



TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

World Conference on the Prevention of Family Violence

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Regional Office for Southern Africa

Pretoria, South Africa

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IOM & COUNTER-TRAFFICKING

Mandate

- to promote humane and orderly migration to the benefit of both migrants and society
- human trafficking is an exploitative form of irregular migration that violates the human rights of migrants and the sovereignty of states

Programmes

- more than 300 counter-trafficking projects worldwide
- focus on research, awareness raising, capacity building, victim assistance and inter-state partnerships
- In Southern Africa, IOM has initiated MIDSA (1999), THB Research (2002), and SACTAP (2003 - 2005)





Sources 2002 - 2005

In Southern Africa, IOM has focused on the cross-border trafficking of women and children for purposes of sexual exploitation.

Sources have included:

- Trafficked persons
- Traffickers
- Club and brothel owners
- Pimps
- Outreach workers
- Shelters managers
- Public clinics
- Refugee communities
- Truck drivers
- Border communities
- Police officers
- Immigration & customs officials
- Embassies
- SADC government departments
- Private investigators
- Religious organizations
- Private Sector
- Journalists & the media
- International organizations



From Mozambique



- Syndicates traffick and smuggle people, drugs and weapons

Recruit → (i) Active: false job offers

→ (ii) Passive: targeting female migrants already en route to SA

Transport → by mini-bus taxi

→ use of transit houses in border region to intimidate

Exploit → sold to mineworkers for R650 [US\$100] as “wives” or

→ sold to brothels in Johannesburg and Durban for R1000 [US\$150]



Refugees

Recruitment

- Traffickers are unemployed men with refugee status in South Africa
- Recruit female relatives (aged 25-45) from home countries (eg. Angola, Great Lakes, Horn, etc.)

Transportation

- Travel overland alone or accompanied by recruiter or clan member

Exploitation

- Makes asylum application in SA to regularise status and protect investment
- Sexual intimidation by clan
- Street prostitution
- Minimum nightly earnings of R250 [US\$40]





From Malawi to Europe



- ‘Successful businesswomen’ linked to West African syndicates

Recruit → young women in Lilongwe promised jobs/marriage in Europe

Transport → false travel documents used to transit Blantyre, JNB, Frankfurt/London to Amsterdam

Exploit → sold to West African syndicates for US\$10 000 & debt bonded for US\$40 000
→ use of ritual magic and violence to control victims
→ Resold to connected West African agents and moved on to other European countries



From South Africa

Recruitment

- Recruiters are SA nationals with links SA sex industry and Triad groups; earn US\$500 per recruit
- Offered strip jobs or prostitution in Macau, all expenses paid and US\$10 000 – 20 000

Transportation

- SA nationals enter HK on one-month permit, and must then apply to immigration office to continue on to Macau

Exploitation

- Confiscation of passport
- Sign contract in Chinese characters with no translation
- Imposition of escalating debt burden
- Confinement to flat; no telephone calls
- Experience physical abuse; death threats and threats of arrest
- Forcibly prostituted in saunas with long working hours – eg. 16 clients per 12 hour shift



From Thailand to South Africa

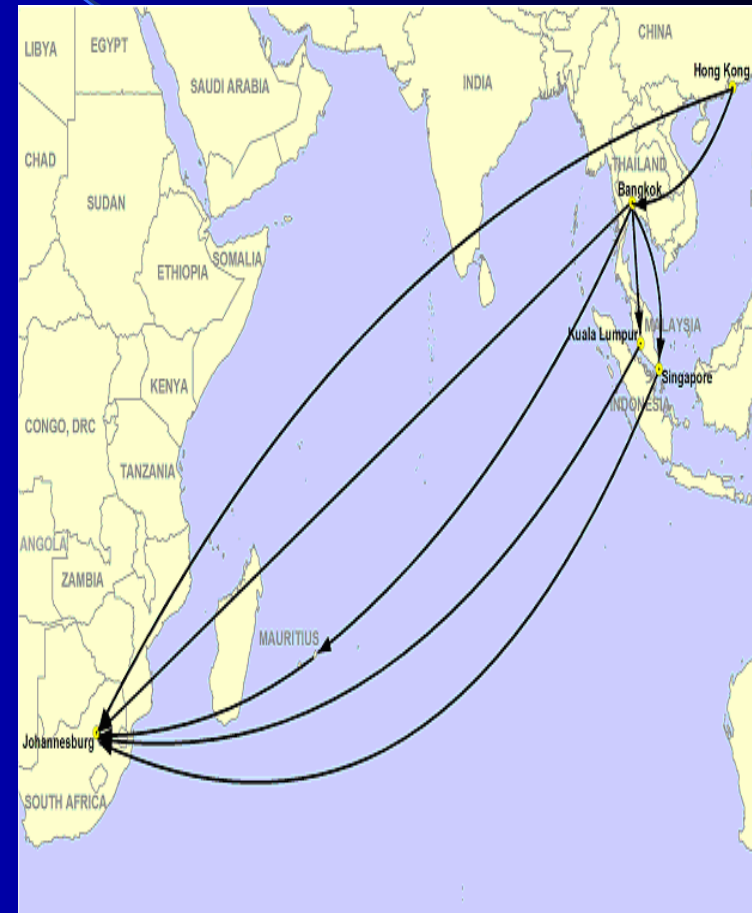
- Syndicates incl. transnational triad societies and small-time agents

