No. 1998-2004

Period

01 January 1998 – 31 December 2004
Aware of the fact that domestic and international public is not sufficiently familiar with the activities which are carried out in Serbia with a view to combating trafficking in human beings, we have decided to launch this newsletter. In the future, the newsletter will be released on a quarterly basis, to give an overview of all information and developments relating activities and actors in combating human trafficking. We hope it will be useful for all of us involved in anti-trafficking activities to see possible shortcomings and to draw attention to all areas in which additional efforts are needed.

Since this is the first issue, we considered that the best solution would be to present basic activities carried out thus far. Presented information are based on reports issued by NGOs, international organizations and state institutions, electronic correspondence, Internet presentations and personal contacts.

In spite of our efforts, we are aware that we failed to include some information. We apologize in advance for similar oversights.

For better insight into measures undertaken toward the eradication of trafficking in human beings, in this issue we are presenting a statistical overview of results of relevant organizations and institutions.

- In the period January 2002 – November 2004, the International Organization for Migrations assisted to 235 victims.¹
- In the period January 2002 – November 2004, the Counseling against Family Violence provided accommodation and support to 146 trafficking victims in the Shelter for the victims of trafficking in women which this NGO manages.
- In the period June – December 2004 Pripremna kuća Atin (shelter) provided accommodation and support to 7 victims.
- In the period March-December 2004 Agency for Coordination and Referral of Human Trafficking Victims provided assistance to 34 victims.
- In the period January 2002 – December 2004 Astra SOS Hotline received 1986 calls from 598 clients and provided assistance to 125 victims.
- Since the introduction of Article 111b Trafficking in Human Beings into the Criminal Law of the Republic of Serbia (April 2003), 55 criminal charges have been raised against the perpetrators of this felony. Of this figure, 32.72% were charges relating trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation of women and children, while the remainder referred to human smuggling.

¹ Data from the seminar International Legal Aid/ Victims Protection in the Cases of Human Trafficking MoI RS, November 2004
During the same period, 6 judgments have been made for this criminal offence, two of which being final.².

In front of the Special Department of the Belgrade District Court, one criminal proceedings for the offence from Article 111b CCRS have been finished. The trial against the Pančevo Group for criminal offence of human trafficking is underway.

² This data should be taken with reservation, as no precise records have been kept.
Anti-trafficking activities in our country were scarce and uncoordinated at the beginning, when the first steps were made toward the recognition of the problem and search for mechanisms for its suppression.

**Year 1998**

- A group of Serbian activists attended an international seminar on trafficking in women, organized by NGO “La Strada” in Budapest.
- The movie “Bought and Sold” was translated into Serbian language. Videotapes with this movie were distributed to the majority of women’s NGOs in Serbia. Screenings were also organized in several schools and on local TV stations (women’s NGO activists dedicated to improving the position of women and combating violence against women).

**Year 1999**

- NGO Beosupport published a brochure addressing the problem of sexual exploitation and trafficking in youth.

**Year 2000**

- A group of women’s NGO activists from Serbia and Montenegro passed a training on sex trafficking in Driebergen, in the organization of STV La Strada, Netherlands.
- A survey was conducted in order to collect all available data on trafficking in women in Serbia and to see to what extent the citizens of our country were aware of the problem (NGO ASTRA).
- ASTRA network of women’s NGOs which covers the entire territory of Serbia was established. The Network gathers 10 NGOs, and representatives of these groups meet several times a year to exchange experiences and discuss further cooperation.

Soon, human trafficking stood out as a specific problem, and the activities focused on suppressing this phenomenon intensified and became better organized.
February
- A survey was conducted on the victims of human trafficking in the territory of Serbia. On eight locations, 58 women – trafficking victims were interviewed (NVO Beosupport).

April
- Roundtable on human trafficking, with participation of the representatives of the Stability Pact, federal and republican ministries, local NGOs and international organizations (OSCE Mission in Belgrade and ODIHR).

May
- Yugoslav Team for Combating Human Trafficking was established. It gathered together the representatives of all relevant federal and republican ministries, non-governmental and international organizations dealing with this problem.

