

MECHANISM OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING WITHIN THE COMPETENCE OF PREVENTION IN SOCIAL WORK

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Abstract:

Human trafficking represents a serious social and criminological issue that violates fundamental human rights and human dignity. The text analyzes the mechanism of human trafficking, its phases and purposes, as well as the identification and specific vulnerability of victims. It emphasizes that trafficking in persons does not consist solely of the act of selling a victim, but includes a complex process—from recruitment, transport, and harboring, to exploitation and reintegration. The paper also highlights the role of social work and the importance of social prevention in combating this phenomenon. The aim is to underline the necessity of a multidisciplinary approach, effective victim support, and prevention through education and public awareness.

Keywords: human trafficking, exploitation, victims, social work, prevention, reintegration, forced labor, prostitution

Human trafficking does not consist only in the sale of the victim. The sale is preceded and followed by other activities of the traffickers. This entire process is carried out on several levels and usually involves several people. Human trafficking therefore takes place in several phases, which are interconnected and together create the mechanism of human trafficking.

The mechanism of human trafficking consists of the following phases: recruitment, transportation, harboring, reception, coercion, abuse, rescue, reintegration.¹

Each of the above phases has a different duration or other specific features. In specific individual cases, they differ, but they create a cycle that can in some cases represent a lengthy process. The recruitment phase takes place in the victim's country of origin. Traffickers use various methods to lure victims. The most common are offers via the Internet, the press, various agencies offering work, study abroad, advantageous marriages, etc. Personal contacts are also common, which are made in public spaces visited mainly by young people, e.g. at discos and bars. The most common job offers are well-paid domestic work, caring for children, the sick or the elderly, modeling work, waitressing in restaurants, bars, work in erotic clubs, study abroad, offers of marriage or a relationship. These offers may be different in different countries. In our conditions, the most common form of attracting victims is an attractive offer of work abroad through advertising. Most agencies providing work abroad do not have the necessary permits, have connections to human traffickers and „set up“ victims for them.²

The transport phase is an essential part and at the same time one of the essential features of human trafficking, while victims do not have to travel abroad, and therefore cross state borders. There is also internal human trafficking, i.e. the country of origin of the victims and the country of destination are identical. Such countries include the Slovak Republic. In cases of border crossing, various methods of transport are used. Traffickers most often choose common methods of travel. They are cheaper and at the same time do not arouse suspicion among victims. The entry of a victim of trafficking into a transit or destination country can be legal or illegal. Transport through transit countries to the destination country is often lengthy and difficult. Often, victims encounter abuse during

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- 1 KUBOVIČOVÁ, K. Základné informácie o problematike obchodovania s ľuďmi. Bratislava: IOM Medzinárodná organizácia pre migráciu, 2009, p. 20.
 - 2 KUBOVIČOVÁ, K. Základné informácie o problematike obchodovania s ľuďmi. Bratislava: IOM Medzinárodná organizácia pre migráciu, 2009, p. 20.

transport.³

The phase of sheltering is another phase that forms the mechanism of human trafficking. „To shelter means to actually take someone else in for any length of time. The victims are kept in indecent conditions. At this stage, the victim of forced labor begins to realize that she has been cheated and deceived and that without knowing the language and without money she has little chance of defending herself and escaping.“⁴ Coercion takes many forms. Traffickers use various mechanisms to both coerce victims into performing work, but also to ensure control over victims during the exploitation phase and to limit the possibility of escape.⁵ To prevent their victims from escaping, traffickers take their personal documents – identity cards, passports and cash, if the victim has any. Even if the victim manages to escape, they often return to the trafficker after a short time. Without them, the victim becomes much more vulnerable.⁶

Women and men who are forced to do various types of work often receive no money or only a minimum for it, because they have to pay the traffickers an imaginary „debt“ for arranging work, travel, etc. At the slightest resistance, the traffickers threaten to harm their family and loved ones, as they often know their home address. Women and girls forced into prostitution are often threatened with threats and violence. Traffickers control them via mobile phones or by giving them drugs or medication. Escape is almost impossible. Victims are strictly guarded, as they are a profitable commodity for traffickers, which - unlike drugs and weapons - can be sold repeatedly night after night! The essence of the phase of abuse, or rather exploitation, is the actual performance of various types of forced labor, i.e. fulfilling the purposes for which people are trafficked. It involves exploiting another person's labor, often in undignified and dangerous conditions that are similar to slavery. This is the most psychologically demanding and worst phase for victims.⁷

