

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN SWEDEN

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Human trafficking in Sweden

- Human trafficking for sexual purposes is generally a problem in the bigger cities.
- The women mostly come from Eastern Europe, Thailand and Nigeria.
- Human trafficking for forced labour is most common in hotels and restaurants, picking berries, gardening, construction and stone and asphalt work
- It's not possible to estimate the amount of people brought to Sweden for sexual purposes according to the police



Legal frame work

- Buying sex is a crime in Sweden – no matter who the seller is
- The bill was passed in 1998 after much debate but is now supported by at least 70% of the population
- A perpetrator can be sentenced to up to 1 year in prison but this has never happened.
- All sentenced perpetrators have been fined

- The police regards the criminalisation of sex buyers as one of the best tools to defeat human trafficking



Legal frame work

- The sentence for human trafficking is between two and ten years in prison no matter the kind of exploitation.
- International as well as national human trafficking
- For any part in the human trafficking: recruit, transport, transfer, receive etc
- Very few prosecuted with human trafficking get sentenced for this. Normally the sentence is pimping.



National action to fight human trafficking

- Since 2005 there has been a national work group to combat human trafficking
- Since 2009 there is a national methodology support team fighting prostitution and human trafficking
- There's also a national co-ordinator
- This team consists of the police force, the national Prosecutor's authority, the Migration authority, the county administrative boards and the social service's prostitution groups in the three largest cities.



Social work with buyers

- The city of Stockholm offers free and anonymous support for all people who wants to stop buying sex or consuming porn
- They also offer support to family members and others
- The city of Gothenburg also offers this service but it's not free of charge



Social work with sellers

- The three biggest cities offers social work services to people selling sex or harming themselves through sex
- They also offer support to families and loved ones
- Health centres for people from 16 years of age with social and medical counselling
- Outreach activities on the streets and online to get in contact with sellers and buyers to offer them support



Council of Europe's critics: Sweden could do more to:

- Combat other forms of trafficking than for sexual purpose
- Ensure that NGO:s and other civil society actors are involved in the work
- Make further efforts to discourage demand for trafficked services through partnership with civil society and the private sector