June
- FRY signed and ratified the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Convention) and two Protocols thereto.
- On the basis of information from ASTRA network of local NGOs, an analysis was made about the locations and number of bars/brothels in which foreign nationals were kept for the purpose of forced prostitution (NVO ASTRA).

July
- Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs allowed State Federal Detention Center for illegal immigrants in Padinska Skela to be used as a temporary accommodation for women – trafficking victims, where they are waiting for documents and repatriation. The Center was managed by Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs and International Organization for Migrations (IOM), which organized repatriation of women and children – trafficking victims.

August
- Assessment of HIV/AIDS risk in FRY (UNICEF).

October
- Guidelines for National Referral Mechanism, which defines all actors that might come in contact with trafficking victims and refer them to adequate form of assistance - medical, psychological, legal assistance (OSCE Mission in cooperation with the Yugoslav team or Combating Human Trafficking).
November

- Working rules of shelter for women – victims of trafficking in Belgrade, which set standards for such facilities (OECD Mission in cooperation with IOM and Yugoslav Team for Combating Human Trafficking).
- Regional training on the reform of criminal legislation governing human trafficking on the Balkans. (Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe in cooperation with the Council of Europe).

December

- Presentation of the work of the Yugoslav Team, its history and ongoing projects which were being implemented in the cooperation of governmental, non-governmental and international actors, at a roundtable in Bujanovac, which was open for media. (OSCE Mission in Belgrade).

January

- Beginning of work on amending legislation which governs human trafficking. On the basis of the analysis of international documents, comparative regulations and domestic legislation, amendments to several laws of importance for combating human trafficking were proposed, e.g. Criminal Law, Criminal Proceedings Law, Law on Movement and Stay of Foreigners, etc. (NGO Victimology Society of Serbia).
- Training aimed at enhancing cooperation among police, social institutions and NGOs for the sake of building mechanisms for the protection of victims in FRY (OSCE Mission in Belgrade).

February

- The Shelter for Trafficking Victims opened in cooperation of the local NGO Counseling against Family Violence and IOM. It offers safe accommodation to the victims of trafficking, as well as medical, psychological and legal assistance. Until October 2004, 129 victims of trafficking were accommodated in the Shelter (NGO Counseling against Family Violence).
- ASTRA SOS hotline was started with a view to offering information, assistance and support to trafficking victims and their families. The hotline service (011 33 47 817) works Monday to Friday from 14:00 do 20:00. Until October 2004, a total of 1608 calls were received.
- The victim assistance project was started – it provides legal, psychological and medical assistance to the victims of trafficking, as well as the assistance through
institutions and court proceedings and reference to the Shelter. Until October 2004, the assistance was provided to 96 victims of trafficking (NGO ASTRA).

- A training for trainers under the title “Trafficking in Women – Modern Slavery” aimed at prevention, education and victim assistance for the representatives of governmental and non-governmental organizations (NGO ASTRA).

**March**

- The launch of the media campaign “Open Your Eyes” aimed at education and prevention of trafficking in women. The campaign ran simultaneously at national and local TV and radio stations, which were broadcasting three video clips and three radio jingles several times a day in prime time free of charge (Studio B, TV Pink, TV BK, TV B92, local stations and ANEM network); the campaign also included newspaper articles, press releases, posters, leaflets distributed in street actions, coasters, cups, etc. Besides Serbian, a certain number of leaflets were printed in Albanian, Hungarian and Roma language. ASTRA network actively supported the campaign, playing a significant role at a local level. The campaign continued through 2003. (NGO ASTRA).

**April**

- Colonel Dušan Zlokas, Deputy Chief of Border Police Department for Foreigners and Administrative Issues, appointed as National Coordinator.
- A survey “Trafficking in Women – Our Reality or the Problem of Others” examining attitudes of high school pupils and students in Belgrade about trafficking in women (NGO ASTRA).
- Regional clearing point established for collecting information on human trafficking from various sources, including data on victims, actions undertaken against traffickers and situation in the region, with an aim to increase efficiency of victims protection efforts (IOM and ICMC – International Catholic Commission for Migrations).
- The Temida magazine focused on human trafficking in its latest issue (NGO Victimology Society of Serbia).

