

**Study**  
**on the development of trafficking in women**  
**in Albania**

**2005**

Conducted by:  
Vera Lesko

©All rights reserved to Vatra Psychosocial Center

Funded by Norwegian Church Ai

**Thanks**

Thanks to the national and international organizations that have constantly appreciated Vatra's as human as hard work.

Thanks to all our national partners and especially the former Minister of State, (today the Ministry of Interior) for the excellent and effective cooperation during those years in the joint fight to counter trafficking.

Thanks and gratitude to all the International donors supporting Vatra financially for successive years, giving an invaluable contribution to its growth, development and enhancement and its world –wide recognition as an expert in the field of trafficking in human beings.

USAID, Norwegian Church Aid, Kvinna Till Kvinna, American Embassy, Sigrid Rousing Trust, British Embassy closely supporting Vatra's activity, deserve not only its thanks; but of hundreds innocent girls and women, falling prey to the trafficking in human beings.

Even this study is part of the deep gratitude to those who enabled us to publish it. It contains an analysis of the phenomenon that should be fought: in order to go toward a new society, with no violence and exploitation.

Vera Lesko  
Executive Director

## Table of contents

Development of trafficking in human beings in Albania  
Trafficked girls and women  
Communities jeopardized by trafficking in human beings  
Protection of witness victims  
Violence against women underlying trafficking in human beings  
Reintegration of trafficked victims  
  
RILAT  
Recommendations

### The development of trafficking in human beings in Albania through the years

Vatra Center has conducted some volunteer researches from 1997 through 1999 in Vloa town, focusing on sharp social problems concerning Vloa community. The problems recognized from the researches on violence against women, the gun and family crime, prostitution etc gave Vatra the input to definitely focus its activity on trafficking in human beings in 1999. The shocking data provided particularly by the research into prostitution, bore witness of the immediate need for Vatra to define its philosophy in relevance to the change of the phenomenon in country or in the region.

In 1999 having as a priority the issue of trafficking in human beings Vatra defined its philosophy with the motto:

**“Sensitize to prevent “**  
**“State –Community –Civil society”**

aiming to sensitize them to the extent of trafficking in human beings, as well as the risk posed to women and the society in general. Based on this philosophy actual even for nowadays, from 1999-2001 Vatra draw the following conclusion:

Albania, a country of transition was being transformed into a country of origin.

The conclusion was based on the data gathered from the interviews conducted by Vatra with a high number of victims in 1999, 2002 and 2001.

• 1999	136 girls were interviewed	24 foreigners
• 2000	287 girls	36 foreigners
• 2001	428 girls	48 foreigners

From the data we came to understand that trafficking in women into prostitution was present and developing normally, doubling from year to year.

Though trafficking in human beings grew into a serious problem in our country, the Albanian government during those years had not yet taken any measures to prevent and reduce it.

In the late 2001 only and onwards, the Albanian government started to take the first measures that greatly influenced the fight against trafficking in human beings in country.

In those years from the legal aspect, some amendments and laws added the Penal Code such as:

- Additional amendments to the law no 8733, Article 114, 114/a, 114/b, and 128 /b.
- Witness protection law
- Anti-Mafia Law

**New Anti-trafficking structures were built up:**

- International anti-trafficking Center in Vloa
- Fighting Illegal Anti-trafficking Unit to Police Directorates
- Grave Crime Court
- Grave Crime Prosecution Task Force
- National Reception Center

**In the field of Social Policies**

- Anti trafficking Strategy 2002-2004
- National Albanian Strategy to combat Trafficking in human beings 2005-2007
- National Albanian Strategy to Combat trafficking in human beings 2005
- Agreement on the National Referral Mechanism 2005

All those measures generated as an immediate need from the development of the phenomenon during 2001-2004. Evident changes were distinguished in relevance to the place, forms of trafficking, consequences, problems etc.

The trafficking in human beings can not be suppressed successfully unless dealt with in its all complexity.

In those years from the legal aspect, some amendments and laws added the Penal Code such as:

- Additional amendments to the law no 8733, Article 114, 114/a, 114/b, and 128 /b.
- Witness protection law
- Anti-Mafia Law

**New Anti-trafficking structures were built up:**

- International anti-trafficking Center in Vloa

- Fighting Illegal Anti-trafficking Unit to Police Directorates
- Grave Crime Court
- Grave Crime Prosecution Task Force
- National Reception Center

**In the field of Social Policies**

- Anti-trafficking Strategy 2002-2004
- National Albanian Strategy to combat Trafficking in human beings 2005-2007
- National Albanian Strategy to Combat trafficking in human beings 2005
- Agreement on the National Referral Mechanism 2005

All those measures generated as an immediate need from the development of the phenomenon during 2001-2004. Evident changes were distinguished in relevance to the place, forms of trafficking, consequences, problems etc.

The trafficking in human beings can not be suppressed successfully unless dealt with in its all complexity.

During the three years of prevention work, Vatra faced problems that required special support to the victims contacted and interviewed. Facing everyday occurrences involving flagrant violation of basic human rights of the victims, further steps were taken to set up a shelter for trafficked girls and women. Upon the establishment the shelter accommodated a great number of trafficked girls and women. While dealing with the psycho-emotional problems of the trafficked victims, Vatra pinpointed that they bore severe health problems jeopardizing their life because of the violent abuse from the traffickers and clients. This situation demanded the immediate intervention of law enforcement institutions, to seize and bring to the justice all those criminal running the criminal activity.

Directly working with the victims enabled us to understand that the traffickers were the only ones who had caused their ordeals. At that time we decided to set the second phase of our work, setting also our new philosophy based on the motto:

**“As long as a trafficker is free, there is trafficking in girls and women into prostitution exploitation”.**

Based on this philosophy Vatra focused on two main directions:

**First:** Sensitize state institutions and concretely Police, Prosecution Service and Courts of Justice to take their responsibilities and engage in the correct implementation of the laws designed by them, in order to seize and punish all the criminals denounced.

**Second:** Work with the trafficked victims to sensitize them to voluntarily cooperate with Police and punish their traffickers.

That hard and dangerous work produced very good results reflected in the increased number of the girls and women cooperation with Police.

Years	No of victims	No. of criminals
2002	36	102
2003	24	56
2004	20	53

The total number of the criminals denounced by the girls was 186. Unfortunately not all of them were brought before the justice and punished. We have explained the reasons of this problem in the reviews published in 2002, 2003 and 2004.

In 2003 under the implementation of the tasks set in the framework of the Association and Stabilization Agreement, Albanian government started to sign re-admission agreements of illegal migrants with some EU countries.

Under those agreements concretely with Italy and Great Britain, in the second six-month period of 2003 and onwards, started the repatriation of a great number of refugees, among them trafficked girls and women into prostitution in those countries.

**Repatriated victims**

Years	Repatriated victims
2003	179
2004	221
2005	185

The increase in the number of the deported victims called for the need to closely analyze the situation of trafficking in human beings in country, under the implementation of those agreements. So the staff of Vatra pointed out all the cases of the victims recruited in country and observed that:

**First:** The repatriation of the victims from several EU countries brought about and increased the number of the trafficked victims, nearly two-fold.

**Second:** the recruitment of the girls into trafficking in country from year to year was decreasing; nearly two-fold.

#### Recruited in country

Years	No. of recruited girls
2000	231
2001	380
2002	115
2003	39
2004	53
2005	28

If we compare the figures given in the two tables, we see a clear principal distinction of phenomenon development, shown in the stressed decreased number of the girls recruited in country during the coming years.

Analyzing this change in the ratio of the phenomenon conditioned by the repatriation of the victims; we drew the conclusion that:

The situation of trafficking in human beings in Albania has changed regarding its forms and trends. Though the trafficking in country has decreased, now it has taken two forms:

#### Recycling of the victims into trafficking

##### Internal trafficking

Driven by this situation we state that:

**Albania is no more a transit country for the trafficking in human beings, but it is still a country of origin.**

The situation of trafficking in country conditioned the need for Vatra in 2004 to shift to its Third Phase of Work. This phase settled the new Philosophy, based on the motto:

**Sensitize: State, Community, Civil Society, Media, students, young people to prevent the internal trafficking taking the form of day prostitution; a phenomenon that puts Albania under the risk of transformation into a country of destination.**

For 2 years Vatra has raised its concerns concerning the development of internal trafficking in country, constantly urging the state institutions to consider this phenomenon with apprehension and deal with it with priority. The Albanian Government has not yet taken any measures to prioritize its fight against the internal trafficking; in order to prevent and reduce all its consequences. Based on the analysis mentioned above, Vatra has drawn the following conclusion:

The problems facing Albania today are:

##### The recycling of the victims into trafficking

##### The internal trafficking operated through day prostitution in country

Both those forms of the phenomenon generate many social problems such as:

##### Re- operation of the national and international networks of trafficking

##### Corruption among several individuals in the state institutions, national and international agencies

##### Transmission of sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/SIDA as a result of uncontrolled day prostitution

All the sharp problems generated by these two phenomena, are the subject of Vatra's work in the present and in the future, not only with the trafficked victims and community in genera, but also of the constant efforts of Vatra to make the state institutions give priority to those phenomena, in order to define new concrete measures in the National Anti-trafficking Strategy and Action Plans.

