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Reflection on Human Trafficking

The lack of knowledge dictates the rules of exploitation. And disinformation sends young women into the hands of dishonest exploiters whose objective is only to sell the body, to sell it on the market of pleasure for money and to let it, even for a short time, to their clients who use it as an object to compensate their human and affective losses.

This is the reality of human trade.

We are used to see the “final product”, meaning exploited young women, but we do not know the history of that women, their sufferings, the tragedy of forced emigration.



Unfortunately, we meet them when they are already “victims” and try by any possible means to take care of them by launching recovery projects. But before becoming victims today, yesterday they were mothers, daughters, young women.

The criminal exploiter or sick client misses this detail, they are those interested only to sell this body or to possess it, but we cannot omit and ever forget that we must take into consideration the person, to love her, to ask for her name, to listen to her story and to restore her stolen sense of dignity.

Even so the human trade is a worldwide tragedy which concerns women mostly and minors, thorough the movement of people against their will from their native places to the places of exploitation.

It should be also mentioned, for not to confuse the forced migration with illegal migration that the human trade does not directly imply the idea of prostitution and it is not illegal migration.

The human trade can be met at working place as well, under the form of forced work without rights. Human trade is also the name for cases when women known as attendants or care workers which take care of old people, are also forced to do house work or are maltreated, or are forced to marry.

As I said before, the human trade is seen in the streets and hidden in houses where women are forced to sell their own bodies.

Human trade has a very long history and it is caused by poverty in which many women are forced to live, helpless even when speaking about the needs of their children, which need care and food.

That is why before pointing the finger at a girl which was forced to sell her own body, we must know her story, her family and we also must understand that poverty is the the rason for her deeds.

No woman is born victim of the human trade, maybe we consider her so because there are many poor people born and poverty is the starting point of a human



tragedy which makes many victims, a tragedy which for many people is a great source of wealth.

But this phenomenon must be stopped , first of all by stopping the initial cause of human trade which is poverty and disinformation: we should go to the origin countries of the victims and activate forms of development, besides the launching of tutelage and information programs.

At the same time we should oppose firmly to the “ dominant masculine culture” which sees women only as an inferior object only to be used.

Attention : a woman which is a victim of the human trade through exploitation risks to be a victim of traffic within social mechanisms as well, where she is humiliated, isolated, where she is unfortunately an object..

As a conclusion , if the phenomenon of human trade brings to our streets foreign young women which are sold on sex market for money, it happens so that women from our society are in their turn victims of a system where they are only an object from masculine domain.

The contrast for traffic is the a fight of the man, master, client, because the supply and demand logics of human trade market is the consequence of a market where the man asks for feminine goods, because he is already used in his family and a t his work to treat women near his , be it his wife or co-worker , as a useful good.

When analysing the phenomenon of human trade , there often appears the mistake that we see only the profitable crime and women which are used. NO! There is a third subject, the man, client, husband, co-worker, which support this phenomenon.

It may seem a harsh phrase , but if we analyse its deep meaning we see that we life in a society which wants to se woman as a victim, object, prostitute and an always available social assistant, and a depository of male frustrations, because buying a woman for sex is only a therapy relief valve , a physical pleasure.

There is a need to educate our men. There is a need for more efficient family education courses, and all together we must try to educate the right affection, respect for women, love which generates profound unity, the knowing of one another, the sphere of personal feelings, the joy to live and love, but always in a right way.

Maybe in everyone of us is the cause of human trade!

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In the first month of this year Moldovan citizens, who work abroad, sent 85 million USD home.

Moldovan citizens, who work abroad, transferred 85.49 million USD through commercial banks in the first month of the current year. According to the economic publication Eco, compared with the same period of the last year, the remittances have increased with more than 41%. The figures of the National Bank of Moldova show that over 70% of the transfers in foreign currencies (60.28 million USD) were made through the systems of fast cash transfers.



During 2007, the volume of remittances has reached the record figure of 1 billion 216.22 million USD and has exceeded with more than 42.3% the figure registered in 2006. Over 75% of financial means were sent through the systems of fast cash transfers.

In 2007 the proportion of remittances in Gross Domestic Product constituted over 36%. Concerning this chapter the republic of Moldova has been placed first in a classification of the World Bank, quoted by BASA-press.