**May**

- National (Republican) Team for Combating Human Trafficking established. The National Team gathers the same actors as the Yugoslav Team for Combating Human Trafficking; it accepted the Action Plan for combating human trafficking which had been adopted at the federal level, and worked out objectives in its Working Program, which include prevention measures, punishing of persons who participate in human trafficking and measures for human trafficking victims protection.

**July**

- Special police teams for combating human trafficking formed within the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Serbia.
- Training for law enforcement representatives, judiciary and NGOs (OECD and ODIHR).

**September**

- A survey on human trafficking and migrations in the Republic of Serbia (IOM).
Police operation «Mirage 2002», aimed at preventing smuggling and trafficking in human beings, especially women and children and their coercion into prostitution and other illicit activities (Serbian Ministry of Internal Affairs).

**October**
- First training for Mobile Team representatives and establishment of the Mobile Team coordination center within the Social Welfare Center in Belgrade (OSCE Mission in Belgrade).
- Beginning of the survey “Factors of Risk and Protection – Trafficking in Roma Women and Children” (CRS).
- The first in a series of trainings/seminars “Trafficking in Women – Prevention, Education and Victim Assistance” for police, social welfare centers, judiciary and NGOs (NGO ASTRA with assistance by OSCE).

**November**
- Regional conference of non-governmental organizations under the title “Creating the Network against Human Trafficking on the Balkans”, with the participation of more than 30 representatives of NGOs from the entire region (NGO ASTRA with OSCE support).
- Training/seminar “Trafficking in Women – prevention, Education and Victim Assistance” for police, social welfare centers, judiciary and NGOs (NGO ASTRA with assistance by OSCE).

**December**
- Roundtable on “Finalization of Initiative for Creation of the National Plan for protection of Children and Youth against Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking” (NGO Beosupport).

**2003**

**January**
- A survey on trafficking in women: the journalists collected IOM and NGOs’ reports and interviewed law enforcement and government representatives (FOMIN-Forum for media initiatives).

**February**
- Appointment of Special Prosecutor whose competences include human trafficking cases. The Law on Organization and Competence of State Authorities in Suppressing Organized Crime was adopted, on which basis the following institutions were established: special prosecutor’s office, department for combating organized crime within the Serbian Ministry of Internal Affairs and special departments of the Belgrade District Court in charge of cases of organized crime on the territory of Serbia.
March
- Conference “Liberalization of Visa Regime and Human Trafficking in the Region”, in cooperation with in SCG Ministry of Foreign Affairs (NGO Victimology Society of Serbia).

April
- Basic training for the representatives of institutions and NGOs aimed at prevention, education and victim assistance (NGO ASTRA).
- The beginning of work of the Victimology Society of Serbia's info and victim assistance service aimed at providing all necessary information to the victims of criminality regarding their rights or other relevant agencies and institutions. This service is open every day from 10.00 to 15.00, telephone number 011 328 22 94.
- Education for young people on “Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking” (NGO Beosupport).
- Although SCG had been one of the signatories of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime signed in Palermo in 2000, trafficking in human beings was not recognized as a special criminal offence in our legislation until April 2003, when, after the latest amendments to the Criminal Law of the Republic of Serbia, article 111b. Trafficking in Human beings was introduced:

"(1) A person who by force or threat, by misleading or keeping in delusion, by the abuse of authority, confidence, dependence relation or difficult conditions of another person: recruits, transports, transfers, delivers, sells, purchases, mediates in delivery or sale, harbors or holds another person for the purpose of acquiring some benefit, exploitation of his/her labor, pursuing a criminal activity, prostitution or begging, of using for pornographic purposes, depriving of a bodily part for the purpose of transplantation, or using in armed conflicts, shall be sentenced to a term between one and 10 years in prison.

(2) If the act from Paragraph 1 of this Article is perpetrated against several persons, by abduction, in the course of performing an official duty, within a criminal organization, in a specially cruel or in a specially humiliating way or if a severe bodily injury has occurred, the perpetrator shall be sentenced to a term of at least three years in prison .

(3) If the act from Paragraph 1 of this Article is committed against a person who is under age, or if the damaged person dies, the perpetrator shall be sentenced to a term of at least five years in prison.

(4) For the act from paragraph 1 of this Article committed against a person who has not turned 14, the perpetrator shall be sentenced to a term prescribed for such an act even if no force, threat or any other of the stated ways has been used.

