

# Stop the Traffick

## The role of clients and civil society in combating sexual exploitation

VIDC (Vienna Institute for International Dialogue and Cooperation) panel discussion as part of the conference “Joining Forces against Human Trafficking” organized by the Task Force on Combating Human Trafficking (established by the Austrian Federal Government; coordinated by the Federal Ministry of European and International Affairs) on the occasion of the EU-Anti-Trafficking Day.

Monday | October 21st 2013 | 1 – 3 pm | Diplomatic Academy of Vienna Festsaal |  
Favoritenstrasse 15a | 1040 Vienna

Introduction: **Mag. Nadja Schuster, MA**, Gender Consultant, VIDC

**Joanna Garnier**, Co-founder and Vice President of La Strada Foundation against Trafficking in Persons and Slavery, Poland

**Dr. Andrea di Nicola**, Assistant Professor of Criminology and Coordinator of eCrime, Faculty of Law, University of Trento, Italy

**Esta Steyn, BA**, Director and Coordinator Stop the Traffik Netherlands

Moderation: **Irene Brickner**, Author and Editorial Journalist at Der Standard

The panel discussion will be held in English with simultaneous interpretation to German.

### Background

The International Labour Organization (ILO) estimated in June 2012 that in the time frame 2002 - 2011 20.9 million people were victims of forced labour globally. This estimate includes victims of sexual exploitation. The majority of victims are from Romania, Bulgaria, Poland and Hungary.

Where does the demand for cheap, unprotected and flexible labour stem from? Is there a demand per se for trafficking victim's prostitution? What prevails: the demand for 'exotic sexual services' (Di Nicola et al 2009) or the demand for low prices and the possibility to exploit women with a low social status who cannot claim their rights (O'Connell Davidson, Anderson 2003)? To what extent are buyers of sexual services violent, abusive and demand unconventional sexual practices? With regard to the four different models to regulate prostitution (abolitionism, new abolitionism, criminalization, regulation): which model would rather lead to a decrease in demand for unprotected sex workers? To what extent is sex trafficking related to racism, discrimination and exploitation of (undocumented) migrants?

To identify the demand for sexual exploitation per se is a very challenging task and requires further research. However, Joy Ngozi Ezeilo (UN Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children) regards it as “the desire for labour that is exploitative or services which breach the human rights of the person delivering those services...demand must be understood expansively, as any act that fosters any form of exploitation that, in turn, leads to trafficking”.

The three panellists will represent perspectives of different actors in the field of human trafficking: of 1) victims, 2) individuals, civil society, private sector and 3) clients of sexual services. During the discussion we will tackle the questions: How can demand for sex trafficking be decreased? What measures can be taken by various actors in the field?

## **Panelists**

**Joanna Garnier** is the co-founder and vice president of the La Strada Foundation against Trafficking in Persons and Slavery, a leading international anti-trafficking organization in Europe with 18 years of experience. La strada's core tasks are to protect victim's rights and improve their access to justice, to provide social assistance as well as to raise awareness among the general public, the law enforcement and service providers. Previously she taught polish language and literature at school. As an expert in social work she contributed to the development of human trafficking prevention campaigns and has managed a number of projects focusing on the education of vulnerable groups. She is the co-author of the training kit for teachers "Human Rights and Trafficking in Women and Young People in Europe". In 2012 Ms Garnier functioned as the director of the International Film Festival on Human Trafficking in Warsaw. Currently she is working on a campaign for improved security of underage models.

**Andrea Di Nicola** is assistant professor of criminology and scientific coordinator of eCrime, Faculty of Law, University of Trento, Italy. For over 15 years, he has been dealing with economic and organized crimes, human trafficking and smuggling, urban security, environmental criminology and with the links between crime and the Internet. Mr Dr. Di Nicola published several articles and books on trafficking in human beings. He coordinated several EU research projects on human trafficking, among which a pilot study for the European Commission on four EU member and candidate countries on the demand for trafficked prostitution. He co-authored the book "Prostitution and Human Trafficking. Focus on Clients" (Springer, 2009).

**Esta Steyn**, BA, was born in South Africa and holds a Bachelor in Cultural Project Management. Since 2012 she is the national coordinator of STOP THE TRAFFIK Netherlands, which aims to prevent human trafficking by mobilizing and training individuals, communities and organizations to take action - locally, nationally and internationally. It is a growing global movement acting through large awareness raising campaigns, community groups and country offices. Previously Ms Steyn worked as youth worker and project coordinator for different organizations. Her personal motto is "The Only Thing Necessary for the Triumph of Evil is that Good Men Do Nothing" (Edmund Burke).

**Irene Bricker** is journalist at the Austrian newspaper Der Standard, blogger, author and moderator dealing with human rights issues. For her articles about asylum and migration rights she earned a series of journalist awards. In 2012 the book „Schwarzbuch Menschenrechte – wörter Österreich schweigt“ and in 2007, together with her colleague Johanna Ruzicka, the book „Heiße Zeiten“, that focuses on climate change, was published.