Only a few victims reach the stage of liberation. Victims are strictly guarded and cases when they manage to be freed are rare. Victims can help themselves,

3 INTERPOL. Príručka INTERPOLU pre vyšetrovateľov – obchodovanie s ľuďmi. [online]. Lyon: Generálny sekretariát INTERPOLU, 2008, pp. 35 - 36 [cit. 12.10.2022]. <http://infoweb.minv.sk/>.

4 IOM. Aspekty nútej práce v Slovenskej republike. Bratislava: Ministerstvo vnútra SR, 2012, p. 54.

5 INTERPOL, Príručka INTERPOLU pre vyšetrovateľov – obchodovanie s ľuďmi, p. 39.

6 BARTOŠOVÁ, A., URBANOVÁ, J. Vzdelávacia príručka o obchodovaní s ľuďmi pre pedagógov a sociálnych pracovníkov. Slovenská katolícka charita, 2020, p. 17.

7 ONDICOVÁ, M. Obchodovanie s ľuďmi – medzinárodný rozmer trestného činu obchodovania s ľuďmi. In: Sociálna prevencia – Prevencia vybraných sociálnopatologických javov a nežiaducich sociálnych javov. 2013, roč. 8, č. 2, p. 30.

for example by escaping when they are not guarded, but also with the help of others (clients, colleagues, police intervention, NGOs, etc.).⁸

The reintegration phase is essential for victims, in order to provide them with the necessary assistance and protection and to integrate them into everyday life. In the Slovak Republic, assistance is provided under the program of support and protection of victims of trafficking in human beings. The goal is to provide assistance to victims of trafficking in human beings, ensure the protection of their fundamental human rights, freedoms and dignity, and motivate victims to give testimony, which will facilitate the detection of perpetrators of the crime of trafficking in human beings by law enforcement authorities.⁹

Purpose of Human Trafficking

The main source of profit for human traffickers is the exploitation of individuals. Traffickers abuse, exploit and coerce them through various, often inhumane, ways and means just to make a profit. The methods of traffickers are becoming increasingly sophisticated and the ways in which they recruit new victims are becoming increasingly insidious.¹⁰ Victims are forced to work long hours, without the right to a full wage, or receive no wage at all for their work. They are housed in unsuitable conditions, and are not entitled to vacation or sick leave. Social isolation resulting from lack of knowledge of the language, lack of contacts outside the workplace, and lack of knowledge of legal norms or information about where to turn for help increases the risk of exploitation.¹¹ Exploitation can take the form of forced prostitution, forced labor, forced begging, forced marriage, forced crime, organ, tissue or cell removal, and in the case of children, illegal adoption. However, it is important to emphasize that victims do not have to be exploited for only one purpose. It is not uncommon for some victims to experience multiple forms of exploitation.

In 2021, three cases of a combination of purposes of abuse were recorded, namely two child victims - a girl for the purpose of forced prostitution and forced marriage at the experimental stage, another girl for the purpose of labor exploitation, forced marriage and forced begging, as well as one adult male

8 KUBOVIČOVÁ, Základné informácie o problematike obchodovania s ľuďmi, p. 23.

9 KUBOVIČOVÁ, Základné informácie o problematike obchodovania s ľuďmi, p. 74.

10 INTERPOL, Príručka INTERPOLU pre vyšetrovateľov – obchodovanie s ľuďmi, p. 37.

11 EÚ. Závažné pracovné vykorisťovanie: pracovníci pohybujúci sa v rámci EÚ alebo sťahujúci sa do EÚ. [online]. Viedeň: Agentúra Európskej únie pre základné práva, 2015, p. 1 [cit. 10.10.2022]. https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2016-severe-labour-exploitationsummary_sk.pdf.

victim for the purpose of labor exploitation and organ, tissue or cell removal at the experimental stage.¹² In sexual exploitation, which includes both forced prostitution and work in the porn industry, including the production of child pornography, people are lured by the promise of well-paid work to work as companions, hostesses, bartenders, etc., and are then forced to provide sexual services. They are controlled, their personal freedom is restricted, they are intimidated, they are subjected to psychological and physical pressure, and they are often given drugs. They must hand over their earnings to the trafficker. The target group is mainly women, including children.¹³

