



British Embassy
Warsaw

Public awareness of risks involved in human trafficking and taking up work abroad



„ Trafficking in human beings is an abhorrent crime, where victims are coerced, deceived or forced into the control of others who crudely and inhumanely seek to profit from their suffering ”

John Reed, UK Home Secretary, 2007



British Embassy
Warsaw

From the Ambassador
D. R. Todd

ul. Kawalerii 12
00-468 Warsaw

Tel: (00 48) 22 311 0111
Fax: (00 48) 22 311 0311

www.ukinpoland.fco.gov.uk

Dear Readers,

I am very pleased that our Embassy could co-operate with the Polish Interior Ministry, International Organisation for Migration, Nobody's Children Foundation and La Strada on a joint project to examine and increase public awareness of human trafficking in Poland.

As a former UK Home Minister said, human trafficking is 'one of the vilest crimes that threaten our societies'.

In order to deal with this serious problem we need wider and deeper public awareness. Therefore it is important to assess public knowledge in order to shape further initiatives. We must not forget that this particular crime deeply affects ordinary people – victims in a criminal business made from human misery. It is the responsibility of every country to take on an action against human trafficking.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DR Todd'.

D. R. Todd

UK fights human trafficking

“Trafficking in human beings is an abhorrent crime, where victims are coerced, deceived or forced into the control of others who crudely and inhumanely seek to profit from their suffering”

John Reed, UK Home Secretary, 2007

The United Kingdom has consistently expressed its determination to work with international partners to combat this terrible crime and made it a priority during our presidencies of the G8 and EU. We recognise that, at present, human trafficking may be considered to be a low risk, lucrative business often controlled by organised crime groups. This is not acceptable. Our message is clear. The criminal trading of people, including children, as commodities, whether for sexual exploitation, forced labour or any other form of exploitation, has no place in a modern world.

Trafficking is a complex and often international crime. Often linked into other serious crimes and funds other criminal activity such as drug trafficking and fraudulent activities. It is clear criminals involved in these illegal practices commit millions of pounds worth of fraud regarding state benefits claims. Therefore the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Home Office, HM Revenue and Customs, UK Borders Agency, Serious Organised Crime Agency and the UK Human Trafficking Centre are fully engaged in providing a response to human trafficking domestically and internationally.

The Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) was established in April 2006. It has 4,200 skilled people who operate across the UK. It has significant international networks supported by 135 Overseas SOCA officers based in 40 countries. SOCA’s mission is to reduce the harm caused by serious organised crime.

In April 2010, the UK Human Trafficking Centre will join SOCA. This merger together with further international collaboration will provide a number of additional opportunities to enhance intelligence sharing. It makes sense for the agencies to work together to reduce the harm human trafficking causes. The UK aims to extend its reach by addressing an international problem with an integrated international approach.

The British Embassy in Warsaw has been involved in a number of bilateral and international initiatives supporting the fight against trafficking over past 10 years in Poland, i.e.

- Training for law enforcement officers in Poland, Ukraine, Belarus and Kaliningrad, 2002-2004,
- Children are not for sale - training and public campaign targeted at unaccompanied children travelling to and through Poland, 2005 – 2006,

- British-Polish Human Trafficking Initiative in the G6, 2007-2009
- Training for the Polish judiciary on handling human trafficking cases, 2007-2009

We fully recognise that co-operation between governments and non-governmental institutions is a key to success, hence the implementation of this project.

<http://ukinpoland.fco.gov.uk/en/about-us/working-with-poland/justiceandhomeaffairs/>

Nobody's Children Foundation



The Nobody's Children Foundation (Fundacja Dzieci Niczyje) is a Polish non-profit non-governmental organisation working since 1991 to protect children from abuse and to help abused children, their families and caregivers. The Foundation offers psychological, medical and legal assistance to children who are victims of abuse and to their caregivers. The Foundation works to improve the situation of children participating in legal proceedings in the capacity of witnesses and it runs programmes to prevent child abuse by adults and peers.