#### The Trafficked girls and women

The mission of Vatra shelter is to help and assist all the girls and women being referred by the Police of the counties and those in need approaching the shelter. In 2005 it managed to accommodate a very high number of trafficked girls and women.

Form the evidences and the observations conducted by the staff through the referred cases or several data taken by the contacts of the staff with members of community in Vlora, Fier, Berat, Lushnje etc it has been highlighted the fact that the trafficking in human beings though decreasing, considering the internal recruitment, it operated normally bearing different forms, routes and means.

This year 293 girls, women and children have been referred to and have had access to the facilities offered in the shelter.

Of them;

273 girls, women and children coming during the year

20 girls and women accommodating from the previous year, following the reintegration program.

Based on the complete documentation used by Vatra for the identification of the persons accommodating in the shelter, we have defined the accurate number of the trafficked girls and women.

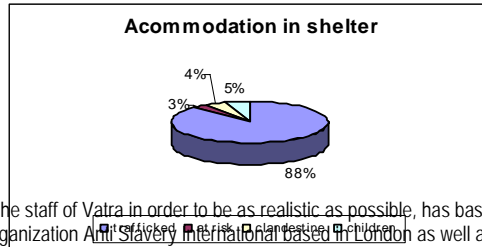
Of 273 girls, women and children coming during the year:

238 trafficked girls and women

9 jeopardized girls

12 refugee girls

14 children



Since the identification of the trafficked persons is as important as hard a process, the staff of Vatra in order to be as realistic as possible, has based its work on the Protocol of the identification of trafficked victims designed by the international organization Anti Slavery International based in London as well as in the National Referral Mechanism designed by the Albanian Government. To stick closely to those documents, we have unified the questionnaires, terminology and the practices to be followed under the identification protocol and National Referral Mechanism.

The shelters that accommodate trafficked victims often present figures that do not match with those presented by the Albanian Government and concretely the Ministry of Order (today the ministry of Interior). This is because:

**First:** State institutions such as Police, prosecution Offices, Court of Justice etc often skip the main elements of identification during the interviews or while dealing with the trafficked victims.

**Second:** The Officers of Border Police are unprofessional, untrained and do not know how to interview or establish trustful communication with the trafficked victims. They often treat them as person with no identification documents or with false documents, processing them for crossing the border illegally.

**Third:** The process of identification of the victims is a hard and long process, and it takes time to define accurately the victim. Police having no available time, the trained officers and proper facilities, can more easily label them as illegal migrants than as trafficked.

We think that it is very important that the State institutions such as Police, Prosecution, Court of Justice put interest to consider the identification of the victims one of the most important issues to their work with the victims, in order to clearly define the victims of trafficking so that the proper measures can be taken to counter the trafficking in human beings.

### Trafficked girls

The staff of Vatra has supported all the victims accommodating in the shelter. They have interviewed the girls; have analyzed their situation during the period of trafficking, evidencing elements such as nationality, age-group, education level, the persons who trafficked them, the patterns of recruitment, the countries where they have been exploited, the areas they come from etc;

The data reflected in this study have been based on;

- questionnaires filled in by the girls
- direct interviews with the girls
- stories and narrations of the girls
- sources of referral
- data from the families

The number of the trafficked girls accommodating in the shelter during this year (238 girls) has decreased nearly 20 % compared to the year 2004. This is the number of all the trafficked girls and women accommodating in the shelter during 2005 including the ones deported back from other countries and the ones seized by Albanian Police in country.

Seen in this viewpoint, we say that: The trafficking in human beings in Albania is toward its reduction.

### Referrals

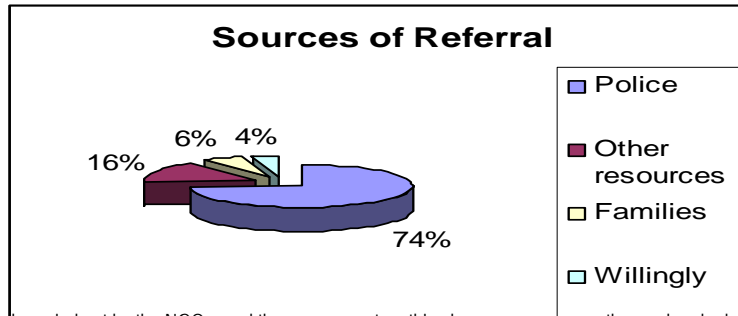
Based on the agreements that Vatra has signed with Police Directorates of the Counties for Southern Albania, Police have referred more than 80% of the cases and only 20% of them have been referred by several NGO-s working in the same field, families and the girls approaching the shelter.

Of 259 girls accommodating in the shelter ( trafficked, refugees, jeopardized girls):

Police have referred 214 cases

Various sources 45 cases

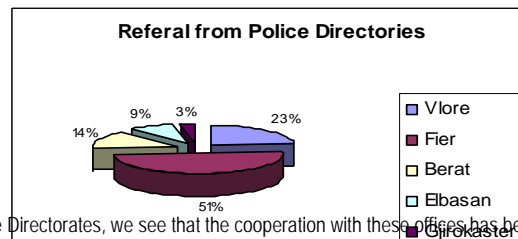
Though this year the number of the girls referred by the families (18 girls) and the ones approaching Vatra shelter willingly(11 girls) has sensibly increased, because of the backward mentality existing in Albania this number is still low compared to the high number of the girls we accommodate.



Apart from the good awareness work carried out by the NGOs and the government on this phenomenon among the rural and urban community, this mentality hardens the work performed by the staff of Vatra with the families of the victims. Putting the 'honor' at the core of the morality of the family, the shame from the opinion, abandonment from the kin or the society surrounding them, many parents do not accept the girls "prostitutes" through it is not their fault for that. Because of this, in many cases the social workers of Vatra who escort the victims to their families and work directly with them, do not talk to them about what has happened to their daughters, otherwise they will face the rejection of the victims from their families or it may lead even to conflicts generating sharp social problems.

Police Directorates of the Counties have referred:

- Vlores 41 girls
- Fier 93 girls
- Berat 25 girls
- Elbasan 16 girls
- Gjirokastra 5 girls



Analyzing the cooperation that Vatra has with Fighting Illegal Trafficking Units to Police Directorates, we see that the cooperation with these offices has been strengthened. Concretely we can mention the cooperation with Police Directorates of Fier and Elbasan. The areas covered by Police Directorates of Fier and Berat have a great number of trafficked girls. They are areas of origin of the phenomenon. The cooperation with Police Directorate of Berat County this year has decreased. The low number of cases referred to Vatra shelter by this Directorate we think does not stand for the real number of their cases.

From the information that we have about this decrease in the number of the referrals from these districts we think that the reasons are:

**First:** the girls and women coming from those areas were trafficked and exploited into prostitution many years ago in various EU countries. Most of them are deported at adult ages. They refuse to join their families. It often occurs that those girls deported have money with them. They use them to bribe the policemen in the border points; in exchange for being set free and skipping the identification procedures. These policemen justify their actions using the expression: "They are adults and have the right to chose". This has been noticed especially in the border point of Kakavija, where the victims are deported from Greece. The number of the girls and women who are not interviewed by this Police remains unrevealed. This impedes the accurate identification of the total number of the trafficked victims coming from Berat, Kucove and Skrapar. This year counterpart organizations and several international institutions have contacted us about this phenomenon and have informed that most of the girls deported from the Great Britain come from the districts of Berat and Kucove. A natural question raises: Where do those girls go upon their arrival in the border with Albania? This is more marked at Rinas Airport.

**Second:** Many illegal migrants are known to have introduced themselves in this country as Kosovo nationals particularly in 1999 (when the Kosovo crisis began). All those migrants are deported from London to Pristina and then to Albania. Those girls do never arrive in Albania, where do they end up? Most of them are re-trafficked and exploited into prostitution in Kosovo or transited to other countries.

