

INFORMATION CAMPAIGN AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN FROM UKRAINE

RESEARCH REPORT July 1998



IOM International Organization for Migration

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Trafficking rings have for years thrived on the exploitation of women from developing countries. Recently countries of the former Soviet Union have become their latest targets. In Ukraine, where women account for more than 60% of those who have lost their jobs in recent years, trafficking in women has become a dangerously booming “business”. Lured by false promises, misled by false information on migration regulations, many women fall prey to unscrupulous traffickers, allowing their dream for a better life to be exploited.

In order to help stem the rising tide of trafficking in women, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has carried out an Information Campaign in Ukraine as part of a joint US-EU Initiative on Prevention of Trafficking in Women. In order to establish a sound basis for its information dissemination activities, IOM conducted research in regions across Ukraine and gathered first-hand information on the problem of trafficking in women as well as the profile of potential victims. The following report is an analysis of the surveys and interviews carried out in ten regions of Ukraine as part of the research activities.

METHOD

Studies of trafficking in women have indicated that trafficked women often made a conscious decision to migrate or seek temporary employment abroad, although frequently that move was based on incomplete or incorrect information. Unemployment, poverty, disintegration of social networks are some common “push” factors, while favourable income differentials and higher living standards often act as powerful “pull” factors that motivate potential migrants. However, as researchers have noted, it is often not the reality at home and abroad, but the perception of that reality, that influence the decisions to move. Moreover, the push-pull factors only impact on the intention, and there are many “intervening obstacles” to overcome before migrants take the concrete step to move. Traditional obstacles such as communication and transportation costs have been made all but irrelevant with the ease of communication today and the traffickers’ offers to “cover” the expenses. Others, such as inadequate support networks, lack of reliable information, unfavourable conditions abroad and strict immigration regulations, may still matter. Here again, the perception is the key.

The hypothesis is that if a woman is motivated by powerful push-pull factors to move, but unaware or unmindful of various “intervening obstacles”, she is at risk of resorting to trafficking. Accordingly, research activities should assess, among the target female population, their perception of socio-economic conditions in Ukraine, the level and reliability of information resources available to them and their readiness to bypass the legal channel of migration.

Because of the subjective nature of the inquiry, a variety of research mechanisms, including a nation-wide survey, focus group discussions, informal interviews and expert consultations, were employed to gather both quantitative and qualitative information. Considering Ukraine’s extraordinary socio-

economic and cultural diversity, the research activities were carried out on a regional basis. The country was divided into ten areas, ranging from the western Ukraine with its close cultural, and economic ties to the neighbouring republics, to the heavily industrial and economically troubled Donbass region of the eastern part of Ukraine, to the southern part and the Crimean Peninsula with its predominantly Russian ethnic composition and its relative reliance on the tourism industry.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Nation-wide survey

A nation-wide survey of 1,189 potential women migrants from ten regions of Ukraine was administered. The purpose of the survey is not only to assess potential migration behaviours, but also to help formulate effective messages for information dissemination. Special attention was paid to women and girls between the age of 15 to 35 in urban areas, the target population of the information campaign. Just over half of the women surveyed were high school and college students; nearly 20% were registered or temporary unemployed. 45% of the respondents are single, 26% married, while others are either divorced or in stable relationship. As a result, the survey might not be representative of the general female population of Ukraine. All data in this report come from the nation-wide survey. Results from other research activities are used mainly for qualitative analysis.

Focus groups

Focus groups are discussions with groups of 10-20 participants selected according to precise geographical, age, social and professional criteria and carried out in the presence of a trained moderator. Focus groups help ascertain common attitudes and intentions towards migration, current information levels, expectations about life in the West, incentives and disincentives for going to the West, and the information sources considered most credible for Ukrainian women considering going abroad. Focus groups are also excellent testing environments for campaign messages. All in all, 10 focus group discussions were conducted, with participation of a total of 168 women from all 10 regions, ranging from trainees of employment centers in Donetsk to high school seniors in Saky, Crimea.

Informal interviews

Twenty-one individual interviews were carried out with women from major migrant-producing areas, including actual victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation abroad. The anonymous and informal character of these interviews make them particularly suited for obtaining information that may not come out of the survey, or even the focus group discussions. In addition, 20 interviews were conducted with experts on the problem of trafficking in women.

CHAPTER TWO

MIGRATION INTENTIONS

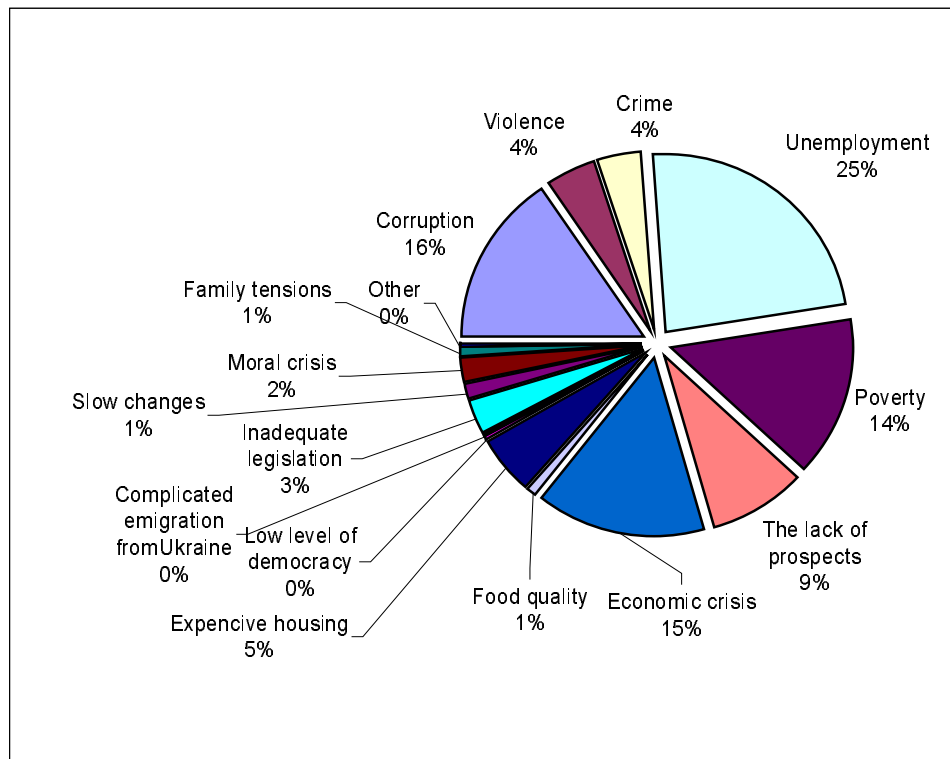
PUSH-PULL FACTORS IN UKRAINE

Perception of socio-economic situations in Ukraine

Since independence, Ukraine's economy has suffered a serious decline. According to the estimates of the International Comparison Project published in 1997, the GDP per capita of Ukraine is not only 5 to 6 times lower than that of large European economies, it is also lagging behind most East European countries as well as Belarus and the Russian Federation.¹

Unemployment continues to grow. In some worst affected region such as Volyn and L'viv, the number of unemployed exceeds the number of vacancies by more than 100 times. Women accounted for 64% of the unemployed in 1997, young people under 28 for 33%. For those lucky

CHART 1
PERCEPTION OF THE MOST SERIOUS PROBLEMS IN UKRAINE



¹ United Nations Development Programme. *Ukraine Human Development Report 1997*. Kyiv, 1997.