Under its efforts to address child trafficking, the Foundation runs a programme for child-victims of trafficking and for foreign children left without care. The goal of the programme is to prevent child trafficking by raising awareness and disseminating knowledge among professionals who come into contact with potential victims and to develop effective assistance systems and identification procedures for young victims. The programme involves publications, training events, research work and lobbying.

www.fdn.pl

www.dzieciofiaryhandlu.pl

IOM (International Organization for Migration)



IOM • OIM

IOM is an intergovernmental organisation founded in 1951. It has 127 member states, Poland being its member since 1992. IOM manages migration for the benefit of migrants and societies. IOM has worked in Poland since 2002, running projects to help migrants in voluntary return and reintegration, integration of migrants incl. migration-oriented health care and public health programmes, research programmes and many others. IOM works to combat and prevent human trafficking by offering direct help to victims, engaging into technical cooperation with governments, collecting data and through many other efforts. A large proportion of IOM's efforts are targeted at people who support victims of human trafficking, the police, judges (conferences, training events, seminars) and societies at large (through social campaigns).

www.iom.int

La Strada

Foundation against Human Trafficking and Slavery



The international network of non-governmental organisations La Strada has operated since September 1995, starting from a joint project of the Dutch foundation against trafficking in women (Stichting tegen Vrouwenhandel, STV) and women's rights NGOs in Poland and the Czech Republic. The Polish foundation against trafficking in women, La Strada, was established in February 1996. In 1998 the network was joined by partner organisations from Ukraine and Bulgaria. In 2001 the La Strada network expanded by incorporating four new partner organisations from Belarus, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Moldova and Macedonia. In 2004 The International La Strada Association with a seat in Amsterdam was founded. The goals of the La Strada Foundation are to prevent human trafficking, slavery and forced labour, and to prevent exploitation of prostitution.

The Foundation pursues its goals by running active prevention activities against human trafficking, running a helpline, supporting social and occupational reintegration of human trafficking victims, supporting victims of human trafficking in their encounters with law enforcement bodies and the judiciary. The Foundation offers access to legal aid provided by authorised individuals and institutions as well as free-of-charge contacts to such individuals and institutions. It runs training sessions and prepares free-of-charge materials for specialists and organisations/bodies which combat human trafficking.

www.strada.org.pl

The Polish Ministry of Interior and Administration



www.mswia.gov.pl

The Polish Ministry of Interior and Administration plays a crucial role in developing a system for prevention and combating human trafficking in Poland. Upon the Ministry's initiatives documents are prepared specifying the timelines of actions to be taken by various central administration units (incl. the Ministry of Interior and Administration, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, the National Labour Inspectorate, the Central Police Headquarters, the Central Border Guard Headquarters), also in collaboration with non-governmental organisations.

The first document of this type, entitled The National Human Trafficking Prevention and Combating Programme (Krajowy Program Zwalczenia i Zapobiegania Handlowi Ludźmi), was adopted by the Council of Ministers on 16 September 2003. At present, The National Human Trafficking Action Plan for 2009-2010 (Krajowy Plan Działań przeciwko Handlowi Ludźmi na lata 2009-2010) is being implemented. As in previous years, the tasks undertaken within the current Plan are aimed at disseminating knowledge about human trafficking among potential victims, representatives of institutions providing assistance and bodies in charge of prosecuting human trafficking, improving the effectiveness of measures adopted by bodies in charge of prosecuting human trafficking, as well as improving the standard of work to support victims of human trafficking.

www.mswia.gov.pl/thb

Zespół ds. Handlu Ludźmi w MSWiA: zespol.handel@mswia.gov.pl





About the study

This study, exploring public awareness of risks associated with human trafficking and working abroad, was performed by TNS OBOP on 18-21 February 2010 under a project conducted by The British Embassy in Warsaw. Partners to the project are: the Polish Ministry of the Interior and Administration, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), the Nobody's Children Foundation and the La Strada Foundation.

The guidelines regarding the content of the project were subject to extensive consultation, among others with the Task Force of the Interministerial Committee for Combating and Preventing Trafficking in Human Beings, and the UK Human Trafficking Centre.

The project was conducted on a representative random sample of 1,005 Polish citizens aged 15+, and was based on face to face in home interviews.

We were interested to know how Poles perceive the phenomenon of human trafficking and what they know about the problem. Another important issue covered in the survey was Poles' propensity to undertake risky behaviour involving travel to other countries to take up work as well as awareness of existing risks and safety precautions that need to be taken. Furthermore, we asked the respondents about matters related to prevention and responding to human trafficking, and experience related to this phenomenon.