Another problem that we would like to highlight, is that the victims and in many cases the Police of the districts announce their families upon their deportation. This has caused that the family members come to the Police stations before the victims who are taken by Vatra at the border points where they arrive. This causes hardships in the work of the officer of the Police stations, who should apply the procedures for their identification. It also hardens our work concerning the informing of the victims on the possibilities for legal assistance or facilities provided by Vatra in the framework of the reintegration program.

If those hardships were reduced, the number of the reintegrated number of the girls from Vatra would be higher. We state so because Vatra follows up the work with the victims in their families and this has produced good results. Because of the limited financial opportunities Vatra carries out the work with the families only in Vlores, Fier and Lushnje, the other remote towns requires more time and resources.

### Repatriation

In 2005, of 238 trafficked girls and women accommodated in the shelter, 185 were repatriated by EC countries. More than 75.5% of the trafficked girls and women are deported from Europe, a problem that continues to fuel the international trafficking in country.

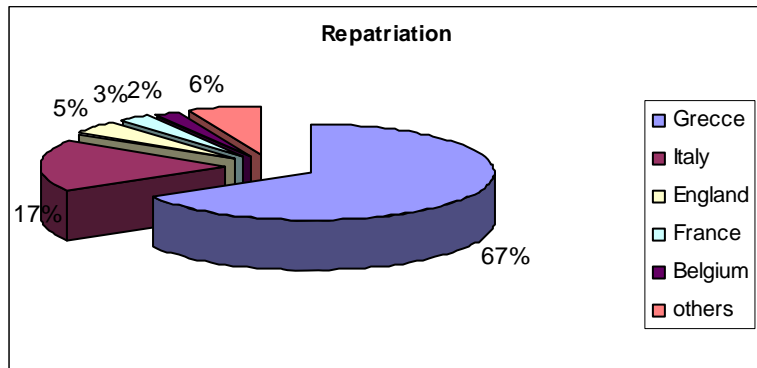
The countries from where the greatest number of the Albanian trafficked girls has been deported are Greece and Italy. Though no re-admission agreement has been signed between Greece and Albania, the number of the girls exploited into prostitution deported from there has increased. What constitutes a concern to us is that all the trafficked victim deported back in Albania do not have with them any identification document from those countries, when it is known by all that Police of those countries know where they have seized them, and their actual occupation. As the victims are not identified, the rights they enjoy under the declarations or conventions approved by EU are violated.

....After Police stopped me I was torn the documents with no explanation. I was segregated in a prison in Greece where I was kept for nearly one month. No one cared about me during that time. Police officers forced me to clean all the cell of the prison, otherwise they would beat me ....

.....After Police seized me I have moved to 5 prisons in Greece and in the last one there was no food, clothes which were obliged to procure by us. The Policemen used to despise us and use swear words.....

**Repatriation in relevance to the country**

Greece	123
Italy	32
UK	9
France	5
Belgium	4
Norway	1
Germany	2
Netherlands	1
USA	2
Poland	1
Croatia	1
Switzerland	1
Macedonia	1



**Internal trafficking**

This year Police seized 28 girls during the raids made in the hotels and motels in several towns of the country and referred them to the shelter. Different pimps had recruited and exploited them into prostitution. This figure does not show the reality, because though internal trafficking is new in Albania, it has been developing recently.

For more than a year based on the facts and information gathered on the way the internal trafficking operates in various towns, the towns where it takes place, the girls involved in the networks, Vatra has presented its concern to the state institutions concerned in order to take measures and destroy it. No state institution particularly Police has taken any measures to raid constantly the hotels and motels in the main towns of the country where this phenomenon takes place, though we have constantly raise that concern.

The delay in attacking the trafficking networks, in seizing the traffickers, associates, hotel and motels owners, the clients who buy the services, poses the risk of Albania becoming a destination country.

All of us are conscious that the hotels and motels in many towns in country operate with the money earned by the exploitation of those girls and women into prostitution.

The girls and women recruited in country are not the only victims of this trafficking; also the trafficked girls and women deported from various EC countries unwilling to stay in Albania are involved. However, as the internal trafficking is an unknown phenomenon and no organization or state institution has dealt with it before; there is no accurate information on the scope of its development and prevalence. **Therefore this phenomenon is still hidden and unstudied so far.** Nevertheless, never is too late. The state should be sensitized and take concrete actions, closely regard its development in order to prevent and counter it.

Apart from Vatra that has raised its concern about this phenomenon; other organizations only have affirmed what we have revealed. They have not presented any concrete options about the way it operates, the places, or other elements concerned.

The victims of this trafficking are especially adult girls, deported from other EC countries, asking again to turn back to the destination countries. This is because they not only have been used to another life, other conditions, but here in their country of origin they do not have adequate incomes to afford the living. As long as they find the network for their re-trafficking ( the pimp, the associate, the transporter, the forger etc), they work in Albania and prostitute themselves in order to earn their living, to afford the expenses of travel documents etc. **All these have fueled the internal trafficking. It is developed and operates as a lucrative business for many traffickers operating it.**

**Also, from the data gathered from the interviewing of the victims it results that the internal trafficking is organized in a national network, based on the elements of trafficking in human beings.** A considerable number of girls and women recruited in remote northern and southern areas are transported, and accompanied by traffickers or pimps being placed to the hotels and motels away from sources of recruitment, according to the areas they come from.

The victims coming from northern areas are exploited in the towns of Central and Southern Albania. The victims coming from southern or central Albania are exploited the same in the motels and hotels in Tirana and coastal towns. In addition to the recruiters and the pimps, other elements such as transporters, owners of hotels and motels, client providers etc are complicit in the internal trafficking constituting the parts of the heavy chain of the modern slavery of women.



*E.H is a minor girl 17 years old from a village from Northern Albania and has been staying in a coastal town for more than a year. A person cheated her through marriage promise. For more than one year he has been exploiting her in a big hotel of this town.*

*..... I work at every time, it depends on the clients that they provide me with. In effect I work as a waitress, but I have a room of mine at the hotel. My guy keeps the money that I earn, but if I want anything he does not refuse.....he says that we have the money together....he says he keeps them in a bank but I do not know.....*

*.....I am obliged to work,- E says. You know that I can not ever get back to my family...that would mean death to me. You know...in summer time..... we were six girls at the hotel where I work ... from remote northern and east northern areas of Albania.....all of them had a guy .....*

## Recycling

The analysis carried out by Vatra every month on the development of trafficking in human beings, in country, during those years and especially after 2003 has highlighted as shocking as serious fact; the victims are re- trafficked. We have analyzed the problems caused by the re- trafficking of the girls in the review fro the year 2004. Problems such as the re- activation of the new networks of trafficking, corruption among other institutions linked to trafficking, day prostitution, prevalence of SST/ HIV/SIDA among the population, constant exploitation and violation of the victims into prostitution have been the object of the analysis.

These problems constitute a concern not only to the trafficked victims but to the whole Albanian society, that showing indifference to this phenomenon, gets used to it. If these problems are not dealt with in the due time, they will bring about severe consequences to the society in the future.

It is a fact that of 238 trafficked girls and women accommodating during 2005 in the shelter, 135 of them have been re-trafficked more than once.

Thus more than 57.5% of the total number of the girls has been re-trafficked. This high percentage shows that the re-trafficking of the girls constitutes a great concern. If we closely analyze we see that they bear sharp social problems, are very poor. They often look for a new pimp, in order to get back to the previous countries. These girls and women constitute the main source not only to the trafficking in human beings but also to the new phenomenon that now is developing in country; the internal trafficking.

All those girls and women facing several hardships to earn their living, fall prey to several traffickers. As long as it takes for the traffickers to make the papers to move the victims abroad, they exploit them in the day prostitution.

Day prostitution is one of the main elements of the internal trafficking.

*A.D from a village of L district...though she is no more than 20 years old, have been re-trafficked for 4 times. She has been exploited for two years in Italy and Great Britain, where Police seized her and deported her back to Albania.*

*During this year only A ... has been re-trafficked twice from Albania to Greece. ...*

During the interviews the girls have stated the fact that their re-trafficking is facilitated by easily crossing the border, particularly the border points of Kakavija to go to Macedonia and Qafe-Bote-Saranda to go to Greece as well as Kukes-Kosove. Form more than two years Kosovo has been the ideal country for transiting the Albanian victims, who the traffickers move them to other countries of destination.

