

KEY JUDGEMENTS JULY 2023

Title: Ukrainian Refugees

Location: U.K. and EU

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Disclaimer: *Please note that this assessment is based on a combination of open-source research, input from subject matter experts on the ground, survivor accounts, and data analysis.*

INTRODUCTION

Ukrainian Refugees in the EU and UK are now increasingly vulnerable to exploitation as traffickers have developed market opportunities and established themselves, while Ukrainians are increasingly in need of income to sustain themselves and send home.

WE ASSESS AS FOLLOWS

RECRUITMENT

- a) In their many thousands, Ukrainian refugees are widely distributed across European countries, including the UK, and have formed communities.
- b) Due to the homelessness crisis for Ukrainians in the UK, people are looking for job opportunities which come with accommodation provided, particularly in the agriculture and cleaning sectors. This increases the chances of exploitation.
- c) Job offers in the care sector in the UK, apparently requiring a training qualification before employment, are being offered. Once deployed, victims are paid low wages via intermediary businesses, which Ukrainians often run.
- d) Debt for training and job placement is accrued against the victim by the exploiting entity.
- e) Ukrainians are recruited through job advertisements on Facebook including in Germany and Poland, where intermediaries place them in employment in Poland or the Netherlands.

DEMAND

- a) Gateways into cleaning, construction, food and manufacturing sectors in Germany, the Netherlands and the UK are being offered by contract labour entities, many of which are exploitative.
- b) The care sector is of particular concern.
- c) Hosts offering accommodation in countries including Germany exploit refugees in unpaid domestic labour.
- d) There is a demand for Ukrainian persons for sex, as there appears to be an increase in the advertising of Ukrainians for sex for money across the EU, the UK, and the Middle East. Ukrainian women and minors are also increasingly exploited in other sex work, including webcam work and pornography.

MONEY (REVENUE)

- a) Care businesses with an urgent need for care workers in the UK are utilising intermediary organisations to find and deploy contract basis. Payments are made to the intermediary, and these wages are not passed on to the workforce. Many of them are prepared to work long hours for illegal and very low hourly rates. Business turnover and salary outgoings will not correlate as they should.
- b) Polish and Ukrainian intermediaries acting as contract labour entities and bringing workers to the Netherlands typically pay for the first weeks of labour via international bank transfers to Polish bank accounts. After the first weeks, the refugees are not paid for a large proportion of their work until they are fired. This is a typical pattern elsewhere, including in Germany.
- c) In Germany, some Ukrainian workers were paid between 200-300 euros per month.
- d) Some 'kickbacks' to key individuals in the care sector and other affected businesses are likely.

INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Cases of Ukrainian refugees being recruited and exploited in for labour or sex exploitation

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