Key findings

- Most Poles are familiar with the phenomenon of human trafficking and know how to describe it. Most opinions focus on contemporary issues such as prostitution and crime, yet some respondents associate human trafficking with historical times and slavery, for instance.
- The knowledge of what human trafficking involves is common but quite shallow. Poles strongly link human trafficking with prostitution, slavery or organ trade, whereas forced begging or forced crime are mentioned far less frequently.
- Presumably, the social awareness of this phenomenon is based on the most sensational cases covered by the media. There is no broadly available information on various aspects of human trafficking.
- Most Poles do see that human trafficking also takes place in their country and that not only Poles but also foreign citizens in Poland fall victim to it.
- Poles believe that the scale of human trafficking has increased during the last 10 years. This may be related to greater openness of borders and stronger presence of this topic in the media.
- A relatively high percentage of Poles (from 3% in the case of prostitution to 9% in the case of unpaid work) personally know cases of human trafficking victims.
- Poles presume that Poland has organisations which help victims of human trafficking. However, the respondents usually cannot name even a single name and are not sure how to help a human trafficking victim except for going to the police.
- The prevention of human trafficking and reactions to such cases should be handled by the police and other public institutions. Non-governmental or religious organisations are mentioned more often in the context of providing help to victims, but it is mostly people with university degrees, living in big cities who would directly approach such organisations for help (i.e. respondents who are most aware of the operations of such organisations).
- Awareness-raising campaigns related to human trafficking have not been noticed by over a third of Poles yet, which means that further efforts in this direction would be necessary.
- The subject of human trafficking is most frequently encountered through television. Younger groups can be effectively reached also via the Internet.
- One in five Poles claims he/she worked abroad and further 12% are contemplating this possibility. Not all Poles who plan to work abroad are prepared for it. For instance, one fifth of those people do not speak any foreign language.
- A large proportion of the respondents, in particular those who plan to go abroad to work or those who already have such experience, would be willing to work without a permit, without knowing the language or in a job unrelated to their qualifications. Those people represent the highest risk group from the perspective of human trafficking.
- Approximately one in three Poles does not know what to do to ensure a safe trip to another country in order to take up a job. Other respondents have fairly shallow, and probably insufficient, knowledge on the subject. Such awareness is higher among those who already have had such experience.

What do Poles know about human trafficking?

93% of Poles report some understanding about the notion of 'human trafficking.' In most cases, those are: broadly understood prostitution (26%), incl. abduction of women to brothels and forcing them to provide sexual services, as well as slavery (24%).

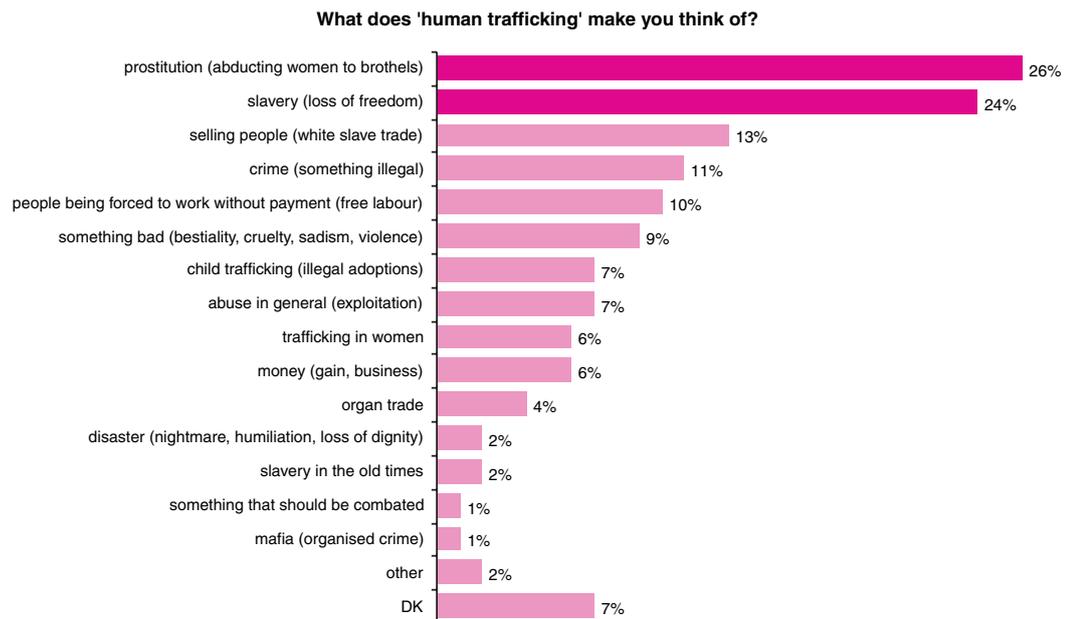
Poles associate human trafficking mostly with prostitution and slavery.

Poles are relatively unanimous when it comes to the definition of human trafficking. 94% think this practice includes slavery. Nine out of ten respondents (90%) think that human trafficking includes organ trade and forced sexual services. Only slightly fewer respondents (87%) mention the practice of forcing people to take part in porn films and photos.

