

work to improve conditions for women, from a gender perspective. Women's Forum has been running operations against human trafficking since 1997, in Sweden as well as internationally.

The County Administration of Västra Götaland, is through its integration and Gender Equality Department strongly engaged in women's issues. This includes trafficking of women and children for sexual purposes.

The Police Authority in Västra Götaland comprises the entire Västra Götaland county. The County Criminal Investigation department deals with cases of a more difficult nature, such as human trafficking. The Police Authority in Västra Götaland has produced a

For 125 years **the Södermalm Baptist congregation** has worked to provide support to individuals in Stockholm. The congregation represents the Baptist Union of Sweden in the project and co-ordinates the union's work against human trafficking. The congregation is also part of the co-ordinators for the European Baptist Federation's work against human trafficking, which encompasses 13,000 congregations in 54 countries.

The Museum of World Culture is a new national museum which, through exhibitions and programmes, works with issues relating to the consequences of increased globalisation and internationalisation on the cultures of the world and on the individual.

Do you wish to know more about the cooperation against trafficking? Please contact one of us.

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Photo: Åsa Sjöström



Photo: John Renard

Approximately 400–600 women are transported to Sweden every year. The number of children is unknown.

pocket sized 'action card' with various tips on what the police should do when they come in contact with victims, as well as perpetrators.

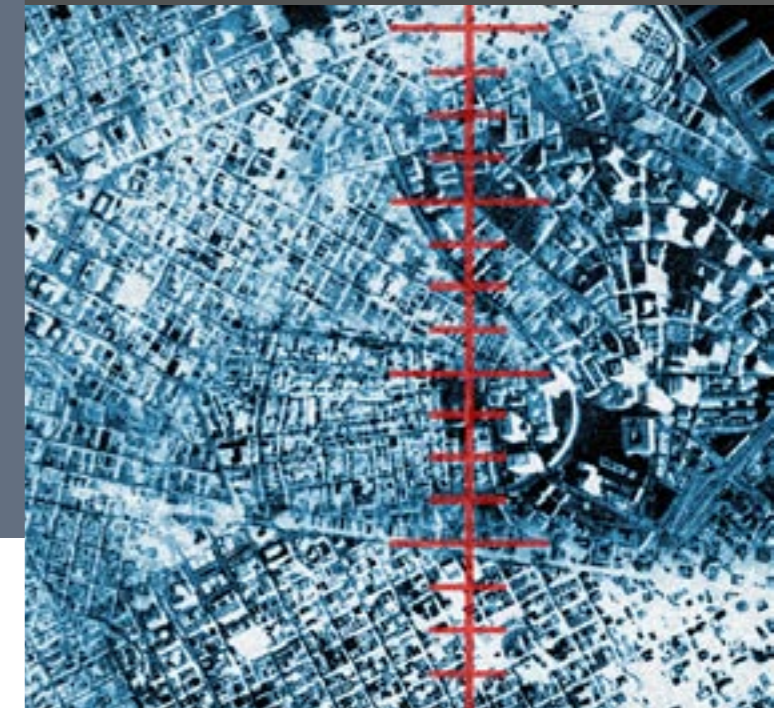
The Prostitution unit at the Stockholm City Social Services administration is working to reduce prostitution. The Prostitution unit has knowledge about the extent of prostitution in the city, as well as the skills required to be able to offer information and support about these issues to those seeking help, to city district staff, and other cooperation partners.

The Development centre in Stockholm is participating in the partnership on behalf of **the Public Prosecution Office**. The Public Prosecution Office also has routines for international co-operation that can contribute to the trans-national work.

A safe house with more than five years' experience of dealing with female victims of human trafficking is also participating.



Cooperation against trafficking



EUROPEISKA UNIONEN
Europeiska socialfonden

Europol estimates that approximately 120,000 women and children annually are brought into the EU from other parts of the world for sexual exploitation. Each and every one of these cases means personal tragedy.

Most often it is young women from the poor areas of poor countries that are lured into Europe with the promise of a better life and a brighter future. Others are brought here by force. They are recruited and smuggled here by criminal networks. When they arrive, their passports and money disappear, and many are broken down, physically and psychologically, with drugs and torture. They often end up in financial debt to their abductors. With no identity, no self-will, and no life of their own, they are forced to sell themselves, again and again. When they have been used and exhausted, they are dumped: in the best case scenario in another country, with no passport or documentation, and – in the worst case – they are murdered.