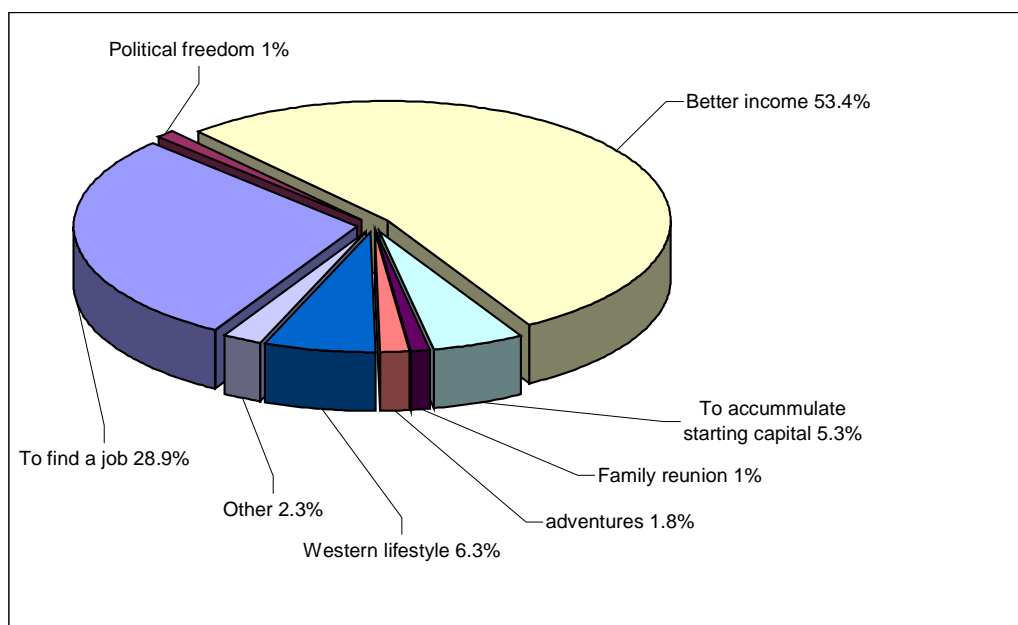
enough to have a full-time job, average monthly income amounted to only 164 UAH (US\$ 82, December 1996 figure).² Wage arrears, on the other hand, continue as one of the most serious social and economic problems in Ukraine. One interviewee commented: “When you have not obtained wages for four or five months, when they are paid in bottles of vodka at retail prices, it’s rather natural to seek opportunity to leave the place where your human dignity is compromised.”

It is therefore no surprise that economy is on the mind of most women surveyed (chart 1). Over 60% of them identified economy-related problems as the most critical issue: unemployment (25%), economic crisis (15%), poverty (14%) and lack of prospects (9%). The respondents practically ignored such problems as a lack of democracy, violence and crime.

For many women surveyed, the years since Ukraine regained its independence have also been years of disappointment, of decline and of unrealized potential. According to the majority of them (62%), the socio-economic situation in the country became worse during the past year; 33% of the respondents did not see any change; only 5% of them noted some improvement. In addition, more than half of the respondent believed the situation will remain unchanged or become worse. Only a little over a quarter of them predicted an eventual amelioration, but then only in the long term (in six years or longer).

The deterioration of the nation’s socio-economic condition in turn affected the daily life of individual respondents, at least the perception of it: 46.5% of them specified substantial decline of their living standards compared to the previous year, and 43.1% of them noted some decline. Only 1.3% of the respondents noted substantial improvement of their living standards, 9% of them noted some improvement.

CHART 2
MAJOR PULL FACTORS FOR POTENTIAL MIGRANTS



² “Review of Current Economic Conditions.” *The Ukrainian Economic Monitor*. No. 1-2 (20-21), January – February 1997.

Pull factors

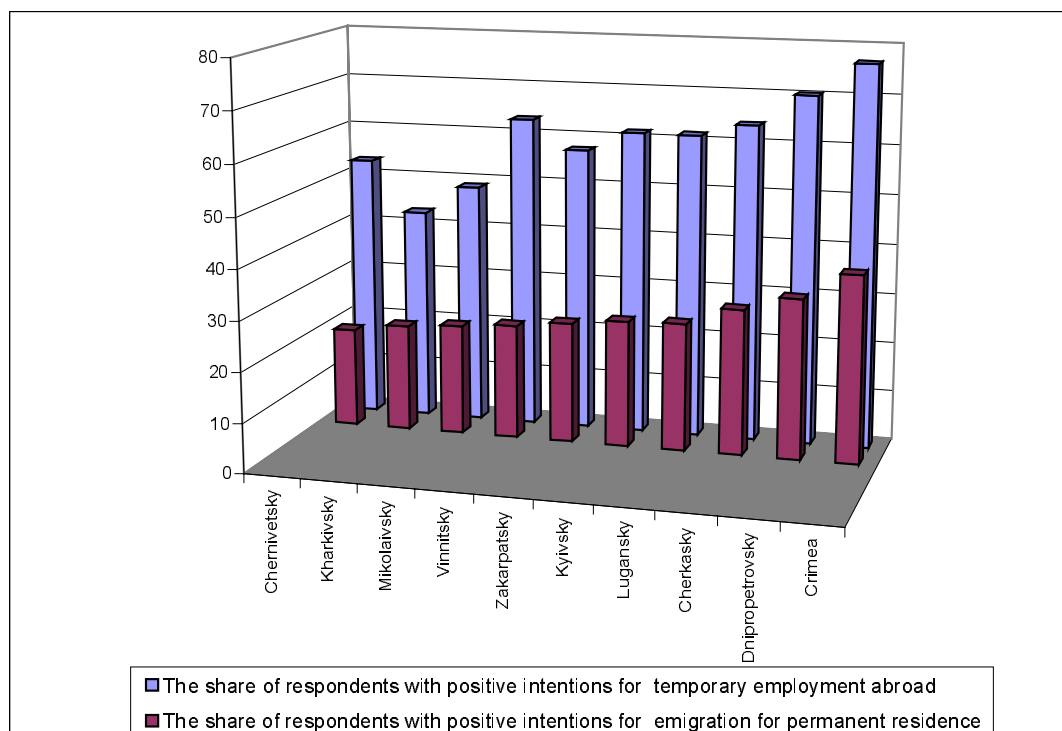
Conventional wisdom has it that Western lifestyle, facilitated by today's easy communication and globalization of the world economy, has acted as a magnet for aspiring migrants. For the women surveyed, however, Western lifestyle and adventures are relatively insignificant pull factors. Greater income potential is perceived by most as the major benefit of living and working abroad. Significantly, although the option of "better income" was given, nearly 30% of the respondents simply chose "to find a job" as the main reason to leave Ukraine.

MIGRATION INTENTIONS OF SURVEYED WOMEN

From the nation-wide survey and focus group discussions, it was clear that women were predominantly motivated by economic reasons at home to migrate, although some interviewees also cited better working conditions and perceived lack of discrimination against women as major attractions of overseas employment.

The nation-wide survey found that more than a quarter of the respondents (26.6%) wanted to emigrate abroad for permanent residence; 59% said that they intended to work abroad, many for long periods (several years). For participants of the focus group discussions, the figures increased by more than 20%.

CHART 3
INTENTIONS FOR EMIGRATION AND TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT ABORAD



High inclination to emigrate was observed in the Crimean Autonomous Republic, where the share of persons wanting to emigrate abroad for permanent residence exceeded the national average by nearly ten percent. Migration intentions were also substantial in Dnipropetrovsky and Cherkasky regions,

in Central and Southeast Ukraine. Relatively low intentions for emigration were observed in Chernivetsky, Mikolaivsky and Vinnitsky regions, in Western and Southern Ukraine.

Most women surveyed in Kyivsky region expressed positive intentions for labour migration (61%). Interestingly, in this region, the share of women with negative attitude toward labour migration was also relatively high (33%). It appeared that, compared to respondents from other regions, women in Kyivska had stronger opinions and clearer intentions as regards to working abroad. In Vinnitsky region where intentions for emigration were relatively low but unemployment rates were high, the intentions for labour migration were the third highest among the ten regions.

