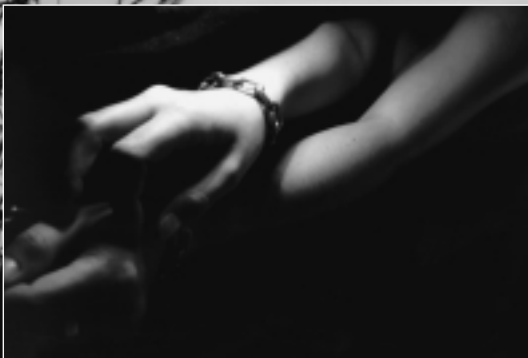


MARIA:

I'm young. I finished secondary school two years ago. I can't find a job since there is a terrible economic crisis in the country. I would like to financially support my parents, with whom I'm living together with my daughter. The daughter doesn't know her father and I would like to forget him. I've been hanging around recently with people that offer me well-paid jobs as a dancer or a waitress in a nightclub in Slovenia. I can't make up my mind. I've never left home. I like my country in spite of the misery that is killing me. The people I talk to seem to be honest. They say I would work there legally with a work permit. I would earn DEM 1000 per month. I've never seen such an amount of money, let alone owned it.

I made up my mind after discussing it with a well-bred gentleman. He said that we girls would live in Slovenia legally, and work in the nightclub of a friend, who is a very cultured person. We're expected to dance and drink with guests. We would be paid DEM 500 for dancing, and we also get a percentage from drinks sold. Saša asked him if there was prostitution in question, and the gentleman categorically denied it. He said that it was a respectable nightclub. Ana and I were silent. We travel next month.



We've arrived in Slovenia. The nightclub isn't as attractive as I expected. We had an immediate meeting with the boss. He asked for our passports in order to acquire temporary residence permits. The next thing he said was that we owed him 3000 DM each, and that we had to pay the amount back as soon as possible. I asked where the debt had come from and he answered that he had not got us for nothing. We would pay him the amount back out of the money we earned from dancing and selling drinks. He accommodated us in rooms that were nothing special. We work from 10 p.m. till 4 a.m. The first night I was sitting in the restaurant and watching my fellow girls dancing in front of the guests. They were very sexy. I could not imagine myself in the role. The boss approached me and asked to dance a striptease. I refused, and he coldly replied that I owed him DEM 100 more for not being obedient.

I've already been in Slovenia for three months and I've not received my salary yet. My boss won't give it to me as long as I don't repay my debt. I've discovered recently that my girl colleagues are prostituting themselves. Since I didn't want to sell myself, the boss told me that his men would kidnap my child. The threat was serious. I believed and cried for a few days. Then they beat me up. Now I sell myself. No matter to whom. A customer that likes me calls me up to his table and buys me a drink. The bartender knows that he has to slip a little more alcohol into my glass so that I can do it with a man without visible disgust. After a few drinks the customer pays the boss DEM 300. I haven't received a dime of this money so far. I suffer for half an hour to please the customer. I've had over fifty men so far.



I don't have anybody anymore. Saša isn't in the restaurant any more. The boss sold her to someone for DEM 5000. He sold her for permanent use. Ana tried to commit suicide by cutting her veins. They drove her away all bloody, none of us knows where. I would run away but I don't have my passport. I don't see any solution.

My body isn't mine any more. My freedom isn't mine any more.

This story is true and told because it could easily happen to you. Since 1996, the Slovenian police have been dealing thoroughly with crimes connected with prostitution. There are dozens of premises where, besides normal service, you can obtain sexual services for money, too. Maybe the club at which you are offered work as waitresses, dancers, and help workers is one of them.

IF YOU ARE BEING FORCED INTO PROSTITUTION IN SLOVENIA, AND YOUR PERSONAL FREEDOM HAS BEEN RESTRICTED FOR THAT PURPOSE, YOUR PASSPORT TAKEN AWAY, OR YOU ARE BEING THREATENED, PHYSICALLY OR PSYCHOLOGICALLY MOLESTED, SEXUALLY ABUSED, AND PLACED IN A SITUATION WHICH YOU CANNOT CHANGE WITHOUT YOUR PIMP'S APPROVAL, HAVE THE COURAGE TO CALL ONE OF NUMBERS LISTED BELOW, WHERE AN EXPERIENCED ADVISER IS WAITING AND WILL HELP YOU IMMEDIATELY.

POLICIJA (POLICE)
113

Anonimna številka SKUPAJ PROTI KRIMINALU
(Anonymous number TOGETHER AGAINST CRIME)
080-1200

Ženska svetovalnica
(Women's Advisory Office) 01/434-72-61
Miklošičeva 14, Ljubljana
Mon, Tue, Wed 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Thu, Fri 10 a.m. to 12 a.m.

Krizni center ženske svetovalnice
(Women's Advisory Crisis Centre) 040/260-656
Ljubljana (possibility of spending the night)
031/233-211
Friday to Saturday and Sunday to Monday nights
from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m.

Združenje proti spolnemu zlorabljanju
(Association Against Sexual Abuse) 080-2880
Masarykova 23, Ljubljana 01/431-34-41
Every day 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Wednesdays 9 a.m. to 12 a.m. and 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Prostitution is not legalised in Slovenia. The offences connected with prostitution are:

PROCUREMENT (Article 185 of the Penal Code)

- (1) Whoever engages in pimping or procures the opportunity for sexual intercourse or other lewd acts for money shall be sentenced to imprisonment for not less than three months and not more than five years.
- (2) Whoever acts as a pimp for a minor shall be sentenced to imprisonment for not less than one year and not more than ten years.

PRESENTING PERSONS FOR PROSTITUTION (Article 186 of the Penal Code)

- (1) Whoever incites, solicits, lures or entices other persons to prostitution to a third person, or participates in the organisation and direction of prostitution in any other manner, shall be sentenced to imprisonment for not less than three months and not less than five years.
- (2) If the offence under the preceding paragraph has been committed by force, threat or deception; the perpetrator shall be sentenced to imprisonment for not less than one and not more than ten years.

ENSLAVEMENT (Article 387 of the Penal Law)

- (1) Whoever, in violation of international law, brings another person into slavery or a similar condition, or keeps another person in such a condition, or buys, sells or delivers another person to a third party, or brokers the buying, selling or delivery of another person, or urges another person to sell his freedom or the freedom of the person he supports or looks after, shall be sentenced to imprisonment for not less than one and not more than ten years.
- (2) Whoever transports persons held in the condition of slavery or in-similar condition from one country to another, shall be sentenced to imprisonment for not less than six months and not more than five years.
- (3) Whoever commits the offence under in the first and the second paragraph of the present article against a minor shall be sentenced to imprisonment for not more than three years.

Varna hiša, Društvo
Življenje brez nasilja,
Safe House, society
Life Without Violence
Novo mesto P.P. 345
07/33-26-895

Zavetišče Krško,
Center za socialno delo
Safe House,
Social Work Centre
Krško
07/492-23-25

Zavod PAPILOT
Center za pomoč žrtvam kaznivih dejanj
PAPILOT Institution
Assistance to Victims of Crime Centre
01/534-07-44
Vojkova 71, Ljubljana

Zatočišče, društvo SOS telefon
Asylum, SOS Society
01/524-19-93

AIDS Fundacija ROBERT
AIDS Foundation ROBERT
Volfova ulica 8
01/241-99-99

(anonimno svetovanje od pon. do pet.
od 09.00 do 20.00 ure)
(anonymous advising Mon to Fri -
9 a.m. to 8 p.m.)
Ljubljana



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What can happen to me?

And how can I help myself?

GB