This human trade currently occurs throughout the world, in poor and rich countries. According to the UN, the extent, organisation, and global spread of this human trade have increased in the past few years. The trafficking of men, women, and children has also been linked to other forms of international organised crime, such as narcotics and arms trafficking.

According to the National Swedish Criminal Investigation police, between 400 and 600 women, in addition to an unknown number of children, are transported into Sweden every year. Sweden is a destination country, as well as a transit country, for this trade. It is important to reduce human trafficking through effective legal procedures and a change in attitude. It is also important that the victims are offered relevant and organised support from the authorities and NGOs they come into contact with, and that they are given the opportunity of a dignified return.

COOPERATION AGAINST TRAFFICKING

In 2005, the development partnership 'Samverkan mot trafficking' [cooperation against trafficking] was formed – a unique cooperation in which authorities, independent organisations, church societies, museums, and universities participate. The cooperation will last for three years. The work of the development partnership is organised into three subject areas.

The authorities' cooperation against human trafficking

The aim of this subject area is, within the Stockholm, Skåne, and Västra Götaland counties, to: streamline legal procedures against the perpetrators, improve support for the victims of human trafficking, and facilitate a dignified and organised return to their country of origin or another country. The authorities also carry out knowledge and method development, based upon their practical cooperation.

Aktion Värddigt Liv [Action Dignified Life]

– a network of NGOs

The aim is to focus on the return process, and to develop a network of support functions – before and after the return – including safe houses and the opportunity to work and study. A hotline will be opened, and regional resource centres will be created for the victims of human trafficking.

Creating opinions and increasing awareness

The aim is to create a qualified platform for public debate, increase awareness, and change the attitudes of the authorities, organisations, and individuals. An exhibition on trafficking with a supplemental programme opens at the Museum of World Culture in Göteborg in 2006.

NETWORK ACROSS BORDERS

The cooperation against trafficking is a development partnership within the European Social Fund, called Equal Programme. The partnership consists of BalticFem, Caritas Sweden, Hela Människan, Women's Forum, the Male Network, The County Administration of Västra Götaland, the Police Authority in Västra Götaland, the Prostitution Unit in Stockholm, Södermalm's Baptist Congregation, the Museum of World Culture/the National Museums of World Culture, and the Public Prosecution Office. Also participating is a safe house with more than five years' experience of dealing with

female victims of human trafficking. Other project participants and co-financers are the Swedish Migration Board (Stockholm, Göteborg, Malmö), the Police Authority in Stockholm, the County Councils of Stockholm and Skåne, Göteborg's City, the Prostitution Group in Malmö, the Police Authority in Skåne, and 'Museion', Göteborg University.

There are cooperation partners in Italy, Latvia, and Greece. The aim of this trans-national cooperation is to increase awareness of human trafficking and to exchange experiences at government agency and grass roots level. The cooperation against trafficking is partly financed by the EU/European Social Fund and is organised by the Women's Forum foundation.



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WHO ARE WE?

BalticFem is an inter-regional organisation with experience of projects that focus on employment and free enterprise within the Baltic region, particularly on the conditions of women in the employment market. Baltic-Fem is part of the Swedish National Federation of Resource Centres for Women (NRC).

Caritas Sweden is part of the Catholic Church's world-wide development organisation. Caritas carries out work in over 200 countries and helps people on

site. Outside Sweden, Caritas carries out humanitarian work in disaster areas and supports the fight against poverty and oppression. In Sweden, Caritas and its international network are involved in the work against the trafficking of women and children, as well as migration issues.

The Male network's national organisation is an independent, non-political and non-religious national organisation, with local networks and associations at several points throughout the country, working for equality and non-aggression towards women, and against male violence and assault. Creating public opinion is one of the most important instruments in the work of the Male network.

Hela Människan is a meeting place open for people seeking companionship and support during difficult times. Hela Människan provides support for housing, treatment, studies, and work, through 500 employees and thousands of motivated volunteers in 90 locations throughout the country. The main contributors are the Church of Sweden and the Free churches.

Women's Forum, founded in 1988, is a conceptual knowledge company working with information, education, research, client work, and change-related