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British Embassy
Vilnius

STOP THE TRAFFIK

PEOPLE SHOULDN'T BE BOUGHT & SOLD



WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

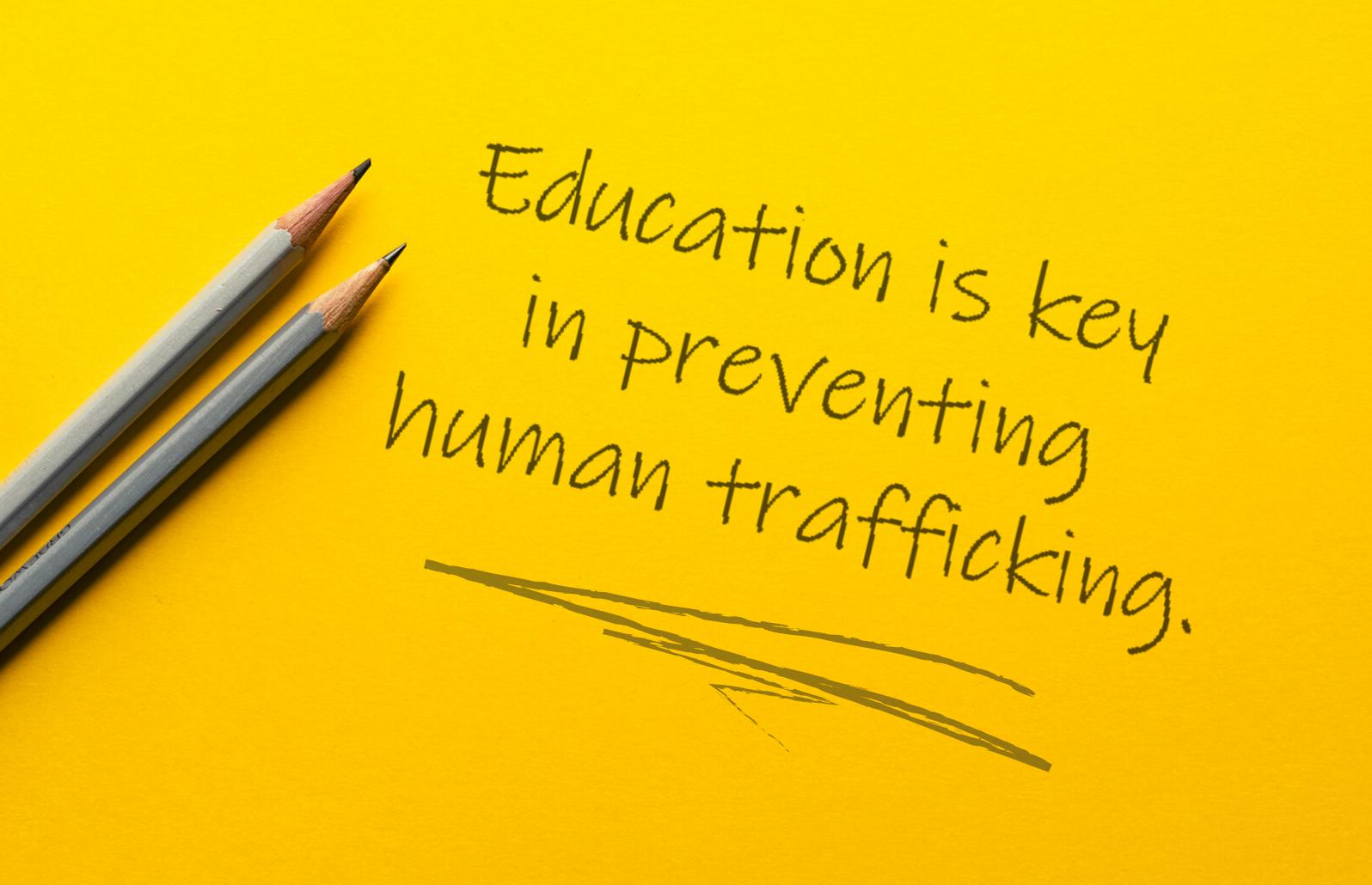
SCHOOLS AWARENESS
PROJECT LITHUANIA

PROJECT REPORT 2022



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Education is key
in preventing
human trafficking.

