

How to Prevent and Combat Sex Trade in Finland

In the Light of Practical Experiences from Other European Countries

Seminar at the Parliament Annex Auditorium (Pikkuparlamentti), Arkadiankatu 3, Helsinki.
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Summary and main messages of the presentation

The presentation will identify trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation as a pervasive human rights violation that knows no geographical boundaries, a heavily gendered phenomenon at every stage and – if women are its victims – as a grave form of violence against women. No one can afford a 'been there, done that' attitude to trafficking for sexual exploitation but rather there must be continued commitment to address this appalling crime with vigour. The European Commission is fully and unequivocally committed to addressing trafficking in human beings for sexual exploitation with all the tools it has available, including legislation, funding, policy and awareness-raising. Its actions are characterised by an integrated and holistic approach that is human rights-based and gender-specific.

EU legislative and policy action covers the areas of prevention of trafficking, prosecution of criminals and protection of victims. Moreover it aims at forging strong and lasting partnerships with a variety of actors and across disciplines. The presentation will cover current internal and external EU actions in the field of countering trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation such as Directive 2011/36, the upcoming Integrated Strategy on addressing trafficking in human beings and the EU-wide data collection exercise as well as pertinent possibilities and challenges throughout highlighting the links with in particular the gender dimension.