

3. HUMAN TRAFFICKING

YES Feminist Network

The Young European Socialists define human trafficking as the act of abducting and/or deceiving someone with the goal of limiting their personal freedom and forcibly using their human potential for profit.

IOM has found that 76 percent of almost 1,400 migrants and refugees interviewed in Italy from 24th of June to 3rd August 2016 – and who travelled along the Central Mediterranean Route connecting North Africa to Europe – have responded positively to at least one indicator of the presence of human trafficking and other exploitative practices on the route. The findings provide strong evidence of predatory behaviour by smugglers and traffickers and the kinds of enabling environments within which trafficking and associated forms of exploitation and abuse thrive.

A significant proportion of migrant and refugee respondents reported direct experiences of abuse, exploitation, or practices which may amount to human trafficking. Such experiences range from not receiving agreed payment for work or services, to being kidnapped and tortured. In the majority of cases experiences were reported to have happened in Libya.

The phenomenon of human trafficking can be a transnational process that implies the transfer of the victim from one place to another, usually following three main levels - country of origin, country/ies of transfer and country of destination. YES believes that the following measures should be undertaken in order to approach the issue consistently and solve it globally.

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

Prosecute local actors who mislead and/or force victims, in the full awareness that they are facilitating human trafficking; improve cooperation and developments programmes effectiveness in order to ease circumstances at home so that people don't have to seek help from traffickers – for instance through investments in educational programmes and empowerment of local multipliers; improving the abilities of local police at the borders in order to identify potential victims of human trafficking and prosecute the facilitators and addressing corruption in the countries of origin by increasing fundings of anticorruption programmes and related education; establish legal and safe migration routes so as not to facilitate human trafficking; establish international police cooperation to combat illegal money flows generated by human trafficking.

COUNTRY/IES OF TRANSFER

Improve and increase the internal cooperation of the European investigative police corps and the one between the latter and the countries of origin and destination police corps

Provide a legal status and ease the access to enforcing authorities for the victims of human trafficking; provide public information at central transportation points (i.e. airports, harbors, stations, bus stations) to raise awareness about the possibility to escape human trafficking, referring to social services; toughen penalties for traffickers, while providing also social re-integration policies.

COUNTRY/IES OF DESTINATION

Boost the European coordination and establish more long-term funding for NGOs and civil society actors which provide shelters, identify the victims of human trafficking and monitor them as to free them from their exploiters, and organize vocational and educational trainings to help them building a safe future for themselves. All victims of human trafficking should get an unlimited residence permit in the country of destination, to avoid the cases when they don't establish contact with the police because of their fear to be deported. Foster the debate and the awareness within the civil society through initiatives in formal and non-formal education.