Forced labor takes many forms. Whether it is on farms, in construction, in factories, or in the home, there are several common features that characterize the work. Victims cannot choose whether or not to work, they are forced to work long hours, every day of the week, often in dangerous conditions that threaten their health and safety, with severe restrictions on freedom of movement, for very low or no pay, and last but not least, this form includes physical, psychological, or sexual abuse.¹⁴

In forced begging, perpetrators seek out victims, especially among the physically disabled, invalids or homeless, who have a visible handicap, in order to arouse sympathy. Under various threats, they are then forced to beg and hand over all the money they beg to the merchant. They are constantly under control, but also psychological and physical pressure. They live in inhumane conditions, without medical care, and suffer from a lack of food. Perpetrators exploit various substance addictions of the victims, mostly to alcohol and cigarettes. They beg in places with a large number of people, in order to earn as much as possible. In the event of resistance or refusal to beg, they are threatened with bodily harm, and psychological and physical pressure is exerted on them.¹⁵

Exploitation for the purpose of forced criminal activity or crime allows criminal networks to profit from a variety of illegal activities without risk. Victims are forced to perform a range of illegal activities that subsequently generate income. They often have quotas and can face severe penalties if they do not perform

12 IC OSL. Situačná správa pre oblasť boja proti obchodovaniu s ľuďmi v Slovenskej republike za rok 2021. [online]. p. 21 [cit. 12.10.2022]. file:///C:/Users/stanl/Downloads/Situacna_sprava_OSL_za_rok_2021-1.pdf.

13 IC OSL. Národný program boja proti obchodovaniu s ľuďmi na roky 2019 – 2023 [online]. p. 7 [cit. 10.10.2022]. file:///C:/Users/stanl/Downloads/vlastnymat.pdf.

14 INTERPOL, Príručka INTERPOLU pre vyšetrovateľov – obchodovanie s ľuďmi, p. 37.

15 IC OSL. Národný program boja proti obchodovaniu s ľuďmi na roky 2019 – 2023 [online]. p. 8 [cit. 12.10.2022]. file:///C:/Users/stanl/Downloads/vlastnymat.pdf.

adequately.¹⁶

Forced criminal activity can be defined as „the exploitation of a person to commit crimes such as, but not limited to, pickpocketing, shoplifting, drug trafficking, and other similar activities that are criminal and involve financial gain.“¹⁷

Within the *modus operandi* of forced marriages, it is necessary to distinguish between forced marriages of adult women for the purpose of legalizing the stay of third-country nationals in the European Union and forced marriages of children. These two forms of forced marriages have different motivations and processes. Adult Slovak victims are forced to marry foreigners from third countries, while perpetrators skillfully use the national legislation of these countries in terms of the prerequisites for marriage and immigration regulation. Forced marriage of child female victims has its origins in Roma traditions. Minor and adolescent girls are forced to marry boys from another Roma family, while the girl is sold by her own parents to the groom's family. The „bride“ is then forced to move to the husband's family, is obliged to help in this family and is forced against her will to have a sexual life with the new „husband“. In case of resistance, girls are subjected to psychological, but often physical violence. Cases of forced Roma marriages, unlike forced marriages for the purpose of legalizing the residence of third-country nationals, occur exclusively on the territory of the Slovak Republic.¹⁸

The illegal procurement of organs, tissues or cells is another purpose of human trafficking. In many countries, waiting lists for transplants are very long, and criminals have taken advantage of this opportunity to exploit the desperation of patients and potential donors. The health of victims, even their lives, is at risk, as operations can be performed in secret, without medical supervision. An aging population and the increasing incidence of diabetes in many developed countries are likely to increase the need for organ transplants and make this crime even more lucrative.¹⁹

This is an issue that rarely occurs in our conditions. It is known from

16 INTERPOL. Trafficking for forced criminal activities. [online]. [cit. 12.10.2022]. <https://www.interpol.int/Crimes/Human-trafficking/Types-of-human-trafficking>.