OVERVIEW

STOP THE TRAFFIK and the National Agency for Education collaborated on a project which shared information about human trafficking with students at educational institutions across Lithuania. The target audience were the students aged between 14 – 19 who attended a range of educational facilities, including youth schools, lower secondary schools and secondary schools.

The project was initiated by the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport and the British Embassy in Lithuania who facilitated contact between the National Agency for Education and STOP THE TRAFFIK.

The project highlighted that there is a need for resources and sessions in schools and this work should continue, to ensure young people are aware of trafficking risks, how to spot the signs of a potentially exploitative offer and how to keep themselves, and others safe from exploitation.

This report details the STOP THE TRAFFIK and National Agency for Education initiative and provides recommendations for future work.



RESULTS SUMMARY

SOME ACHIEVEMENTS OF THIS INITIATIVE INCLUDE:

37

educational facilities ran awareness raising sessions.

338

students between 14 - 19 reached across Lithuania.

92%

of students* said the videos raised awareness that before accepting a job offer abroad, they should ask questions, find out more information and seek help if needed.

74%

of students* said they were better informed, equipped with knowledge and learned what to do if they were in a potential risk situation in the future.

81%

of students* said they would take preventative action to stay safe after participating in the sessions.

***QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONDENTS**



ORGANISATIONS

DETAILS OF ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT

STOP THE TRAFFIK (STT)



STOP THE TRAFFIK is an anti-human trafficking organisation with a focus on intelligence-led prevention. STOP THE TRAFFIK's mission is to disrupt the global business of human trafficking. By gathering intelligence, running awareness campaigns, and engaging in cross-sector collaborative work, STT are creating a culture of change, empowering people and organisations around the world.

NATIONAL AGENCY FOR EDUCATION



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The National Agency for Education is an educational assistance institution founded by the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania. Its mission is to take part in implementation of the state pre-school, pre-primary and general education policies, include education institutions (except for higher education institutions) and other education providers to ensure quality of education by providing informational, counselling, qualification improvement and self-education environment building assistance.



British Embassy
Vilnius

BRITISH EMBASSY VILNIUS

The British Embassy in Vilnius maintains and develops relations between the UK and Lithuania. Part of their work is focused on preventing modern slavery and human trafficking (MSHT).

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND SPORT



MINISTRY
OF EDUCATION,
SCIENCE
AND SPORT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

The Ministry of Education, Science and Sport is a government department of the Republic of Lithuania. Its operations are authorised by the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania, decrees issued by the President and Prime Minister, and laws passed by the Seimas (Parliament). Its mission is to implement state administration functions and realise state policy in education, science, studies branches.



MIGRATION PATTERNS

Lithuania has a huge emigrant population, and for several years, the main destination of Lithuanian migrants has been the UK. Other emigration destinations include Belarus, Germany and Norway.

However, the most recent EU Settlement Scheme quarterly statistics as of August 2022 revealed the draw of the UK has waned over the past year. Whereas in June 2021, 15,650 Lithuanians applied to the EU settlement scheme, only 1,060 Lithuanians applied in June 2022.

This summary is based on statistical estimates and government figures. There may be undocumented Lithuanian nationals not captured by this and these individuals are potentially at a higher risk of exploitation.

TRAFFICKING IN THE UK

Many Lithuanian nationals emigrating to the UK are vulnerable to exploitation as they seek economic opportunities. Reported cases show people are offered work and persuaded with promises of a better life but are forced to work long hours for little pay and can live in unsanitary and overcrowded conditions. Types of exploitation reported include sex trafficking, labour exploitation, and forced criminality (see page 7 for more details about forced criminality of Lithuanian nationals).