CHART 4a
INTENTIONS FOR TEMPORARY LABOR MIGRATION

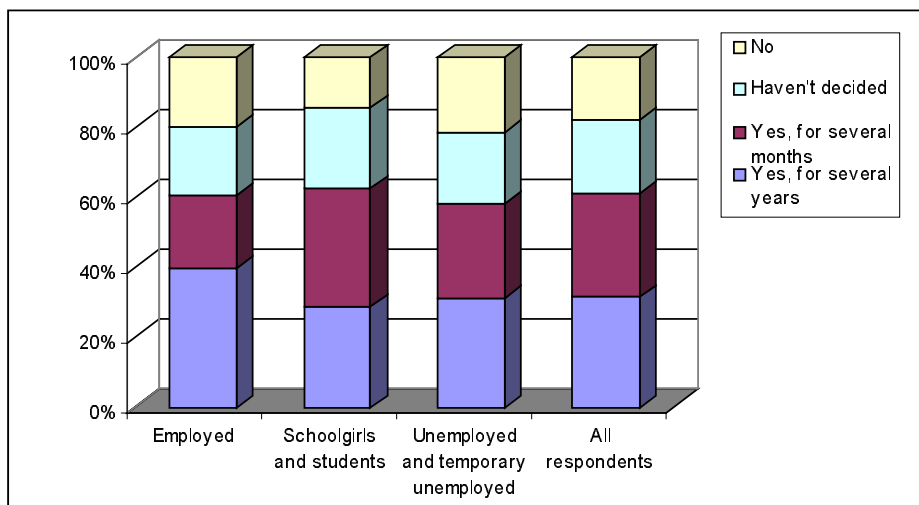
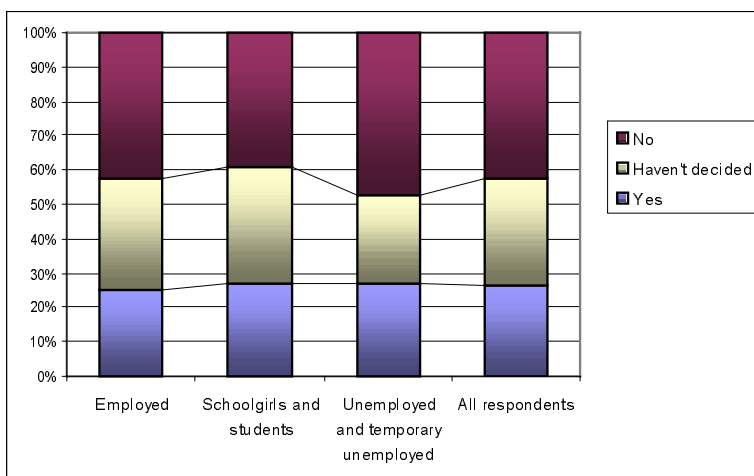


CHART 4b
INTENTIONS FOR PERMANENT EMIGRATION



There is no marked difference in migration intentions among surveyed women of various occupational backgrounds. Relatively speaking, women with a stable job were less inclined to emigrate permanently, but more ready than other groups to take on long-term employment overseas. More schoolgirls and college students found permanent resettlement in foreign countries appealing.

As international marriages are a traditional route for emigration, the survey and interviews also found that marrying a foreigner is more acceptable to this group. When it comes to working abroad, however, students often preferred short-term employment (several months). Contrary to what might be expected, unemployed respondents were not substantially more inclined than other groups to migrate for either permanent resettlement or temporary employment abroad. This led one to question: what are the “intervening obstacles” that impact on a woman’s decision to migrate?

CHAPTER THREE

FROM MIGRATION INTENTIONS TO TRAFFICKING

The nation-wide survey has revealed a direct correlation between the adverse domestic economic condition and surveyed women's desire to migrate. From intending to migrate to resorting to traffickers, however, is a large step.

The relationship between unemployment and trafficking and prostitution has not been thoroughly researched. The United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women, for example, noted that the highest rates of female unemployment in Poland were found in mining areas of its South-west, areas which were not significantly affected by the trafficking and prostitution network.³ However, there is a growing consensus that "trafficking must be seen as part of the world-wide feminization of poverty and of labour migration". When women are structurally denied access to the formal and regulated labour market, they are increasingly being pushed into unprotected or criminalized labour markets, such as sexual and exploitative domestic work.⁴

This and the next chapters examine why some women with migration intentions would not resort to trafficking, and why others would.

"INTERVENING OBSTACLES" TO MIGRATION

When participants of the nation-wide survey and focus group discussions indicated no desire to migrate, they were asked to give the most significant reason. When they expressed a positive intention, they were asked to indicate the most likely factors that would make them change their mind (charts 5a and 5b).

Women from the two groups shared some common concerns. Both groups cited the lack of financial resources for the trip abroad and the lack of language/professional skills as serious obstacles to emigration or temporary employment abroad. Both considered an adequate job/income and strong family ties as mitigating factors that influence their decision to migrate.

It seems that strong family ties substantially reduce the women's inclination to leave Ukraine. It was cited as the number one reason for staying put by 24% of the women with no migration intention, commanding the highest share among all reasons given. On the other hand, 33% of women with migration intentions said they would re-consider if they had family obligations they could not avoid, the third most cited factor.

The income/job factors play a more uncertain role. Only five percent of the women with no migration intentions said they did not want to move because they enjoyed sufficient income in

³ Coomaraswamy, R. *Report of the Mission of the Special Rapporteur to Poland on the Issue of Trafficking and Forced Prostitution of Women (24 May to 1 June 1996)*. United Nations, E/CN.4/1997/47/Add.1/Corr.1.

⁴ Global Survival Network. *The Trafficking of NIS Women Abroad*, report on the international conference in Moscow, 3-5 November 1997.

Ukraine. On the other hand, 42% of the women with migration intentions said they would reconsider if in the meantime they found a good job in Ukraine. The discrepancy between the two figures was by no means reassuring. The fact that a good job was more often cited than any other factors seems to confirm the close link between unemployment and migration intentions. However, as the economic situations in Ukraine continue to deteriorate, it is unlikely to serve as a mitigating factor in any real sense.

CHART 5a
REASONS FOR DECISION NOT TO MIGRATE

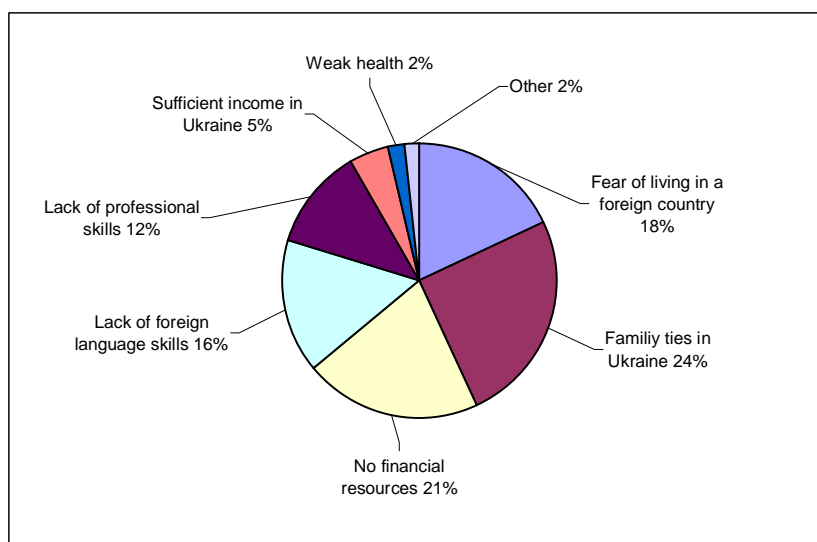
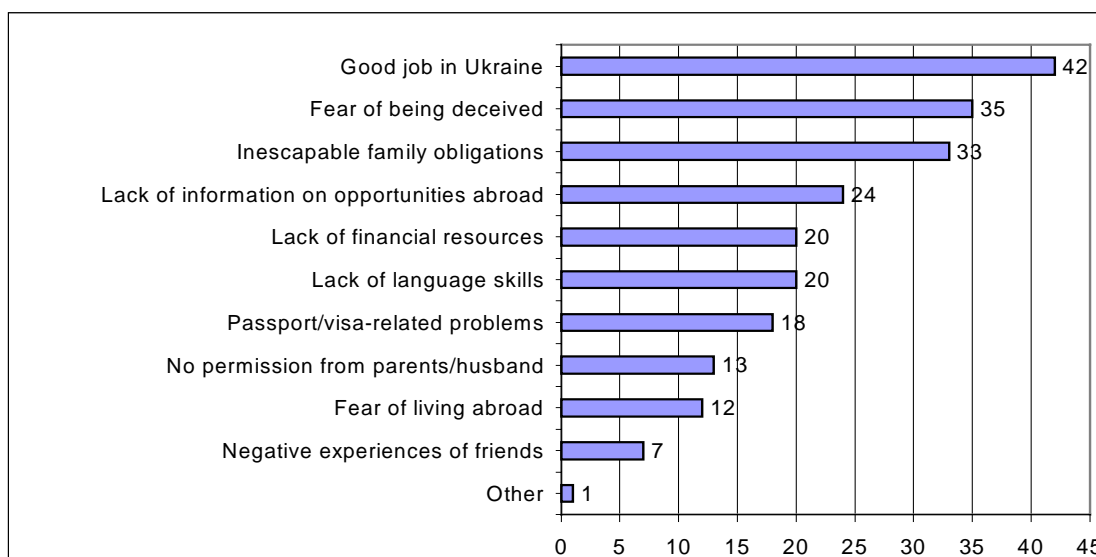


