

# NEWSLETTER No.4

## WOMEN'S LOBBY AND ACTION AGAINST VIOLENCE AND TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN OPEN GATE / LA STRADA

### HUMAN TRAFFICKING – MANUAL FOR PREVENTIVE LECTURES

As a result of the long human trafficking, in the month published the Manual on Human Trafficking, in 500 copies. The Members of the Open Gate and our members/instructors, students, non-all other that will hold preventive endeavors to facilitate the lectures, since the Manual contains useful information and advice for all those it is targeting. The printing of the Manual will be financially supported by Geneva Global.



years of work on the prevention of of October 2007, the NGO Open Gate Human Trafficking - Preventive Lecture is designated both for the member-strategic partners, as follows: teaching-government organizations, as well as preventive lectures in primary and of it in realization of their preventive lec-

### AMERICAN AND BALKAN FORUM ON MISSING AND ABUSED CHILDREN

In October in Athens was held an international conference on the topic: Missing and Abused Children. The conference was attended by high government representatives from Greece; the Deputy Minister of the Interior, the Public Prosecutor, the INTERPOL, international organizations, NGOs; and representatives of the business sector.



The priority was given to the situation in the Balkans, since the bulk of the participants were from that region and encountered similar problems on a daily basis. During the conference were made the following recommendations: to take into consideration cultural differences while assisting victims of human trafficking; to create databases in respective regions that would pertain to children trafficking, abduction, adoption, begging, stealing, enforced labor, prostitution, child pornography, etc.; to set up preventive programs aimed at the most vulnerable, most susceptible, population; to create a global movement, a joint campaign, and a joint SOS line for CIE; to develop special programs for reintegration, and an adequate manner in which to treat children-victims of human trafficking, both for domestic and foreign citizens.

Our Organization took part and fully contributed at the conference.

## TRAINING OF TEACHERS FROM SCHOOLS FOR CHILDREN WITH DEVELOPMENTAL PROBLEMS



In October 2007, the Open Gate held training for 35 teachers from the two specialized schools for children with developmental problems *Zlaten Sremec* and *Idnina*. The majority of students in these schools are of the Roma and Albanian ethnic background. The teachers were trained about human trafficking, how to recognize a victim of human trafficking, and advised where to turn for further assistance. Among other things, they were informed about the entire Program and the work of La Strada Macedonia.

The main goal of the training was to involve the teachers into the preventive program by tasking them with making a workshop for children/wards in the month of November 2007. In cooperation with the Open Gate, preventive workshops were held in November and December, encompassing more than 480 children at 8-17 years-of-age.

In December 12, 2007, the teachers from the School for Children with Special Needs *Idnina* from Skopje held two workshops on the topic Prevention from Human Trafficking, one for children at the ages 10-15, attended by approximately 40 students, and a workshop attended by 20 parents. The teams of 4 teachers-defectologists, previously trained by the experts of the Open Gate participated in both workshops.

In the workshop for parents was shown a short film (documentary) of the EXIT production, by means of which the topic was introduced. Immediately following was clarified the term human trafficking, as well as defined the most frequent kinds of children abuse, especially of children with special needs (them being the vulnerable category). In their interaction with parents, the instructors defined the measures for protection, caution, and safety from this phenomenon, and where to turn for help in case a need arises for one.

The workshop for children was launched with the movie *You Are Alive*, followed by a discussion and conclusions derived from the movie. The topic was simplified and clarified at the end. The instructors explained to the children all the ways in which someone can be involved into human trafficking, emphasizing that it represents the gravest breach of human rights. In the presentation, the instructors used the preventive materials from the Open Gate, as follows: the poster, the comic-book brochure, the Manual, thereby highlighting the services offered by the Open Gate, as well as the fact that anyone in need of a counsel, talk, etc., can turn to the Open Gate.

Aided by the Open Gate after the training at the school *Zlaten Sremec*, the instructors and the defectologists realized the following activities: Making of bulletin board by students and its presentation, Including the topic human trafficking in class discussions, Projection of the movie – *You Are Alive*, A skit made by/with students.