17 EÚ. Bod (11) Smernice Európskeho parlamentu a Rady 2011/36/EÚ z 5. apríla 2011 o prevencii obchodovania s ľuďmi a boji proti nemu a o ochrane obetí obchodovania, ktorou sa nahrádza rámcové rozhodnutie Rady 2002/629/SVV. [online]. [cit. 12.10.2022]. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/SK/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32011L0036&from=en>.

18 IC OSĽ. Situačná správa pre oblasť boja proti obchodovaniu s ľuďmi v Slovenskej republike za rok 2021. [online]. pp. 12 – 13 [cit. 12.10.2022]. file:///C:/Users/stanl/Downloads/Situacna_sprava_OSĽ_za_rok_2021-1.pdf.

19 INTERPOL. Trafficking for the removal of organs [online]. [cit. 12.10.2022]. <https://www.interpol.int/Crimes/Human-trafficking/Types-of-human-trafficking>.

international sources that the most common organ traded is the kidney. However, there is a principle prohibiting the creation of financial profit with the human body or its parts, and in the case of transplants, it is necessary to comply with the applicable legislation that regulates this area.²⁰

Organ trafficking refers to situations where a person is moved from one place to another with the aim of having their organs removed.²¹

If a person voluntarily agrees to the removal of an organ, or if there is an agreement between the donor and the recipient of the organ, it is not human trafficking, but such action is assessed in accordance with the applicable legislation. When it comes to illegal adoptions, not every such act can be described as a case of human trafficking, or rather, with children. In such cases, the decisive fact is whether there is an intention to subsequently exploit the child in any of the aforementioned ways. The classic example of a wealthy childless couple who buys a child through illegal adoption and wants to raise the child as a member of their own family is not an example of human trafficking, but a violation of the regulations governing the adoption process. In order for an illegal adoption to become a case of human trafficking, there must be an intention to subsequently exploit the child, whether for the purpose of sexual exploitation, production of child pornography, forced begging, forced labor, etc.²²

According to Inášová, „The most common forms of abuse, in addition to the sex business, are work in agriculture, services, manufacturing companies, industry, and petty crime among children.“²³

The most common purposes of human trafficking in the Slovak Republic in 2021 were sexual and labor exploitation. Traditionally, sexual exploitation almost exclusively concerns women and girls, and labor exploitation to a greater extent adult men. Two new forms of exploitation were recorded for the first time, namely suspicion of exploitation for the purpose of removing organs, tissues or cells at the experimental stage and suspicion of human trafficking for the purpose of illegal adoption of a child.²⁴

Victims of trafficking in human beings The Council of Europe Convention on

20 IOM. Aspekty nútenej práce v Slovenskej republike, pp. 20-21.

21 KUBOVIČOVÁ, Základné informácie o problematike obchodovania s ľuďmi, p. 17.

22 INTERPOL, Príručka INTERPOLU pre vyšetrovateľov – obchodovanie s ľuďmi, p. 206.

23 INÁŠOVÁ, L. Pracovné listy. Projekt „Prevencia obchodovania s ľuďmi so špeciálnym zameraním na mládež v zariadeniach ústavnej starostlivosti v Českej a Slovenskej republike“. Spišské Podhradie: Človek v tísni, o. p. s., pobočka Slovensko, 2007, p. 4.

24 IC OSL. Situačná správa pre oblasť boja proti obchodovaniu s ľuďmi v Slovenskej republike za rok 2021 [online]. 6 [cit. 12.11.2022]. file:///C:/Users/stanl/Downloads/Situacna_sprava_OSL_z_a_rok_2021-1.pdf.

Action against Trafficking in Human Beings defines a victim of trafficking in human beings as “any natural person who is the subject of trafficking in human beings”, i.e. a person who has been lured, transported, harboured, harboured or received within a country or across borders, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of other unlawful means, for the purpose of exploitation.²⁵

Recognition of a person as a victim of trafficking in human beings is a prerequisite for the enjoyment of a wide range of protection and support measures specified in the above-mentioned Convention.²⁶

Anyone can become a victim of human trafficking. It does not matter their gender, age, educational level, social status, or other factors affecting this fact. However, there are categories of people who are much more vulnerable and the assumption that they can become a potential victim is higher for them. „Such defenseless groups of the population that often become victims of human trafficking are, for example, children in orphanages, clients of social service homes, homeless people, psychiatric patients, persons deprived of legal capacity, but also children.“²⁷