CHART 5b
REASONS FOR RECONSIDERATION OF MIGRATION INTENTIONS



This means that the major intervening obstacles, i.e. what makes a woman stay put at home for the moment, are not satisfactory life in Ukraine, but rather a lack of resources and means to go abroad and a lack of psychological strength to live and work abroad. As the following sections will demonstrate, the trafficking networks are more than ready to “help” the women overcome these obstacles, and many women are too eager in their desire to escape the daily reality in Ukraine to comprehend the full consequences of that offer.

THE ROLE OF TRAFFICKING NETWORKS

Ukraine is a major source of young girls and women trafficked and sold into international commercial sex markets in Western Europe, North America and elsewhere. The Dutch Foundation against Trafficking in Women (STV) registered sex workers in the Netherlands from over 30 countries. Ukraine was top of the list for 1995, and second for 1996⁵. The Ukrainian Ministry of Interior estimated that 400,000 Ukrainian women have been trafficked during the last decades alone⁶. NGOs and independent researchers believed the number could be much higher.

Traffickers make huge profits from the transporting and selling of women and their further exploitation in destination countries. As an official from the Ukrainian Ministry of Interior put it, “they (the traffickers) make more money in a week than what an agency in Ukraine has in its annual budget.” Because of the high profits and little risk it carries for those who organize it, criminal groups have become increasingly involved. As they offer security protection, logistical support and liaison with brothel owners in many countries, the involvement of sophisticated and violent organized crime networks is as much a necessity as it is a reality.

In the nation-wide survey, 18% of the respondents cited “fear of living in a foreign country”, including fear for discrimination, sexual exploitation and risks to health and life, as the number one reason for their decision not to migrate. Their fears are not wholly unfounded. A woman returned from the former Yugoslavia spoke of the murder of one Ukrainian girl for her refusal to practice prostitution. After much violence and abuse, and still failing to get her cooperation, the brothel owner killed her in front of other trafficked women in the brothel. The case from the former Yugoslavia, where no less than a thousand Ukrainian women are working in the sex business, might be extreme. However, as the case study of Germany compiled by IOM Bonn (box 1) shows, exploitation and violence against trafficked women are commonplace and differ only by degree.

Violence and abuse are what happens after a woman leaves her home country. What she sees before is a gentler face of migrant trafficking. According to police authorities and experts, the age of persons involved in trafficking of women ranges between 15 and 55 years. However, the majority of the recruiters who initiate the first contact with the victims are young males between 20 and 25.⁷ Some returned victims of trafficking recalled during focus group discussions or individual interviews that recruiters were often friends or acquaintances, and if not, often made considerable efforts to gain their trust. Often traffickers took good care of them before their signing the contracts and crossing the border.

⁵ Hyde, L. “Modern-day slavery traps local women”. *Kyiv Post*, 9 October 1997.

⁶ USAID. *An Integrated Strategy to Address the Trafficking of Ukrainian Women*. Kiev, 1998.

⁷ Coomaraswamy, R, 1997, *op.cit*.

Trafficking in Women in Germany: A Case Study

Germany is one of the biggest destination countries in Europe for trafficked migrant women. Some 80 % of the estimated 10,000 trafficked women in the country are from Central and Eastern Europe and CIS countries; 60-70% of them are aged 18-25 years. They are mostly in illegal circumstances working as prostitutes, escorts or domestic labourers. Many migrate by choice to work as prostitutes in order to improve their economic lot. Victimisation and abuse, however, do frequently occur because of:

- insufficient information in the country of origin about the risks of such migration and the conditions awaiting potential migrants in Germany. Whether they have been “trafficked” knowingly or unwittingly, many of the women who end up in prostitution are oppressed and abused: deprived of their passports; raped; and sold to clubs, brothels or pimps.
- extortion and exploitation by "middle men", including recruiter/trafficker (US\$3,000-30,000); brothel rent (up to DM 280 a day); pimp's and other blackmailers' fees. These costs are in addition to lawyers' fees (compulsory for some brothels), doctors' fees, private rent and living costs. Add these up against the average income of DM 30-50 per client, many ended up with a debt instead of a decent income they had hoped for.

It is common for the women to be billeted in small towns / villages and moved around frequently to avoid discovery, each time being “sold” anew. A Federal police spokesperson in Bonn claimed that Ukrainian prostitutes were sold to nightclubs for prices of DM 10 - 50,000. The agents threaten them with arrest and deportation; and have been known to pose as policemen, engendering a sense of futility in those women hoping to escape by going to the authorities. This charade plays on expectations of institutional corruption which many of the women are accustomed to in their own culture.

If the women refuse to cooperate, they are threatened with harm to their families at home. Photographs of them working as prostitutes are shown to neighbours in the town/ village of origin, rendering them outcasts in their own home. In many cases, the women are held under lock and key, prohibited from leaving their apartment; and by some reports beaten and tortured, including by cigarette burns and Russian roulette.

Officially, migrant trafficking is still treated as a migration-related problem. The potential for criminalization of trafficked migrants in Germany is manifold, including illegal entry, illegal residence, illicit employment (with or without a valid visa) and criminal association. While prostitution is legal in Germany, only foreigners from EU Member States can practise it legally here. As a rule, all migrants living and/or working illegally in Germany are subject to deportation; except for genuine victims of severe forms of violence. The Family Ministry reports that some 1,500 trafficked migrant women were caught by the police in Germany in 1997, of whom 95% were deported.

The degree to which some women are held in custody, deported expeditiously, assisted materially and psychically, or encouraged to participate in witness protection programs varies from state to state. Imprisonment is uncommon, but often simply the only alternative to being left on the street, when the police are unable to find a shelter or counselling centre to accommodate the woman until she can be deported. Deportation is the outcome in almost all cases, even where the women have been kept in Germany under the witness protection program.