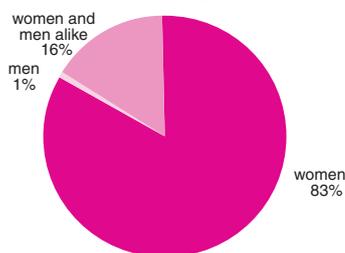
A relatively lower proportion of Poles, yet still a strong majority, think that human trafficking involves forced labour (79%), forced begging (72%) and forced crime (66%).

According to Poles, women, young children and teenagers are most vulnerable to falling victim to human trafficking.

According to 83% of the respondents, women are at the highest risk of falling victim to human trafficking.

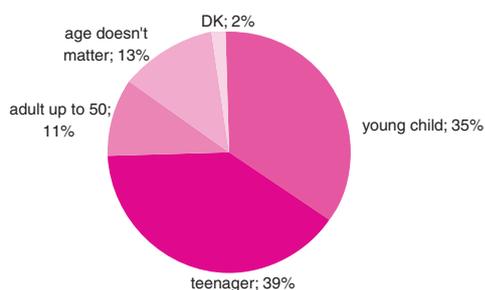


In your opinion, who is more at risk of falling victim to human trafficking: women or men?



As regards age, Poles think that teenagers are most at risk (39%). Young children are mentioned only slightly less frequently (35%).

In your opinion, who is more at risk of falling victim to human trafficking...?



In the respondents' opinion, children and teenagers aged up to 18 who have fallen victim to human trafficking are most exposed to the risk of forced sexual services (49%), of taking part in porn films and photos (34%), of working without pay (23%) and of being illegally adopted (21%).

One in eleven Poles (9%) personally knows a case of a person who was lured by the prospect of an attractive job abroad and then forced to work without pay or for a low pay.

28% of the respondents personally know cases of people who responded to an attractive overseas job ad. In turn, 18% of the respondents know a person who took advantage of such an offer and found that the actual terms and conditions were much worse than promised.

In total, 65% of Polish citizens either personally know or have heard about cases when someone responded to an attractive overseas job ad and over three quarters (76%) have heard about situations where actual working conditions turned out to be much worse than promised.

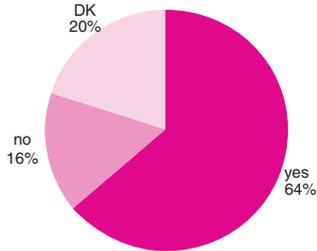
Three out of four respondents (75%) have encountered information about people being forced to work for free or for a low pay in another country. The same percentage of the respondents have heard about cases of people being lured to another country by attractive job prospects and then forced to engage in prostitution (3% personally know such cases).

The vast majority of Poles (84%) think that people who have left for another country to work, were misinformed about the nature and conditions of work and who are prevented from coming back to their home country should be viewed as victims who need help. Only 11% of the respondents think that such persons should manage on their own because they took up a job in another country out of their free will.

Does human trafficking affect Poland?

The majority of Poles (65%) believe that cases of human trafficking do happen in their country.

Do you think there are cases of human trafficking in Poland?



44% of those polled are of the opinion that citizens of other countries in Poland as well as Polish citizens (whether in Poland or elsewhere) fall victim to human trafficking equally frequently.

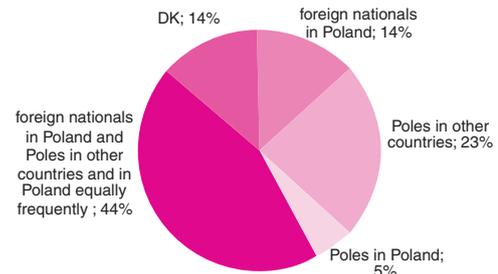
According to a quarter of the respondents (24%), Poles in other countries fall victim to human trafficking more often. Fewer respondents (14%) think that this practice more often affects citizens of other countries in Poland rather than Poles.

In turn, 5% of those surveyed say that Poles in Poland are the most likely to fall victim to human trafficking.