At the same time Eco mentions that a continuous growth of month's remittances had been registered during the last year and the experts stated that the growing tendency of the transfers' volume is maintained because of the increasing number of citizens who work abroad, their getting legalised, but also because of their pay-rise.

There is a different forecast for the current year than for the previous years. Numerous independent observers, but also National Bank of Moldova and International Monetary Fund already assert that the tendency for the growth of remittances will steady and their place, as the first factor of economical growth, will be taken by investments.

During the last year, direct investments registered an unprecedented growth of about 45% and got close to 533 millions USD. At the same time, the investments in the fixed capital have grown with almost 20%, up to 15 billion lei.

In the republic of Moldova the following international systems of fast money transfer have been operating: Anelik, Blizko, BESXspress, Caspian Money Transfer, Contact, Grecia Transfer, Inter Express, Leader, Migom, Money Gram, Privat Money, Poșta Rapidă, Strada ItaliaConistar (Travelex), Trabex, Turkiye Express, Unistream, Uno Money Transfer, Western Union, Xpress Money.

source: UNIMEDIA, with a reference to Eco

Four out of ten parents in Moldova admit that they beat their own children

Though the legislation of the Republic of Moldova prohibits applying inhuman behaviour towards children, violence shown against children is a quite spread phenomenon both in the family and school. According to a study, 25 per cent of questioned children assert that their own parents had beaten them, and 13 per cent mentioned the fact that schoolteachers had applied corporal punishment to them. This appears in "the study regarding violence towards children", released on February 21. The study was carried out by IMAS-inc on the request of the Ministry of Social



Protection, Family and Child and the Ministry of Education and Youth, with the support of the representative of UNICEF in Moldova.

The study shows that 15 per cent of the questioned children either lack food or feel that nobody takes care of them, or lack communication with their parents. 20 per cent of the children declared that they suffer from verbal violence, while 10 per cent of the parents admitted that they abuse their child emotionally or psychologically.

The same study has shown that the very big difference between urban and rural regions, where it is considered that the number of cases of violence towards children is higher, is, in fact, a myth. In fact, there is not a big difference between towns and villages as well as between families with different levels of education and welfare.

At the same time, half of the respondents, employees of more than 400 state institutions, like schools, kindergartens, local authorities, the Ministry of internal Affairs and the Ministry of Education, declared that they don't know the procedures of recording the cases of violence and, as a result, don't evince initiative in this way, another study has shown, which was carried out by the experts of Gender-Centre.

The vice-minister of Social Protection, Family and Child, Lucia Gavrilita, considers that violence towards children is a present problem in the Republic of Moldova. "We intend to develop a strong system, capable of identifying the cases of violence and offer support and protection necessary to children and women who are victims or liable to the risk of violence. The professionals who work with and for children and family should be well prepared; community services should be created and developed. This year we plan to organise special seminars for all the social assistants in the country, who will be instructed how to reveal and act accordingly in the cases of child abuse", Lucia Gavrilita has mentioned.

According to the UNICEF representative in Moldova, Ray Virgilio Torres, adults should change their perceptions. "Children are educated to perceive beating as a 'normal' and deserved punishment, a fact determined by the manner of educating them. Many women and children victims don't report the cases of violence in the family because they are afraid, because they don't know who might help them and they don't know the procedure of reporting them. Some of them are ashamed and consider themselves to blame", said Torres.

In this context, The Ministry of Education and Youth has launched the National Project "School – an environment without violence". The project will include all 1500 schools of the country and will ensure an educational partnership between children, parents and teachers.

According to the Ministry of Education and Youth, Victor Tvircun, it is very important, on the one hand, to help children learn about non-violent communication and to develop their abilities to solve conflicts peacefully and, on the other hand, to help teachers learn how to educate and discipline children without using physical or psychological punishment. "Taking into account the important role of school in the

child's personality development and the influence that the school has on the family, we solicit parents to be familiarized with positive practice used in school in order to be used by them in the family", mentioned Victor Tvircun.

