

Relevant Background

The STOP THE TRAFFIK Group has a strong history of delivering activity with vulnerable communities that reduces their risk of being trafficked into exploitation.

We know from observing timelines with large unpredictable groups of people on the move (Rohynga and Syria) that initially they are subject to high levels of short term assistance. Then as they settle, the trafficking operations begin to create structures to encourage higher value individuals to go on a journey by promising them hope of a good opportunity that is exploitation. Timelines are difficult to predict, but at this point, it is not clear whether trafficking groups are organised in those refugee communities yet.

Key Judgements

- 1) Trafficking and exploitation in Ukraine and of Ukrainians across Europe, including the UK, albeit in relatively small numbers, has been in existence for years.
- 2) Women and girls are disproportionately represented in the refugee set and are equally disproportionately represented in the exploited population globally. They simply have potential to generate more illicit income.
- 3) Traffickers are unlikely as yet to be organised in the settling refugee communities (3 million+).
- 4) Any trafficking activity is likely to be 'chance' rather than organised and is dependent on traffickers having a market to traffik the victims to.
- 5) A percentage of refugees are joining fellow Ukrainians who are in exploitation and will be by extension similarly be exploited.

Refugees are moving freely across the EU visa free and a proportion are joining relatives and friends. Due to the existing profile of trafficking of Ukrainian national to EU and UK there is a strong possibility that a percentage will join those already in exploitation and by extension be similarly exploited. We are aware that a percentage of refugees arriving in Ireland are transiting the UK border.

Information Requirements

- 1) Multilateral and local non-profit organisations on the ground where refugees are concentrating should collect and share narratives arising from any credible attempt to traffik any refugee and share appropriately. (Consider utilising The STOP APP).
- 2) The locations where refugees are coalescing to be shared appropriately.

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