The problem of finding a job in the labor market arises especially for residents with lower education. At the same time, they are among the first to lose their jobs when layoffs occur.²⁸

According to V. Čechot et al. „The education of victims of human trafficking is mostly low. They often have no education and at most are graduates or have attended and not graduated from secondary vocational schools, vocational schools without a high school diploma. Victims who attend special schools due to various mental or physical disabilities are no exception.“²⁹ Another vulnerable group are school graduates. In addition to the need to find a job, their reasons for leaving include new experiences and adventures, improving their language skills, or getting to know other countries and cultures.³⁰ The reasons for a victim to

25 EÚ. Čl. 4 písm. a) Dohovoru Rady Európy o boji proti obchodovaniu s ľuďmi [online]. [cit. 12.11.2022]. <https://www.slov-lex.sk/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2008/487/>

26 DOLEŽALOVÁ, M. (ed.). Presadzovanie práv obetí na Slovensku. Prístup zohľadňujúci ľudské práva. Bratislava: Liga za ľudské práva, 2013, p. 19.

27 VARGA, T. Návratová a reintegračná asistencia obchodovaným osobám Trendy a prax z pohľadu IOM Bratislava. In: HALÁSOVÁ, M., CHOVANCOVÁ, K., VALENTÍNÝ, M. (eds). Obchodovanie s ľuďmi – prevencia, výskum, prax: Zborník z odbornej konferencie. Nitra: Združenie STORM, KSPaSV FSVaZ UKF, 2013, p. 21.

28 IOM, Aspekty nútenej práce v Slovenskej republike, p. 32

29 ČEČOT, Obchodovanie s ľuďmi alebo Otroctvo 21. storočia, p. 104.

30 IOM. Aspekty nútenej práce v Slovenskej republike. p. 32

leave their home country are different for each person. They are often defined by a combination of so-called “push” and “pull” factors. “Push” factors are related to the situation and conditions in the country of origin that the victim perceives as unfavorable. This may include a poor socio-economic situation, unemployment, war, etc., but personal factors may also be included, such as domestic violence, a dysfunctional family. Factors resulting from the current situation also include sudden job loss, death of a loved one, loss of housing, etc. On the other hand, there are “pull” factors. These relate to conditions that the victim expects to occur in the target country. Often, this is a more favorable economic situation, higher earnings, more job opportunities, etc. However, it must be noted that the victim does not actually know what conditions await them in the target country.³¹ Victims of human trafficking are psychologically and physically traumatized, without personal documents, and out of fear for their lives, they are unable or unwilling to cooperate with the police and organizations providing assistance.³² They often have to endure brutal conditions that have a negative impact on their physical and mental health. The life of a trafficked person is marked by traumatic events during the abuse, which takes the form of sexual abuse, psychological humiliation, physical detention and imprisonment, physical violence, but also separation from loved ones, blackmail by harming their relatives, traveling without knowing their destination.

Those who have managed to return home do not want to confide in anyone about their horrific experiences. Whether out of fear for themselves, their loved ones, or a sense of shame for what happened to them. Reintegrating back into normal life can be difficult. It is simply impossible for them to cope with this trauma on their own, so they should definitely seek professional help.

If there is a suspicion that a person may have become a victim, they can voluntarily decide to join the Program for Support and Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking, which is coordinated by the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic and from which it is possible to provide the services that the victim needs given their current situation. The scope of services provided to citizens of the Slovak Republic, as well as foreigners or stateless persons as victims, is set out in the Regulation of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic No. 161/2020 on ensuring the program for support and protection of victims of human trafficking and is based on both international standards and binding European Union legislation. Comprehensive care for victims is provided

31 MV SR. Vzdelávanie príslušníkov Policajného zboru v oblasti prevencie a identifikácie obchodovania s ľuďmi. Bratislava: Ministerstvo vnútra SR, Stredná odborná škola Policajného zboru Bratislava, p. 12

32 ČEČOT, V., MADLIAK, J., BUKSOVÁ, E. Obchodovanie s ľuďmi v schengenskom priestore – problém alebo výzva? In: Sociálna prevencia – Prevencia kriminality 3(3), 2008, p. 13.

in accordance with the principle of equality and non-discrimination with due regard to the individual needs of individual victims, respecting their fundamental human rights.³³

The aforementioned regulation regulates the conditions of the program of support and protection of victims of human trafficking and ensuring the protection of their fundamental human rights and freedoms, as well as the roles of entities participating in the assistance program.³⁴ Various non-governmental organizations are also involved in the reintegration process, providing sheltered accommodation if the victim needs it and of course further reintegration assistance, whether health, social or legal.