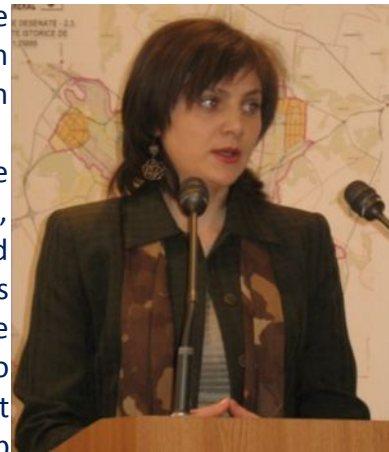
The project "School – an environment without violence" will include more activities, among which trainings for teachers regarding positive and non-violent discipline, special lessons with the subject of violence in all the schools, editing a brochure for pupils, as well as informative seminars for the teaching staff and the administration of the educational institutions.

source: George Iosips's blog

**Soon local civil servants will have access to a new document –
- the European Book of gender equality**

Capital's Mayor, Dorin Chirtoaca, has signed the European Book of equality between men and women in local life within the framework of City Hall's meeting on March 3, Info-Prim Neo related.

The approach for signing the document by the Chisinau City Hall was made by Daniela Terzi-Barbarosie, the executive director of the Centre for Partnership and Development. The expert said that in the next six months the members of the Centre, together with the representatives of the City Hall, are supposed to elaborate a plan of work for promoting gender equality at the local level. After the plan elaboration, the next step



will consist in its approval and endorsement by the City Council. In this regard, the Centre will assist the City Hall in implementing the initiated plan of actions. According to the director, a collaborator from Bucharest will work on the project elaboration alongside the centres' team. She is a consultant under the European Commission who knows very well the European legislation and will ensure compliance with the European legislative rigours.

Daniela Terzi-Barbarosie asserts that one of the concerns and activities of the Centre is promoting gender equality in the Republic of Moldova. That's why, according to the quoted source, it was necessary to initiate a dialogue with the Chisinau City Hall regarding the endorsement of the European Book of gender equality. In her opinion, the document endorsement will constitute for the Republic of Moldova, but especially for the local public authorities, an alignment to the European standards concerning gender equality. Moreover, the European Book represents a real opportunity for the Chisinau City Hall to be a part of the guard who promotes gender equality, considering that European legislation stipulates gender equality as one of the fundamental rights for everyone, Daniela Terzi-Barbarosie has emphasized.

The representative of the Centre has stressed the fact that this instrument, the European Book, is not a political or juridical one. This act requires civic involvement of a local public authority regarding the promotion of gender equality between men and women.



In May 2006, the European Council for municipalities and regions together with the European Commission have decided to elaborate an European Book in which to stipulate certain rigours and recommendations regarding gender equality at a local public authority level. Daniela Terzi-Barbarosie said that at the moment there are 500 regions that had signed the previously mentioned document at the European level.

source: info-prim.md

Alarming increase in HIV/AIDS cases

Doctors in Balti are alarmed because of the growing number of HIV/AIDS cases, lately registered in town. Only last year the number of people infected with AIDS increased with approximately 35 per cent compared to 2006.

Balti is one of the regions most affected by HIV/AIDS in the Republic of Moldova. Last year 61 people were infected with AIDS here, while in 2006 their number was 46. Doctors say that most of them are still young. The Deputy Chief Doctor of the Centre of Preventive Medicine in Balti, Veaceslav Chislari, mentions that 'age categories 25-39 years prevail'. "These are fertile age groups, whose infection can have an impact on demographic indices. For example, last year we had six pregnant women who gave birth", says Veaceslav Chislari. According to the official figures, it is every 100th inhabitant that is infected with HIV virus in Balti. The representatives of non-government organisations in Balti inform that, in fact, their number is much higher. The vice-president of the Association "Youth for the Right to Live", Ala Iatco, thinks that 'Balti is confronting an epidemic in this regard'. 'This region is on one of the first places in Europe regarding the virus spread'. 'If we refer to the republic on the whole the coefficient is not so dreadful, but if we analyse the situation in Balti separately – then it is really serious', says Ala Iatco. However, both doctors and the representatives of non-governmental organisations report that the number of the HIV infected is ten times higher and has increased to 10 thousand cases. From 1997, when the first case was registered in Balti, 200 people have died up to the present. An UNO report from 2007 shows that the Ukraine, Russia and the Republic of Moldova are the countries with the highest rate of HIV virus spread in the CIS.

source: bbc.co.uk/romanian/moldova

The integration of the Republic of Moldova into EU will improve the social situation of the women in Moldova, thinks an organisation of EAM

The integration of the Republic of Moldova into the European Union will improve the social situation of the women in Moldova, through granting women with equal chances as men have, through complying with their right as employees and mothers, the members of European Female Forum (EFF) state in a joint declaration, relates Info-Prim Neo.