*We were a group of ten persons, among them we were two girls. We stopped a night at Gjirokastra where we stayed in some hotels of this town. The person who escorted us ordered us not to speak out where we would go and who escorted us. At about 11 o' clock, we had to get ready to leave. It was a cold night and it was raining. According to the person who escorted us, this was the best night to cross the border without being recognized by the guards. I do not know how long the journey took, I know that after I got exhausted so much walking through the wood, hills and mountains, we crossed the border and arrived at the Grrek land. I was totally wet, with wounded legs that still bear visible scars. The cough I still have is from that night .....*

## Routes

During this year the development of trafficking in human beings did not mark principal changes in relation to the routes where the victims are transported to EC countries.

**It is a fact that Greece remains the country where the traffickers move the victims to other EC countries.** This route ahs been transformed to one of the main routes as Vlora has been until 2002. During those years the network of the Greek traffickers has been very active. Not only Albanian victims but the ones coming from other Balkans countries have been transited thought that route.

The number of the girls deported by this country this year is very high compared to 2004.

Of 238 girls and women accommodating in the helter, 118 of them have been deported from Greece, 49 % of the total number of the girls accommodating in the shelter.

**From the above data it results that Greece apart from being a country of destination, from 2003 and onwards has been transformed into a transit country.**

Why do we state that:

The victims deported by this state during the interviews have stated that the pimps exploit them for a short timeframe in Greece, as long as they get the documents to move them to other EC countries. The girls have stated that the traffickers pay from 1000 to 2000 Euro to cross the border illegally from Greece. When they have to move to other countries, the amount goes to 3000 Euro per person.

During the interviews it has been highlighted the fact that the provision with legal documents such as Greek Cards that help the traffickers and the victims move freely in other countries, **give evidence of the corruption that exists in the Greek state institutions.** They associate with the traffickers that operate the

trafficking. Using these documents many Albanian girls and from other countries have moved from Greece and are currently being exploited in Great Britain, Germany and Netherlands. The transition of the victims in these countries is related to the fact that many Greek nationals work as migrants in those countries. So the traffickers disguised as economic migrants, run their criminal affairs of exploiting the victims into prostitution.

**The routes evidenced for this year:**

- Gjrokaster-Kakavije-Greece 98 girls and women
- Korçe –Kapshtice-Macedoni 29
- Qafe –Thane-MAacedonia 3
- Qafe-Bote-Saranda-Greece 9
- 3 Urat –Permet-Greece 5
- Rinas Airport-EC countries 14
- By ferry Vlora –Brindizi 13
- By ferry Durres-Bari-Italy 7

Though from 2002 and on the government has taken measures to stop the speed boats, this year there have been some girls who have stated that they have departed from Albania by speedboats concretely from Karaburun, Dhermi and Vjosa bay. According to them the speedboats carried mainly drugs and guns, especially from the end of 2004 and during 2005.

The speedboats have operated at certain periods of time only, where Police have engaged in seizing the criminals or in other matters. It is a fact that this year Police have stopped some speedboats carrying drugs to Italy. This shows that the traffickers are always waiting for and sensible to every situation created in country when it comes to performing their illegal trafficking.

**Other additional elements of the phenomenon**

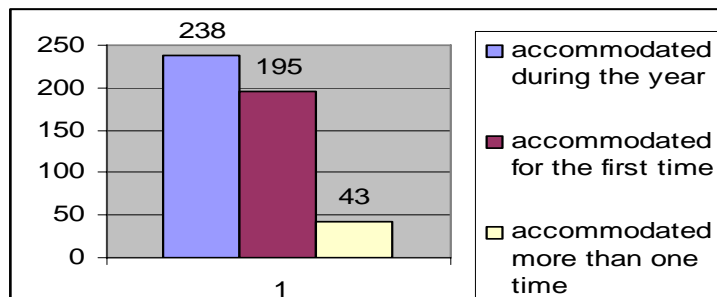
The profiles of the traffickers, the victims, the age-group, educational level, areas they come from, patterns of recruitment etc are other additional elements of the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings; it can not operate without them.

Considering these elements important factors to the analysis of the phenomenon as it changes in relevance to the concrete circumstances in country and in the region; we have tried to base the analysis on the real facts and data of every victim accommodating in the shelter.

In the analysis of the specific elements many common features and occurrences appear in all the periods and changes of the phenomenon in time and region. They remain unchanged and permanent.

To avoid the repetition in each study, we think to refer to the previous studies about the features that have not changed. This is to help those who have not read the previous studies so that they may understand the new occurrences that have brought about principal changes for those elements.

This year, quoted even earlier, of 238 trafficked victims accommodating in the shelter, 195 have been accommodated for the first time in the shelter and 43 of them more than one time.



The number of the victims accommodating for the first time has decreased (195) to 291 girls accommodating in 2004. Thus there is a decrease of 68% less than a year ago. This is another indicator that supports our conclusion that the trafficked in human being is following a downward trend.

As in the previous reviews, this year we are analyzing the number of the victims accommodating in the shelter for the first time, in order to avoid data duplication. This is also done to avoid the unreal increase in the number of Albanian trafficked girls and women.

Several anti-trafficking organizations and state institutions point up that the number of the Albanian trafficked girls and women does not reach the level of the number presented by some international organizations. However, yet data presenting high figures are still circulating. They do not present the reality on the development of trafficking in our country.

The number of 195 victims presented by Vatra in this study (we should take into account that 185 of them were deported from EC countries) is far lower and real to the ones we usually read in various reports. It is known that Vatra accommodates the highest number of the victims recognized in our country every year.

An analysis on the number of the girls accommodating in the shelter for the first time is as follows:

### Age group

What is new for this element this year is the increase in the number of the victims compared to the previous year, for two age groups, minors and adults above the average age presented in the table. The adult girls have affirmed that they have been trafficked at the minor age.

13/18 years	43 girls
18/25 years	86
25/30 years	66

From 2003 through 2005 for each age group the same ration is preserved.

This ration is connected with :

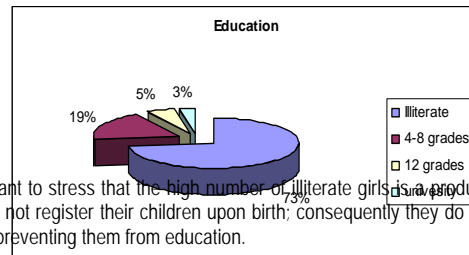
- The deportation of the victims from other countries
- The recruitment of minor victims in the internal trafficking
- The high number of the victims coming from Roma and Egyptian communities

The high number of the adult victims is caused by the deportation of the victims from other countries , Police of those countries often deport back girls of this age group. The reasons linked to them have been analyzed in the studies of 2002, 2003, 20004.

The number of the minor victims has increased as well because the traffickers who run the internal trafficking, are interested in recruiting minor girls. This is connected with the demand of the clients and the high incomes earned from this age group. This number has increased even because the girls from Roma and Egyptian communities are trafficked at an early age as they marry very early.

### Education

- Illiterate 28 girls
- 4/8 grades 125
- 12 grades 40
- University 2



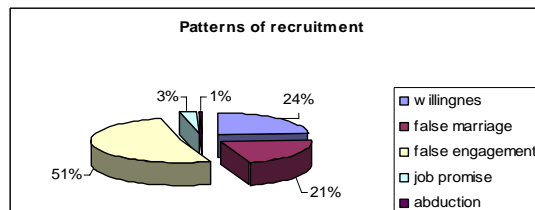
The low educational level remains constantly a main factor the trafficking in women. We want to stress that the high number of illiterate girls is a direct product of the high number of Roma girls accommodating in the shelter. It is known that Roma people do not register their children upon birth; consequently they do not go to school. The school does not accept the children without the family and personal certificates preventing them from education.

### Patterns of recruitment

The traffickers use various ways to recruit the girls and women. With the changes in the phenomenon these last years, patterns such as forceful kidnapping, deception through job promises like babysitters, or accompany rich ladies are almost out of use. The pimps used to recruit the attractive girls with enough education through these patterns. Many awareness campaigns have been carried out in Albania during the last five years, so those girls are able to avoid being deceived.

This year the same patterns of recruitment as the last one have been noticed.

- Upon consent 47 girls
- Deception through false marriages 40
- Deception through false engagements 101
- Deception through job offers 6
- Kidnapped 1



Through the awareness campaigns conducted by several organizations and state institutions especially in the rural areas, the families have been informed on the risk involved in marrying their daughters with unknown persons, who introduce themselves as migrants working abroad. This indicator has brought the change in the patterns of recruitment. This year the number of the girls recruited through false marriages has decreased. This change should be highlighted as an

achievement because such marriages lead to the degradation of the family. The moral degradation of the family leads to the unavoidable degradation of the society where the phenomenon develops.

Prostitution is not an Albanian phenomenon; it is not accepted by the morality of our folk. Taking into consideration this feature rooted and inherited through generations to us, we would like to consider in this study the factors that propel the victims affirm that they prostitute themselves upon their consent.

**This occurrence is unacceptable to us because:**

**Firstly:** Because of their young age the minors are easily deceived by the traffickers through promises for a better life without troubles. No one knows what expects them in other countries. They do not know what job they will perform, what expects them there, the way they will be treated by the traffickers and other criminals involved in their trafficking.

**Secondly:** Both age groups minor and adults affirm that they prostitute upon their consent whenever they are accompanied by their pimps. They are afraid of denouncing them as their traffickers and exploiters because they know the harm the traffickers are able to do to them and their families when they go unpunished or released from the prison after the punishment.

**Third:** The adult girls after being exploited for many years by their pimps, they now are free to work on their own. It is the age, getting used to and uncertainty for the future that makes them to accept that they prostitute willingly.

Another reason that makes us oppose their affirmation that they prostitute upon their consent is the fact during all those years of direct work with the victims( the ones deported from the other countries and the ones recruited in country), we have faced the fact that they live in dire poverty. Despite few of them, all the girls and women that we have assisted did have no money with them, though they had been exploited for many years. This is a fact that makes the Albanian victims differ from the foreign ones. Though being adult, an Albanian trafficked victim as is exposed to a violent setting, she asks to have a pimp to rely on, to protect her from the other traffickers, who may endanger her life because of competition matters. Consequently the question rises, who does possess the money earned by the victims? When thinking that they affirm during the interviews that they earn more than 500 Euro per night.

The final conclusion drawn about this is:

**All the Albanian trafficked girls and women, whether prostituting upon their consent or forcefully are victims of trafficking in human beings.**

All those girls and women are exploited into prostitution not only from the Albanian traffickers but also from other international traffickers.

*.....E a street friend of mine was murdered. Her guy killed her as she wanted to escape.....in effect her guy was drug addicted and used to batter her constantly.*

*E lives no more.....but her guy was seized and suffered imprisonment.*

*....at least my guy is good and I feel secure with him.....*

#### Areas

- Urban 81 girls
- Rural 114 girls

Though the difference between the number of the girls coming rural areas and the ones from urban areas is not very high, from the analysis to this phenomenon results that apart from the causes revealed in other studies, this year we have come across another reason connected with their mentality. All the girls from the villages have never enjoyed the freedom and civilization of the girls from the city, because of the backward mentality of those areas. In order to seem emancipated they say that they live in the city. They often use expressions of the girls from the city like " the life is theirs and they can use it as they want". Certainly such perceptions are unacceptable to the mentality and the culture of the girls and women from the village, so they say that they come from the city when in effect it is the contrary.

#### The most jeopardized communities

Vatra has highlighted that 50.2% of the trafficked victims come from the minority communities and concretely Egyptian and Roma.

Based on this shocking fact, Vatra has undertaken initiatives to aware these communities of the risk posed by this phenomenon. It has also put increased efforts to influence the state institutions to take concrete measures to treat these families in the social and economic aspect aiming to prevent the trafficking in children, women and girls from these communities. Considering the work with the community tangible when working collaterally in both prevention and reintegration, we have aimed to adapt or intersect our projects. That is what distinguishes Vatra from the other organizations working in this field. Awareness raising carried out by the staff of Vatra through trainings on topics about trafficking in human beings have started with groups of women to extend in the neighborhood and now in the family. Due to this work it has been possible to sort out the Egyptian and Roma families most vulnerable to this phenomenon as well as the girls and women fallen prey to the trafficking.

Working in the areas with a considerable number of families from these communities in the district Vlora, Berat, Fier etc we have recognized the social factors that have fueled the increased number of the trafficked girls, women and children. Apart from the economic factor common for all the communities, the other distinguishing features of these communities are

- The mentality linked to the attitude to the phenomenon of prostitution
- The custom, early marriages, unregistered or families within the kin etc
- The culture the low educational level or high rates of illiteracy rife among the women of these communities
- Avoidance of registering the children prevailing among the Roma community affect the absence of accurate information on the number of trafficked girls, women and children.

Such factors have generated sharp social problems to the families as follows

- The family members sell their daughters, women and children
- The victims are re-trafficked \* every time they are deported by Police of various EC countries, they often get re-trafficked though the family knows that.
- They get used to the phenomenon
- The indifference the families show about their trafficked children, girls and women leaving without letting them know [ these families do not ever denounce when their children are missing

*A.. from a village of Fier was trafficked when 9 years old by a guy from the same area. He exploited her in the market of beggars in Greece. At the age of 12 years she was sold to another trafficker who exploited her into prostitution in this country. After three years she was caught by the Police and deported back to Albania. She left 6 years ago. She forgot of her family and everything.*

After many efforts in cooperation with Police of this district, when we finally found the family, we faced another shocking fact. They had not denounced their missing daughter and did not even ask about her. The victims from these communities display great hardships concerning their reintegration. This is because the victims from Roma community have

- Low educational level that hardens their professional education
- Marked lack of desire to learn
- Low concentration and interest in every social/ cultural event
- They often quit job places
- They sell every equipment or support of their professional education
- It is very difficult to them to get along with other community members

The victims from these communities are easily trafficked and often re-trafficked. There have been cases of girls who have been accommodated in our shelter and turned back for 3 times. This is because of another reason. This community often travels without problems in various places as a way of living, they know the routes very well, live in groups and are not stopped by the frontier Police in each country they go.

Another distinguishing factor is that the Roma victims are never picked up by their families. It is the staff of Vatra to put links with them and unifies the girls with the families. This does not involve a problem of mentality concerning what their girls has done abroad, whether she has been exploited into prostitution. This happens only because they do not want to have to with Police or other state institutions. According to them the girl should manage alone dealing with the institutions and get back home. It has often occurred that we have not found them in their dwelling since they frequently move.

It is differently with the victims of Egyptian communities. The families of the victims get interested in their daughters and when they came to take their daughter they are accompanied by the pimps of their daughters. They introduce this person as the husband of their daughter though know that he exploits their daughter into prostitution. False marriages that the traffickers use, the mentality about the marriage where the husband has the right to use the wife as he wants, the dire poverty are some of the reasons that make the families accept the Euros from the son in law, the money earned by the exploitation of their girl into prostitution. The acceptance of the phenomenon by the families of this community should have the attention of the state institution and the society in order to prevent these communities getting used to the exploitation of their daughters into prostitution.

*.....Though the family of S.H from a village of F district was informed that T trafficked their daughter into prostitution they did not want to accept the fact they persisted that T was the husband of their daughter and we should handle their daughter to him.....*

Driven from the analysis outlined above, Vatra since 2001 and on has focused its work on these communities. The results achieved so far show that there is a decrease in the number of the trafficked girls from these communities in the areas where we work. During 2005 there was a decrease in the number of the girls from these communities with 8%. This bears evidence of the good work that Vatra is carrying out with the victims and their families. The parents of these families as working with the staff have joined the working groups of Vatra promoting the work of staff in the anti-trafficking awareness campaigns to prevent and counter the trafficking in human beings.

### **The Protection of witness victims**

The fight against trafficking in human beings can not be consolidated without denouncing, judging and punishing the traffickers, pimps and other criminals who run it. The staff of Vatra has been working for several years to sensitize the victims to cooperate with law enforcement organs upon their consent to denounce their pimps. This led to achievements. The figures presented below support the achievements and the hard work with sacrifices of Vatra-s staff, who heartily have helped, and escorted all the witness victims to the law enforcement institutions, putting their life at risk in many cases.

To give a clear idea of our work, the why/s and how many victims we have sensitized through the years, we are presenting the data from 2002 and on as follows:

The year	No of girls sensitized	No of traffickers denounced
2002	36 girls	102
2003	24	56
2004	20	53

No institution could have achieved the results achieved by Vatra, no matter effective it would be in the implementation of its tasks. The phenomenon we deal with is as tough as dangerous, when it comes to bringing the traffickers and criminals to the justice and punishing them.

Why do we say so:

It is not easy to sensitize a victim and convince her that she should denounce the person who has violated, exploited and ruined her as a being.

**Firstly:** You should ascertain the victims that the persons denounced with be persecuted and get the maximal punishment.

**Secondly:** you should support the victim to reintegrate her in the normal social life and take the responsibility of protecting her. So this means protecting her from everyone attempting to threaten her for life.

In 2002, 36 girls faced the criminals denounced. Of 36 cases filed, three of them only were finished and gained wide public recognition. The prolongation of the procedures called for the intervention of the international bodies, who protected the victims, providing them with support in various EC countries. During 2003 and 2004, of 44 cases filed, it was made possible to protect the life of only one of the cases abroad. Thus, of 80 victims it was made possible to protect the life of 4 cases only. All the other victims stayed enclosed in the shelters or under the protection of their families when possible. A part of them were re-trafficked to avoid the risk to their life. This is because no one cares about them. As soon as the victim has given the data, Police has closed the file and forwarded it to Police, the Prosecution completes the investigation and forwards it to the Court and the latter one decides on the punishment of the criminals but never considers the victims fate. Under such conditions of abandonment the victim decided to choose between two options: to drop the file (this does often occur) or be re-trafficked by a new pimp or trafficker. This new pimp of trafficker, who knows her situation, protects her through exploiting her savagely, violating her as long as possible. He often threatens her saying to her that he would find her if she dares to escape from him, and hand her in to the trafficker whom she has denounced. Being under the pressure of life and death the victim decides to accept the violence and exploitation from the new trafficker. This is current situation the witness victims face today. In 2004 the Albanian Parliament passed the law on witness protection. It has not yet been implemented for any victims though they were great in number during 2004 and this year. Though several experts regard it a good law we think that it can not work under the current conditions of our country.

**First:** Albania is a small country with a territory of 28000 km<sup>2</sup>. Wherever a victim may find shelter you can never protect her life, she can never live a normal life in every northern or southern town. In Albania the secret can not be kept hidden for more than 3 days. The criminal gangs would find her wherever she might stay because they operate all over Albania All of us are witnesses of the occurrences of mafia where the criminals get rid of other persons including their associates.

**Secondly:** The witness protection takes high financial costs. At present the Albanian state is so poor that it can not afford the financial cost for protecting a witness.

**Thirdly:** to implement the law takes long procedures, lasting from months to years to their preparation and completion. The shortages of the law and the bureaucratic postponements have made the girls leave from the country.

*E was 16 years only when she was kidnapped by 3 guys of her neighborhood on the street. They exploited her for a week and moved her to Greece. For a successive month she was sold to the hands of many traffickers, who not only exploited her into prostitution, but also violated and maltreated her as she did not want to stay with them. After a month she was moved to another country. In that country E.. managed to escape and go to the Police station to denounce her traffickers.*

What happened then?. Under the request of the Albanian Police E was deported back though she was a minor. She has been staying in our shelter for more than two years. Waiting for too long to benefit the witness status she never did benefit, left our shelter to find herself another solution.....

We lobbied so much for this case, not only with high government officials, with diplomatic representatives accredited in Tirana, but also to many EC countries to help this victim who life was at high risk. No national or international institution helped us, though the victim had denounced three criminals, who got punishments of 17,18 and 25 years of imprisonment.

There have been some cases like this. Taking into consideration the hardships that came across in other cases, the staff of Vatra decided to try another option. In cooperation with the families of the victims it asked the state institutions to intervene in some Embassies to issue visas for the victims and their families, so that they could move abroad to their relatives. Even in this case on one helped us though it would not take too much. Constrained by the threats and concerned of their daughters some parents have let us know that they have gone abroad time ago using other illicit ways and means. Taking into consideration what we outlined above and the analysis of this very important and dangerous element we drew the conclusion that to continue to the work to sensitize the victims to cooperate with Police and denounce their traffickers would imply:

- Indirectly affect the risk posed to the girls
- Indirectly affect their re-trafficking

Facing this situation, the real facts we presented, we decided that as long as the state would not support us in our work to help the witness victims, the staff of Vatra would cease sensitizing the girls accommodating in the shelter, excluding the cases when the girls would ask for it. So in 2005 5 girls cooperated with Police. Their court proceeding have not yet finished. Two of them are still accommodating in the shelter. The figures presented above, 5 cases compared to the very high number of the denouncement in the previous years give evidence for the very good work carried out by Vatra to sensitize the victims but also the desire of the girls to prosecute all the traffickers who abused them.

#### Violence against women underlying the trafficking in human beings

Trafficking is a complex phenomenon at the core of which there are:

- Violation of basic human rights
- National and international organized crime

- Purchase and trade of the human being, the modern slavery form
- Inhuman exploitation and abuse vanishing every human feeling

The trafficking in human beings generates the most severe violence rate. The violence underlying trafficking in women is multi-faceted and involves all its forms.

A trafficked woman differently from the other women is violated:

- From the individual( the pimp or her husband)
- From the trafficker (national and international gangs)
- The client
- The Family
- Society and state

All the indicators shown above underlying the violence against the trafficked victims into prostitution are analyzed as follows.

#### A trafficked woman is violated from:

**The individual:** is the pimp or simply her exploiter who has recruited the victim and violates her physically, sexually and psychologically. This is the first person to batter the victim, the first who deprives her of her rights and freedoms, transforming her to a useless being, sold and bought many times like a commodity whenever he wants. He is the first who abuses her sexually but also violates her constantly physically and psychologically, for the purpose of depersonalizing and ruining her.

This pimp may be her husband who abuses and violates her wife under legal marriage papers. The pimp "the husband" goes further trading her wife victim, violating this way the institution of marriage. This institution as the core of the society leads to the degradation of the society, on the bases of which as democratic state is built.

L from a town in Central Albania, married with two children, narrates:

" Because of the bad financial conditions, we decide to migrate to Greece. Finally after many hardships we arrived illegally in the city A of this country. It was hard to find a job, months passed and our financial situation became worse every day. Fairly my husband did not use to work even when we were in Albania. One day he came to our house with a foreign young man and told me: tomorrow you will go with him because he has found a job for you in the bar where he works. I was so glad of course. I could never believe that my husband had traded me to many clients..... it was horrible ..... Violated, exploited....but above all humiliated in my soul about what my "husband" did to me. Humiliated, ashamed to relieve from the detestation harbored ..one day I decided and denounced him....."

#### The violation by the trafficker

The trafficker as the leader or member of the network of trafficking in human beings may be an individual or a group of individuals, members of this network. Concretely:

The traffickers who run the network order the recruiters to recruit the victims. The victim recruited for the account of the trafficker lives through a chain of suffering and inhuman treatment until she arrives at the destination place. Other network members such as transporters (speedboats, taxis, minibuses, housing providers, hotel, motel and house owners), the persons who escort the victim to the destination violate her. All of them in group or individually are involved in that inhuman abuse as long as the victim arrives in the country where she is forced to prostitute. It may take weeks or months.

#### The violation from the client

In many countries the fight against the trafficking in humans pinpoints the traffickers or the pimps who exploit the victim, forgetting that one of the main exploiters of the victims is the client who buys her service. The clients abuse the victims violating them in several forms, causing in some cases the death of the victim. From this viewpoint, we divide the clients in some categories:

**Affluent clients:** They have high incomes and consequently have the right to choose the victims from the physical appearance and young age. Young or old these clients, violate the victims abusing them sexually in various forms.

Those clients often compel the victims to take drug together, though it may be too hard to them. In several cases the victims have died by the overuse of drugs. Minor victims aged 9-13 years old are the preferred "food" of these clients.

*EH from a small town of Northern Albania was kidnapped when 9 years old near the playground of the school and was sent to a country of Western Europe. She was pretty and developed for her age.*

*I was told that he had no children and wanted to have me under his foster care. I used to stay enclosed in a very nice apartment..... I did not understand any words of him.... I did not know his language. I used to stay all the day with no clothes on my body...he used to sleep with me.*

#### Sexual maniac clients

Along with the sexual abuse, these clients often use harsh physical violence. There are dozens Albanian girls and women, missing or murdered, the destiny of whom is not known though many years have passed. The families are in panic and waiting to hear about their girls, eager to know whether they are dead or alive.

Many time International Electronic Media, have presented shocking facts about the misfortunes of the girls caused from the sexual maniacs, girls and women from several countries of the world, victims of sexual abuse.

