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**TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN FROM UKRAINE: CAUSES, CURRENT
SITUATION AND MEANS OF TACKLING THE PROBLEM**

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Summary

Since the early 1990s, the traffic in young women from countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States has grown to alarming proportions. Ukraine heads the list of Commonwealth countries in terms of the number of its women, mostly aged under 25, forced into prostitution abroad. Researchers estimate that, at the current time, there are some 100,000 young Ukrainian women engaged in prostitution in other countries. The traffic in women is a grave violation of fundamental human rights and an affront against human dignity.

Poverty and unemployment are the root causes of the traffic in women everywhere in the world. This is not an acute problem in all the world's poorer regions, however. Accordingly, it should be studied in the light of other aspects and factors which influence the traffic in women, such as: globalization, population movements, organized crime and social change.

The methods by which women are recruited are widely varied and also include traditional methods, such as advertisements in newspapers, approaches via their friends, etc. Young women are promised a better life in countries with a higher level of development. They are promised well-paid work in such areas as catering, the services sector, childcare or as dancers. Sometimes they are openly invited to work as prostitutes. On their arrival in the foreign country, the women's identity documents are removed and they are forced to engage in prostitution.

Ukraine has realized the scale of this problem and has taken steps to combat the traffic in women, including by incorporating, in 1998, an article on trafficking in human beings in its criminal code. At the same time, a number of problems impeding efforts to stop the traffic in women remain unresolved.

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