

UNIVERSITY OF LUXEMBOURG

**Trafficking in Human Beings after the
collapse of the Soviet Union with case
study on Armenia**

Master Thesis

Supervisor: Dr. Harlan Koff

Student: Miss. Arpine Kostanyan

Luxembourg, 10 July 2012

Abstract

After regaining its independence after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, Armenia appeared to be in a situation of legislative chaos that created ideal conditions for the development of human trafficking. The opening of borders, the war with the neighbouring country, the economic and social instability have become the source of power of an industry that has flourished rapidly. Criminals take advantage of the high rate of unemployment in the country, especially among young girls that often are orphans or from poor families, who are not aware of their rights and working conditions abroad. These victims rush to accept the first proposed work. Once in the hands of traffickers in Armenia or abroad, they undergo sexual exploitation. Aiming to clarify the current situation of human trafficking in Armenia and Armenians in Russia, Turkey and the UAE (the three main destination for sexual trafficking of Armenian women) and after giving a brief historical interpretation, the main legislative field will be examined. Theoretically to punish the criminals of trafficking and to protect the Armenian women, victims of sexual exploitation seemed to be essential but the picture of the reality of the situation gains different colours from the picture that the official sources paint.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It is with great pleasure that we extend this word of thanks to individuals and institutions whose assistance, support and advice have been so valuable in this great and wonderful adventure.

First, we express our deep gratitude to the founding institutions: to European Union in founding the Programme and financial support, to the Region of Veneto and the Municipality of Venice, to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNESCO Chair, to Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) and other European and national institutions.

We present our special gratitude to all the people that helped us to study in this wonderful Master program. Special thank you first of all to the director of the program Angela Melchiorre, EMA stuff, my second hosting University of Luxembourg and all the professors from 41 European Universities that taught to us and gave us invaluable knowledge.

Special thank you to my hosting University Prof. Jean-Paul Lehnert and my thesis director Prof. Harlan Koff for his patience, his scientific insight and unwavering support. I thank him for having directed, aided, encouraged at all times throughout the writing of this thesis. His advice and his availability allowed me to progress quickly while improving not only our scientific approach, but our writing skills.

Special thanks to the judges who gave me the honour to review this work.

During my research in University of Luxembourg and field trip field trip to Armenia several interviews were done. I would also like to say thank you to Ms Lala Ghazarian, Head of the Department for Women, Children and Family Issues Ms Eleonora Virabian, Chief Specialist at the same Department, Member of the Inter-Agency Commission of Republic of Armenia (RA). Prosecutor General's Office, Head of the Anti-Trafficking Unit of the 6th department of RA Robert Grigoryan, American Embassy in Yerevan and its stuff working on anti-trafficking programs, Ngo representatives, mainly "Hope and Help" and President Mr. Yenok Shatvorian, Anti-Trafficking Project Manager Ms Nora Mnatsakanian, UMCOR NGO, Anti-Trafficking and HIV/AIDS Programme Coordinator and also to UNDP stuff for providing information about the situation in the country. Special thank you to my family for great support and understanding. Similarly, for other reasons, but no less valid, we thank Ani Lecrivain, Zoya Kokorina, Georges Eischen, Levon Isakhanyan, David Stein, Ben Schwab, Christopher Rabbitt, and all those whom I am indebted for their help during the writing of this thesis.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ASA	Armenian Sociological Association
COE	Council of Europe
ILO	International Labour Organization
ITUC	International Trade Union Confederation
NAP	National Action Plan
NEP	New Economic Politics
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NSS	National Security Service
OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
RA	Republic of Armenia
SOCA	Serious Organized Crime Agency
THB	Trafficking in Human Beings
TIP	Trafficking in Persons (<i>US State Department Report</i>)
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICRI	United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABSTRACT	3
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	5
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS	7
1.INTRODUCTION	11
<u>CHAPTER 1</u>	
1.1 What is the problem of human trafficking?	17
1.2 Definition of Trafficking in Human Beings	19
1.3 Types of human trafficking	23
1.4 Sexual Exploitation: Prostitution	26
<u>CHAPTER 2</u>	
2.1 History of Human Trafficking	31
2.2 The Short History of the Fight against trafficking: conventions	32
2.3 The case of Russia and Armenia (before and after the Soviet Union)	34
2.4 The situation in Soviet Union	35
2.5 Russian Empire	38
2.6 Armenia	39
2.7 The situation of sexual traffic after 1990: brief survey	43
<u>CHAPTER 3</u>	
3.1 Armenia, the price of independence to pay	49
Trafficking in National Borders	
3.2 Young girls from socially poor families	51
3.3 Migrants	52

3.4 Orphans	53
3.5 Trafficking of Armenians outside of National Borders	57
Easy destinations	
3.6 Turkey	62
3.7 Russia	64
3.8 United Arab Emirates – a new discovery	65
<u>CHAPTER 4</u>	
4.1 International Responses	73
4.2 US Response to trafficking	74
4.3 Main Conventions and documents that Armenia has ratified and signed	76
4.4 National Action Plan of Armenia	77
4.5 National Law of Armenia	80
4.6 Armenia Tier ranking by year	82
4.7 The situation from 2003 till 2011	83
4.8 Number of the sex trafficked victims from 2003 till 2011	87
4.9 Victims of trafficking in persons sheltered by NGOs in Armenia (2003 -2012)	88
4.10 The Role of NGO’s in Armenia	88
CONCLUSION	93
BIBLIOGRAPHY	97
LIST OF ANNEXES	
Annex 1	104
Annex 2	105
Annex 3	112

