to hide \$100 in a piece of chocolate butter. Somebody reported to the pimp. I was terribly beaten and my money was taken away...”

“I thought of going again to earn some money to do an operation. I would be clever this time and would not be trapped. I have no right to be deceived again, I have a child and need to take care of him.”

Case study 6 (Victim - Turkey)

“When my husband died I was left alone with my four children. I did not have money and the children’s needs were increasing, they needed education, clothing and so on. I could not find a job in Armenia. My neighbour who was also looking for a job told me that many of her friends had found work in Turkey through bus operators. We went there together and were very happy when the agency told us that upon arrival in Turkey people would be meeting us at the office of the travel agency. When we arrived in Turkey we went directly to the office and found a man waiting for us. He proposed us a job at the canteen of a factory he owned. We agreed that he would pay us US\$ 200

a week for ten hours of work per day. We also rented a room in a three-room apartment that we shared with two other groups: one group of three young men, the other three women from Russia. A week passed and when we asked for the salaries the man said that we had to work more and that he had to reconsider our salaries. We worked for a month and got no salary. We found another job in order to cover our accommodation. Every night we worked for four additional hours to get some more dollars to cover accommodation, food expenses and the delay in our salaries. At the end of the second month he told us that he didn't need both of us anymore and that he was going to keep only me. At the beginning of the third month he gave me US\$ 100, but only when I asked him. I needed to send money to my son. He was serving in the army at the border of Armenia. My neighbours informed me that he was sick and that my children did not have money to buy medicines. I sent the money through a Turkish bus agency to Yerevan. Later when I asked for my pay he threatened me to report to immigration police about my expired visa. I was scared. Everybody knew what "Yabanja Shube", the immigration detention centre, meant. One of my friends was there. Later in Yerevan she told me what had happened to her. A group of policemen raped, beat and humiliated her for four days in a row. She said that there were three more women at the immigration prison who shared the same fate. She was deported in an almost unconscious state. We agreed to everything, every kind of humiliation, but not to go to this place. Every day when I came to work asking for the money the man requested additional favours from me: to serve in his family, to clean his house. I was doing all the work hoping that at last he would pay me. Once he told me that he would be very favourable to me if I agreed to have sexual relations with him. The next day he was more persistent. When I asked again about the money he said that he would immediately call the immigration police and imprison me for violation of the visa regime. I did not know what to do: I could not go back home because I had no documents and was afraid of the immigration police. So I had to accept his rules in order to get my passport. As soon as I received it I immediately bought a bus ticket to Yerevan. I heard from my roommates many similar stories. None of the migrant workers who lived in the apartment with me were satisfied with the working conditions, payment and attitude. None of them had a contract and none of the bosses wanted to legalize their work and stay."

"I do not know what to do now. When I heard about jobs in Turkey it seemed to me the best solution. Now I am back. I have the same debts, the same problems and four children to take care of."

Case study 7 (Victim – U.A.E.)

"Now I live with my two children and mother. I am an engineer. Who needs my knowledge here? It was my neighbour who told me about an agency that recruits women to do cleaning work at families in Dubai. I was very happy when I found that they were going to buy my ticket and pay me a small advance to get there. When we arrived in Dubai my passport was taken away and I was told to prostitute myself. I cried for two months. I was forced to do it because of the debts imposed on me. The pimp was coming to collect money every day. I could not hide a cent. There was no place in the room, and the clothes we were given had no pockets. Neither could I hide the number of customers I was attending, because a man at the hotel reception received money to report to the pimp on the number of clients. I was lucky that the police raided the hotel where I was staying and I was deported back. I heard that there are many real jobs in America, but I cannot go there because I have a deportation stamp in my passport."

Case study 8 (Victim – U.A.E.)

“My friend told me that we could earn money by doing trade in Dubai. I sold my house to get money for the trip and to buy some stuff from Dubai to sell in Armenia. I had done the same before, in Turkey. This time I was cheated. We travelled with my friend. Her friend from Dubai sent us an invitation. When we came to Dubai we were immediately taken to a hotel. Our friend who was married to a local Arab man told us that they had sent us the invitation not for shopping but for doing sex work. She also said that we had to serve as many men as they would propose and pay her a daily rate. I had been involved in sex work for many years; nevertheless I could not stand the pressure. They were forcing us to have sex with at least 40 men a day, sometimes even more. You had no right to reject the customer, even when he did not want to use condoms. Of course I understood that I was at risk to contract a disease, but I had no right to turn the client down. They were beating us awfully and we could not refuse a client even if we were feeling terribly sick. If someone spent more on food than we were supposed to (food is expensive in Dubai and in many cases we were hungry and thirsty), the Arab partner of our pimp would beat us with a belt. It was so painful. There were many cases when the clients were also violent. You were between two extremes: the violent client and the more violent pimp, who would terribly beat you or refuse to pay out if you disobeyed. The younger ones were crying all the time; they could not get used to all they were forced to do. They were like senseless objects after almost 24 hours of work.”