May
- The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Serbia conducted the operation "Mirage 2003".
- Action “LEDA” conducted on the territory of Serbia as the first operation focused exclusively on combating human trafficking at European level, and was carried out in
a coordinated action of Europol and interior ministries of EU Member States and SECI countries.

June
- Four educational seminars which covered 46 social welfare center (director and one social worker from each center), all shelters for children without parents care, and Children and Youth Correctional Center from Belgrade, with an aim to make them acquainted with the problem of human trafficking. (OSCE Mission in Belgrade in cooperation with the Ministry for Social Aoffaires).
- Ratified agreement on cooperation for the sake of preventing and combating cross-border crime under which SECI Center in Budapest was established.
- A brochure “Human Trafficking – A Close Look” and documentary movie on trafficking in human beings (NGO Beosupport).
- Education for about 150 judges and prosecutors on human trafficking in the organization of Judicial Educational Center.

September
- Survey “Consequences of Victimization on Specific Victims, Victims’ Needs and Possibilities of Rehabilitation” (NGO Victimology Society of Serbia, Faculty of Health Care and Social Professions, Dept. of Social Work and Fafo Institute for Applied International Studies, Oslo, Norway).
- A total of 174 workshops in primary and secondary schools in Serbia, first steps toward peer education for high school pupils (NGO ASTRA and NGOs - ASTRA network members).
- Roundtable «Trafficking in Women in the Balkans» (Institute for War and Peace Reporting).
- Awareness Building Meeting under the title “Trafficking in Human Beings in Serbia - Actual Situation and Problems” (NGO Victimology Society of Serbia and ASTRA).

November
- More than 30,000 signatures gathered supporting the adoption of the National Plan against sexual abuse of children (NGO Beosupport).

December
- Manual for journalists “Trafficking in Women” which gives a general overview of what trafficking in women is all about, the difference between trafficking and other phenomena it is usually confused with, and the most frequent prejudices this phenomenon arise. The Manual also addresses situation in Serbia, media presentation of trafficking in women in our country, relevant legislation, trafficking in children and the experiences of ASTRA SOS hotline. In conclusion, the Manual gives some recommendations to journalists, small glossary and the list of literature and internet addresses which may be useful for those who want to write about this topic. The Manual is published in Serbian and English language (NGO ASTRA).
- Within capacity building program for SEE countries, a seminar under the title “A Guide for Government Officials in Combating Human Trafficking” was held in Belgrade, where the attendants exchanged their experiences in fight against trafficking in human beings (NGO ASTRA and John Hopkins University).
A series of workshops and traveling exhibitions aimed at informing and awareness raising regarding risks of trafficking in children (Roma Information Center, Save the Children UK).

A training for young activists from Romania, Albania and Serbia on “Trafficking in Young People - Peer Support” (NGO Beosupport).


Capacities of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Serbia for combating human trafficking increased through the provision of necessary equipment and technical assistance, including expert advice to selected law enforcement authorities and strengthening special police forces for combating human trafficking (OSCE Mission in Belgrade).

January

For the sake of efficiency, National Team set up four working groups:

**Working group for combating trafficking in children:** coordinator-NGO Beosupport (e-mail: bsteam@sezampro.yu); members: Ministry of Internal Affairs of Serbia (web site: www.mup.sr.gov.yu; e-mail: ozs@mup.sr.gov.yu), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Serbia and Montenegro (web site: www.mfa.gov.yu; e-mail: jatarac@smip.sv.gov.yu), Ministry of Health (web site: www.zdravlje.sr.gov.yu); Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Policy (web site: www.mfin.sr.gov.yu); Ministry of Education and Sport (web site: www.mps.sr.gov.yu); NGO ASTRA (www.asta.org.yu astranet@sezampro.yu); Council for Children's Rights; NGO Center for the Rights of the Child (web site www.cpd.org.yu; e-mail: sladjana@cpd.org.yu); NGO ATC (e-mail: atc@beotel.yu); UNICEF (web site: www.unicef.org; e-mail: sschwarz@unicef.org); Save the Children UK (web site: www.scfukbgd.org.yu; e-mail: r.sekulovic@scfukbgd.org.yu); Christian Children's Fund; observers – IOM (web site: www.iom.int; e-mail: dkeserovic@iom.int) and OSCE (web site: www.osce.org; e-mail: Madis.Vainomaa@oesce.org).