The importance of social work in prevention

Social work can be characterized as a special professional discipline that, on a serious scientific basis, offers forms and methods for eliminating, mitigating and facilitating difficult social situations. When working with any client, it is necessary to approach him individually and to respond to his problems in the context of his origin, family and background, as well as in the context of the socio-political situation.³⁵ Social work as a professional activity is therefore helpful in solving various problems, it helps in identifying, eliminating, mitigating and solving social problems and negative impacts of the surrounding environment.³⁶

Prevention, in the broadest sense, represents the strengthening of positive factors, conditions and influences of the social system, social environment. It is therefore a complex of targeted measures that are aimed at reducing or eliminating the risk of the occurrence of certain life situations, states, events, processes, phenomena that negatively affect a person or groups of people under the influence of existing living, working, socio-economic conditions and lifestyle. It represents a continuous, purposeful and erudite process. It is a complex of

33 IC OSL. Situačná správa pre oblasť boja proti obchodovaniu s ľuďmi v Slovenskej republike za rok 2021 [online]. 29 [cit. 12.11.2022]. file:///C:/Users/stanl/Downloads/Situacna_sprava_OSL_za_rok_2021-1.pdf.

34 MV SR. Čl. 1 Nariadenia Ministerstva vnútra SR č. 161/2020 o zabezpečení programu podpory a ochrany obetí obchodovania s ľuďmi.

35 ŽÁKOVÁ, M. Azylová problematika z pohľadu sociálnej práce. Bratislava: VŠZaSP sv. Alžbety, 2006, p. 51

36 ŠIŇANSKÁ, K., NOHAJOVÁ, L. Možnosti sociálnej práce pri formovaní zmyslu života odchovancov detských domovov. [online]. In ŽIAKOVÁ, E., TÓTHOVÁ, L. (eds.) Premeny sociálnej prác v čase. 6.ročník Košických dní sociálnej práce. Košice: UPJŠ, 2018, p. 110. [cit. 12.03.2023]. <https://unibook.upjs.sk/img/cms/2018/ff/premeny-socialnej-prace-v-cas-web.pdf>.

measures to prevent the problem from arising.³⁷

„Currently, the term prevention is most often associated with prevention within the framework of socio-pathological phenomena and preventive measures that could prevent their presentation or may lead to a limitation in the deepening or recurrence of a given socio-pathological phenomenon.“ M. Schavel et al. define social prevention of socio-pathological phenomena as „creating social conditions based on the needs, values, possibilities and norms of the social system, which have a systemic and at the same time individual impact on the prevention, emergence, deepening or extinction of various types of socio-pathological development“.³⁸ „Social prevention is a professional activity carried out by an erudite - graduated social worker through specific methods and procedures of social work in the interest of increasing the quality of social life (economic stability, social ties, integration, employment, leisure, resocialization, optimal socialization, humanization, spiritual development...) of an individual, family, group or community.“ The work of a social worker in the field of prevention can be carried out at three levels, with the distinction of these levels being influenced, for example, by the depth or extent of the problem, or by the methods that are appropriate to use in preventive action. There are therefore three basic levels of prevention, namely prevention at the universal (primary) level, which is aimed at the entire population in general as well as at specific subgroups, selective (secondary) aimed at subgroups in conditions of high risk of developing a problem, and indicated (tertiary) aimed at individuals who exhibit special signs and symptoms of problems.³⁹

The increase in the need for social prevention is also related to the sharp increase in changes to which some social groups or individual personalities cannot adapt. They fail in their roles in personal, family or work life, which results in them looking for alternative ways of solving life situations, looking for ways of relaxation that bring them a sense of happiness, or there are certain biological and genetic predispositions that, also due to the influence of the wrong way of overcoming stress and adverse life situations, lead to pathological behavior. Triggers can be various life situations, which are mostly multifactorial. That is, in pathological behavior there are several triggers that could have arisen from the accumulation of several unmanaged adverse life situations.⁴⁰ In the case