TRAFFICKING IN THE UK CONTINUED

For several years, labour exploitation was the most prevalent type of trafficking affecting Lithuanians in the UK, often going unrecognised. It has been reported in various sectors including food processing, construction, and agricultural industries. In 2018, STOP THE TRAFFIK ran an awareness campaign, which aimed to reach members of the Lithuanian community living in Lincolnshire, UK. 30% of the campaign's survey respondents reported to have experienced labour exploitation.

The NRM (National Referral Mechanism) is the UK's framework for identifying and referring potential victims of modern slavery and ensuring they receive the appropriate support. The most recent [NRM data](#) in the first quarter of 2022 revealed labour exploitation to be the most common form of trafficking experienced by adults, and forced criminality among children.

This shows labour exploitation and forced criminality are rife, and risks remain for people coming to the UK with promises of work opportunities.

It is worth noting that the NRM data relies on survivors who have agreed to go through the process only. Many are often fearful to enter this process so the data may not reflect the true figures. The current understanding of labour exploitation is unclear, due to many factors including the halting of business regulation due to the pandemic and fears of deportation (caused by the UK's departure from the EU) which may prevent victims coming forward.

Both COVID-19 and Brexit have increased pressure on businesses' supply chains due to labour shortages, so criminal gangs are more likely to exploit vulnerabilities within supply chains for their own financial gain, especially through labour providers, brokers and agencies. Recruitment issues have been aggravated further in recent months because of Russia's invasion of Ukraine (many of the seasonal workers who pick crops in the UK used to come from Ukraine and the surrounding area). Local businesses are struggling to recruit and are using multiple recruitment agencies which make it increasingly difficult to identify illegal or criminal activity. The current labour shortage may result in an increase in exploitation, especially in the agricultural sector.

Anecdotal intelligence shows prevalence of exploitation of Lithuanian nationals in car washes in the UK. The car washes are organised and run by members of the Lithuanian community who settled in the UK many years ago. They lure in vulnerable young people from Lithuania and exploit them, quite often using aggressive methods.

STT believes Lithuanian nationals are still at risk of exploitation in the UK. In the current climate of economic uncertainty, exploitation has potentially moved underground and become even more hidden, creating an environment for trafficking to thrive.

FORCED CRIMINALITY

CASE STUDY 2020

IN AUGUST 2020, 18 ARRESTS WERE MADE DURING A COORDINATED OPERATION **TO DISRUPT AN ORGANISED CRIME GROUP SUSPECTED OF TRAFFICKING VICTIMS FROM LITHUANIA** TO IRELAND AND THE UK (NORTHERN IRELAND) TO FACILITATE CLASS A DRUG DEALING.

EUROPOL SAID THE CRIMINALS HAD SET UP A **COMPLEX DISTRIBUTION NETWORK, EXPLOITING VICTIMS** THEY HAD TRAFFICKED FROM LITHUANIA TO ACT AS DRUG DEALERS AND DRUG MULES ON THEIR BEHALF.



PROJECT BACKGROUND

LACK OF RESEARCH INTO LEVEL OF AWARENESS AMONGST STUDENTS

It was identified by the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport that there was no research conducted in schools about human trafficking, particularly around the awareness or attitudes of the students towards the issue.

GAP IN KNOWLEDGE AND LACK OF RESOURCES IDENTIFIED

The Ministry of Education, Science and Sport identified a gap in knowledge among students in Lithuania about human trafficking, as well as a lack of resources about this topic for educational facilities. This prompted the British Embassy to suggest collaboration with STOP THE TRAFFIK who had produced resources for audiences in Lithuania about the issue of trafficking.