Recruit → 20 – 40% are unaware that they will be doing prostitution

Transport → By air; enter SA legally at JIA on 30 day holiday permits

Exploit → *sold* for R15-35 000 [US\$ 5400] to brothels and *debt bonded* for R50- 60 000 [US\$ 9300]

- Living conditions at safe houses are tightly controlled by *mama san*
- Rotated between brothels & private venues by agents



SOUTHERN AFRICAN COUNTER-TRAFFICKING ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME (SACTAP): Funded by Norway, USA, RSA



Components

1. **Field/Legal Research: “EYE”**
2. **Information Dissemination:**
 - ✓ Information brochure
 - ✓ Posters/stickers
 - ✓ Print media ads – taxi ads, billboards
 - ✓ TV and radio ads
3. **Capacity Building**
 - ✓ Law enforcement agencies
 - ✓ NGO service providers
4. **Rehabilitation**
 - ✓ NGO support – shelter network, medical and psychosocial assistance
 - ✓ Movements - Relocation and/or Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR)
 - ✓ Reintegration options for beneficiaries



Eye
n Human
Trafficking

A Bulletin of News, Information and Analysis on
Trafficking in Persons in Southern Africa
International Organization for Migration • Pretoria • South Africa



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INSIDE

Regional Campaign Focuses on Child Trafficking

Mareyané Reeruit Swazi & Mozambican Women

Infiltration of Counter Trafficking Structures by Crime Syndicates

Mozambique to Reform Child Protection Laws

Young Girls Trafficked in Tanzania

Vietims in Ukraine Help Prosecute Traffickers

Uzbek Sex Workers Trafficked to Armenia

EVENTS

22-23 June, Johannesburg Sharod Hope Conference on Trafficking in Southern Africa

South African Women Trafficked to Macau

South African women are being trafficked to the East Asian city of Macau, a former Portuguese colony across the Pearl River from Hong Kong which in 1999 became a Special Administrative Region of China (see map, below right). Macau has been called the “Las Vegas of Asia” for its numerous casinos, nightclubs, and ‘saunas’ to which young South African women are being lured with false job offers before being forced into prostitution, with little chance of escaping. A police source believes



Macau with promises of luxury accommodation, all expenses paid, and between US\$10 000 and US\$20 000. “It’s an offer you can’t refuse,” she told IOM.

The traffickers also recruit South African women for sale in Macau using advertisements placed in South African newspapers or sex industry websites. Once they come into contact with their intended victims, they may introduce them to drugs in order to influence their decision to travel to abroad. Nicola says drugs play a “very big role” in recruitment, and that she herself was supplied with them right up to the day of her departure for Hong Kong from Johannesburg International Airport. “[The agent] approached a few girls knowing that they were using these [drugs], and then she actually encourages you... I was under the influence of wine and drugs leaving for Hong Kong.”

According to Nicola, South African traffickers earn approximately US\$500 (R3400) for every woman that is recruited for work in Macau.

In early 2004, Nicola travelled to Macau by air, transiting through Hong Kong. South Africans can enter Hong Kong on a one-month entry permit that is granted on arrival. Persons wishing to continue on to Macau must then apply to an immigration office in Hong Kong for permission.

At Hong Kong’s International Airport, Nicola was met by three Chinese nationals who were able



to recognize her by the photograph that had been supplied to them by their South African associates. She was transferred by ferry to Macau where she was locked up on the third floor of an apartment block. It was there that she met Christine*, a 19-year old South African who had been lured to Macau by the same syndicate a few months earlier. Nicola’s

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He promised
everything
she wanted.

And stole
everything
she had.

Maria went to South Africa because Sam promised her a good job. But Sam lied to her. He sold her to another man who kept her locked up in a room. He forced Maria to have sex with other men for money, which he kept. Maria is a victim of human trafficking. Don't make the same mistake as Maria. For help or information please phone us. It could save your life. In SOUTH AFRICA phone: 0800 555 999. In ZAMBIA: 01 256 701. In ZIMBABWE: 04 705 859.



IOM's Southern African Counter-trafficking Assistance Program (SACTAP) offers help and support to victims of human trafficking. SACTAP is sponsored by the US Department of State's Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and South Africa's Department of Foreign Affairs.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM) REGIONAL OFFICE FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA

