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Glasgow Community and Safety Services

Women Trafficked for CSE: Providing Support

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The TARA Service



NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

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GCSS, through TARA, provides support to women over 18 yrs where there are concerns they have been trafficked into and/or around the UK and commercially sexually exploited. Support can include safe accommodation, a mobile phone, clothing, basic toiletries, advocacy and access to existing mainstream services such as counseling, legal advice and healthcare. A Psychology service is being offered in partnership with NHSGCC.

TARA also act as a First Responder for the National Referral Mechanism and encourage women to speak to the Police about their experience.



- Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings (Implemented April 2009)
- EU Directive 2011/36/EU (Anti Trafficking Directive, implemented April 2013, strengthens signatories obligations to protect VoTs, prosecute and prevent Human Trafficking)
- EU Directive 2012/29/EU (Rights, support and protection for victims of crime) in force November 2012, 3 years to implement)



- Introduced in April 2009 to ensure compliance with CoE Convention
- UK wide process of identifying and supporting VoTs (adult and child)
- Named First Responders - TARA, Migrant Help, Police Scotland, Scottish Children's Reporters, Local Authorities (children), UK Visas and Immigration Directorate (UKVID)
- 72 hours to complete and submit to 'Competent Authorities'. UKVID (immigration issues) or UKHTC (no immigration issues)
- 5 days to give Reasonable Grounds Decision – Potential VoT, access to support for 45 day 'reflection period', gathering 'additional' evidence
- 45 days to give Conclusive Decision – VoT, can lead to up to 1 years residence permit dependant on 'cooperation with law enforcement' or 'personal circumstances'



2012 Provisional NRM Stats (UKHTC)

Scotland has 8% of UK total

- 96 referrals (increase of 3% from 2011)
- 8% of UK total
- 53% male
- 47% female
- 70% adults
- 30% children

Top 5 source countries

- Philippines (Police Operation/Fishing industry)
- China
- Romania
- Slovakia
- Nigeria



Klara is 22 years old and is from Romania. She is of Roma ethnicity. Klara has had very little formal education and when her Uncle's friend, Andrei, suggested she join him in Scotland and he would find her a job making sandwiches she jumped at the chance. Klara could speak very little English and hoped that she would learn more which would improve her prospects.

Klara joined her Andrei in Glasgow and stayed with his family in a very small flat in the city. She gave her passport to Andrei for 'safe keeping'. A few weeks after she arrived Andrei told her he couldn't find work for her but that she had to contribute to the household bills. She was told that she had no choice and that she would have to have sex with men for money.

Klara was very upset but following abuse from Andrei and his family she was compelled to prostitute. Andrei arranged for her to prostitute from a flat with 2 other women. He made all the arrangements and collected the money.



After 4 weeks she was recovered, along with 2 other women, by Police Scotland, during a planned operation on the premises which had been suspected as being used for a brothel. Police Scotland arranged for TARA to meet with her at the local police station as they were believed she had been trafficked for prostitution.

TARA met with Klara and were immediately concerned for her well being. Klara was very distressed, complained of having a severe headache and stomach pains, seemed confused but denied being trafficked.

Klara appeared frightened of Andrei and was worried about the consequences of speaking to the police as she was scared for her grandmother who was still living in Romania and what she would think if she found out she had been a 'prostitute'. Klara just wanted to return home.

TARA were in agreement with Police Scotland that she was likely to have been trafficked and agreed to offer immediate support to Klara if she agreed. Once reassured by TARA and Police Scotland that we could help Klara agreed to continue to cooperate with the Police and consented to the NRM process.



Under the complementary Convention and Directives key measures Klara is entitled to include:

- Accessible and understandable information – TARA leaflet informed by service user involvement group – Romanian team member allocated her case so all advice and guidance provided on a one to one basis.
- Specialist Support , including safe accommodation, risk and needs assessments and individual care plans.
- Gender sensitive support – TARA only supports women, Trafficking is included in the Scottish Government’s definition of VAW.
- Support not dependant on ‘complaint’ to ‘Competent Authority’ – women do not have to make a formal complaint to Police Scotland and/or ‘co-operate’ with ‘law enforcement’ to access support, including safe accommodation. Referral to NRM ensures this access.
- Support to overcome the trauma and harm – dedicated Psychology service



- Supportive environment, promoting dignity, respect and sensitivity and informed decision making – Police Scotland will interview at TARA and take a flexible approach. TARA ensures women are at the centre of their support and encourage informed decision making and choices
- Strong presumption towards special protection measures – COPFS have a dedicated HT point of contact across their federations
- Measures to minimise secondary and repeat victimisation and reprisals (against VoTs and/or their families)

All of the above promotes a Human Rights/Victim Led approach ensuring that the VoT's wishes are central to support and protection



TARA provided Klara with:

- Access to and funding for safe accommodation, according to her support needs, safety needs and wishes
- Support to continue to link in with Police Scotland via NHTU – appropriate information sharing, liaison and advocacy, further interviews held at TARA office, support worker present (prevented repeat interviewing of Klara) and interview videoed.
- Assessment by Psychology Service
- Legal advice regarding her agreement to submit to the NRM
- Additional information to the NRM Competent Authority (UKHTC)
- Regular review of her understanding of various processes (trauma informed)
- Risk assessment and safety plan whilst remaining in Scotland, taking account of Klara's perception of risk and likelihood of reprisals
- Return risk assessment in collaboration with Police Scotland and COPFS
- Safety plan and referral to 'reintegration' NGO on her return.
- Continued telephone contact following her return home.



In order to ensure Klara received a holistic and sensitive response to meet her emotional, safety and physical needs TARA worked in partnership with:

- Police Scotland
- COPFS
- UKHTC
- NHS (primary health, sexual health and mental health)
- Legal Services Agency - Legal advice on the NRM process
- Romanian Consulate – travel documentation
- The National Agency against Trafficking in Persons (ANITP) Romania

Klara has now safely returned home and has found employment and reports that she is feeling well. Klara declined the offer of a referral to the local office of the Centre for Assistance and Protection of the Victims of Trafficking (offices across 9 Romanian counties) and has advised that she wishes to move on from her past. She continues to respond positively to TARA's continued contact.

Questions?