STOP THE TRAFFIK RESOURCES

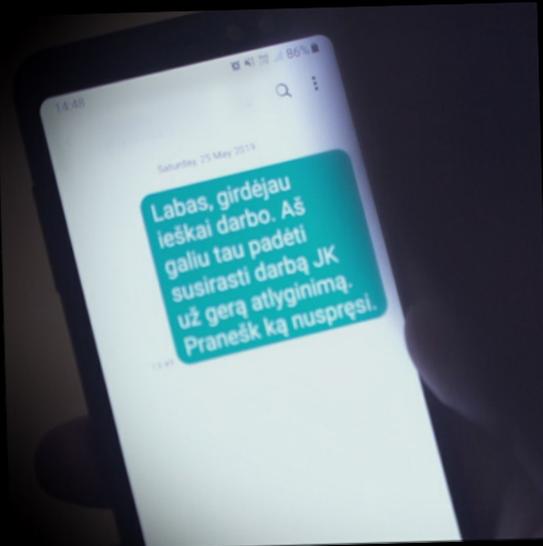
Throughout 2019, STT ran a social media geo-targeted awareness campaign. The campaign aimed to spread awareness of human trafficking among the Lithuanian community living in the UK and people living in Lithuania who were considering travelling abroad for work. STT produced two short videos and a landing page, where people could find out more information. STT ran the program in partnership with the leading anti-trafficking NGO in Lithuania, KOPZI (Centre Against Human Trafficking and Exploitation) and The Missing Persons' Families Support Centre, Lithuania.

STT were approached by the National Agency for Education, who requested that the videos be adapted and used in schools across Lithuania.



VIDEO RESOURCES

Created by STOP THE TRAFFIK for previous campaigns



CASE STUDY FILM: KAROLIS' STORY

The video tells the story of Karolis, a young Lithuanian man who accepts a job in the UK. The film depicts his journey through exploitation. Viewers were presented with signs to help identify recruitment methods used to deceive him and the control methods used to keep him in the exploitative situation. Contact details for support organisations were provided in the [video](#).



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO FILM

The 'Know Before You Go' [video](#) aimed to raise awareness of labour exploitation among people in Lithuania who might be considering accepting work in the UK. The campaign informed them about their rights, providing advice and tips to stay safe, questions they should ask and details of organisations where they could get support.

PROJECT ACTIVITY

The National Agency for Education and STOP THE TRAFFIK worked together to develop and update the campaign resources to be used in schools across Lithuania. The resources and sessions in schools took place between May and June 2021.



Activity: Two screenings of the case study film 'Karolis' story' and the 'Know Before You Go' film, followed by a facilitated classroom debate.

The target audience were students aged between 14 - 19 who attended a range of educational facilities, including youth schools, lower secondary schools and secondary schools.



The resources were rolled out to 37 schools across Lithuania, including the main cities Vilnius, Kaunas, Klaipėda and Panevėžys, and towns such as Tauragė, Anykščiai, Pasvalys, Rietavas, Plungė and Šilutė.





PROJECT DELIVERY

The National Agency for Education provided additional materials for teachers to accompany the sessions and structure classroom debate following the screening of the videos. They also trained specialists how to run the sessions (screening the videos and running the class discussions.)

The students were invited to fill in a questionnaire and share their thoughts. This gave the students an opportunity to reflect, and enabled the National Agency for Education and STT to analyse the responses and check the objectives of the project had been achieved.

Following the project, the National Agency for Education held supervision groups with the teachers who ran the sessions. The feedback was positive, and they said such sessions were very useful. Students were engaged and initiated discussions themselves regarding their working rights.

All the resources were published on the National Agency for Education's website [here](#). They are available on the site permanently for teachers across Lithuania to download and use for educational purposes in the classroom.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The project had three main objectives in relation to the prevention of trafficking: spread awareness of human trafficking among students, increasing their perception of risk, equipping them with knowledge and encouraging them to adopt preventative behaviour to keep themselves and others safe from exploitation.



INCREASE PERCEPTION OF RISK

Increase their perception of the risk factors associated with accepting offers of work abroad, so they understand that such offers can lead to exploitation.



GAIN KNOWLEDGE

Increase knowledge of trafficking, how to spot the signs and make students aware organisations exist that provide advice and support.