“There are many Armenian women in Dubai, including my friends from Echmiadzin and Hrazdan. They are still coming. I am sorry for the young girls; they cannot stand this. They get sick quickly and are sent back home. It depends on the pimp, there are ones that never pay even one dollar to children, but I have heard of those also who gave \$1000 when a child was returning home. As I did not have any documents and knew very well how corrupt the police was all over the world and their attitude to prostitutes, I did not even think of running away. I had no money, and was collecting the few dollars she gave to me to bring home for my son. He needs money to go to college. I want him to be an educated person and hold a high position in society. I got sick in Dubai and she had to send me back. Now I am here and do not even have a cent to buy bread. We live here from hand to mouth. I'll try to get some money to do trade in Turkey.”

Case study 9 (Dancer – U.A.E.)

Unlike the others the subject was interviewed at her home in front of many neighbours, relatives and children. Everybody was saying how good she was and how much she helped them.

“I am travelling to Dubai every year. I am a dancer and perform at Howard Johnson hotel in Dubai every evening together with a group of musicians.”

“I was very happy to get this job that helps me support my large family. Nobody works, neither my brother nor my other close relatives. I found this job through my friend when I was at a dance tour in Arab countries. I joined the team of musicians and we were performing in various restaurants.”

“I do not know how we could all survive if I had not found this job. I will stay here for one month and wait for my friend, an Arab man, to send another invitation for me. The hotel pays well, but we can earn more money when they invite us to perform at wedding parties. Two or three times a month we are invited to such parties. My invitation came from the Howard Johnson Hotel and it said that I was invited to dance. We have a good group. Of course it happens sometimes that they delay the payment or pay less, but in most cases they pay us regularly.”

Case study 10 (Victim - Turkey)

“When the war started I decided to go to Karabakh to help wounded soldiers. I was there during the whole period of military activities. After the cease-fire I came to Armenia, but there was no work and no means to live. My neighbour was going to Turkey to do trade. She said that the Turkish agency could help us in getting a job that would allow us to earn some money to buy products to sell in Armenia. This was a very good way out for me; at least I thought so. We went to the Turkish bus agency and bought tickets. The bus operator said that it was always possible to get a job in Turkey and their agency could help us there. Everything was going very well. In Istanbul the agency recommended us to a man who introduced himself as an owner of a sewing factory. He said that that even if we did not know how to sew clothing he could still arrange a job there. He always needed helping hands. He also advised us to rent a small apartment of somebody he knew well. That day he asked us to give him our passports for registering us as temporary residents. We did not object. The next day he took us to his ‘factory’. It was not a factory at all, it was a massage parlour or brothel, we could not understand. He told us that we should clean up there and prepare coffee and drinks to serve to customers. He told us that we should wear short dresses and other pieces of very vulgar clothing. We did not want to do that, but we realized that we had no choice. At the end of the month we asked for the salary, but he said that we had not earned the promised amount of US\$ 400, but that he could give us only US\$ 100 to cover the rent for the flat. We could earn the rest by providing sexual services to men. If we did not agree we would never receive our passports. As our visas had already expired and we were staying illegally in Turkey they could send us to prison. I could not believe that it was happening to me: that somebody could use my vulnerable situation and threaten me. Next day I went to him and said that I would agree to his proposal if he gave back my money and passport. He agreed to give me money, but he said that he needed my passport to extend the visa. Two weeks later he gave me only US\$ 200 instead of US\$ 700, and explained that it was due to costs related to food and expenses for visa extension. We worked 12 to 14 hours instead of the agreed ten. He said that he had also bribed the police to leave me unpunished for working illegally in Turkey. I realized that this man was going to create big problems for me if I did not take some steps. The next day we told him that we would go to the police if he did not pay us and give back our passports. He said that the next day he would have the passport and money ready. When we came home that night our landlord said that he could not let us in anymore because we were illegal. He refused to let us in and we could not even take our belongings. We had no other choice than go to the police department. We were unable to make ourselves understood nor did we have any documents, so they kept us one night at the police station. The next day we were taken to the immigration police for deportation. Thanks God our stay was not long: we had to stay there for one night, as the bus to Armenia was leaving in the morning and the drivers agreed to take us to Armenia on the condition that we would pay them in Yerevan. I do not want to remember again the night that we spent in the immigration police. Even though I have seen the horrors of war, that night was unimaginable.”