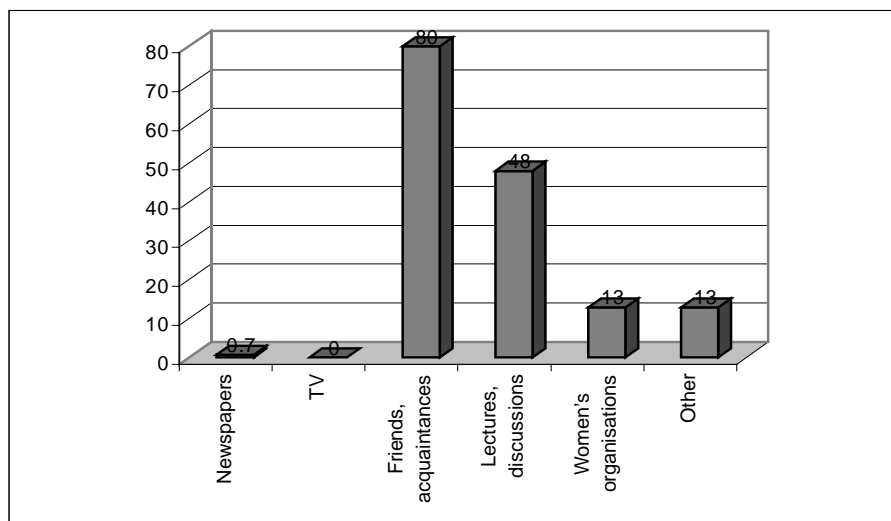
When their guard was thus let down, the offers from the recruiters often seemed extremely reasonable and attractive. As a rule, traffickers promise to arrange necessary travel documents, including visa if necessary, for the interested women. The cost of transportation across the borders can be advance, and repaid after the women start to generate income. And they all promise appealing jobs like these newspaper ads: “Single, tall and pretty? Want to work abroad as model, choreographer or gymnast? Housing supplied. No experience necessary;” “Well-paid job abroad for respectable agency.”

For women with migration intentions, reasons for reconsideration as mentioned above included lack of information on job opportunities abroad, lack of financial resources to make the trip, lack of language and professional skills and visa-related problems. With the offers from the recruiters, these reasons would suddenly appear immaterial. In essence, what the traffickers offer is an indispensable means without which aspiring migrants have no chance of living and working abroad. Many women do understand that the offer comes at a price, if not what it actually entails, but they decide to try their luck anyway.

THE ROLE OF INFORMATION RESOURCES

Both at the beginning and the end of the focus group discussions, women participants were asked a series of questions concerning their migration intentions and awareness of trafficking. An analysis of end-of-the-session questionnaires revealed that eight of the 168 participants acquired the desire to work abroad as a result of the discussions - a wholly unintended effect. Apart from reaffirming the utmost importance of a sound design of any information campaign messages, it demonstrated the huge influence information resources could have on a woman’s migration intentions.

CHART 6
INFORMATION RESOURCES ON TRAFFICKING AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION



In general, the women surveyed were not well informed of living and working conditions abroad. 74.1% of women conceded that their knowledge of migration, both in terms of procedures and conditions, was insufficient. They knew even less about the operation of trafficking networks and possible sexual exploitation of trafficked women abroad. When they did know, they received

information overwhelmingly from friends and acquaintances (80%). As a matter of fact, among those women who have already been contacted by recruiters about opportunities abroad, 55% of them received the job offers from their relatives, friends or acquaintances of friends. Recent evidence from host countries such as the Netherlands also suggested that methods of recruiting women from Central and Eastern Europe and the CIS are much more informal than was commonly thought. Very few women reported that they had been recruited in response to an advertisement.⁸ In the nation-wide survey, only 1.9% of the women completely trusted advertisements of marriage or job brokers, 33.4% of them trusted these ads with some reservations.

The respondents considered individual experiences as well as friends and contacts in foreign countries the most reliable sources of information; these sources collected 27.6% and 24.2% of the responses, respectively. Among other reliable sources of information, friends in Ukraine, printed mass media and TV channels were frequently mentioned.

Among the women interviewed for this study were actual “victims” of trafficking, only that some did not consider themselves as victims. Those women typically have worked in the sex business abroad for some time and have earned some money. They returned through deportation, after expiration of a contract, after having a ransom paid to the brothel, or as a result of parents’ pressure on brokers back home. Although many had been trafficked by deceit, some were ready to go abroad again or even planed to take their unemployed friends with them. Thus they would become recruiters themselves and profit from other women’s victimization.

A returned “victim” of trafficking boasted during an interview, “I will soon visit Germany for the fourth time. One friend of mine will go with me, a second one has not decided yet... I have honestly informed them that they will not work as waitress, that they will serve clients... I’ll assist them in documents’ processing and they will pay me later DM500 each.” Some genuine victims of trafficking returned to Ukraine after escaping from the brothels or sex-clubs. But many were desperate about their situations at home and one interviewee complained, “It was rather bad there and I tried to return home. But what do I see here? It was clean and beautiful there. But what do I see here?” Testimony like these will have a great impact on young girls and women’s decision to resort to traffickers, as most rely on friends and acquaintances for advice and information.

As chart 6 indicated, the information surveyed women received from the media about trafficking and sexual exploitation was negligible. As women’s NGOs argued, the society’s attitudes toward prostitution and trafficking in women still tended to be “not our problem”.⁹ On the other hand, the media has played an immense role in importing Western popular culture and images of Western lifestyle into the post-independence Ukraine. Organizations working with trafficked women cited the so-called “pretty women syndrome”, spread by uncritical media, as a factor in neutralizing and glorifying the seamy side of trafficking and prostitution abroad.¹⁰

⁸ IOM. “Trafficking of women to EU: characteristics, trends and policy issues”, paper presented at the EU Conference on Trafficking in Women in Vienna 10-11 June 1996.

⁹ Kupryashkina, S. “ ‘It is not our problem’: Society Attitudes to Prostitution and Traffic in Women in Ukraine,” in *One Year La Strada: Results of the First Central and East European Program on Prevention of Traffic in Women*, STV/La Strada Program, 1996.

¹⁰ Oleszczuk, T, et al. “The pretty women syndrome.” In *One Year La Strada*, op.cit.

CHAPTER FOUR

THE CHARACTERISTICS OF WOMEN AT RISK OF TRAFFICKING

Although women with migration intentions face obstacles to realize their dreams of a better life abroad, aggressive recruitment by traffickers and poor information resources make them unmindful or unaware of these obstacles. On the other hand, there are also personal and cultural characteristics that help explain why some are more susceptible than others to the trafficking schemes.

Some women respondents were more risk-seeking than others were. In the nation-wide survey, 59% of the women indicated their migration intentions. More significantly, even when the risks commonly associated with trafficking would for sure materialize, 10.2% of them would still seek to migrate and try their luck. Furthermore, on average, 17.9% of the women with positive migration intentions were ready to resort to “unconventional” or illegal means to go abroad for employment. In some regions, such as the Mikolaiv oblast in Southern Ukraine, the proportion was as high as 36%.

Cultural factors may have also played a role. In post-independence Ukraine, rising unemployment gave rise to a convenient stereotype of men as bread-earner and women as not best suited for professional activities. Women are “the last to hire and the first to fire” and are increasingly driven to make a living from the informal sectors of the economy. The practice of sexual harassment as a way to show power and a condition to grant favour was also widespread in Soviet society. This in turn gave rise to the attitude that sex was a permissible, albeit humiliating way to obtain benefits.¹¹ In addition, the nation-wide survey found great sympathy among the respondents as a way to earn money.

TABLE 1
THE RESPONDENTS' VIEWS ON PROSTITUTION (% OF ALL ANSWERS)

View	I agree	I do not agree	It is hard to assess
Prostitution is widespread abroad	74	2	24
Prostitution is widespread in Ukraine	56	12	32
Prostitution is widespread in your social environment	7	66	27
Prostitution is a crime	37	32	31
Prostitution is a job because it is a means to earn money	52	27	21
Prostitution is a private affair of an individual	78	11	11

It is also interesting to note that although most respondents agreed that prostitution was widespread both abroad and in Ukraine, few believed or were willing to admit that it is also widespread near them. According to expert interviews, prostitution is indeed widespread in some regions of Ukraine, but working conditions in the sex business are generally deplorable. A representative from *Vira*

¹¹ Kupryashkma, S. op.cit.