ADOPT PREVENTATIVE BEHAVIOUR

Inspire students to take preventative behaviour in future. With the increased awareness of the risks associated with offers of work abroad, they will take proactive precautionary actions to keep themselves safe from exploitation.



“

**I WILL REMEMBER
THE VIDEO I SAW
AND REMEMBER
THE ADVICE**

”

**STUDENT RESPONSE
TO QUESTIONNAIRE
REGARDING THE VIDEO**



RESULTS

Quantitative Data



338

STUDENTS AGED
14 - 19 REACHED

109

SPECIALISTS TRAINED
TO LEAD SESSIONS

51 SPECIALISTS TOOK PART IN
THE CLASSROOM DISCUSSIONS



501

VIDEO VIEWS ON
NSA WEBSITE

37

EDUCATIONAL
FACILITIES REACHED



10

CITIES AND
TOWNS REACHED

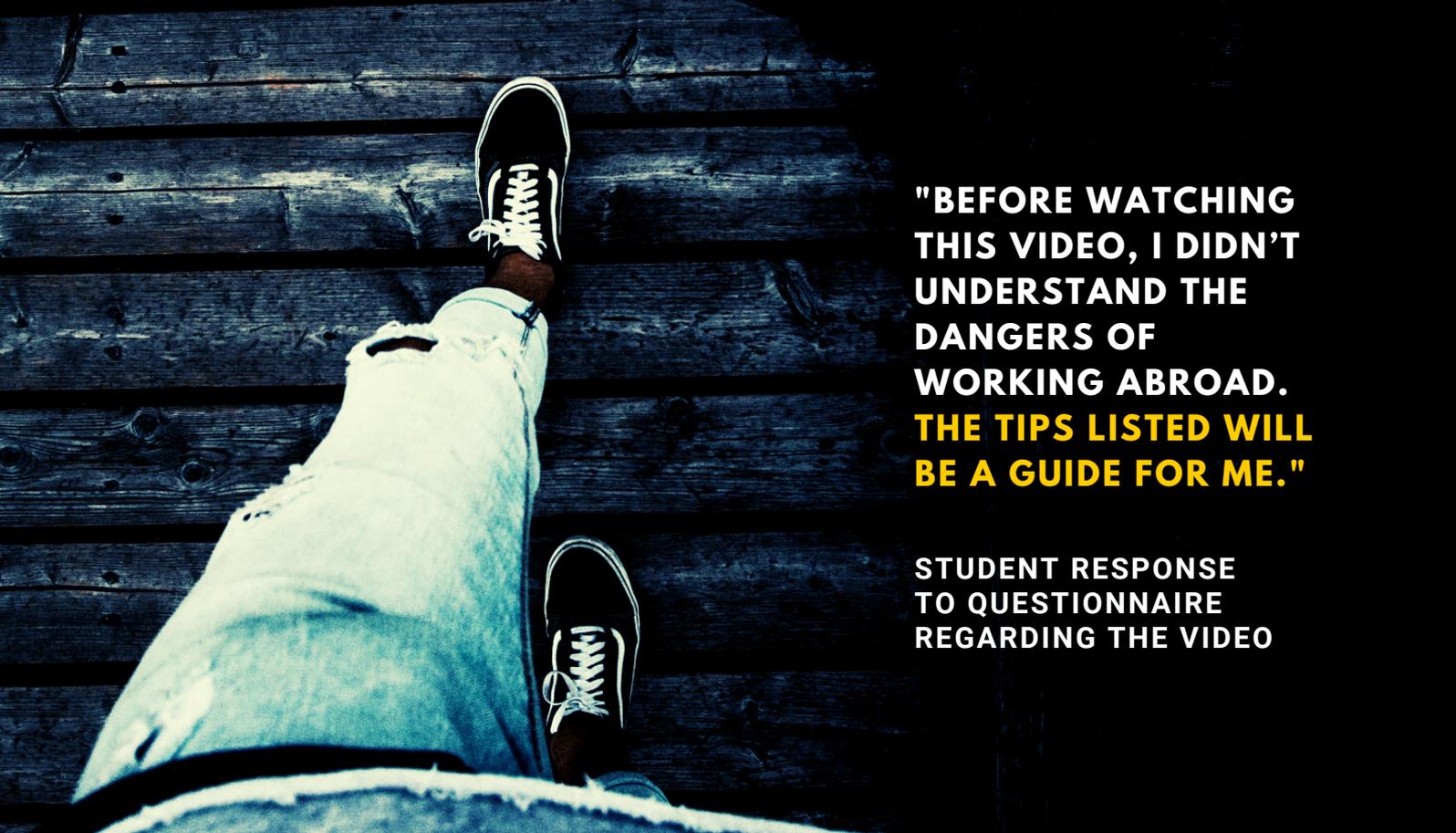


PROJECT OBJECTIVES RESULTS

THE PROJECT HAD THREE MAIN OBJECTIVES IN RELATION TO THE PREVENTION OF TRAFFICKING:

- **INCREASE PERCEPTION OF RISK**
- **GAIN KNOWLEDGE**
- **ADOPT PREVENTATIVE BEHAVIOUR**

THROUGH FEEDBACK FROM THE STUDENTS VIA THE QUESTIONNAIRES, WE CAN EVIDENCE THAT THE PROJECT ACHIEVED IT'S OBJECTIVES.



"BEFORE WATCHING THIS VIDEO, I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND THE DANGERS OF WORKING ABROAD. THE TIPS LISTED WILL BE A GUIDE FOR ME."

STUDENT RESPONSE TO QUESTIONNAIRE REGARDING THE VIDEO

INCREASE PERCEPTION OF RISK

***QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONDENTS**

The campaign aimed to increase perception of risk by raising awareness of the risk factors associated with accepting offers of work abroad, and that such offers can lead to exploitation.

HOW THE PROJECT ACHIEVED THIS OBJECTIVE:

Following the sessions, 92% of students* said the videos raised awareness that before accepting a job offer abroad, they should ask questions, find out more information and seek help if needed.

"This video encouraged me to think about the risks of being exploited."

"I am now convinced that it is necessary to think carefully and gather all the necessary information before working abroad."