Case study 11 (Victim - Turkey)

“I am living in Vanadzor and used to work as prostitute together with my friends. When our neighbour returned from Turkey and told us about the perspectives of work there it seemed attractive to us. Our neighbour said that she knew people there and that she could arrange our trip and job. If we did the same work in Vanadzor why not try to do it in Turkey for a better salary? We

gave her our passports and money to buy the ticket. A week later she told us that everything was ready and we travelled by bus to Istanbul. When we came to the border to apply for visas we both got it very easily, but the Turkish immigration police refused to provide a visa to our organizer due to the fact that she had been deported once from Turkey. We had no other choice than to travel on our own. Our organizer told us whom to call when we arrived and gave us further instructions. As soon as we got from the bus in Istanbul a man came up to us and said that our organizer had called him to meet us. He took us to a place that was either a private house or a pub in the suburbs of the city, and said that we would be living there. We were supposed to meet clients and talk to them in the bar on the first floor and then take them up to the second floor. He would take 30 per cent of the money we earned to cover food and lodging expenses. It looked reasonable to us. The next day he brought us some clothing and told us that we needed to look better and that the clothing we wore was not good. We could not imagine that he would be sending so many clients. We remember it as an incessant flow. It was like he was selling tickets for short meetings with us. It was impossible to handle. When we complained he said that this was the only way to earn good and quick money for ourselves on top of the amount that we needed to pay back to him to cover the money he had spent on us.”

“In reality he was collecting money from the clients and as it came out later was not giving money to us. A month later we made him give us US\$ 200 each, but of course he had earned much more. As we had the documents and already knew the environment to a certain extent we decided to find another place and do the same job on our own. It was not so easy as it seemed. Soon it became clear to us that in a foreign country you cannot work without a ‘roof’. There should be a pimp who is familiar with the local traditions and situation. A couple of times when we were trying to get clients on the road we were terribly beaten, cheated and robbed. We realized that we needed to go back before it was too late, considering the many stories of prostitutes from Russia and Ukraine who had been raped, beaten and killed. We took a bus back and are working home now. We have been told that people are kinder in Dubai and it is more profitable to work there, so we think we will be going to Dubai.”

Case study 12 (Victim - Greece)

“I met a woman in the store, who used to be our neighbour a few years ago. She learned that I was looking for a job, but could not find one. She said that she was working in a labour recruiting company and that they were sending people abroad to work in cafés and restaurants or as babysitters. It looked like a good opportunity and I agreed. She said that usually they were sending people to Greece. Jobs are well paid there and all depends on a person’s ability to communicate. She told me that for preparation of documents, visas and other papers, I had to pay her US\$ 1,500. Of course I did not have so much money, so I sold some of my jewellery and borrowed the rest of the money from a friend. She arranged documents within ten days and explained that I would not be going alone, but with five other women. We took the bus from Yerevan and went to Turkey, from where we took a plane to Athens. In Athens the representative of the company met us and the first thing he did was asking for our documents, which he needed, as he explained, for obtaining work permits. He helped us to rent a room, where three of us were staying. Two days later he told us that he had found jobs for us. Two women were supposed to work in a bar and I was proposed a job of helping an elderly invalid woman. He promised to pay me at the end of each month, but I actually never received anything. The old woman was very nervous and it was extremely hard to take care of her. When I complained to the mediator he said that he could propose me another job in a bar as a waitress, but I was actually forced into prostitution. My roommates told me that they had been

forced to do that as well. I tried my best to run away, but I did not have enough money. We all tried to collect money for return tickets, but we did not have documents. Once we met an Armenian family and told them our story, and they proposed to help us. In the end they talked to our mediator threatening him with the police. He gave us our documents, but no money. We could hardly buy our tickets to return home. Until the very day of our departure the man was threatening us to tell to all our friends in Yerevan that we were prostitutes. Nevertheless, we did not listen to his threats. We came home, without the money that we had earned, humiliated and ashamed of what had happened to us.”

Case study 13 (Commercial Sex Workers – U.A.E.)

Interview in a nightclub/bar in Dubai

“I came here a year ago. I was a prostitute in Hrazdan and knew what I was going to do. When a friend asked me to join her in travelling to Dubai to make some money, I happily agreed. I have to take money home to take care of my parents and child, and as soon as I earn enough I’ll go back.”

“So far I have not been able to send money home, because that woman (pointing at a pimp in the bar) is not giving me any money, she is terrible. There are many Armenian women here. If you wait until midnight around 30 girls from Armenia will come. The children are working separately in special nightclubs; we are going to other bars. There are some young girls in our bar who came when they were very young, and now they are with us. Do not tell at home about us. Things will improve and we will get out of this situation.”