**Working group for prevention and education:** coordinator - NGO ASTRA; members: Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Policy; Ministry of Internal Affairs; Ministry of Health; Beosupport; observers -IOM and OSCE.

**Working group for victim assistance and protection:** coordinator - Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Policy; Ministry of Foreign Affairs SCG; Ministry of Internal Affairs; Ministry of Health; NGO Victimology Society of Serbia; NGO ASTRA; NGO Counseling against Family Violence; observers- OSCE and IOM.

**Working group for law enforcement:** coordinator: Ministry of Justice (web site: www.mpravde.sr.gov.yu; e-mail: apopovic@mpravde.sr.gov.yu); members: Supreme Court of Serbia; Republican Public Prosecutor; Ministry of Internal Affairs; Ministry of Finance – Prevention of Money Laundering, (web site: www.mfin.sr.gov.yu; e-mail:
In cooperation with EBART- media documentation, the analysis of media coverage of the problems of human trafficking, violence against children, prostitution, migrations, pornography, social policy and legislation for 2004 (NGO ASTRA).

End of the trial to the trafficker Milivoje Zarubica and his gang, although he was not prosecuted under article 111b, but for criminal offences *mediation in practicing prostitution, illicit border crossing*, etc. NGOs ASTRA and Victimology Society of Serbia, and OSCE attended the trial and gave support to the victims/witnesses.

**February**

- Serbian Government adopted National Action Plan for Children, defining the program of key measures that have to be undertaken in the interest of children, which included all relevant areas of children's rights and policy, such as: children poverty reduction, education and better health for all children, development of the system of children protection against abuse, negligence, exploitation and violence. (UNICEF)
- Mobile Team established as an agency for coordination of assistance to the victims of human trafficking within Children and Youth Correctional Center (NGOs Counseling against Family Violence and ASTRA, Coordinator and Assistant of the Mobile Team, OSCE Mission and Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Policy).

**March**

- Beginning of work of the Agency for Coordination of Assistance to the Victims of Human Trafficking, within which Mobile Team works. The main purpose of the Team is to identify and provide all kinds of assistance to trafficking victims and to ensure that secondary traumatization of victims is avoided. Members of the Mobile Team are representatives of the Agency for Coordination of Assistance to the Trafficking Victims, NGO Counseling against Family Violence and NGO ASTRA. They are available 24 hours a day and their competence extends over the whole territory of Serbia. Mobile Team assisted to 21 victim of trafficking.
- Basic training on human trafficking for NGOs and institutions (NGO ASTRA)
- A roundtable relating the book “Protection of Children against Human Trafficking - Prospects of Joint Efforts” (Save the Children UK).
- Lectures on human trafficking and the role of NGOs in combating human trafficking at the Higher School of Internal Affairs. Lectures were attended by more than 300 students (NGO ASTRA and Belgrade PD).

**April**

- Study visit of the Mobile Team to Hanover – studying mechanisms for combating human trafficking and model of cooperation of NGO and GO sector in identification and assistance to the victims of human trafficking (in the organization of OSCE Mission in Belgrade).
- Beginning of the implementation of the project "Enhancement of the Implementation Strategies for National Anti-Trafficking Action Plans in SAP countries", aimed at enhancing the existing structures in combating human. (NGO Victimology Society of Serbia, NGO Women's Room from Croatia and ICMPD-International Center for Migration Policy Development).
• Screening of the movie “Ljilja Forever” and seminar on trafficking in human beings in the Balkans (Swedish Embassy ICVA/CIS).

May
• Training for 20 medical doctors from ten border towns in Serbia (NGO ASTRA in cooperation with the Institute for Forensic Medicine).