## EVALUATION OF THE MISSION ON EXPLOITATION OF THE CHILDREN FROM MACEDONIA AND KOSOVO

In the course of the month of October 2007, based on previous negotiations and cooperation, a team consisting of four social workers from La Strada Macedonia and TDH Kosovo made an evaluation related to children exploitation and trafficking. The objective of the evaluation was to ascertain the following: research the reasons for the migration of children from Kosovo to Macedonia in order to understand the forms of exploitation of these children in Macedonia; understand the system of protection of these children; and analyze the responses implemented by the Macedonian government and the non-government sector as pertains to exploitation and children trafficking. In brief, the team worked 20 hours (three days, 7-8 hours per day) on the streets of Skopje and within that time span succeeded in identifying and interviewing 52 children, and in some cases even established a contact with their parents. In addition, they realized meetings with government and non-government organizations. The results of the Evaluation were published in the Final Report immediately after the Evaluation was completed, and in the future will be used as joint data relevant for the region as a whole.

## TRAINING OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING

As a part of the Program for Education about and Prevention from Human Trafficking, as well as the second stage of the Project *Geneva Global*, the Open Gate held training for high school students on November 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> at the Continental Hotel. Entitled "Prevention from Human Trafficking", the training was attended by high school students from Bitola and Skopje. They were mostly of Roma ethnicity and between 15 and 18 years of age. The goal of the



training was to introduce the participants to the concept human trafficking, to inform them about the situation in the Republic of Macedonia, to teach them how to protect themselves, and how to share the information with their peers.

Although the accent was placed on drawing up a plan on the realization of activities that would raise the level of awareness among the high school population as regards human trafficking so that as many of them as possible can be involved in preventive activities.

The first working session started with defining and recognizing the problem of human trafficking as a most severe violation of the basic human rights. During the training, the participants were informed about the types and forms of human trafficking, in particular children.

After the completion of the training, the high schools students will be obliged to share the newly gained experience with their fellow students so that they would be more aware about this burning issue. Also, the already trained students should, within their schools, organize activities on the topic of human trafficking. That includes: preventive workshops among peers, designing and distributing preventive materials, mini photo exhibitions, picture-essays on the topic of human trafficking, and performance by way of the Forum Theatre, etc.

### **La Strada International NGO Platform - “Responding to Root Causes and Creating Equal Opportunities” October, 2007**

On 15 and 16 October, La Strada Macedonia hosted third annual NGO platform in Skopje, Macedonia. This year’s theme was “Responding to Root Causes and Creating Equal Opportunities”.

Around 60 NGO representatives active in Europe and La Strada member organisations participated on the event. At the annual platform it was created opportunity to be present work of La Strada organizations and other participating NGOs.

Furthermore, it was organized thematic workshop, bilateral sessions and side events. Workshops with different topics was discussed like: tailor made prevention work with minority groups; access to labour markets and social inclusion of trafficked persons; access to Justice – trial monitoring, compensation and prevention of trafficking in children, prevention work and campaign images and messages; translational NGO referral mechanisms; internal trafficking and lastly, monitoring human rights and joint lobby (specific actions towards European institutions), equal access to asylum for trafficked persons; addressing all forms of trafficking, as well as the issue of domestic violence in relation to trafficking.

Further, the common NGO statement towards the European Commission on the occasion of the launch of the EU anti-Trafficking Day on 18 October was read out and made available for co-signing.

This event was very good opportunity for the participants to commonly discuss issues of concern, share experience and best practices and to promote openness and transparency among NGOs.

### **IMPLEMENTED PREVENTIVE WORKSHOPS BY TRAINED HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**

In the month of October 2007, the teams from seven high schools from Skopje realized preventive workshops at their



school targeting their peers. In workshops, they showed the movie *You Are Alive*; also, they had a Power Point presentation by means of which were in-detail explained the types and forms of human trafficking; further, they distributed preventive materials by the Open Gate which emphasized measures for protection; at the end were distributed questionnaires on “Fighting Children Trafficking” as a diagnostic assessment that the workshops were efficiently and successfully conducted. This method for passing on information related to human trafficking peer-to-peer has proven very successful and efficient, and in the future the Open

Gate will implement in practice. Preventive lectures were conducted according to the following schedule:

