

Turn Off the Red Light

End Prostitution and Sex Trafficking in Ireland



National Human Trafficking Prevention Initiative

Nusha Yonkova
Immigrant Council of Ireland

National Women's Council of Ireland, Membership meeting,
20 October 2011, Kilmore Hotel, Cavan

Did you know ?

Over 1,000 women and girls are **for sale in Ireland daily** (Kelleher et al.2009)

80% of women in prostitution reported **physical abuse** and over 60% have been **sexually assaulted** (Raymond et al. 2002)

The vast majority, 89% of women involved in prostitution **want to stop**. (Farley6 et al.2003)

500,000 women are **victims of trafficking** across Europe (Claude, The Swedish Institute 2010)

Did you know ?

11% of those trafficked into Ireland for sexual exploitation are **under 18** years (Kelleher et al. 2009)

The majority of women who enter prostitution **first do so as minors**. (Ekberg 2002)

1 in 15 men in Ireland report having paid for sex (Kelleher et al.2009)

61% of them are married or in a “**committed**” relationship (Kelleher et al.2009)

Surveys of men highlight the greatest deterrent to buying sex is a criminal sanction and/or **risk of exposure** (Mc Leod et al. 2008)



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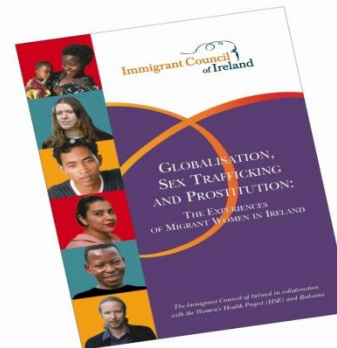
GLOBALISATION, SEX TRAFFICKING AND PROSTITUTION: THE EXPERIENCES OF MIGRANT WOMEN IN IRELAND

*The Immigrant Council of Ireland
in collaboration with
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Funded by the Religious Sisters of Charity

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Trafficked Women and Girls

- **102 women over a 21-month period, Jan 2007 and Sep 2008**
- **26 aware of a further 64 women who were trafficked into Ireland**
- **11 per cent were children**
- **Vast majority from impoverished regions in Africa and Central European/ non-E.U. countries**

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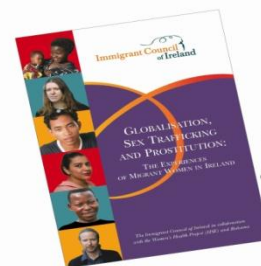
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PROFILE OF WOMEN in the sex industr

- **1,000 women in indoor prostitution in Ireland at any one time**
- **Internet advertises at least 800 women, sexually explicit pictures of each woman and detailed lists of the sexual acts which can be bought**
- **51 different nationalities of women advertised**
- **3 to 13 per cent of the women are Irish, 97 per cent are migrant women**
- **Apartments hotels and call outs to the home of the buyers are the main locations (19 of the 26 counties were named)**
- **Women can now be ordered to his home on a detailed form outlining her body, nationality and the sexual acts the buyer wants**

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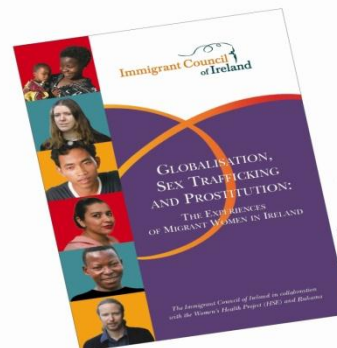
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LONG TERM IMPACTS

'I feel like nothing. I feel dirty. I feel confused and upset all the time. I want to get out of this work. I want a normal life. I am tired of all the lies... lies, lies, lies to everyone, to my family, my friends in Brazil. How could I go back? What would I say I had been doing? I do not want to lie but how can I tell the truth. I have lived inside this world, this universe and the normal world outside is lost to me. I feel I have no future'. (Anara)

