

# **Sex slavery**

## **Trafficking in women and forced prostitution –the example of Nigeria and Austria**

**Thursday | 17<sup>th</sup> November 2011 | Diplomatic Academy of Vienna |  
Favoritenstraße 15a | 1040 Vienna | 18.30 – 21.00 pm**

**Introduction** | Birgit Sauer | University of Vienna

**Nigerian realities** | Grace Osakue | Girl's Power Initiative, Nigeria

**Panel discussion** | Birgit Sauer, Grace Osakue, Evelyn Probst, Helga Konrad, Elisabeth Tichy-Fisslberger

**Chair** | Eva Nowotny

**Welcoming** | Hans Winkler | Diplomatic Academy Vienna

Nadja Schuster | VIDC – Vienna Institute

**Languages** | German, English with simultaneous interpretation

**Curators** | Nadja Schuster, Alexandra Toth | VIDC – Vienna Institute

Reception and networking.

## **Background**

Modern slavery. Women treated as goods to be traded. Different terms are used for trafficking in women, which is one of the most terrible human rights violations against women and young girls. Often trafficking in women occurs in combination with forced prostitution. This combination turned into an extremely profitable business and produces a transnational prostitution market. The women and girls working involuntarily on this market are predominantly from less developed countries. The demand of cheap sexual services is constantly increased by modern, wealthy states. On the one hand these states introduce restrictive immigration policies, on the other hand they are planning legislative measures to combat human trafficking. Experts and researchers working in the field emphasize permanently that the root causes of this severe human rights violation, to be found in global, socio-economic and gender-based inequality, are successfully ignored.

This public event focuses on women and girls being trafficked from Nigeria to Austria and forced into prostitution. Taking into account the root causes in the countries of origin and the demand in countries of destination, experts will discuss about effective preventive measures and sensitization programs.

## **Panelists**

### **Grace Osakue**

Grace Osakue is an educationist, feminist and sexuality expert. She is co-founder of Girls' Power Initiative (GPI) in Nigeria, a feminist, youth development organization as well as board member of Global Alliance Against Trafficking in Women (GAATW) Membership Committee and the National Coalition Against Child Trafficking and Labour (NACTAL). Besides Ms Osakue is Principal of Asoro Grammar School (Senior) in Benin City and Honorary Secretary of the Scout Association Edo State Council.

Publications:

- 2010 Aladeselu, Nosa; Obazuwa; Maria (co-authors): Students Handbook on Migration and Trafficking, ENCATIP.
- 2002 Elizabeth, Okoojion (co-author): Trafficking in Girls: The way forward, GPI.

## **Birgit Sauer**

Professor at the Institute of Political Science, University of Vienna. Research areas: governance and gender, politics and culture, politics of gender relations, theory of state and institutions.

Publications:

- 2008: An der Front des westlichen Patriarchats. Sexarbeit, Frauenhandel und politische Regulierungen in Wien. In: Nautz, Jürgen/Sauer, Birgit (Hg.): Frauenhandel. Diskurse und Praktiken. Transkulturelle Perspektiven.
- 2008: Gewalt, Geschlecht, Kultur. Fallstricke aktueller Debatten um „traditionsbedingte“ Gewalt. In: Sauer, Birgit/Strasser, Sabine (Hg.): Zwangsfreiheiten. Multikulturalität und Feminismus.

## **Elisabeth Tichy-Fisslberger**

Ambassador, National Coordinator on Combating Trafficking of Human Beings, Director General for Legal and Consular Affairs, Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs.

## **Helga Konrad**

Former Austrian Federal Minister for Women's Affairs (1995-1997) and MP, currently active as International Consultant, chaired the Stability Pact Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings for South Eastern Europe from 2000-2004 and was OSCE Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings from 2004-2006. Since 2010 Ms Konrad is working for the Institute for International Politics as a project leader for combating human trafficking.

## **Evelyn Probst**

Leader of the Intervention Centre for Trafficked Women (IBF) of LEFÖ, a feminist migrant women's organization. Lefö-IBF is the only Intervention Center of its kind in Austria and offers direct support to trafficked women and girls. Ms Probst has been working in the field of fighting Trafficking in Human Beings for 15 years and is a much sought-after trainer for seminars for public authorities, police, NGOs and other relevant actors. She has also been a teacher at the Austrian University of Klagenfurt.

Publication:

- 2011: Planitzer, Julia/Probst, Evelyn/Steiner, Barbara/Unterlechner, Barbara (co-authors): Entschädigung für Betroffene des Menschenhandels in Österreich, Wien, ÖGB Verlag.

## **Eva Nowotny**

Ambassador Emeritus, currently President of the Austrian Commission for UNESCO (2009-2012). She is board member of many academic and sociopolitical institutions such as the Austrian Association for Foreign Policy and the United Nations, the Bruno Kreisky Forum for International Dialogue, the Austrian Institute for International Politics and CARE Austria.