

concerned with women's affairs, international and regional cooperation and the role of non-governmental organizations.

In terms of the factors contributing to trafficking and forced prostitution, the report observes that policemen, legislators and researchers had the impression that unemployment resulting from economic reforms had led to the growth of trafficking and prostitution in Poland with many women victims coming from areas with low industrialization that had previously been dominated by the state-owned farming system. The report notes the general view that as the Polish agricultural sector is streamlined according to European Union agricultural policies, the problem will be exacerbated and the problem of trafficking and prostitution will continue to be a major area of concern for policy makers. The report also refers to the opinion of experts that cultural factors also contribute to the problem of trafficking and forced prostitution because of the culture and history of migration during times of hardship which has become coupled with the present situation of open borders and greater ease of migration since 1989. The report further notes the contention that economic liberalization brought with it organized enterprises involved in sex and pornography, and states that such an organized industry, sometimes linked to organized crime, has established itself and expanded rapidly in Poland and other countries of Central and Eastern Europe, to the extent that trafficking and prostitution have developed into viable commercial enterprises. And finally, the report notes that the freedom to travel across boundaries without many restrictions has also significantly contributed to the internationalization of the sex industry and that the minds of young women are filled with myths of becoming millionaires overnight if they sell their bodies.

In consideration of the structure of trafficking and prostitution a number of types of prostitution are identified as most common in both countries of origin and destination. They include: escort services involving well-educated women for wealthy foreign businessmen; restaurant or hotel prostitution in which the prostitutes are known to hotel staff; fitness or massage parlour, club, peep-show prostitution; street prostitution; telephone sex; and "window-prostitution".

The report notes that women victims of trafficking are mainly used to work in the first three areas and describes trafficking in Poland as having acquired the character of an organized crime functioning according to the same principles and methods of work as traffic in weapons, nuclear material, cars and drugs, albeit on a smaller scale. Criminal rings of four to five traffickers with German-Polish cross-border links are sometimes also operated on the side by bigger trafficking rings. The report states that it is the increasingly organized character of the crime that makes traffickers powerful and life for women victims, even upon return, dangerous and/or difficult; further, it is these factors which largely account for the acute lack of witnesses in cases involving trafficking in women, allowing traffickers to act with virtual impunity. Following on this point, the report notes that, despite a national legal framework in Poland for combatting trafficking and prostitution, only a few cases come before the courts, and in even fewer cases are the perpetrators convicted because in many if not most cases women victims fear reprisals against them or their family if they testify.

The theme of fear is also found, by implication, in the section of the report on the role of the police in combatting prostitution and trafficking. The report states that non-governmental organizations and women's groups confided in the SR that women victims of trafficking and prostitution do not entirely trust the police and that the lack of trust is a major obstacle, especially in countries of destination. Police are considered to be tough on illegal immigrants, such as women trafficked for forced prostitution, and police raids on brothels were seen in a negative light. Living on the margins of society, women victims do not naturally consider the police as friendly and supportive. The SR also stated that there is a belief that the police often collude with the agents of prostitution and trafficking, and that women's groups working with prostitutes argued that their research showed that police officials and local government officials facilitated and profited from the trade in women and girls. As a result, abuses of women victims were ignored and traffickers and middlemen protected. Further, the culture of impunity of traffickers stems from their collusion with the police. The report notes that police officials with whom the SR met strongly refuted this perception and insisted that not a single case of collusion between police and traffickers existed.

The section of the report dealing with recommendations is extensive and addresses concerns at the international and national levels. Among the recommendations made, are that:

- ▶ a fuller discussion of international standards related to trafficking and prostitution be held, including consideration of the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, with reference not only to legal issues but also monitoring and implementation;
- ▶ Interpol set up a special unit specifically designed to meet the problem of international trafficking and facilitate increased data-sharing on a systematic basis;
- ▶ cooperation among police forces in different countries include sharing of information on training, police practice and evidence-gathering;
- ▶ an exchange of information among members of the judiciary in different countries be established, related to interpretation of substantive law, evidentiary practice and sentencing;
- ▶ the immigration policy of countries of destination be revised to protect the rights of women victims of trafficking and ensure procedures through which traffickers can be brought to trial;
- ▶ international research be conducted on the effects of structural adjustment policies on women and that international regulations be devised to ensure social justice for women within the national context;
- ▶ there be a concerted national effort in Poland to collect information, data and statistics on violence against women in general and prostitution and trafficking in particular;
- ▶ recognition be given to the fact that present social and economic policies directly perpetuate a crisis in the form of increased forced prostitution and trafficking;