On December 10, 2007 – High School Vasil Antevski Dren;

On December 12, 2007 – High School Lazar Tanev

On December 13, 2007 – High School St. Naum Ohridski

On December 13, 2007, and December 15, 2007 – High School Panche Karagjzov, medical school

On December 18, 2007 – at the Centre Shaban Saliu in the municipality Shuto Orizari

## WORK MEETING WITH THE NETWORK VIGILANCE/*BUDNOST*



On November 29, 2007, at the premises of the Red Cross of the Republic of Macedonia, the Open Gate organized a work meeting intended for the members of the network Vigilance/*Budnost* on the topic Fighting Children Trafficking. The objective of the meeting was to:

- Introduce minimal standards for handling children-victims of human trafficking Present the Guide Book of UNICEF on the protection of the rights of children
- Update on the changes in the legislation pertaining to violence against children
- Information about the current situation as regards human trafficking in the Republic of Macedonia
- Information about the Report of the Sub-Group for Fighting Children Trafficking and Illegal Migration
- Present the activities implemented by the members of the Vigilance/*Budnost* in their combat against children trafficking with the aim to improve the implementation of the recommendations of UNICEF and handling the same.

A special guest who took part at this meeting was Mrs. Saniya Burageva, the Chairman of the Sub-Group for Fighting Children Trafficking and Illegal Migration.

## BY WAY OF THEATRE TO INFORMATION AND EDUCATION



On December 27, 2007, the NGO Open Gate implemented at the High School Yosip Broz a preventive action on the topic Prevention from Human Trafficking. The attendees were the students from the same high school. This activity was realized in an unconventional fashion; namely, through a performance held by a group of high school students from Skopje who interactively, with the partaking of the audience, had an opportunity to get introduced to the topic of human trafficking, to learn about the precaution and protection measures, and the services offered by the Open Gate.

The event was followed by an exhibition of photographs and pictures featuring the topic of human trafficking and presenting the creative expression of the students of the ninth and eleventh grade. The best three works were presented awards by the Open Gate. The Caravan of the Forum Theatre will continue with its work after the end of the vacation in four more high schools.

## FAIR OF ORGANIZATIONS



The Open Gate participated at this year's NGO Fair held in Skopje. In the course of the two days, the NGOs had the opportunity to promote their activities and exchange experiences. The stall of the Open Gate was one of the most frequented. In addition to having distributed more than 2000 diversified

representative materials, we succeeded in increasing the funds of the Organization by way of sale of objects hand made by the clients of the Residence of the Open Gate.



## THE OPEN GATE - PART OF THE SEMINAR OF JOURNALISTS



On December 7-9, 2007, the Open Gate participated at the Seminar organized by the NGO „Reporters for Rights of Women and Children and Environment Protection JCVE-Macedonia“. The working topic of the Seminar was the need for the international humanitarian law and peace education in the period of peace/war, the Resolution of the UN within the context of Macedonia, and the Kosovo Crisis, basics of journalism, etc.

## MANUAL ON THE WORK OF THE SOS LINE



Fiancially aided by the OSCE, in December 2007, the Manual on the Work of the SOS Line was printed. The Manual contains three chapters as infromation on the development of the SOS Line in macedonia, the cooperation with the government and international organizations, as well as the analysis of the phone calls.

The main accent wa splaced on the methods for increasing teh SOS capacities, the psychological aspects of the counseling,a nd the advertising instruments. 200 copies of the Manual were printed and distributed among professionals and volunteers.

The Manual in the printed form is only available in Macedonian, and in the pdf format in English.

**Newsletter prepared by:**

**“Women’s Lobby and Action Against Violence and Trafficking in Women**

**Open Gate/La Strada**

P.O.Box110, Skopje

Tel/ Fax: 02/2700 107/ 367

Toll Free SOS line :

0 800 11111

(open 24 hours)

e-mail: lastrada@on.net.mk

www. lastrada.org.mk

Bank Account Number: 270 000000 111146

Tax Number: 40300004000310

Bank Name: Izvozna Kredintna Banka a.d. Skopje

Convertibly Account: Export& Credit Bank, Inc. Skopje Macedonia,

Bank Account Number: 25730-4154632592-920

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