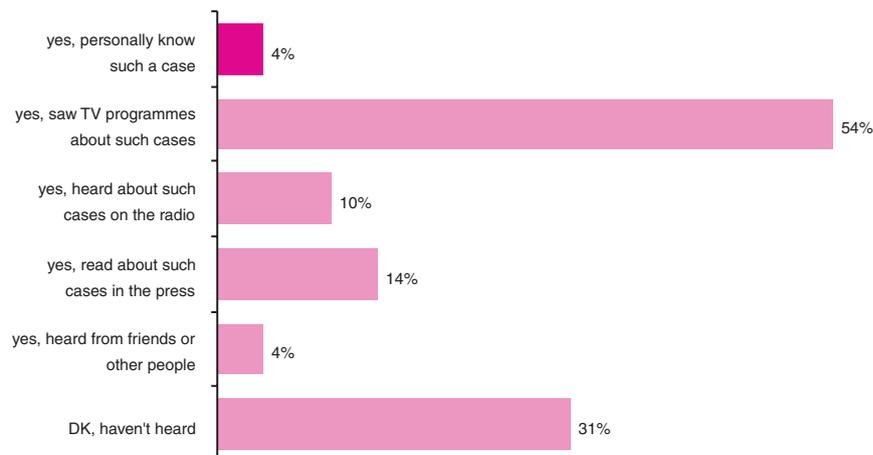
Most respondents believe that foreigners in Poland fall victim to human trafficking as frequently as Poles in and outside Poland.

4% of Poles personally know a case of a foreign citizen who was forced to work without compensation or was underpaid for work in Poland.

Who is more likely to be a victim of human trafficking?



Have you encountered situations where foreign nationals in Poland were forced to work without pay or for very low pay?

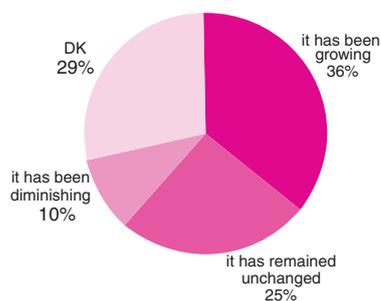


6% know a case of a foreigner forced to beg in Poland and 2% know someone forced to engage in prostitution.

69% of the respondents had been exposed to information (in person, via the media etc.) on foreign nationals forced to work in Poland without pay or for a low pay. On the other hand, 58% have heard about foreign nationals being forced to beg, and 60% have heard about forced prostitution.

Marriages with foreign citizens to allow them to obtain a residence permit in Poland is a form of human trafficking. 4% of Poles personally know a case of someone who contracted such marriage and 54% have heard or read about such situations.

How would you assess the scale of human trafficking over the last 10 years?



According to 36% of Poles, the scale of human trafficking is growing in Poland. A quarter of Poles (25%) think that the scale of this phenomenon has remained unchanged.

36% of the respondents think that the scale of human trafficking in Poland has increased over the last 10 years whereas 25% think it has remained unchanged. Only 10% of Poles believe the scale of the problem has diminished.

Where do Poles learn about human trafficking?

Poles source information on human trafficking chiefly from television (83%). Further sources include newspapers and magazines (30%), radio (24%), Internet (20%) and conversations with other people (14%). A tenth of Poles (10%) say they are not interested in human trafficking at all.

Television is the main source of information on human trafficking for Polish citizens.

All respondents, regardless of sex, age or education, mention television as their main source of information on human trafficking. The radio is most commonly mentioned a source by respondents with university degrees (40%) and teenagers (32%). Those with university degrees (48%), fortysomethings (40%) and those living in towns with populations from 100,000 to 500,000 (36%)

usually get information on human trafficking from the press. The Internet is a very important source of information on the problem for 15-19-year-olds (51%), for 20–29 year olds (38%), students (47%) and for people with university degrees (30%).

The highest proportion of respondents completely uninterested in the problem of human trafficking can be found among students (15%), respondents with primary education (20%) and those living in rural areas (14%).

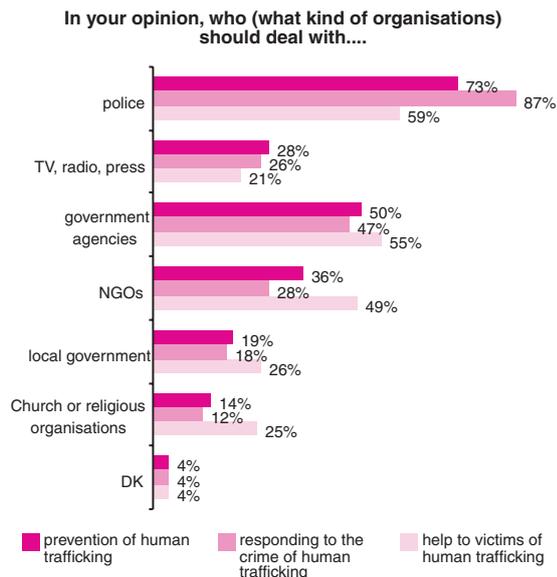


How should human trafficking be prevented and handled?