June
• Shelter for domestic nationals – trafficking victim “Temporary Home” opened, in which four local girls have been accommodated so far (NVO Atina).
• Roundtable «One year after the introduction of human trafficking as specific criminal offence in Serbia – experiences and problems in implementation” (OSCE Mission in Serbia and Montenegro, NGO Victimology Society of Serbia and Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Serbia).
• Promotion of the Temida magazine which in this issue covered the topic “Victims and Organized Crime” (NGO Victimology Society of Serbia).
• Promotion of the book Human Trafficking in Serbia. The objective of this survey was to gather more detailed information on dimensions, forms and characteristics of this phenomenon in Serbia, awareness of experts regarding this problem, and response of state authorities (in particular, police, prosecution, courts and social welfare centers) and local and international NGOs (Victimology Society of Serbia and OSCE Mission).
• Training for the representatives of special police forces for combating human trafficking on the basis of ICMPD manual (OSCE Mission in cooperation with the Higher School of Internal Affairs and ASTRA).

July
• Study visit of the Mobile Team to Moldova - studying mechanisms for combating human trafficking and model of cooperation of NGO and GO sector in identification and assistance to the victims of human trafficking, and reintegration and prevention programs (in the organization of OSCE Mission in Belgrade).
• Beginning of the implementation of the project «Advocacy for legal changes regarding trafficking in people in Serbia» aimed at analyzing the existing legislation governing human trafficking, in particular petty offence regulations, its amendments and law proposals to the Serbian government (NGO Victimology Society of Serbia).
• Serbian Minister of Internal Affairs issued the Instruction on conditions for approving temporary residence to foreign nationals - trafficking victims, which enables the approval of temporary residence of three months, up to one year, under conditions which are in full conformity with international standards (Ministry of Internal Affairs of Serbia).
• The campaign “Stop to Exploitation and Human Trafficking” ran during the EXIT Festival, which included workshops and distribution of promotional materials to the visitors of the festival (MTV, “Sida”, USAID and Freedom House and NGO ATC).
• Shadow report on trafficking in human beings in Serbia for the UN Human Rights Committee, Geneva (NGO ASTRA).
August
- Awareness raising campaign on trafficking in human beings “Be Careful”, which includes TV clips, radio jingle, leaflets, school conferences (NGO Beosupport with assistance of IOM).
- Within the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Serbia, in the course of 2004, working groups have been formed for judicial reform, which completed the text of new criminal law, law on protection of actors in criminal proceedings, law on judiciary for youth. These texts were sent for opinions and suggestions to relevant international organizations in our country, Supreme Court of Serbia and other judiciary subjects (Ministry of Justice).
- Prevention campaign «Stop to Exploitation and Human Trafficking - Valkana Beach» within the music festival, Rijeka, Croatia (NGO ASTRA, NGO La strada, NGO Women’s Room and MTV).
- Beginning of the trial to the Pančevo group before special department of the Belgrade District Court for criminal offence human trafficking under article 111b, which for the first time refer directly to the case of sex trafficking.

September
- On the basis of instructions from July, Colonel Dušan Zlokas, Deputy Chief of Border Police Department for foreigners and administrative issues, issued Instructions for the procedure of approving temporary residence to foreign nationals trafficking victims.

October
- Regional Media Decision-Maker's Conference on Trafficking – The conference focused media presentation of the problem of trafficking in human beings in the territory of South East Europe and possible ways to enhance reporting (Stability Pact Anti-Trafficking Task Force, NGO ATC).
- Training for professionals working on the identification of and providing assistance to trafficking victims in order to establish a sustainable professional partnership between governmental and non-governmental organizations. Among the topics discussed were the needs and position of human trafficking victims, standards of professionals providing services to victims and the dynamics of such provisions (OSCE Mission in Serbia and Montenegro and Admira Foundation, Netherlands).
- Survey into Human Trafficking: Its Consequences on the Roma Community in Serbia. The representatives of government institutions, anti-trafficking NGOs and Roma NGOs in Serbia were interviewed with an aim to gather and analyze data of importance for the preparation of future anti-trafficking actions (OSCE/ODIHR, Roma Women’s Center - Bibija, ASTRA NGO).
- Regional seminar within CARDS project Enhancement of Anti-Trafficking Responses in South East Europe - Opatija, Croatia, October 6-9, 2004. The seminar sought to enhance strategies and activities for the implementation of national anti-trafficking action plans (ICMPD from Vienna within CARDS project).
Training for special anti-trafficking police forces continued. The training for the first group of police officers was held in June and for the second group in October, involving 114 police officers from 14 towns throughout Serbia. The training was based on ICMPD module, while the lecturers were the representatives of ASTRA NGO, UBPOK, Department for Aliens, Agency for Coordination and Referral of Human Trafficking Victims (OSCE in cooperation with Professor Žarković from the Police College).