.....a mother from B town.....has been searching for her daughter for 7 years. . With her photo on her hands, for many years she has been knocking at the doors of the state institutions and nongovernmental one, but no reply, no hope.  
 .....I was told that someone has seen her in Milano. ....she keeps silent and then goes on.....in 2002 I was told that someone had seen her in Spain---, I pray please, do something about my daughter.... Tell me something about her, ask for her, tell me something about her.... Hope she is alive....not matter if prostitutes herself .....

- **Ordinary clients.** These persons though temporarily, extremely violate the trafficked victims. This is because these are alcohol addicted persons, drug addicted, with mental disorders etc. Also these clients constitute a potential risk to infect the girls the STD, HIV/AIDS.

Considering all the risks the girls exploited into prostitution face, upon their arrival in the shelter, they get the necessary health assistance. Along with the medical screening, they also do the STD diseases test, whenever they ask for it. This is because the traffickers do not allow the girls to have visits or cure from STD. The traffickers or the pimps who exploit the victims on the streets are not interested to allow them to have access to medical check-up because:

**Firstly:** If the victims resulted ill, they would attempt to escape their exploiters.

**Secondly:** If the clients realize that they are ill, they will refrain from them and never buy their services.

All these would cause decreasing the incomes of the traffickers. That is why they impede them to do constant check-up necessary to their health. This year, more than 40 girls and women resulted **infected with STD and one HIV positive.**

**Family:** Though directly or indirectly, the members of the family violate the victims physically, but also sexually abuse their daughters or wives. From the interviews, narrations or the stories of the girls accommodating in the shelter, we have information that in some cases it has been the brother or the father who has abused sexually the girl. Physical violence such as battering, have been permanent, at every time and in the eye of the other family members or other people.

*Sh and R are two minor sisters from a village of V. town. ....having a small body, frightened, .....their father, a sexual maniac, used to sexually abuse them since at an early age.... They escaped home one winter cold night, but fell prey to the traffickers of this town who recruited them and exploit them in the motels and hotels of the town.....*

The backward mentality of the Albanian family linked to prostitution has affected and continues to affect negatively the treatment of the girls and women, causing them a great psychological stress. They live through the effects of this mentality so that that they better prefer to turn back to trafficking, rather than turn back to their families. Facing this reality, the staff of Vatra has tried to directly counsel the families of these girls, without telling them that their girl has been exploited into prostitution. This is because they would never understand no matter the excuse we would use to justify their deportation. It is known that more than 60 % of the victims come from the rural areas, where the backward mentality is prevalent.

The low cultural level, the lack of information on the trafficking in human beings, the stigma from the village and community, the shame etc are some of the factors that influence the families of the victims, that willingly or not become part of the violation toward their victims. Rejecting her to go back to the family, they make her turn again to the street.

**The state and society:** certain individuals or groups of people may be violated by the state and society when they infringe the rules or make harm to the state or society. But a trafficked victim is violated because criminal elements exploit her into prostitution. **The Indifference from the state, lack of support, prejudices, discrimination, stigmatization, despise etc expressed openly to the victim, make the victim feel hopeless for her future.**

Though Vatra has constantly put efforts in association with institution leaders and representatives of the local government to help and support the victims of the shelter, no institution has accepted to employ or facilitate the employment of one of them in any state body or private enterprise. The prejudice and discrimination go to such extent that in the enterprises where we employ the girls, the trafficked victims are the first to be laid off when financial problems come by.

Of 20 girls that Vatra managed to employ, 6 of them were laid off. It sounds terrible when thinking how long it takes to prepare them and include them in the normal social life. This is the reality the trafficked victims face. The lack of support and treatment implies for them being violated and discriminated by the state and society.

### Forms of violence against the trafficked victims

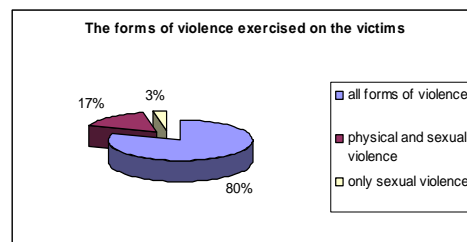
The trafficked girls and women suffer the forms of violence all the women in the world suffer too. But what distinguishes the trafficked victims is that along with the physical, psychological and sexual violence, they face another terrible and inhuman form of it: **the forceful constraint to take all forms of drugs.**

It is known that all the trafficked victims are injected drugs from the pimp and are constantly forced to take them either light or hard ones.

A victim before goes out to "work" should take her "light food". From the interviews with the victims accommodating in the shelter they have stated that they take light drugs, but also some of them affirm that they take heroine or cocaine. These girls bear sharp health problems, and face hardships in the course of rehabilitation.

Based on the data extracted from the interviews with 1975 victims accommodating in the shelter resulted that:

- 80% of the trafficked girls and women have suffered all the forms of violence
- 17% the physical and sexual violence
- 3% only the sexual violence





Another feature that distinguishes the trafficked girls and women from the violated one is the lack of support from their families and the entire society. A violated woman is treated differently in the family and society.

If the husband violates her, she has the support of the family, children and friends who stand by her. The society also supports her and the law enforcement institutions as well, every time she needs intervention. A trafficked victim who has to face the trafficker and the people surrounding her, has the support of no one, no one cares for her. Approaching her is the same as approaching a leprous. She has to cope by herself the beastlike violence around her, caused by the elements we mentioned afore. This is a painful and worrisome fact, often occurring in our country.

#### **The consequences of violence underlying the trafficking in women**

Trafficked girls and women differently from the violated girls live through the following occurrences:

- Victimization
- Re-trafficking
- Familiarization with the phenomenon

**Victimization:** the trafficked girls and women are primarily victimized from the pimp, the trafficker or the husband who may be her pimp as well. The consequent psycho/social effect of this victimization and its impact in the social relations with the others is what remains in their conscience among the other things.

.....I hate men.....I do not want to see them.....I do not like the sea...it is deep and black like the night...and I do not want to sleep with all those men.

This way with disconnected words this girl used to speak. She was not 14 years old yet when she was trafficked and violated.

If the victim overcomes these experiences with no grave consequences, and manages to integrate in the society this is certainly a great success, otherwise her secondary victimization takes place, part of which is:

**The family:** Though they accept their daughter home, the parents or the family members judge her. Expressing the feeling of shame from the others, they think and believe that she is the only one to blame for that, she has caused the shame they and the kin are living through.

We worked hard with the family of a victim from L district. It took months of constant work that the family finally accepted the daughter home. After almost three months, R turned back to the street again.

.....I could not bear it anymore, every morning when I used to get up, when I used to sit in the table, when I wanted to buy anything.....they used to swear at and scold me for what I had done. According to them I should not eat, go out, wear clothes because I was their shame. Because of me, my sister could not get married, because they called her the sister of the prostitute. Under such conditions I could not put up with it anymore, and escaped home.

Apart from the family, **the state institutions become part of this victimization** such as Police, Prosecution Offices, Courts of Justice which with their stigmatization, the behavior and the attitude during the investigation, the prolongation of the proceedings often make them withdraw from any opportunity to reintegrate in the normal life.

Consider the print or electronic media, how many swears and stigmatization they contain for all the trafficked girls and women. They do not have feelings. To them she is only a prostitute and it does not matter to them if they maltreat or reveal her, giving her appearance or her full identity. This girl has denounced some criminals who have ruined her life, and they can easily find her through the data, published by the media.

#### **Another consequence as grave as the first one is their re/trafficking**

The re-trafficking or recycling of the girls in the trafficking is no other than their being trafficked and exploited once again.

**But who does affect the re- trafficking? All, with no exception: The family that does not accept her, the state that does not support her, media that speaks her out, the society that prejudices her etc.**

As we analyzed these factors afore, we would like to sort out another element that affects their re -trafficking.

Based on the re-admission agreements, an increased number of trafficked girls are deported from several EC countries. This year 188 victims have been deported, 116 of them have been re-trafficked more than one time. Thus 60.1 % of the victims are trafficked. Under the social-economical conditions of our country, considering what we have analyzed in this study, the recycling of the victims into trafficking is a component of the trafficking in human beings the recycling as a consequence of the deportation of the victims should be dealt with priority by all the countries involved in the fight against the trafficking in human beings. If these countries really want to counter and suppress trafficking, they should either reintegrate the victims in their countries or escort them to their countries of origin with special programs and projects. Our victims are exploited in these countries

We should not forget that part of this trafficking constitutes the clients in the countries of destination, who keep this phenomenon alive.

*I told them not to deport me back in my country. I told them that I had no family., in Albania no one could take care of me.... I ask for support from any organization or institution to reintegrate in Torino....but is not meant so. Police deported me and of course will turn back there again.*

## Reintegration of the trafficked victims

The reintegration of the trafficked victims constitutes a very important part of the working programs of each government in the framework of the fight against the trafficking in human beings.