"The video me helped to understand the dangers of working abroad, it helped to learn what to do when looking for a job."

"This video shows that you don't have to trust anyone, that you need to understand the offer."

Quotes from students* following the screenings.



"THERE IS LITTLE TALK ABOUT SUCH THINGS IN SCHOOLS, SO SUCH PREVENTIVE VIDEOS ARE VERY USEFUL IN LIFE.

FROM THEM WE LEARN A LOT OF USEFUL INFORMATION THAT CAN BE VERY HELPFUL IN THE FUTURE."

STUDENT RESPONSE TO QUESTIONNAIRE REGARDING THE VIDEO

GAIN KNOWLEDGE

*** QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONDENTS**

The campaign aimed to increase the student's knowledge of trafficking, how to spot the signs and make them aware that organisations exist to provide advice and support.

HOW THE PROJECT ACHIEVED THIS OBJECTIVE:

Following the sessions, 74% of students* said the videos were helpful to them because they equipped them with information and knowledge, they learned how to behave if they experienced the situation in future and they felt encouraged to be more concerned about the issue.

"Things were said that I didn't know about and that could help in the future when looking for a job abroad."

"This video was helpful because I didn't know people were being deceived in this way."

"Stereotypically, I thought people were just being kidnapped for trafficking, and I learned from the video that the situation could be quite different."

"The video was helpful in pointing out where to turn when a problem arose. Areas of work where a person can be exploited were also identified."

"I learned that there are organisations that help."

Quotes from students* following the screenings.



“I WOULD DO MY BEST TO UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION, BASED ON THE VIDEO AND TRY TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE JOB.”