Nadiya Lubov, a women's NGO, said: "We know that the militia of Odesa city has registered 650 girls. But we believe that up to 2000 women are involved into the sex industry of the city. In Summer this figure triples and our experiences tell us that every one of these women will be ready to agree to a recruiter's proposal for work in the foreign sex market".

POTENTIAL VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING

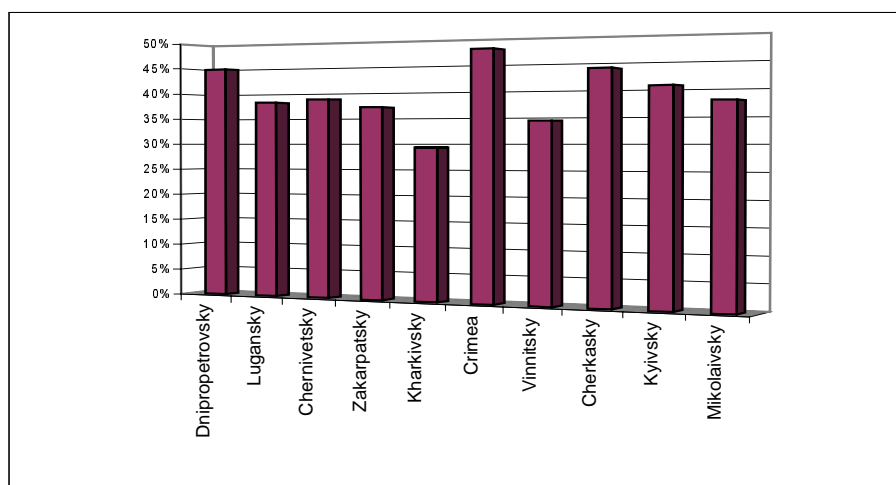
Despite all the points discussed above, from intending to migrate to resorting to trafficking is nevertheless a big step. To take that step, a woman would (1) consider working abroad in irregular situation; (2) go in spite of, or without awareness of, unfavorable conditions or even possible danger to themselves and their relatives back home; (3) consider working, if not in out-right prostitution, at least in service or entertainment business as maid, dancer, masseuse, or other types of overseas job frequently touted by recruiters. This study considers a woman to be at risk of becoming a victim of trafficking for sexual exploitation if she has a desire to migrate and is ready to take that extra step to overcome the so-called "intervening obstacles".

An analysis of the nation-wide survey results showed that 476 women, or 40% of all respondents, could be considered at risk of becoming a victim of trafficking.

Regional differences

Potential victims are not distributed evenly across the different areas of Ukraine. In certain regions, women surveyed showed a greater susceptibility to trafficking. As chart 6 indicates, in the Crimean Autonomous Republic, nearly half of the women respondents fall in the category of potential risk group. High shares of potential victims among the respondents were also observed in Dnipropetrovsky, Cherkasky and Kyivsky regions, all in Central and South-western Ukraine. Lower shares of potential victims were observed among the respondents from Kharkivsky (29.5%) and Vinnitsky regions (34.4%), the former in Eastern Ukraine, the latter in the West.

CHART 7
SHARES OF POTENTIAL VICTIMS AMONG RESPONDENTS BY REGION



Age distribution

According to women's NGOs and field studies, women are increasingly being trafficked at a younger age, partly due to the spread of the AIDS epidemic and the strong demand of the international commercial sex market. Three-quarters of the women in one of the IOM's trafficking studies were reported to be under 25 years old, and many were teenagers aged between 15 and 18, especially among those from Central and Eastern Europe and the CIS.¹²

The nation-wide survey confirmed this worrying trend. Although women aged between 15 and 19 accounted for 39% of the respondent, they constituted 45% of the women considered "at risk" (214 women out of a total of 476). Moreover, the share of potential victims of trafficking among respondents was higher for this age group (46%, 214 women out of a total of 465) than for any other age groups.

TABLE 2
DISTRIBUTION OF WOMEN CONSIDERED "AT RISK" BY AGE GROUP

Age group	Number of respondents	Number of "at risk" women	Share of "at risk" women among respondents
15-19	465	214	46%
20-24	294	119	40%
25-29	197	67	34%
above 35	233	76	32%
Total	1,189	476	40%

TABLE 3
DISTRIBUTION OF ANSWERS TO "ACCEPTABLE JOB ABROAD" BY AGE GROUP

Job	15-17	18-19	20-24	25-35
Trader	20%	16%	29%	35%
Tour guide/interpreter	30	18	28	23
Any job in services sector	8	42	33	17
Waitress	25	12	12	50
Housemaid	-	25	37	37
Nurse / nanny	24	12	23	41
Cook	20	-	40	40
Any job in entertainment sector	67	33	-	-
Dancer	100	-	-	-
Strip teaser	100	-	-	-
Singer	33	17	33	17
A job in the sex industry	-	-	-	-
Other	72	11	11	6

¹² IOM. *Trafficking and Prostitution: the Growing Exploitation of Migrant Women from Central and Eastern Europe*. Geneva, 1995.

Attitudes toward what constitutes acceptable overseas employment might be one of the many reasons for the young composition of potential victims of trafficking. As table 3 shows, respondents in older age groups commonly found service jobs such as waitress and housemaid acceptable, while young women surveyed were substantially more inclined to work in “entertainment” sector. For example, only women from the 15-17 age group chose “dancer” or “strip teaser” as an acceptable job. No woman chose “a job in the sex industry” for herself, which is in sharp contrast to the widespread tolerance for prostitution by other women cited above, and therefore perhaps should not be taken at its face value.

The nation-wide survey also revealed that emigration intentions decrease with age. The share of women with no migration intentions was 38.2% among the age group of under 20. For the age groups 20-29, and above 30, the shares increased to 45.1% and 47.7%, respectively.

Socio-economic profiles

One third of the potential victims of trafficking were either married or in stable relationship. This is not exactly usual as many women engaged in trafficking had the consent of husbands, boyfriends and parents who would receive remittances back home. In fact, as mentioned before, 13% of women with migration intentions said that they would reconsider if they could not obtain the consent from their parents or husbands. The majority of the women potentially at risk (60.6%), however, are single, who tended to have less unavoidable family obligations. Most had no children. For women with no migration intentions, both married and single groups were more or less evenly represented (around 45%), and half of them had children.

Consistent with the young composition of the group of “at-risk” women, half of them (50.6%) were schoolgirls and young students. Compared to women with no migration intentions, there was a greater representation of unemployed women, and when employed, unskilled or low-skilled labourers, services workers, and municipal personnel.

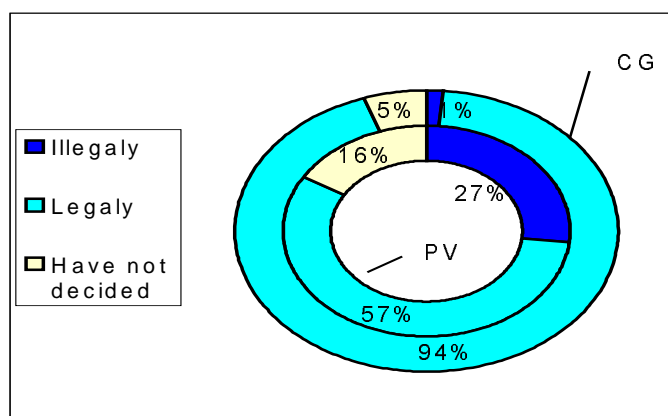
The nation-wide survey asked the respondents to identify popular professions for men and for women. Business came out to be the most preferred occupation for the women surveyed. Surprisingly, quite a few women from the “at-risk” group also specified some so-called “asocial occupations”, such as “racketeers” and “(Mafia) god-fathers”. There were also women who considered a gang-leader’s wife a desirable “occupation.” Compared to women with no migration intentions, intentions to seek employment in entertainment sectors or nightclubs were also considerably higher (6 and 2.5 times higher respectively). Experts interviewed considered this phenomenon a reflection of the confusion and decline of social and moral mores in society in transition.