APPENDIX 3

Legislation of the Republic of Armenia

THE CRIMINAL CODE OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA¹⁷

ARTICLE 78. ILLEGAL DEPARTURE FROM AND ENTRY TO THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

Illegal departure from RA, entry to RA or crossing the RA borders without valid passport or permission issued by relevant entities, shall be punished by imprisonment of up to three years. Repeated perpetration of the same actions shall be punished by imprisonment of two to five years. This article is not applicable to foreign citizens entering the territory of the RA without valid passport or permission for purpose of seeking asylum, as prescribed by the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia.

ARTICLE 94. EXTORTION

Use of violence against a person or his/her relatives, as well as publication of compromising information on a person or his/her relatives, or extortion of assets by means of threats to damage or destroy the assets, shall be punished by imprisonment of two to four years. Repeated perpetration of extortion or a planned extortion committed by a band or with a threat to health or life or with the demand of transferring the right of assets with significant value (amount (value) not exceeding the 500-2000-fold of the defined minimum salary), shall be punished by imprisonment of four up to seven years with confiscation of personal assets. Extortion, committed by an especially dangerous recidivist, or accompanied by the demand of transferring particularly significant assets or the right of assets (amount (value) exceeding the 2000-fold of the defined minimum salary), shall be punished by imprisonment of 6 to 12 years with confiscation of personal assets.

ARTICLE 112. RAPE

Rape, i.e. sexual intercourse using physical power and threats or profiting from the helpless condition of the victim, shall be punished by imprisonment of three to seven years. Rape accompanied by threats of murdering or causing grave physical injuries, or repeated perpetration of rape, shall be punished by imprisonment of five to ten years. Rape committed by group or rape of an adolescent girl, shall be punished by imprisonment of 5 to 15 years. Rape committed by an especially dangerous recidivist or accompanied by especially grave injuries, as well as rape of a child girl, shall be punished by imprisonment of 8 to 15 years and exile of two to five years or without exile, or death penalty.

¹⁷ N.B. As of 12.04.2001 edition.

ARTICLE 112.1 FORCED SEXUAL ACTIONS

Perpetration of forced sexual actions or coercion into such actions via threats or physical actions against the victim or relatives, as well as profiting from the helpless condition of the victim, without the components, described in article 112 of this law, shall be punished by imprisonment of two to six years.

The same committed by a person, having previously committed the same crime or rape, or by a group, or with grave consequences, shall be punished by imprisonment of five to ten years.

ARTICLE 113. FORCING A WOMAN TO SEXUAL INTERCOURSE

Forcing a woman to sexual intercourse, or other forms of satisfying sexual passion by a person, on whom the woman is dependent financially or by rank, shall be punished by imprisonment of up to four years.

ARTICLE 114. SEXUAL INTERCOURSE WITH A PERSON UNDER 16 OR UNDER THE AGE OF PUBERTY

Sexual intercourse with a person under 16 or the age of puberty shall be sentenced to imprisonment of up to three years.

The same actions, accompanied by defaming forms of satisfying sexual passion, shall be punished by imprisonment from three to eight years.

ARTICLE 115. LECHEROUS ACTIONS AGAINST ADOLESCENTS

Lecherous actions against adolescents shall be punished by imprisonment of up to four years.

ARTICLE 116. HOMOSEXUALITY

Sexual intercourse of a man with another man (homosexuality) shall be punished by imprisonment of up to five years.

Homosexuality committed with physical force and threats or against adolescents, or profiting from the victims' dependent condition, shall be punished by imprisonment of three to seven years.

ARTICLE 117. FACTUAL MARITAL RELATIONSHIP WITH A PERSON UNDER THE AGE OF MARRIAGE OR PUBERTY

Factual marital relationship with person not having reached the age of marriage, or forcing such person to marital relationship, shall be punished by imprisonment of up to two years, or community service of up to two years.

Marital relationship with person under the age of puberty, or forcing such person to marital relationship, shall be punished by imprisonment of up to five years.

ARTICLE 118. FORCING A WOMAN TO MARRIAGE OR PREVENTING A WOMAN FROM MARRIAGE

Forcing a woman to marriage or continuation of cohabitation, as well as prohibiting a woman to get married by her own wish, or abducting for purpose of marriage, shall be punished by imprisonment of up to two years or community service of up to one year.

ARTICLE 120. ILLEGAL ABORTION

Illegal abortion done by a medical person shall be punished by community service of up to two years, or penalty of 10-20 per cent of the defined minimum salary, or revocation of the medical license for up to three years.

Abortion done by person having no medical degree shall be punished by imprisonment of up to three years, or community service of one to two years.