In the organization of UNHCHR and OMTC, two meetings were held to discuss the recommendations of the UN Human Rights Committee, which, inter alia, relied on the Shadow Report on Trafficking in Human Beings in Serbia. The first meeting was held with the representatives of the NGO sector and the second with the representatives of government institutions (OMCT, UNHCHR, ASTRA NGO, Children Rights Center, Humanitarian Law Center).

Lecture on trafficking in women in Serbia, Rotary Club, October 13 (ASTRA NGO).

Convention of magistrates of the Republic of Serbia held on Kopaonik, Serbia; the event was attended by 500 magistrates from throughout Serbia. One of the topics discussed was the problem of human trafficking. This was another in the series of educational activities, after trainings held Belgrade in June and September and two trainings held in Zrenjanin in August. Within the same project, a manual on human trafficking for magistrates was drawn in Serbian and English language. An educational documentary film was shot, as well, intended for magistrates. (Association of Magistrates, ABA Ceeli).

Meeting of the Working Group for prevention and education of the National Team for Combating Human Trafficking was held to discuss the National Anti-Trafficking Action Plan, the activities of the Working Group members in the previous period and future actions (ASTRA NGO in the capacity of the coordinator of the Working Group for prevention and education).

Within Belgrade Fashion Week, October 21 was dedicated to the fight against human trafficking. Two fashion shows were organized in order to draw attention of the youth to the problem of trafficking in human beings (ASTRA NGO, MTV, RTV Pink).

The Government of the Republic of Serbia made a resolution to set up a Council for Combating Human Trafficking for the purpose of coordination of national and regional anti-trafficking activities, discussion of reports on human trafficking prepared by relevant international bodies, taking position and proposing measures for the implementation of recommendations of international bodies in combating human trafficking. The Council is composed of the minister in charge of internal affairs, minister in charge of education and sport, minister in charge of finance, minister in charge of labor, employment and social policy, minister in charge of health and minister in charge of justice. The resolution came into force on October 23, 2004.
• Regional roundtable/seminar *Trafficking in Human Beings: Its Effects on the Roma Community* - October 23, Belgrade (ODIHR and Roma Information Center from Kragujevac).

• Within the project *Domestic Violence and Social Work* implemented by NGO Žene u akciji- Velika Plana, ASTRA NGO held a lecture on trafficking in women. The aim of this project is education of experts from five municipal social welfare centers through studying the experiences of relevant NGOs – Velika Plana, October 28 (NGO Žene u akciji - Velika Plana and Friedrich Ebert Foundation, October 28).

• Working lunch with journalists reporting on the problem of human trafficking as an informal introduction preceding the beginning of the media campaign. Participating reporters and ASTRA activists exchanged their ideas and opinions on how to enhance cooperation in order to provide quality reporting on this issue and thus contribute to its eradication of this problem, Belgrade, October 29 (ASTRA NGO).

**November**

• Beginning of the anti-trafficking media campaign under the title *There Is a Way Out*. The beginning of the campaign was marked by two video sports produced in cooperation with UN Office on Drugs and Crime, which are broadcasted on RTS, TV Pink, RTV, SB, RTV B92 and a number of local media. The campaign seeks to inform the public on the problem of trafficking in human beings, to motivate citizens to help trafficking victims and to encourage victims, potential victims and their families and friends to ask for help and information (ASTRA NGO).

• Meeting of the Working Group for combating trafficking in children which focused on the coordination of activities on the creation of the National Action Plan for combating trafficking in children (Beosupport NGO in the capacity of the coordinator of the Working Group for combating trafficking in children).

• Conference “Protection of Women and Children – Refugees and IDPs from Sexual and gender-Based Violence”. – Belgrade, November 15-16, which, inter alia, focused the issue of human trafficking as one form of violence against women (Group 484, UNHCR, Commissariat for Refugees of the Republic of Serbia).

