

## TEMPLATE POLICY PAGE

<b>Category:</b>	<b>Prostitution and Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation</b>
<b>Country:</b>	<b>Cyprus</b>
<b>Year:</b>	<b>/</b>

<b>Main policy page:</b>	<p>The geographical location of Cyprus makes it a destination country for THB with sexual exploitation being one of the main forms of THB.</p> <p>The <i>Multidisciplinary Coordinating Group on trafficking in human beings</i> which is under the auspices of the Ministry of Interior has the task of taking all necessary measures to combat THB in Cyprus and to protect victims in the context of a National Action Plan.</p> <p>The Cyprus Police is a member of the <i>Multidisciplinary Coordinating Group</i> and is active in training Police Officers in modules on current laws and regulations, intelligence gathering and operations, victim identification, interview techniques, victims' support and protection. Along the same lines, trainings and seminars are delivered to relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>Specific actions have been included in the Cyprus NAP with regard to the training of Governmental officials and judges, while leaflets have been produced and are being distributed in order to inform the public, on such issues.</p> <p>Moreover the National Referral Mechanism that has been put into force, provides for the procedures and steps that have to be followed by every governmental Department/ Service and NGO upon referral of a victim or a possible victim of human trafficking. The primary concern of every organization involved in the NRM is the physical safety, protection and wellbeing of the potential victim.</p>
<b>Relevant legislation:</b>	Prevention and Combating of Trafficking and Exploitation of Human Beings and Protection of Victims Law 60(I)/2014
<b>Trends:</b>	<p>Apart from the forms of human trafficking identified in previous years, such as sexual exploitation, labor exploitation, trafficking in human beings for committing criminal offences and child street hawking, the forms of human trafficking for the purpose of benefit fraud and for drug related offences have also been identified, as new trends.</p> <p>In addition to the above, organized criminal groups take advantage of the tourist visa regime. Organized criminal groups recruit and transfer women from Eastern European countries, mainly from Ukraine and Russia. Women are taken to pubs where they are instructed to accompany the pub's clientele in return of money, without being registered as employees. They subsequently suffer sexual and labor exploitation. After random police checks, women claim to be tourists and they deny working in or having any relations to the pubs.</p> <p>Furthermore, it has been identified that third country nationals who reside in</p>

	<p>Cyprus as asylum seekers, as students or as workers, commit sham marriages with Cypriot and European women taking advantage of the administrative procedures and the visa regime in Cyprus. Perpetrators usually exploit victims' vulnerable position (poor economic condition, drug addiction, mental issues, etc.) to perform the marriage. Usually, in such cases registered lawyers are also members of the organized criminal group involved.</p> <p>More information can be found at: <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/showNIPsection.action?country=Cyprus">http://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/showNIPsection.action?country=Cyprus</a> <a href="http://www.moi.gov.cy">http://www.moi.gov.cy</a> <a href="http://www.moi.gov.cy/moi/moi.nsf/All/69112946E6B4D271C2257AA900261168">http://www.moi.gov.cy/moi/moi.nsf/All/69112946E6B4D271C2257AA900261168</a></p>
--	--

<b>Contacts:</b>	<b>National organisations:</b>  <a href="http://www.moi.gov.cy">www.moi.gov.cy</a>
------------------	--

**Completed template to be sent to the EUCPN Secretariat at [eucpn@ibz.eu](mailto:eucpn@ibz.eu).**