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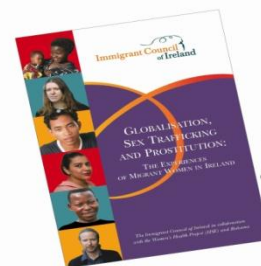
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PROFILE OF BUYERS

- **One in 15 men in Ireland reported that they buy sex**
- **Tend to be highly educated, incomes in the middle range, professionals**
- **61 per cent are married or in a relationship**
- **High proportion buy sex during the daytime and in the evenings after work**
- **16% buy sex every two weeks or more frequently, 46% less than monthly**
- **37% also pay for sex with women in street prostitution**
- **54 per cent visit pornographic sites on the internet**
- **Vast majority of the men are Irish and white**

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Recommendations

- Detection and protection
- Cooperation
- Services and exit routes
- **Tackling demand for sex trafficking**

Turn Off the *Red Light* **End Prostitution in Ireland**

Irish civil society organisations, unions, NGOs and individuals have formed an alliance to raise public awareness about the dangers of prostitution and sex trafficking and to lobby the Government to introduce legislation to end the exploitation of women, men and children in the sex industry.

We believe that tackling the demand for paid sex that fuels the prostitution industry into which women, men and children are trafficked is the most effective way to combat this heinous crime.

Please note the campaign is forthcoming

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Building up the campaign

- **August 2009** – ICTU summer school, ICI presentation prompts a discussion and Unionists express determination to never accept prostitution as profession
- **October 2009** – Labour Women pass motion proposing law to criminalise demand
- **October 2009** – ICI invites feminist and migration groups to discuss a joint campaign against demand-**TORL is born**
- **November 2009** – FG private member motion to review prostitution regulations
- **March 2010** – ICTU all Ireland women conference, under the chairmanship of INMO, unanimously passes a motion in support **TORL**

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More recently

- **February 2011** – TORL formally launched the campaign website through a number of Male supporters
- **March 2011** – the campaign was launched in the West of Ireland through politicians from Labour
- **April 2011** – the Irish Medical professional bodies INMO and IMO endorsed the campaign
- **May 2011** – TORL hosted briefing for TDs – 42 attended
- **July 2011** – TORL hosted briefing for Senators – 11 attended
- **October 2011** – Seanad Motion on the Criminalisation of the purchase of sex in Ireland and the release of the Dingity report from Sweden

Up until more than 80 politicians have been briefed and recruited for the campaign.

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Not Natasha

Book inscription

“This book is dedicated to Dalia and all the girls who allowed me a glimpse of their souls and dig up a hidden painful past. I hope I did it in the most delicate way.”

Dana Popa



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www.turnofftheredlight.ie

Barnardos, Immigrant Council of Ireland, Ruhama, DVAS, Akidwa, APT (Act to Prevent Trafficking), Dublin Rape Crisis Centre, Doras Luimni, Stop Sex Trafficking Cork, Religious Sisters of Charity, National Womens Council of Ireland, Freedom From Pornography Campaign, FOMACS, FOF, Inchicore WSG, Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation, ICTU, Women's Aid, Labour Party, Men's Development Network, MRCl, Rape Crisis Network Ireland, SONAS Housing, TEEU (Technical, Engineering and Electrical Union), SIPTU, Communication Workers' Union, Aoibhness Refuge, Saoirse Refuge, Rathmines Women's Refuge, Viva House, SAFE Ireland, Irish Country Women's Association, Irish Feminist Network, Sligo Rape Crisis Centre, Soroptimist International Ireland, VAW 365, Irish Medical Organisation, and growing.

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website

www.turnofftheredlight.ie

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www.facebook.com/turnofftheredlight

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Thank you!

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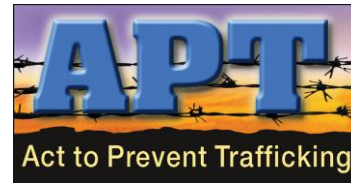
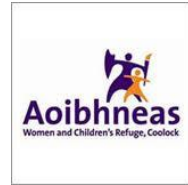
STRONGER TOGETHER

CONGRESS

Irish Congress of Trade Unions



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