



**Bundesweiter Koordinierungskreis  
gegen Frauenhandel und Gewalt an Frauen  
im Migrationsprozess e.V.**

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## **Demands of the KOK e.V.**

***„Trafficking in women and violence against female migrants are a blatant violation of Human Rights.“***

Trafficking in women is a complex phenomenon, which – in a national but especially in an international context – is reflected as violence against women in the process of migration. These women are victims of structural, psychological and physical violence. Other forms of violence against female migrants such as forced marriage are a grave violation of human dignity. The State is called upon to provide protection and support for all persons concerned.

**KOK e.V.<sup>1</sup> calls to explicitly embed the mandate of implementing victim rights and victim protection as well as to name specific initiatives to advocate the right of self-determination and independence of women.**

The KOK has repeatedly observed a great discrepancy that exists between current laws and their actual implementation in the areas of criminal law as well as victim assistance. The European Commission shares this notion in their November 2008 report. The Commission explains that this can be seen specifically in regard to the support and protection of victims since an efficient implementation of the essential laws for victim assistance and victim protection is lacking.

That is why the KOK is demanding an immediate improvement in the area of victim assistance and victim protection, particularly since the Commission mentions in its report that countries with a significant number of supported victims also have a higher number of criminal proceedings.

Human trafficking is not a static nor a uniform phenomenon. It is a phenomenon that is constantly submitted to change due to structural transformation in the countries of origin as well as the countries of destination. Because of these changes the various organizations working with the victims face constant challenges.

- Practical experience shows an increased number of female migrants, affected by trafficking or exploitation, approaching counseling centers.

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<sup>1</sup> KOK is the German nationwide activist coordination group combating trafficking in women and violence against women in the process of migration. It has 39 member organisations all over Germany. More information on [www.kok-buero.de](http://www.kok-buero.de)

- In recent years counseling centers have had increased contacts with trafficked persons originating from African countries.
- Furthermore some counseling centers have reported an increased number of underage trafficked persons.
- Some counseling centers have registered an increase in counseling and attention to trafficked persons coming from Germany.

Some of these experiences are confirmed in the 2007 National Situation Report Trafficking in Human Beings of the federal Criminal Police Office.

These developments show the necessity of an urgent improvement in victim assistance and victim protection for those affected by human trafficking as well as people in the process of migration who suffer from violence. Dealing with this type of offence goes well beyond the personnel capacities of the counseling centers as well as the criminal prosecution offices.

An effective approach in dealing with new forms of human trafficking requires even more action. It is necessary to develop new models of cooperation as well as enhance partnership with other organizations focusing on areas such as exploitation of labor and forced marriage. It is essential for political thought to be revised. Relying on existing structures and means of support is not sufficient. New strategies in working with trafficked persons need to be developed and secured. Gaining access to affected women is difficult. Thus, it is absolutely essential to secure the future by funding the work of the counseling centers that are sought out by these women. Furthermore, anonymous and confidential support and hotlines need to be established. These new strategies in victim assistance have to be developed according to the needs of the various affected groups.

There are different forms of violence against female migrants. One of these is forced marriage or domestic violence against female migrants. Aside from criminal prosecution, means of victim protection are necessary in order to fight forced marriage. This includes means of prevention as well as strengthening the position of affected women according to civil and aliens law.

We object to the stigmatization of female migrants living in Germany as well as the exploitation of this topic in order to sharpen the right of residence, such as the immigration of spouses.

Responsibility cannot lie solely with civil society. Policy makers and social decision makers need to assume responsibility and react – especially in the area of victim protection.

***The KOK demands:***

- **Assessing the possibility of a fund for the direct compensation of victims of human trafficking**
- **The immediate ratification by Germany of the Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings (CETS No 197) and its implementation**
- **Creating uniform nationwide regulations for the financial support of affected women and the guarantee of a secure right of residence**
- **Access to education and means of integration for the victims of human trafficking as well as job training and schooling for all female migrants affected by violence**
- **Securing and expanding the work of the counseling centers**

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