The actions, described in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this article, perpetrated repeatedly or resulting in death or other grave consequences shall be punished by imprisonment of up to eight years.

ARTICLE 121. FORCING A WOMAN TO ABORTION

Forcing a woman to abortion, in case it is done, shall punished by imprisonment of up to one year, or community service of up to one year, or public reprimand.

ARTICLE 123. BIGAMY OR POLYGAMY

For bigamy or polygamy, i.e. cohabitation with two or more women with shared households, irrespective of the fact of registration of marriage, shall be punished by imprisonment of up to three years or community service of up to one year.

ARTICLE 130. ABDUCTION OR ILLEGAL IMPRISONMENT BY PHYSICAL PERSON

Abduction or illegal imprisonment committed by physical person shall be punished by imprisonment of up to five years.

The same committed:

- a) for mercenary ends or other mean reasons
- b) against adolescent (under 16)
- c) against more than one persons
- d) repeatedly or by a band according to an agreed plan, or by especially dangerous recidivist
- e) causing grave injuries to the victim, dangerous for his/her health, or accompanied by threats to health or life of the victim or his/her relatives,

shall be punished by imprisonment of five to ten years with or without confiscation of assets and with or without exile of two to five years.

The same action resulting in death of the victim or other grave consequences shall be punished by imprisonment of 5 to 12 years.

ARTICLE 155.1 INVOLVEMENT IN ILLEGAL ENTREPRENEURIAL AND ILLEGAL BANKING ACTIVITIES

Involvement in illegal entrepreneurial activities, i.e. entrepreneurial activities without state registration or unlicensed involvement in activities requiring relevant license, or involvement in foreign currency exchange activities without license, as well as illegal entrepreneurial activities in enterprises, recognized as the monopoly of the state, accompanied by infringement of the same rules within one year after an administrative penalty and has resulted (or could have resulted) in receipt of a profit exceeding the amount of the 100-fold of the officially defined minimum salary, shall be punished by imprisonment of up to one year, or penalty from 200 to 500-fold of the defined minimum salary with confiscation of the illegally acquired income (profit).

Involvement in illegal entrepreneurship committed by person previously convicted for illegal entrepreneurial activities, or which has resulted (or could have resulted) in receipt of an income (profit) exceeding the amount of the 1000-fold of the officially defined minimum salary, shall be punished by imprisonment of one to three years or penalty in the amount of 500-fold of the defined minimum salary with confiscation of the assets received from illegal entrepreneurial activities.

Involvement in illegal banking activities, i.e. involvement in banking activities without license, shall be punished by imprisonment of one to three years, or penalty in the amount of the assets equal to 500-fold of the defined minimum salary received from illegal entrepreneurial activities.

Illegal, i.e. unlicensed, involvement in gambling activities or operation of casinos, committed within three months after an administrative penalty for similar infringements, shall be punished by imprisonment of five years, or penalty of 10-fold of the amount defined by the law for involvement in such activities.

ARTICLE 212. SEIZURE OF DOCUMENTS

Seizure of passport or other important personal documents and their appropriation, shall be punished by imprisonment of up to one year, or community service of up to one year.

ARTICLE 213. FALSIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS, FABRICATION, USAGE OR SALE OF FORGED DOCUMENTS, STAMPS, SEALS, FORMS AND STATE PLATE NUMBERS FOR VEHICLES

Falsification of certificates, authorizing or exempting papers, issued by public or private enterprises, offices, organizations, for purpose of usage or sale, as well as fabrication and sale of forged stamps, seals, forms of public or private enterprises and organizations, and state plate numbers for the same purpose, shall be punished by imprisonment of up to three years, or community service of up to two years.

The same committed periodically, shall be punished by imprisonment of up to five years or exile of 2-5 years.

Usage of evidently forged documents shall be punished by imprisonment of up to two years, or community service of up to one year, or penalty of 30-40-fold of the defined minimum salary.

ARTICLE 216. VIOLATION OF RULES FOR ENTERING AND LIVING IN THE BORDERLINE AND THE RESTRICTED ZONE

Violation of entry, residence and registration rules in the borderline and the restricted zones, if committed after the imposed administrative penalty for the same illegal actions, shall be punished by imprisonment of up to one year or community service of up to one year, or penalty of 20-fold to 30-fold of the defined minimum salary.

ARTICLE 216.1. ILL-INTENTIONED VIOLATION OF RULES FOR STAY IN AND TRANSIT THROUGH THE TERRITORY OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA BY FOREIGNERS OR STATELESS PERSONS

Ill-intentioned violation of rules for stay in the Republic of Armenia by foreigners or stateless persons, i.e. stay in the Republic of Armenia without right to residence or valid documents of stay, breaching the rules of registration, movement and choice of residence, overstay, as well as violation of rules for transit through the territory of the RA, if previously imposed administrative penalty for violation of the same rules within a period of one year, shall be punished by imprisonment of up to one year, or community service for the same period, or penalty of 20-fold to 30-fold of the defined minimum salary.