Founded on March 1, EFF is an internal organisation of the "European Action" Movement (EAM) which suggests, among other



things, improving the social status of the women and defending their rights; promoting women in the decision-making process at different levels; propagating European cultural values and human rights in the women's environment in Moldova.

Within the framework of a press conference on Tuesday, March 4, the chairwoman of EFF, the vice-chairwoman of EAM, Zoia Jalba, stated that in order to ensure gender equality there is a lack of a well-determined system of activities in Moldova. The chairwoman of EFF advises all women to dissipate the gender stereotypes and contribute personally to changing the status of the women in Moldova, because nobody forbids her to do so.

As a Member of Parliament of the Republic of Moldova, Zoia Jalba intends to propose more legislative initiatives, especially for modifying the Law regarding the maternity leave and the Law regarding the equality of chances between men and women. She considers that the notion of 'chances' in itself is not suitable in this context because it belongs to the terminology of gambling. Zoia Jalba pleads for substituting the term of 'chances' with that of 'opportunities'.

The facts have shown that women are as good in responsible positions as men are, the secretary of EAM Marina Taranu remarked. However, the century-old outlook makes the women in Moldova get insignificant positions in politics, business and public administration. Moldovan women make 40% of the unemployed, while they hold only around 10% of administrative and political chairs. In Sweden and Norway the number of women Members of Parliament exceeds 40% and in Denmark and Finland it is 38% of the whole number of Parliament Members.

In a different connection, the representative of the youth organisation of EMA, Natalia Coser, mentioned that, though the Government states that youth is a priority in its activity, declaring 2008 the Year of Youth, concrete results cannot be noticed. A series of youth's rights have been violated, especially the right to education and work, asserts Natalia Coser.

According to the FFE management, the Forum brings together about 8 thousand women members and followers of EAM.

source: info-prim.md

By the decision of president Voronin to decree 2008 – the year of Youth, communists intend to win more votes in 2009, show the results of the opinion poll, carried out by UNIMEDIA.



According to the results of the opinion poll, the largest part of UNIMEDIA visitors consider that, the president Vladimir Voronin's action to decree the year 2008 as the year of youth has an electoral reason. Thus, 65% of the respondents assert that by this initiative, communists intend to win more votes in 2009. Also 15% of the visitors of UNIMEDIA, participants of the opinion poll, estimate the decision of the head of state an adequate one, but which has a political reason.



6% of respondents appeared to be indifferent concerning this subject, while only every 20th participant of the opinion poll declared that the decision is a sincere and welcoming action of the president Vladimir Voronin.

UNIMEDIA mentions that the opinion poll doesn't claim to be a scientific one; it expresses only the opinion of the ones who were willing to answer the question. 475 UNIMEDIA visitors participated at the opinion poll.

We recall that at the end of 2007, President Vladimir Voronin decreed the year 2008 as the year of youth, announcing that there will be implemented a series of actions for youth. Civil Society has appreciated with reticence the initiative of Vladimir Voronin at the time, calling it a populist one, destined to win the votes of youth at the parliament elections in 2009.

Last week the Parliament of Youth was initiated in Chisinau. Its first session will take place this April.

source: UNIMEDIA

The police have annihilated a criminal group that was trafficking young women to Cyprus

The police have annihilated recently the activity of a criminal group 'Talambat', specialised in trafficking young women, document forgery, theft in large proportions, robbery, market of drugs and counterfeit currency.



Agency INFOTAG, with a reference to the sources of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, broadcasted that the group was operating for several years on our country's territory, trafficking young women of 16 to 25 years to Cyprus, for sexual exploitation reasons, for a sum of 5 thousand Euros. The leader of the group is Efim Talambat, aged 38. The group is known in the criminal world and possesses a lot of money, 'Mercedes' cars, fire arms 'Baikal' type, rubber sticks, police uniforms and other objects necessary for committing crimes. The men of law think that the employees of police and other organs of force protected the group.

The police have arrested the leader of the group and other six members, including a young woman of 23 years. The case is being investigated to find out all the circumstances of committing the crimes, for identifying the accomplices and the victims.