Poles believe that prevention of human trafficking lies primarily a responsibility of the police (73%). A half of those polled (50%) think that this problem should be handled by governmental agencies. 36% of the respondents mention NGOs, 28% point to the media, 19% to local governments and 14% think it should be handled by the (Roman Catholic) church or other religious organisations.

Response to the crime of human trafficking is even more likely to be considered a responsibility of the police (87%) than prevention of this crime.

Poles believe that the police bear primary responsibility for responding to and preventing human trafficking.



The respondents express somewhat different opinions about who should help victims of human trafficking. The police are mentioned clearly less frequently (59%), whereas more Poles think help should be provided by NGOs (49%), local government (26%) and the Church (25%).

68% of Poles claim that if they found out that someone in their neighbourhood was being forced to work, beg or engage in prostitution, they would notify the police. 11% of those interviewed would contact an NGO which helps victims of human trafficking. On the other hand, 13% of the respondents would rather not meddle in someone else's affairs.

After learning about cases of forced work, begging or prostitution, Poles would most likely contact the police about it.

Those who would rather not do anything are more likely to be aged 60+ (19%), have primary education (22%) and live in rural areas (16%). All groups of respondents prefer to contact the police. Those who would prefer to contact NGOs are more likely to have a university degree (19%) or to be students (17%), and to live in cities with over 500,000 inhabitants (18%).

Where can victims of human trafficking seek help?

Poles believe that victims of human trafficking may seek help primarily from the police, border guards or public prosecution (51%) and from the consulate(s) of the Republic of Poland (42%). Non-governmental organisations are mentioned by 22% of the respondents, 12% mention social workers, and 8% point to the Church or other religious organisations.

More than two thirds of Poles (69%) believe that Poland has specialised NGOs helping victims of human trafficking. Meanwhile, as many as 68% are unable to provide names of any Polish or international organisations which help victims of human trafficking.

More than two thirds of Poles presume that their country has specialised non-governmental organisations which help victims of human trafficking. However, hardly any names of such NGOs are known.

ITAKA is the best-known NGO helping victims of human trafficking: it is mentioned by 20% of the respondents. 16% of Poles know the La Strada Foundation.

Other organisations are mentioned far less frequently: Nobody's Children Foundation (Fundacja Dzieci Niczyje) (7%), International Organization for Migration (2%), Mary Immaculate Association for Assistance to Girls and Women (Stowarzyszenie im. Marii Niepokalanej na Rzecz Pomocy Dziewczętom i Kobietom) (1%) and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) (1%).

Only 8% of Poles have heard about the National Consulting and Intervention Center for Victims of Trafficking (Krajowe Centrum Interwencyjno-Konsultacyjnym dla Ofiar Handlu Ludźmi).

4% of the respondents personally took part in a meeting or a conference concerning human trafficking. Women were three times more likely than men to have taken part in such events.

37% of Poles had not encountered any materials or information with warnings against human trafficking.

As a rule, the respondents had seen information programmes on television (43%), and 18% of Poles had seen a TV advert. Further on, the following were mentioned: information in newspapers (16%), information on the Internet (11%), information on the radio (11%), a leaflet (5%), an exhibition (3%), information disseminated during mass events (2%), information disseminated at school (2%), specialised publications on human trafficking (2%).



How many Poles take up work abroad and how do they look for it?

One fifth of Poles claim (20%) that they had previously worked abroad. On the other hand, 12% contemplate the possibility of taking up a job abroad in future. Those are mostly teenagers (33%) and people in their twenties (25%).

A quarter of Poles (25%) admit that they could decide to work abroad illegally.

The greatest interest in working abroad without a permit is expressed by people who have already worked abroad (42%) or who are contemplating this possibility (45%), as well as the unemployed (42%), Poles in poor economic situation (35%) and students (34%).