• Meeting of the **Trust Network** against gender-based violence, composed of the representatives of 15 governmental and non-governmental organizations, Belgrade, November 17. This Network seeks to ensure coordinated provision of all services for clients and their families who suffered violence (Trust Network is coordinated by the Incest Trauma Center).

• **24-hours crisis hotline** for the victims of sexual violence opened to serve primarily for reporting sexual violence of adult persons, and in particular those who suffered sexual trauma in their childhood. Telephone number is 011/24 36 326 (Incest Trauma Center).
Meeting of the network *HIV Preventions among Vulnerable Populations*. The mission of this network is HIV/AIDS prevention and damage control among vulnerable groups and persons living with HIV/AIDS in the territory of Serbia and Montenegro. Discussion on the plans of the network and the dynamics of activities (the network managed with the assistance of UNDP).

TV crew of the New Moment Video House Production from Macedonia visited Belgrade to make interviews with the representatives of relevant governmental and non-governmental organizations for a documentary film *Stop Human Trafficking*. This film is projected to have six episodes and to be broadcasted in the whole region (New Moment Video House Production, Macedonia).

International training/seminar *The role of hotlines in the fight against trafficking in human beings – Best practices and Recommendations* - Kiev, Ukraine, November 25-27, with participants from 38 countries (OSCE, ODIHR, EU, IOM).

International day for the elimination of violence against women marked by the action “They Don’t Have Confidence – Why?”, which included a street performance and the distribution of leaflets. At the same time, this was the beginning of the national campaign *16 days of activism against gender violence* (AWC, Women at Work, Reconstruction women’s fund and women’s group from Serbia).

Roundtable for professional development *International Legal Aid/ Victims Protection in the Cases of Human Trafficking*, Belgrade, November 29. This roundtable was designed for judges (including investigative judges), prosecutors and members of special police anti-trafficking team (From MoI and local police departments) who have practical experience in working with human trafficking cases (OSCE Mission in Serbia and Montenegro).

Presentation of the results of the joint project of the Agency for Students Health Protection and IAN (International Aid Network) and their plans for future activities – Belgrade, November 29 (Agency for Students Health Protection and IAN).

Press conference on the occasion of the Worlds AIDS Day, at which the attending journalists were addressed by the representatives of the Health Ministries of Serbia and Montenegro, UNDP and the network *HIV Preventions among Vulnerable Populations* (UNDP).

**December**

- Seminar *Change management and Burnout Syndrome Prevention Training*, Belgrade, December 1-3 (ICVA/CIS with assistance of IOM-a).

- Meeting of the Trust Network – Belgrade, December 1 (Trust Network is coordinated by the Incest Trauma Center).

- Training for the judiciary and police addressing human trafficking, on which occasion the results of the project for the education of magistrates were presented (ABA Ceeli, US Embassy, USAID).
• Presentation of the Agency for Coordination and Referral of Human Trafficking Victims in the premises of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Serbia and Montenegro. Head of OSCE Mission in SCG, Mr. Mauricio Massari, National Coordinator of the National Team for Combating Human Trafficking, Mr. Dušan Zlokas and representatives of the Agency informed the representatives of foreign embassies, diplomatic and consular offices and international organizations about the work of the Agency, its organization, and key tasks and partners (OSCE and Ministry for Foreign Affairs)

• Lecture Trafficking in Women in Serbia at the Faculty of Economics in Niš. The lecture was given by the representatives of ASTRA NGO and Agency for Coordination and Referral of Human Trafficking Victims (Students organization AIESEC)

• Screening of the film “Lilja Forever” and panel debate for students of the Police Academy – December 20-24. Participants at the debate were the representatives of the Police Academy, Anti-Trafficking Team of Serbian MoI and UBPOK, National Team for Combating Human Trafficking, Agency for the Coordination and Referral of Human Trafficking Victims, OSCE, IOM, ASTRA NGP and Professor Žarković from the Police College. (ICVA/CIS supported by OSCE and IOM).

• 29. December - Meeting of the National Team for Combating Human Trafficking, that is, of the working groups’ representatives and observers from international organizations, was held to analyze activities carried out in the course of 2004 and tasks projected for 2005.

* This year’s MTV award «Free your mind» awarded to La Strada International: Prevention of Trafficking in Women in Central, Eastern and South East Europe.