



IOM International Organization for Migration
OIM Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations
IOM Internationale Organisatie voor Migratie

LITHUANIA

Country Information Sheet

Return and Re-integration Assistance to Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings

This factsheet contains important and useful information related to the return and reintegration assistance available in Lithuania for victims of trafficking. This information has been collated by IOM in close co-operation with its Field Mission in Vilnius in view of setting up mechanisms and procedures for the voluntary, orderly, safe and dignified return of victims of trafficking.

Do not hesitate to contact IOM Brussels if you need any further information

1. Introduction

The Government of Lithuania fully complies with minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking in human beings, including serious and sustained efforts,

such as law enforcement, protection of victims and prevention of trafficking, to eliminate trafficking.

2. Legal Background

a) Trafficking in Human Beings

Trafficking in human beings is illegal in the Republic of Lithuania, and specific provision of the Criminal Code explicitly criminalises such behaviour. According to article 149 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Lithuania, "selling, acquisition

or any other alienation of person with purpose to receive any material or personal gain" is punishable by fine or arrest or deprivation of liberty up to eight years.

b) Prostitution

Prostitution is illegal in Lithuania, but is not a criminal offence. The penalty for

prostitution is fine from 300-500 litas (approximately 100 USD).

c) Prevention of the intimidation of witnesses and victims

In 1993 the Government adopted a resolution concerning the implementation of the Programme on the Protection of Witnesses and Victims. In 1997, the Government confirmed provisional regulations on protection of victims from criminal intimidation. These regulations provide for the establishment of special units in the internal affairs system that could be responsible for witness protection.

The Code of Criminal Procedure, Law on Operational Activities (adopted on May 22, 1997 VIII-222) and the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Protection of Participants of Criminal Proceedings and Operational Activities, Officials of Justice and Law Enforcement Institutions from Criminal Influence (adopted on February 13, 1996 I-1202) provide the legal background for the protection for witnesses in legal proceedings.

This legislation (Law no. I-1202) applies to the protected persons who are engaged in intelligence activities or are undergoing pre-trial investigation, judicial criminal proceedings as well as upon the

completion of such proceedings. This applies also to close relatives of the above mentioned protected persons, as well as justice and law enforcement officials.

3. Other forms of assistance

The 2001-2005 programme on the prevention and control of prostitution prepared by the Ministry of Internal Affairs foresees:

- i) the establishment of rehabilitation centres in 2002 to serve as a home and source of legal, medical and other assistance to victims of violent sexual and commercial abuse. A 200,000 litas budget will be allocated for this purpose from the budget of the Republic of Lithuania,
- ii) a programme in 2002 on counter-trafficking in women, support for victims of prostitution and their re-integration into the society. 10,000 litas from the budget of the Republic of Lithuania are foreseen for this target,
- iii) the establishment of prostitute-support rooms by 2003-2004.

This programme has been in place since the beginning of 2002. A working group has been created and currently works on the planning of the foreseen activities. The shelter for trafficking victims received financial support in the framework of this programme this year, but most of this year's activities focus on organisational and research aspects of the programme.

In addition, non-governmental organisations which are working in close partnership with IOM Vilnius can provide legal, medical, psychological assistance as well

as vocational training, counselling and shelter.

Both short-term and long-term shelter for victims of trafficking can be provided for in Lithuania. Most shelters are for temporary lodging, but long-term shelter can also be organised by renting flats or dormitories.

One specialised shelter for victims of trafficking, run by NGO "Missing persons families support centre" has already been established in Vilnius. Furthermore, there are several other shelters for women, which although are not specialised in victims of trafficking, are willing to cooperate in providing shelter for victims. Such partnerships have been established in the past, such as an agreement in 2001 between IOM Vilnius and the Vilnius Municipality "Mothers and children boarding house". This experience can be extended to shelters in other towns, such as Kaunas and Alytus.

Protection of victims of trafficking in Lithuania can be ensured if the victims agree to voluntarily be placed in one of the shelters.

Psychological and medical assistance can be provided by IOM Vilnius with funding from the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA). IOM Vilnius' partner NGOs can assist in these activities.

4. NGO Partners

Missing Persons' Families Support Centre
Contact person: Ms. Ona Gustiene
Type of assistance: housing, administrative, legal, medical and psychological.
Jaksto 9 – 207, 2001 Vilnius, Lithuania
Tel: +370 2 61 56 19, Fax: + 370 2 61 56 19
Email: HRA@mail.adecoma.lt

Vilnius Municipality "Mothers and Children Boarding House"
Contact person: Ms. Nijole Dirsiene
Type of assistance: temporary shelter, social and psychological assistance.
Vytenio 45, 2006 Vilnius, Lithuania
Tel.: +370 2 333 619, Fax: +370 2 333 619

See also the attached list of NGOs

5. Contacts

IOM Brussels
Contact person: Ms. Cécile Riallant
40, Rue Montoyer-1000 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: + 32 2 28245 75, Fax: + 32 2 230 07 63
Email: MRFBrusselsAssistedReturn@iom.int

IOM Vilnius
Contact person: Ms. Rasa Erentaite
Jaksto 12, 2nd floor, Vilnius 2000, Lithuania
Tel: +(37.02) 61.01.15, Fax: +(37.02) 61.01.15. Email: audra@comielnet.lt