ARTICLE 217. VIOLATION OF THE PASSPORT REGIME

Ill-intentioned violation of the passport regime, in the form of stay without passport or registration, committed by person previously twice imposed administrative penalty for the same, shall be punished by imprisonment of up to one year, or community service for the same period, or penalty of 20-30-fold of the defined minimum salary.

ARTICLE 220.2 BOGUS MARRIAGE AND BOGUS DIVORCE

Bogus marriage or bogus divorce with mercenary ends or other personal reasons, shall be punished by imprisonment of up to one year, or community service for the same period, or penalty of 10-20-fold of the defined minimum salary.

ARTICLE 226. MAINTENANCE OF DENS - PIMPING

Maintenance of brothels for mercenary ends and pimping shall be punished by imprisonment of up to five years, or exile of two to five years with or without confiscation of assets.

Establishment or maintenance of dens for purpose of using alcohol, or providing buildings for that purpose on constant basis, shall be punished by imprisonment of up to two years or community service for the same period, or penalty of 30-40-fold of the defined minimum salary.

Establishment and maintenance of dens for using non-narcotic medical and other substances for non-medical purposes or providing buildings for that purpose, shall be punished by imprisonment of up to two years or community service for the same period, or penalty of 30-40-fold of the defined minimum salary.

ARTICLE 229.1 INDUCING TO USE OF NARCOTICS

Inducing to use of narcotics shall be punished by imprisonment of up to five years.
The same action, committed against two or more people, or by person, previously convicted for the same crime, or committed the actions described in article 226.1, paragraph 1 and 2 of article 229, articles 229.1, 230 and 230.1 of this Code, shall be punished by imprisonment of three to ten years.
The same action, committed against adolescents, shall be punished by imprisonment of five to ten years.

ARTICLE 231. ENGAGING ADOLESCENTS IN CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES, ALCOHOLISM

Engaging adolescents in criminal activities, begging, as well as using adolescents for purpose of living on parasitic principles, shall be punished by imprisonment of up to five years or exile of one to five years or without exile:

Engaging adolescents in alcoholism shall be punished by imprisonment of up to five years.

ARTICLE 231.1 FORCING ADOLESCENTS TO ALCOHOLISM

Forcing adolescents to alcoholism by parents or other persons, or by person, on whom the child is dependent, shall be punished by imprisonment of up to two years, or community service for the same period, or by penalty of 30-40-fold of the defined minimum salary .

ARTICLE 231.2 FORCING ADOLESCENTS TO USAGE OF NON-NARCOTIC MEDICAL AND OTHER STUPEFYING SUBSTANCES FOR NON-MEDICAL PURPOSES

Forcing adolescents to usage of non-narcotic medical and other stupefying substances for non-medical purposes shall be punished by imprisonment of up to five years.

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ARTICLE 169. ILLEGAL ENTREPRENEURIAL ACTIVITIES

Involvement in illegal entrepreneurial activities, i.e. entrepreneurial activities without state registration or unlicensed involvement in activities requiring relevant license, or involvement in foreign currency exchange activities without license, shall be punished by penalty of 15-30-fold of the defined minimum salary.

Illegal, i.e. unlicensed, involvement in gambling activities or operation of casinos, committed, shall be punished by penalty of 5-fold of the amount defined by the law for involvement in such activities without license.

ARTICLE 177. FORCING ADOLESCENTS TO ALCOHOLISM

Forcing adolescents to alcoholism by parents or other persons shall be punished by penalty of 50-100 per cent of the defined minimum salary.

ARTICLE 178. FAILING TO CARRY THE RESPONSIBILITY OF UPBRINGING AND EDUCATING A CHILD BY PARENTS OR PERSONS REPLACING THEM

Parents ill-intentionally failing to take responsibility for their adolescent child's upbringing and education, resulting in drug using by adolescents without doctor's permission, or other violations, committed by them (excluding the legal violations, mentioned in paragraph two and three of this article), shall be sentenced to a penalty of 10-30 per cent of the defined minimum salary.

In case of minor hooliganism or hooliganism, committed by adolescents aged 14-16, shall result in penalty of 30-80 per cent of the defined minimum salary to be imposed on parents or persons replacing them.

Appearance of drunken adolescents in public places, or usage of alcohol by adolescents, shall result in penalty of 50-100 per cent of the defined minimum salary, to be imposed on the parents or persons replacing them.

