



Christian Organisations  
Against Trafficking in Women

**COATNET** is an International Network against Trafficking in Women, under legal authority of Caritas Europa.

Currently the network consists of Christian organisations and their partners in *Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, India, Ireland, Italy, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine*; *International Christian Organisations: BICE, Caritas Internationalis, CCME, CEC, CRS, ICMC*. Participants of COATNET are members of national counter-trafficking networks in their countries, and work for prevention, protection, in reintegration and advocacy for trafficked women.

Within COATNET they aim at improving information and experience exchange between specialists, consolidating resources and co-ordinating partner

activities for optimum assistance to trafficked women.

### Trafficking in Women

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) estimates that each year up to 500 000 women become victims of Trafficking in Europe alone.

Rings of black marketers and pimps deliberately recruit women mainly from Eastern Europe (but also from Africa, Asia and South America) and promise them a well-paid job. The young women travel to a Western European country with an expensive tourist visa obtained through agencies. First their "new employer", usually a middle man, takes away their passport. The odyssey begins with forced prostitution or other forms of exploitation. Then the women are often sent to other countries. Through this practice, the women remain in a permanent state of dependency. In the past years, trafficking in women has established itself as a lucrative business next to the illegal weapons and drug trade.

The lives of hundreds of thousands of young girls and women are being destroyed...

### Trafficking in Women means

any acts that entail the recruitment and/or the transport of a person inside or outside national borders with the purpose of performing work or services by means of violence or under the threat of violence, abusing authority or dominion, applying debt bondage, fraud or other kinds of compulsion/ coercion.<sup>1</sup>

### Trafficked Women

**might be found in the following fields:**

- prostitution
- entertainment industry
- commercially arranged marriages
- domestic help

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<sup>1</sup> *In December 2000 the UN adopted two protocols supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, one to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children, the other one against smuggling of migrants. This is the official definition adopted by Coatnet.*

- au-pair services
- illegally arranged employment

**COATNET** presents counter-trafficking practices of its members and situation as regards to trafficking in their countries.

For this purpose a website was set up:

[www.coatnet.org](http://www.coatnet.org)

There you can find information in different languages from various countries of participating organizations on:

- facts and figures related to trafficking in women in different countries
- legal regulations of prostitution and legislation on combating trafficking in women in different countries
- legal rights of women who want to go abroad to work or as Au Pairs
- regulations on residence permit
- international legal instruments
- best practices of the participating organizations and their current activities

## Moreover COATNET offers

- setting contacts for partner organizations and people seeking assistance
- arrangement of assistance to trafficked women
- support for counter-trafficking activities



**COATNET** aims to enlighten and find supporters in the fight against trafficking in women. Supporters can personally commit themselves by engaging in practical work as volunteers, joining anti-trafficking campaigns, sensitising people at their work place or help by means of donations.

***You too can do something about it...***

### **Get in contact:**

As a professional working in the field, as a volunteer, as a trafficked women, as a donor

- Coordination of the project and general information: [info@coatnet.org](mailto:info@coatnet.org)
- Coordination and contact point in the Czech Republic: [info.czechrepublic@coatnet.org](mailto:info.czechrepublic@coatnet.org)
- Coordination and contact point in Germany: [info.germany@coatnet.org](mailto:info.germany@coatnet.org)
- Coordination and contact point in Lithuania: [info.lithuania@coatnet.org](mailto:info.lithuania@coatnet.org)
- Coordination and contact point in Switzerland: [info.switzerland@coatnet.org](mailto:info.switzerland@coatnet.org)
- Coordination and contact point in Ukraine: [info.ukraine@coatnet.org](mailto:info.ukraine@coatnet.org)