STUDENT RESPONSE TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE REGARDING WHAT THEY WOULD DO DIFFERENTLY IN FUTURE.

ADOPT PREVENTATIVE BEHAVIOUR

***QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONDENTS**

The campaign aimed to inspire students to take preventative behaviour in future. With the increased awareness of the risks associated with offers of work abroad, they will take proactive precautionary actions to keep themselves safe from exploitation.

HOW THE PROJECT ACHIEVED THIS OBJECTIVE:

Following the sessions, 81% of students* said that in future if they or someone they knew were offered a job abroad, they would act differently and take precautionary measures. The measures the students* said they would take included:

- Finding out all the details about a job offer and pay more attention to the details
- Researching the company thoroughly
- Have full understanding of their working rights
- Reading the documentation and the contract carefully, including the English translation
- Keeping hold of passport or travel documentation and never giving them away to potential traffickers
- Inform friends to act with caution if they are made an offer



PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS

THERE IS A CONTINUED NEED FOR WORK IN THIS AREA

The responses to the questionnaires indicate there were gaps in the student's knowledge about the issue. The responses indicate the students found the resources useful and gained knowledge about trafficking, the associated risks and how to spot the signs of risk situations. Some students noted that before seeing the videos, they were unaware of the more subtle forms of recruitment like deception and false promises of work. Some noted they weren't previously aware that support organisations existed that offer help and advice. This demonstrates a need to continue awareness raising in schools. The National Agency for Education are keen to continue working with STT on prevention initiatives in education facilities across Lithuania.

UNDERSTANDING OF THE SITUATION TO UPDATE RESOURCES

Whilst the teachers noted gained knowledge and awareness among students, there were concerns whether the resources were outdated following the UK's departure from the EU. Whilst STT believes it is likely Lithuanian nationals travelling to the UK are still at risk of exploitation in the same ways explored in the videos, further research is required. Insights into new recruitment methods, routes travelled, and sectors of high risk all need to be investigated. This information will provide a picture of the current situation and inform the updated content of the resources.

To understand the current situation, a recommendation for this project would be for NGOs working with survivors in the UK and Lithuania to safely share anonymous data with STT and offer their insights into what they have learnt through their work. These insights will inform the updating of the resources, ensuring relevant information is shared with students and contribute to future trafficking prevention initiatives.



PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS

UNDERSTANDING THE AUDIENCE

Student's feedback provided insights that can inform future communications and improve resources. When asked if the video were helpful, 11% of students said they knew the information already, so didn't learn anything new. 12% said the information was useful for *other* people, either younger students, or young people planning to work abroad. Based on these insights, a recommendation would be to update the resources to cover the following:

- Some students thought the video was only useful for people planning to work abroad. Whilst the video explores trafficking from Lithuania to the UK, it should be communicated that trafficking can happen to Lithuanian nationals within Lithuania as well.
- A small number of students said the information would benefit younger students, whereas some of the younger students said it would benefit the older students only. This could be addressed by creating separate resources aimed at the different age groups.
- Some students felt victims were to blame for falling into exploitation, e.g one comment read, "If you are thoughtful, you would not be frivolous". A recommendation would be for resources and sessions to explore the 'enabling factors' of why people might be more susceptible to accepting a potentially 'risky' offer. Enabling factors, such as unemployment and economic hardship, might make someone more willing to take a risk for a better life. Understanding such complexities can be addressed and explored in future sessions.
- As mentioned, a small number said they knew everything covered in the videos and sessions already. Whilst the basic 'need to know' details need to remain in the resources, additional information for those with prior knowledge of the issue should also be included. This was also confirmed by a student who wrote "I think it gives useful advice, but there could be more." A recommendation for the project would be to keep the basic information already featured but provide additional information for students that may benefit from more details e.g knowledge of rights, myth-busting, complexities of the issue.

STOP THE TRAFFIK
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



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 www.stopthetraffik.org

 +44 (0)20 7921 4258

 info@stopthetraffik.org