ARTICLE 179.1. PROSTITUTION

Involvement in prostitution shall result in penalty of 50-100 per cent of the defined minimum salary. Recurrence of the same actions within one year after administrative infringement shall result in penalty of 100 per cent up to doubled amount of the defined minimum salary.

APPENDIX 4

International Conventions and Protocols Related to Trafficking

No	Year	Instrument	Armenia's status on accession
1	1904	International Agreement for the Suppression of the White Slave Traffic	
2	1910	International Convention for the Suppression of the White Slave Traffic	
3	1921	International Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Women and Children	
4	1926	Slavery Convention	
5	1930	ILO Convention No29 concerning Forced Labour	
6	1933	International Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Women of Full Age	
7	1947	International Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Women and Children and the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Women of Full Age	
8	1949	Protocol amending the International Agreement for the Suppression of the White Slave Traffic and the International Convention for the Suppression of the White Slave Trade	
9	1950	Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of the Others	
10	1950	Final Protocol to the Convention for the Suppression of Traffic of Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others	
11	1950	European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms	
12	1951	Protocol amending the Slavery Convention of 1926	
13	1951	The Convention related to the Status of Refugees (The Geneva Convention)	Acceded to on 12 April, 1993
14	1956	Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery	
15	1957	European Convention on Extradition	
16	1966	The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	Acceded to on 1 April, 1991
17	1967	Protocol Related to the Status of Refugees Protocol to the Geneva Convention	Acceded to on 12 April, 1993
18	1972	European Convention on the Transfer of Proceedings in Criminal Matters	
19	1977	Additional Protocol to the Geneva Convention relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts	Acceded to on 31 March, 1993
20	1979	Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women	Acceded to on 9 June, 1993
21	1981	European Convention for The Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data	

22	1989	Convention on The Rights of the Child	Acceded to on 1 June, 1992
23	1990	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families	
24	1990	European Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime	
25	2000	United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime	In process
26	2000	Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime	In process
27	2000	Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea or Air, supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime	In process

Bilateral and multilateral agreements signed by Armenia related to trafficking

The CIS Convention on legal assistance on civil, family and criminal matters (January 22, 1993).

Agreement between the Republic of Armenia and Georgia, Romania and Bulgaria on legal assistance on civil and criminal matters.

Agreement between the Republic of Armenia and Georgia on legal assistance on criminal matters (June 4, 1996).

Agreement between the Republic of Armenia and Georgia on legal assistance on civil matters (March 4, 1997).

Agreement between the Republic of Armenia and Bulgaria on legal assistance on criminal matters (September 26, 1995).

Agreement between the Republic of Armenia and Romania on legal assistance on civil and criminal matters (March 25, 1996).

Agreement between the Republic of Armenia and Bulgaria on legal assistance on civil matters (September 26, 1995).

Agreement among the Governments of Black Sea cooperation Participating states on cooperation in combating crime, in particular in its organized forms (9 October 2000).

Advertisements

ONLINE MATCHMAKING

A number of Armenian women's profiles can be found in several Internet web sites offering matchmaking services. It is difficult however to assess the success of the online matchmaking or keep track of marriage advertisements either through Internet personals or newspaper advertisements. Given the fact that people do not have wide access to Internet, the role of communication and Internet personals in contributing to trafficking appears to be limited.

NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS

Though the majority of interviewed women have arranged their trips to abroad through their acquaintance, friends, neighbours and relatives, based on verbal communication, a few of them have arranged their trips abroad through newspaper advertisements. The number of similar advertisements offering high paid jobs abroad to attractive young women is gradually increasing.

The IOM Office in Armenia conducted a survey of similar advertisements from July until October of 2000 among the most well known weeklies, that is ARMENIAN BUSINESS WEEKLY, DELOVOY EXPRESS, GIND and PAS. Two interviewers contacted them for further information. These advertisements coupled with a number of tour agencies located particularly in "Erebouni" hotel, Yerevan, offer Schengen visas and other travel opportunities. Presented below are several samples of newspaper advertisements from the above mentioned Armenian newspapers.

Will meet a woman for a marriage (28-35 years old, pretty and joyful, without children, 50 kgs/160sm).

I am 47/170, doctor, US citizen.

Address: Yerevan 99, Document No: AC 0429165

A smart and tender Taurus is looking for an accompanying woman for a tour around the world, and maybe for a wife for a tour all over life.

Address: Yerevan 10, Document No: 1465

Will meet a woman for a friendship, I am 30, tall, intelligent, loyal, have an employment, free of complexes.

Please send a photograph.