37 LIBA, J., TAJŠOVÁ, L. Modernizačné kontexty výchovy k zdraviu rómskych žiakov. [online]. p. 19. [cit. 13.12.2022]. <https://www.unipo.sk/public/media/20082/LIBA-TAISOVAmonografia.pdf>

38 SCHAVEL, M. et al. Sociálna prevencia. Bratislava: VŠZaSP sv. Alžbety, 2010, p. 116.

39 MÁTEL, SCHAVEL, Aplikovaná sociálna patológia v sociálnej práci, p. 77.

40 LUDVIGH CINTULOVÁ, L., BUDAYOVÁ, Z. Sociálna prevencia a príprava sociálnych pracovníkov v oblasti prevencie. Bratislava: VŠZaSP sv. Alžbety, 2022, p. 15.

of individual prevention, the basis is the provision of appropriate information tailored to the person and their current situation. This form is used mainly by prevention workers who, as part of their work, come into contact with one of the at-risk population groups in the form of individual consultation. These may include workers from pedagogical-psychological counseling and prevention centers, labor offices, educational counselors, field social workers, workers from low-threshold facilities, and the like. In this type of prevention, it is appropriate to select preventive information so that it is as practical, understandable, and memorable as possible for the individual.⁴¹

In group prevention, activities bring the possibility of free expression, a feeling of freedom, non-binding, the right to an individual perspective and also fun, well-being, despite the difficulty of the topic. In addition to the advantages, there are also demands related to the preparation of the trainer and the necessity of working with group dynamics. With such a serious topic, sensitivity in interpretation is essential and also that no one in the group is exposed to ridicule or intolerance. It is also necessary to take into account the environment, the time allowance for implementing the preventive activity, the number of participants, their age, experience or educational level of the participants in the preventive activity. In connection with the deinstitutionalization of social services and social assistance, interventions directly in the field are increasingly supported and developed. The essence of implementing field social work is to help individuals, groups, families and various communities in non-standard conditions, and it can be implemented in several environments.⁴² „Field social work has its irreplaceable place in terms of the effectiveness of helping people. It is irreplaceable because it tries to capture and eliminate the client's problems where they arise, that is, in the natural environment and often - sometimes social workers try to catch the problem right in its infancy, in order to prevent further negative consequences and problems. Despite this, the implementation of field social work is not limited to office spaces, on the contrary, the name itself implies that it involves the implementation of social work directly among people - (streets, parks, stations, discos, the client's own family).“⁴³

41 HRIVNÁKOVÁ, J. a kol. Prevencia obchodovania s ľuďmi. Tréningový manuál. Bratislava: Medzinárodná organizácia pre migráciu, 2021, p. 30

42 KUCHAROVÁ, B. Aktuálne trendy v sociálnej prevencii. [online]. [cit. 12. 03. 2023]. <https://www.nocka.sk/aktualne-trendy-v-socialnej-prevencii/>

43 TÓTH, R, MAČKINOVÁ, M, KELLOVÁ ŠTIAVNICKÁ, I. Etika v profesii sociálneho pracovníka pri výkone terénnej sociálnej práce s akcentom na rodinu. In MÁTEL, A., GREY, E., JANECHOVÁ, L. (eds.) Aplikovaná etika v sociálnej práci 2. Zborník z medzinárodnej vedeckej konferencie. Bratislava: VŠZaSP sv. Alžbety, 2013, pp. 232-233.

Conclusion

Human trafficking is one of the most serious forms of human rights violations. It is a complex phenomenon with roots in the social, economic and moral spheres of society. In the process of human trafficking, individuals are systematically abused and exploited, while victims are often deprived of dignity, freedom and fundamental rights. Prevention, awareness and education of the public, as well as effective cooperation between state institutions, non-profit organisations and international bodies, play a key role in the fight against this phenomenon.

Social work has an irreplaceable place in this process. Through professional interventions, psychosocial assistance and reintegration programmes, it helps victims to reintegrate into society and restore their confidence in life. Prevention, early identification of victims and raising awareness of the risks of human trafficking are the basis for a successful fight against this societal problem.

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