

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 (Rohingya 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) Unaccompanied children, generally 15 years +, are arriving at borders. There is some lack of communication across agencies in receiving nations. It is also clear that sex offenders with a predilection for child victims are drawn to the border areas. We are aware of 2 such UK nationals and this is likely replicated across the EU.
- 3) Third-country nationals (100,000+) have entered Poland from Ukraine. A proportion of these people will be students or otherwise in that country however, this is also likely to be an indication of the informal (trafficked and exploited) labour market in Ukraine before the conflict when taken with numbers in other receiving countries. They are extremely vulnerable.
- 4) Domestic Servitude has emerged as an immediate exploitative risk in receiving countries.
- 5) Under 35-year-olds are motivated to gain income and employment quickly and they are advertising themselves on social media. They are more likely to move south and west in Europe.
- 6) There is a strong suggestion that refugees who identify as Roma from Ukraine may be more vulnerable to exploitation when they enter Moldova and Romania.

Intelligence Requirements

- 1) We are not well sighted on the situation of refugees in Romania and Moldova.

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