Address: Yerevan 10, Document No: 0304370

EMPLOYMENT ABROAD

Employment abroad, (provision of Moscow based agency's address and phone number for citizens of 18-60 years old, in USA, UK, Italy, Portugal, Greece and other countries. Knowledge of foreign languages not necessary); phone 48 06 15; service fee 1200 drams (08 July 2000, No 26)

Employment abroad; (education + job) (Au Pair) phone 39 14 71; email: concordarm@yahoo.com (August 19, 2000, No 32)



"DELOVOY EXPRESS", Armenian business weekly, 20 January 2001, No 02 (399).
Translation is below:

"GOK job" company
URGENTLY NEEDS
Managers, cooks, barmen, shop assistants
and
FOR OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT
Waitresses
and dancers
Address: House of Unions, building 2, office 15
Tel: 58-16-78

APPENDIX 6

Acronyms and abbreviations

AIDS	Acquired Immunity Deficiency Syndrome
ASA	Armenian Sociological Association
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CEE	Central and Eastern Europe
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSW	Commercial Sex Worker
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IOM	International Organization for Migration
NGO	Non-governmental organization
OSCE	Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe
RoA	Republic of Armenia
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infections
STD	Sexually Transmitted Diseases
STV	“Stichting tegen Vrouwenhandel” (Foundation against Women Trafficking)
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations Children Fund
US\$	US Dollar
USA	United States of America
USSR	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

APPENDIX 7

Glossary

Asylum	Protection granted by a State to an alien on its own territory.
Border control	A State's regulation of the entry of persons onto its territory, as an exercise of its sovereignty.
Border control officials	A generic term to describe those officials whose primary task is to guard the border and enforce the immigration laws of the State.
Child	Any person under 18 years of age.
Commercial sex worker	Someone whom clients pay to have sex with, irrespective of whether the money goes to the worker or not.
Consular officials	Government officials representing the State abroad concerning visas and residency issues.
Criminal Code	The branch of law relating to the punishment of crimes. The State brings before the court persons charged with violations of criminal statutes, usually seeking either imprisonment or fine.
Deportation	The act of a State in the exercise of its sovereignty in removing an alien from its territory after refusal of admission or termination of permission to remain.
Detention	Restriction on freedom of movement, usually through enforced confinement, of persons by government authorities.
Forced labour	Labour or services obtained through force or the threat of force, or by the use of coercion, or through any scheme or artifice to defraud, including debt bondage.
Fraudulent documents	Passport, visas or other travel or identity documents, which are either: altered, falsified or counterfeited, or legitimate documents obtained by using fraud, such as pretending to be someone else
Green Card	Commonly used term in the USA, comparable to an immigration visa or residence permit. Recently introduced in Germany as a short-term (up to five years) highly skilled labour migration programme.

Internally displaced Person	Person who has been forced to flee her/his home or place of habitual residence suddenly or unexpectedly as a result of armed conflict, internal strife, systematic violations of human rights, or natural or man-made disasters, and who has not crossed an internationally recognized State border.
Irregular migrant	A non-national who enters a country or resides in a country without proper authorization. This would include among others, one: who has no legal documentation to enter a country but manages to enter clandestinely; who enters using fraudulent documentation; who, after entering using legal documentation, has stayed beyond the time authorized or otherwise violated the terms of entry, such as entering into a sham marriage, and remained without authorization.
Migrant	The United Nations' definition of migrant is an individual who has resided in a foreign country for more than one year. However, common usage includes certain kinds of shorter-term migrants.
Migration	The movement of persons, usually between States. Migration can be permanent or temporary, voluntary or forced and be seen from the sending country perspective, i.e. emigration, or from the receiving country perspective, i.e. immigration, etc.
Minor	A person not yet legally of adult age according to the law of the relevant country and is not yet entitled to exercise specific civil and political rights.
Passport	A government document identifying a person as a national of the issuing State, which is evidence of the holder's right to return to that State.
Returnee /Returning migrant	Persons returning to their country of citizenship after having been international migrants (whether short-term or long-term) in another country and who are intending to stay in their own country for at least a year.
Schengen visa	A visa that is issued by the European Union member states currently party to the Schengen Agreement (these are Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, and the non-EU member state Norway).
Smuggling of migrants	The facilitation of illegal border crossing, for financial gain.

Comment [I1]: According to UN definition (Protocols to Convention on Organized Crime), smuggling is for profit.

Trafficking in persons	The UN defines Trafficking in persons as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the 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 or of the giving or receiving of payment or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation includes, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.
Visa	An endorsement by a consular officer in a passport or certificate of identity that indicates that the officer, at the time of issuance, believes the holder to fall within a category of aliens who can be admitted under the State's laws.
Voluntary return	The return of a person to her/his country of origin on a voluntary basis. This term is commonly used to refer to the stage prior to deportation of an alien.

APPENDIX 8

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