In the nation-wide survey, the share of respondents intending to emigrate was considerably lower than that for temporary employment abroad (26.6% and 59%, respectively). For potential victims of trafficking among the respondents, the share of those who wish to emigrate reached 62.2%; this figure exceeded the corresponding share among women with no migration intentions more than six times. Potential victims also were also seven times more likely to be willing to marry a foreigner.

The desire of the “at-risk” women respondents to migrate abroad was so intense that a great number of them were ready to migrate and work abroad illegally. Many more were willing to contemplate this option. The share of such persons among potential victims exceeded corresponding share of

women with no migration intentions (control group) more than 19 folds (chart 8), and was 2.5 times higher than that among all respondents.

CHART 8
READINESS FOR ILLEGAL MIGRATION
AMONG POTENTIAL VICTIMS (PVG) AND CONTROL GROUP (CG)



One in six of women surveyed have already received proposals for work abroad. In the majority of the regions in Ukraine, job offers came from Western European countries (Germany in particular). By contrast, in Zakarpatsky and Mikolaivsky oblasts, in Western and Southern Ukraine, job offers from Central European countries (e.g. the Czech Republic) were most prevalent. North America (the United States and Canada), though, appears to be the most preferred destination (54%), followed closely by Italy, Spain, Switzerland, France (around 50%), Germany and the Netherlands (around 36%). Most potential victims of trafficking surveyed had not received job offers for employment abroad. Those who did (20%) received the offers from Germany (39.0%), the USA (11.8%), Poland and the Czech Republic (9.2% each). Wages proposed to the women ranged from US\$300 to 2,000 per month.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Compared to the general female population, women at risk of trafficking shared much more pessimistic views on both the current living standards of their individual families and the economic situation and prospect of the country. If economic and social instability continue to prevail, their number might grow further. An information campaign will not change the situation substantially unless it is combined with long-term solutions to remedy the root causes.

However, the study on Ukrainian women's migration intentions and information awareness also revealed that the women's migration decisions were not always based on accurate information. More often than not, inactive mass media have left trafficking networks free to influence potential trafficking victims through aggressive recruiting methods. A well-designed information campaign can therefore be a necessary and effective short-term measure to help stem the rising tide of trafficking and sexual exploitation of women.

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1. Perception of the most serious problems in Ukraine
2. Major pull factors for potential migrants
3. Intentions for emigration and temporary employment abroad
- 4a. Intentions for temporary labour migration by occupation category
- 4b. Intentions for permanent emigration by occupation category
- 5a. Reasons for decisions not to migrate
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6. Information resources on trafficking and sexual exploitation
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Tables

1. The respondents' views on prostitution
2. Distribution of women considered "at risk" by age group
3. Distribution of answers to "acceptable job abroad" by age group

Survey Questionnaire

Please circle the number that corresponds to your choice in the question or write your answer on the lines provided. The questionnaire is anonymous and the information obtained from it will be used solely for research purposes. You do not need to provide your name and address.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Your age (years) | |
| 2. Your marital status | 1. Single
2. Married
3. Stable relationship
4. Divorced |
| 3. Number of children | |
| 4. Ethnicity | |
| 5. Education | 1. Secondary (lower, incomplete)
2. Secondary
3. Secondary (vocational)
4. Higher (incomplete)
5. Higher
6. Candidate of Sciences |
| 6. Occupation/Profession | |
| 7. Occupational category | 1. Employed in a state-run facility
2. Employed in a private facility
3. Studying
4. Registered as unemployed
5. Temporarily out of work
6. On maternity leave
7. Other (<i>please specify</i>) |
| 8. What foreign languages do you know? | |
| 9. Foreign language skills | 1. Fluent
2. Read and can communicate
3. Read and translate with a dictionary |
| 10. Compared to the previous year, do you think that the overall situation in Ukraine | 1. Has improved
2. Remains the same
3. Is worse |
| 11. Do you think, that situation in your oblast | 1. Will improve in 1 - 2 years |

2. Will improve in 3 - 5 years
 3. Will improve after 6 or more years
 4. Will not improve
 5. Will be worse in the short-term
12. Compared to the previous year, how do you feel the economic status has changed for yourself and your family?
- 1 Substantively improved
 - 2 Improved
 - 3 Has not changed
 - 4 Is worse
 - 5 Is substantively worse
13. Compared to other people, do you feel that the level of wealth of you and your family is
1. Higher
 2. The same
 3. Lower
14. In your opinion, what are the most important problems in Ukraine today (please specify no more than three)?
- Corruption
 - Violence
 - Crime
 - Unemployment
 - Poverty
 - Lack of prospects
 - Economic crisis
 - Low quality of food
 - Expensive housing
 - Underdeveloped democracy
 - Complicated emigration from Ukraine
 - Inadequate legislation
 - Slow transition
 - Moral crisis
 - Increased tensions in family relations
 - Other - *please, specify*
-
15. Which professions do you think are the most prestigious in Ukraine today? - *please, specify*
1. For men _____
 2. For women _____
16. Do you think that you have sufficient opportunities for economic and professional development in Ukraine?
1. Yes
 2. No
17. Why, in your opinion, do residents of Ukraine emigrate or move temporarily abroad?
1. To find a job
 2. In search of political freedom
 3. To earn more income than they are able to in Ukraine
 4. To collect starting capital for a business
 5. Family reunification
 6. In search of adventure
 7. Western lifestyle
 8. Other - *please, specify:*
-

18. Would you like to migrate abroad for employment?
1. Yes, for a few years
 2. Yes, for a few months
 3. No
 4. Undecided
19. Would you like to emigrate abroad forever?
1. Yes
 2. No
 3. Undecided
20. Would you like to marry a foreigner?
1. Yes
 2. No
 3. Undecided
21. What reasons would you consider as incentives for your migration abroad?
1. Better opportunities for work
 2. Higher wages
 3. More freedom
 4. Better economic circumstances than in Ukraine
 5. Lack of due conditions to provide for a family in Ukraine
 6. Discrimination against women in Ukraine
 7. Lack of desirable employment in Ukraine
 8. Other (*please, specify*)
-
22. Which would you consider as reasons not to migrate abroad?
1. Concern for health and safety in a foreign country
 2. Family in Ukraine
 3. Lack of money to migrate
 4. Lack of appropriate professional skills
 5. Lack of foreign language skills
 6. Sufficient income in Ukraine
 7. Information on negative attitudes towards foreigners abroad
 - Other - *please, specify*:
-
23. Would you migrate abroad for illegal or semi-legal employment?
1. Yes
 2. No
 3. Undecided
24. In your opinion who have a better chances of securing employment abroad?
1. Men
 2. Women
 3. Both have equal chances
25. In which sectors are women more likely to secure employment abroad?
1. Trade
 2. Services
 3. Agriculture
 4. Industry
 5. Construction
 6. Providing care to children and elderly
 7. Education

8. Entertainment
9. Other - *please, specify*
-
26. In your opinion, why are women more likely to secure employment abroad in the sectors which you indicated in Q. 25? - *please, specify*
-
27. In your opinion, what are the risks to women when they migrate for purposes of employment?
1. Risks for health and safety
 2. Lack of social and legal protection for migrant workers from foreign countries.
 3. Lower wages
 4. Danger of sexual harassment
 5. Other - *please, specify*
-
28. To which countries would you prefer to migrate if there were opportunities for labour migration or immigration - *Please underline not more than three countries?*
- Germany, Switzerland, France, Italy, Poland, Russia, US, Australia, UK, UAE, the Netherlands, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Hungary, Austria, Czech Republic, countries of ex-Yugoslavia, Turkey,
any country
other - *please, specify*
-
29. Have you ever been abroad?
1. Yes
 2. No
30. If yes, when was your last trip - *please specify the year?*
-
31. To which countries have you travelled?
-
32. What was the objective of your trip abroad?
1. Temporary labour
 2. Visit friends or relatives
 3. For business purposes
 - Other - *please specify*
-
33. If you have travelled abroad for employment, how was the trip organised?
1. By a labour contract, documented in some private employment bureau
 2. By a labour contract with a private individual
 3. By a labour contract, documented in some government employment bureau
 4. By invitation of some foreign company
 5. By invitation of friends or relatives abroad
 6. Without documentation
 - Other - *please, specify*
-
34. In which sector were you employed abroad?
1. Trade
 1. Services
 2. Agriculture
 3. Industry,
 4. Construction
 5. Care for children and/or elderly