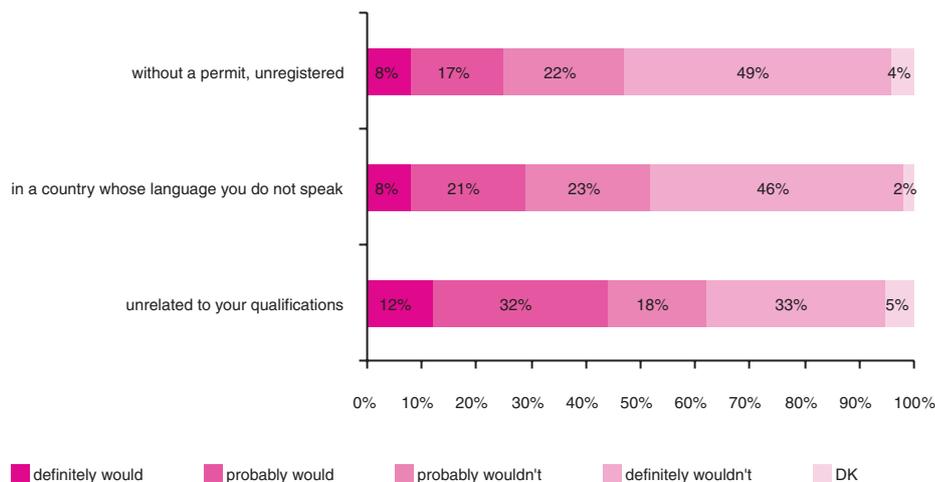
Nearly a half of those who either have worked abroad or who contemplate such a possibility would be willing to work illegally.

29% of Poles would take up a job in a country whose language they do not speak.

Also in this case people who are most interested in such jobs are those who have already worked abroad (51%) or who are contemplating this possibility (45%), as well as unemployed respondents (51%), students (35%) and those in a poor economic situation (38%).

Work in a country without speaking its language is somewhat less likely to be considered by people who speak no foreign languages (26%) than by those who speak at least one language fluently (31%) or have some command of a language (30%).

Would you decide to take up a job abroad...?



Most Poles who contemplate working abroad would agree to work in a job unrelated to their qualifications.

44% of Poles would be willing to work abroad in a job unrelated to their qualifications.

Among those who have already worked abroad, this percentage leaps to 67%. A job unrelated to their qualifications would be a likely option for 61% of those contemplating work abroad, for 64% of unemployed respondents and for 54% of blue collar workers.

A job ad reading: *'Waitress (waiter) in England, £1,200/ month, no language skills needed, also with no qualifications. Call 952 147 449!'* does not arouse any major suspicions in 6% of the respondents, who would certainly decide to reply to it. Further 15% claim they would probably do it.

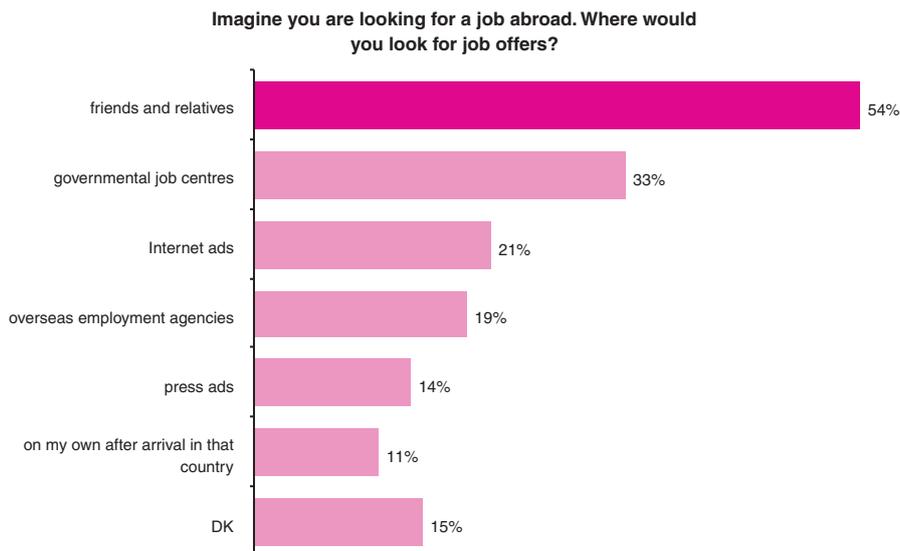
27% of those who have already worked abroad or who are contemplating this possibility would reply to the above job ad.

More than a quarter of people who are willing to take up a job abroad would reply to a job ad which offers attractive terms without any entry requirements.

Poles would seek overseas job ads primarily among friends and relatives (54%) or in governmental job centres (33%). They would be much less willing to seek employment on their own (11%).

Those who have already worked abroad are more likely to rely on personal connections (63%), online ads (30%) and own search (17%) rather than a job centre (26%).

Those who have not worked abroad but plan to do so would seek job offers among friends (63%), online (40%), in the press (24%), in a job centre (36%) or in an overseas employment agency (25%).



Do Poles know how to ensure safety when taking up jobs abroad?