Helping the victims to reintegrate in the normal social life is a long and hard process. It is long because it takes some years of work directly with the victim so that she may be included in the normal social life. It is difficult because the consequences of the long-term violence and abuse, can not be easily recovered. To successfully realize this component of the anti-trafficking program, all the actors involved in this fight should take their responsibilities and have as the object of their work the tasks defined in it. For the last two years Albania has been facing an increased flow of victims deported from different EC countries. Under this situation the state institution should have been seriously engaged in taking concrete measures to deal with and motivate all the trafficked victims, aiming to prevent their trafficking.

The National Anti-trafficking Strategy has specified clear objectives, concrete tasks and measures for the institutions involved in their implementation but many few things almost nothing have been accomplished in support of the programs for the reintegration of the trafficked victims.

As the reintegration program takes a high financial costs for each victim, the ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs(today the Ministry of Equal chances) in their budgets have never foreseen specific funds for this target group. The only institutions that work and provide social services for the reintegration of the victims are the national or international NGO-s.

Considering the role and the contribution of Vatra to support the victims, the government in its anti-trafficking strategy has included Vatra as a main partner in the implementation of the objectives.

“ Support the activities of Vatra center and other centers for reintegration as an integral part of the National Referral Mechanism, combining the funds from the donors with the funds from the government.”

**Anti-trafficking National Strategy 2005-2007 page 21  
Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs**

Though the task in this strategy is specified, these institutions have never been seriously engaged to implement its objectives.

These institutions have not cooperated with and supported these organizations that work with the trafficked victims. With their bureaucratic prolongations of paper proceedings often impede the solution of different problems these organizations have faced in their work with the local institutions. The lack of state institutions commitment to support and implement the tasks approved by the government in the framework of the National Anti-trafficking Strategy, clearly shows for their indifference and their prejudice to this phenomenon and concretely for the trafficked victims exploited into prostitution.

Though the afore mentioned institutions have not cooperated with Vatra, it is worthy to mention that other local or central institutions has supported and continue to support it. The institution of the Minister of State, Ministry of Order(today the Ministry of Interior ) have the only institutions that have supported Vatra. In association with various international donors they have helped the accommodation of a high number of trafficked victims and reintegration of considerable number of them.

This year 50 trafficked and jeopardized girls and women have been included in the reintegration program. 20 girls have been prepared in the vocational courses and 3 of them have been employed in the beauty saloons where they attended the course. 29 girls attended the tailoring course and 20 of them have been employed in the private craft enterprises. 1 girl attended the computing course and was employed in a NGO in Vlora district. Despite the desire and the efforts put by the girls to be included in the social life, under the current conditions and the income they earn it is very difficult for them to afford the high cost of living. Being alone without the support of the family or the state, it is very difficult for them to take part in the normal life in the community where they live.

We have constantly raised our concern for these problems and have asked the state to support this target group with a special subsidy ( given to all the families in need) to increase their monthly incomes. This initiative may have been considered in the implementation of the reintegration program that the government has taken for this target group. It has been implemented, it would have been a concrete and effective thing, that would sensibly influence their inclusion in the community life.

Another problem that hardens their inclusion in the normal life, is the backward mentality of the society for these victims. The prejudice, the indifference and discrimination takes place each time they are identified as trafficked victims.

To fight this negative event, print and electronic media should give a particular contribution, being attentive when it comes to preserving the identity of the victims, in the cases they mention in their reports.

Media should conduct frequent awareness campaigns to sensitize the society in general, so that they accept this target group. Even some leaders of local institutions or various enterprises should eliminate the prejudices they have for the trafficked victims (coming as a result of their mentality) so that they support all those girls and women, who find an opportunity of employment.

Certainly the reintegration of the trafficked victims can not be successfully achieved only with the work of one organization only, or some certain individuals, this is a process that calls for time and for the collaboration of all the actors in all the fields of life, especially the maximal engagement of the state. Only this way the understanding can take place between the parties and make possible the inclusion of the trafficked victims into society.

#### **RILAT Network**

The trafficking in human beings is a criminal phenomenon and neither the NGOs, national or international organizations can suppress it. It is the state with its institutions that should take comprehensive measures to prevent and suppress it.

Under such conditions, Vatra as an organization focusing in this field, in order to be effective and engage more actively in all the problems the trafficked victims encounter, established the first network of Local institutions RILAT in cooperation with Anti-trafficking Center.

RILAT an a coordinating organ between the state institutions and NGO-s, has already strengthen this cooperation, helping the solution of the problems caused by the phenomenon.

RILAT is already the source of direction to all the main actors that work in the field of trafficking in human beings, thanks to its effective results and effective solutions to the problems presented by the NGOs members of this network.

RILAT was established in the middle of 2004 and it operates only for the Southern Albania (the districts where Vatra extends its activity), but now it has been introduced as a successful experience, to many international and donors to create such networks even in other areas of Albania. The government reflected the experience of RILAT in its Anti-trafficking Strategy 2005-2007.

The results achieved during 2005 and its aims for the future are set out as follows:

- Professional training of 30 specialists of different fields chosen by the relevant institutions as contact points of RILAT.
- Reinforced cooperation in coordinating the joint actions to help the trafficked victims and concretely between the reception and reintegration centers and institutions of Police, Prosecution and Courts of Justice, Regional Employment Directorate.
- Best experiences achieved in the cooperation between the NGO-s and local institutions that deal with trafficking in human beings. They have been generalized and tailored up to the areas and fields of operation.
- Increased number of trafficked victims referred from the Regional Police Directorates to the shelters and between the shelters.
- Increased number of reintegrated victims in the normal social life as a result of the cooperation between the shelters and Regional Employment Directorates. In the town of Vlora only from August 2004-September 2005 more than 30 girls were employed in several enterprises.
- Reinforced cooperation relationships between the NGO-s, Prosecution Offices affecting the increase in the number of court proceedings terminated. For 2004-2005, 25 girls cooperated with Police and denounced their traffickers.
- 

#### **The aims of RILAT for the future**

- Increase the efforts to influence the government to include the NGOs members of RILAT as partners in the implementation of the Action Plans and Anti-trafficking Strategies.
- Influence the government to accept the presence of the internal trafficking in order to take urgent measures to combat and prevent it.
- Influence the government to consider trafficking in the social aspect not only with regard to the treatment of the victims but also including their families and community in general.
- Increase the efforts to influence the government to fund the active organizations working to counter trafficking.
- Increase the capacities of RILAT members for a more effective cooperation and functioning of the network.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Ministry of Labour and Equal Opportunities**

1. Provide support and social services for the reintegration of the trafficked victims in order to prevent their re-trafficking.
2. Implement the tasks put by the Albanian Government in the National Anti-trafficking Strategy; concretely concerning the support and subsidy to be given to Vatra and other centers under the project law on public financing of NGO-s of social services in direct relation to the number of the persons assisted by them.

National Anti-trafficking Strategy 2005-2007 page 21.

3. Specify a social assistance in association with the Ministry of Finance for the trafficked victims, included in the reintegration programs.

### **Ministry of Interior**

- Continue considering the trafficking in human beings among its priorities, especially the internal trafficking in country.

- Conduct constant raids in the frontier points between Kukes and Kosovo, and the points Kakvije-Kapshtice with Greece.
- Constantly conduct raids at the hotels and motels in all the big towns, where trafficked girls are exploited into day prostitution.
- Train all the workers of the Frontier Police in order to build their professional capacities, be accurate in the identification of the trafficked victims, deported from various EC countries.

#### Ministry of Health

- Take measures to set up contemporary laboratories to the Directorates of Public Health in each town for analysis on various STD diseases, HIV/SIDA etc.
- Establish specialized social centers for curing HIV Positive persons.
- Create favorable conditions to the trafficked victims with mental health and gynecologic problems etc. Their treatment in the current hospital( infective, psychiatric hospital) does not help their rehabilitation.

#### Ministry of Justice

- Make the necessary investment in the infrastructure of the Grave Crime Court, so that they may have the proper conditions for the development of judicial proceedings, in order to avoid the witness victims facing the traffickers.
- The law on witness protection should be added special articles in the Penal Code, so that it may work normally.

#### To the governments of EC countries.

- Under the implementation of the re-admission agreements for the migrants, provide all the victims being deported back to Albania with special reintegration projects aiming to prevent their re-trafficking.