- | | |
|---|---|
| | 6. Education |
| | 7. Entertainment |
| | 8. Other - <i>please, specify</i> |
| 35. If you have not worked abroad but if you will have such an opportunity, what is the sector of your desirable employment? | <hr/> 1. Trade
2. Services
3. Agriculture
4. Industry, construction
5. Care for children and/or elderly
6. Education
7. Entertainment
Other - <i>please, specify</i> <hr/> |
| 36. Have you ever received an invitation to work abroad? | 1. Yes
2. No |
| 37. If yes, what was the country of destination - <i>please specify</i> | <hr/> |
| 38. If yes, for what type of work? | <hr/> |
| 39. Who made you this offer? | 1. A private employment bureau
2. A foreign citizen
3. A friend or relative
4. Other - please specify <hr/> |
| 40. Do you know about the activities of middlemen (both companies and individuals) which organise emigration for women for permanent residence and labour migration abroad? | 1. Yes
2. No |
| 41. Have you ever approached them for their services? | 1. Yes
2. No |
| 42. Would you trust their services? | 1. Yes
2. No |
| 43. If no, why? | 1. Your own negative experiences
2. High fees for their services
3. Lack of guarantees
4. Discrepancy between their promises and actual circumstances abroad
5. Negative experiences of your friends
6. Negative information about them in the mass media.
7. Other - <i>please specify</i> <hr/> |
| 44. Do you have close relatives and friends abroad? | 1. Yes, I have friends
2. Yes, I have relatives
3. No |

45. Do you think that you have enough information on living and labour conditions abroad?
1. Yes, on living conditions
 2. Yes, on labour conditions
 3. No
46. What, as you think, is the most reliable source of information?
1. Your own experience
 2. Foreign friends and contacts
 3. Friends in Ukraine
 4. Ukrainian radio
 5. Ukrainian TV
 6. Foreign radio
 7. Foreign TV
 8. Illegal migrants in Ukraine
 9. Printed mass-media
 10. Movies
 11. Word of mouth
 12. Other - *please, specify*
-
47. Which source of information in Ukraine do you trust the most?
1. National radio
 2. National TV
 3. Foreign radio
 4. Foreign TV
 5. National printed mass-media
 6. Foreign printed mass-media
 7. Other - *please, specify*
-
48. What information source do you use the most frequently?
1. Radio
 2. TV
 3. Printed mass-media
 4. Other - *please, specify*
-
49. Which television stations, radio stations, newspapers and magazines do you watch, listen to and read most often. Indicate up to 3 responses for each form of mass media.
- Television
-
- Radio
-
- Newspapers
-
- Magazines
-
49. Do you trust the advertisements for marriage abroad of marriage bureaux?
1. Yes, completely
 2. Yes, somewhat
 - No
50. How much confidence do you place in the Ukrainian mass media?
1. I trust them
 2. I do not trust them
 3. I cannot assess

Thank you for your co-operation!

Additional Survey Information

Regional representation of survey respondents and interviewees

To ensure regional representation, the territory of Ukraine was subdivided into ten regions. Each region incorporated from one to four oblasts of Ukraine. The subdivision accounted for the geographic, historical, and socio-economic aspects of the regions and existing administrative zoning. The ten regions incorporated respectively:

- Zakarpatsky, Lvivsky, Volynsky oblasts
- Rivnensky, Ternopilsky, Ivano-Frankovsky and Chernivetsky oblasts
- Zitomirsky, Khmeltsky, Vinnitsky oblasts
- Kyivsky oblast
- Chernigivsky, Sumsky and Kharkivsky oblasts
- Cherkasky and Kirovogradsky oblasts
- Odesky and Mikolaivsky oblasts
- The Crimean Autonomous Republic and Khersonsky oblast
- Dnipropetrovsky and Zaporizhzhya oblasts
- Lugansky and Donetsk oblasts

One oblast was chosen from each region when the nation-wide survey, focus group discussions and individual interviews were conducted. The respondents and interviewees were chosen in a way that the samples could be representative for all oblasts in the region. The oblasts where the research activities were carried out are:

- Zakarpatsky
- Chernivetsky
- Vinnitsky
- Kyivsky
- Kharkivsky
- Cherkasky
- Mikolaivsky
- the Crimean Autonomous Republic
- Dnipropetrovsky
- Lugansky

Table A-1: age distribution in the nation-wide survey

Regions	General female population (thousands)					Survey sample population				
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-35	15-35	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-35	15-35
Cherkaska	92	100	89	96	376	49	39	27	1	116
Chernivetska	87	88	81	85	341	71	20	9	11	111
Crimea	88	89	83	93	354	59	42	23	38	162
Dnipropetrovska	172	176	169	181	698	41	30	22	24	117
Kharkivska	150	154	137	153	594	55	11	9	36	111
Kyivska	139	144	136	146	564	69	18	16	20	123
Luganska	246	236	221	249	951	41	10	19	31	101
Mykolaivska	95	100	83	99	377	3	26	29	48	106
Vinnytska	97	101	90	96	384	24	63	27	5	119
Zakarpatska	105	108	102	106	421	53	35	16	19	123
<i>Ukraine</i>	1,272	1,295	1,190	1,304	5,061	465	294	197	233	1,189

Source: The Ministry of Statistics of Ukraine, Age and Gender Profile of Ukrainian Population as at January 1, 1997

Chart A-1: occupations of the respondents

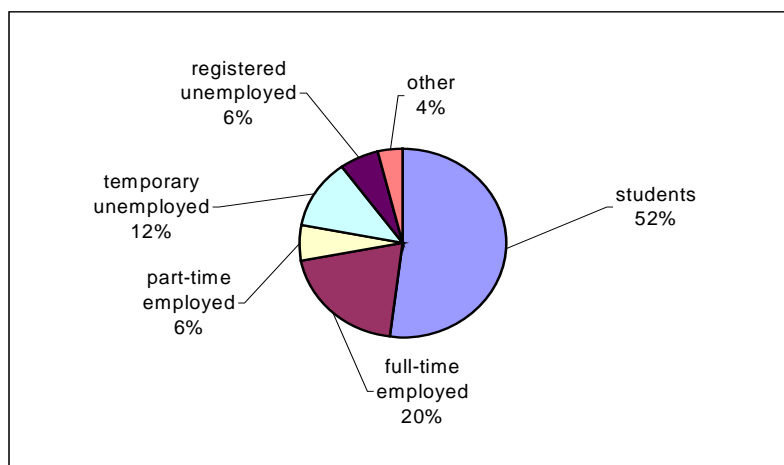
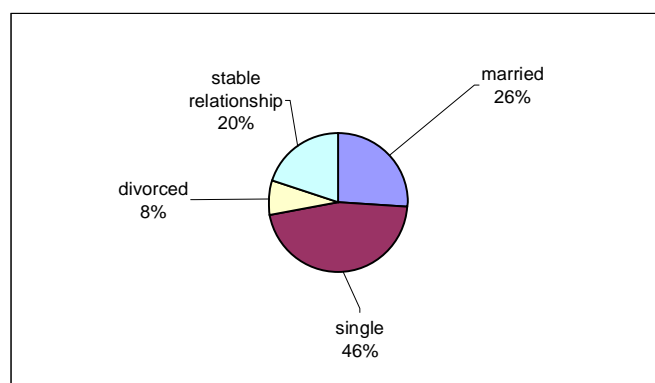


Chart A-2: marriage status



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