Before leaving, those who contemplate working abroad would first make sure that the company which offers the job does exist (40%). 31% would ask relatives and friends for advice, 20% would check if the intermediary who offers the job operates legally, 18% would take enough money to buy a ticket to Poland, and 16% would indicate their exact place of residence to their loved ones.

Only one in a hundred (1%) Poles who intend to take up a job abroad would take telephone numbers of institutions which may provide help in case of problems.

Only 7% of the respondents who plan to take up a job abroad would not do anything, and further 15% do not know what they could do to ensure greater safety for themselves.

Knowledge of languages is among the factors which enhance safety of people taking up jobs in other countries. 35% of Poles do not speak any foreign language, 10% know only some phrases from a language, 26% know at least one language at a basic level, 23% know at least one at an intermediate level and 6% speak at least one language fluently.

Foreign language skills are higher among those who have a history of working abroad: 16% know at least one foreign language fluently and only 19% do not speak any.

9% of Poles who plan to work abroad in future know a language fluently and a fifth (20%) do not speak any foreign language.

35% of Poles claim they speak English, 27% say they speak Russian, 20% admit speaking German and 3% speak French. 2% of the respondents speak yet another foreign language.

Those who have already worked abroad would behave similarly as those who are just planning to find work in other countries: they would be somewhat more likely (16%) to look for desired information on Internet sites of NGOs and ministries and would gather all the required documents, for instance those confirming their qualifications (15%).

In the group of Poles who have previously worked abroad, only 8% have no idea how to get ready for taking up a job abroad and do it safely.

22% of Poles do not know what can be done to improve safety when going to work to another country.

The respondents were also asked if they knew the consequences faced by a person taking up a job illegally. Two thirds of Poles (66%) think such person will be deported, 24% think a high fine may be expected, and 10% believe that such people would face a court-imposed penalty or even prison.

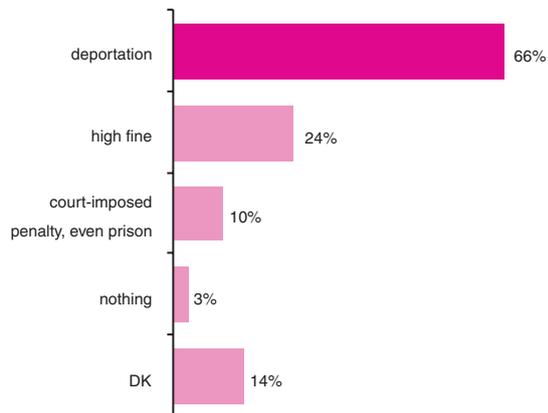
3% of Poles think that foreigners working without a permit are not under any threat and 14% do not know how to answer this question.

Those who have already worked in other countries are somewhat more likely to mention high fines (31%) and more likely to think (8%) that a person working illegally does not risk any consequences.

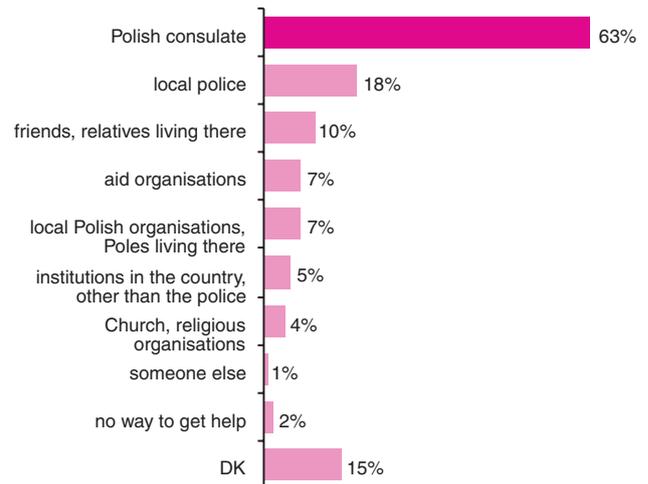
According to Poles, a person working abroad illegally may, above all, turn to the Polish consulate for help (63%). Far less common options include contacting the local police (18%), friends, acquaintances and relatives living in the country concerned (10%).

The respondents are far less likely to claim that they can seek help by approaching the local Polish organisations (8%), assistance organisations (7%), local institutions other than the police (5%) or religious organisations (4%). Only 2% of the respondents think that someone who has worked illegally in another country cannot turn to anyone for help.

If the police in a foreign country becomes interested in a person working illegally, what consequences does such a person face?



Thinking of someone working abroad illegally, who can such a person approach for help and protection?



„Trafficking in human beings
is prohibited”

Article 5 (3) of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union