



**Annual Report Anti-Trafficking Coordination Centre  
(CoMensha)**

**2010**

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## **CoMensha/La Strada Netherlands**

CoMensha, also known as La Strada Netherlands, is a non-governmental organization that facilitates other organizations with specialized information and knowledge on human trafficking. We invite professionals to act! Within the (inter)national field we work together with organizations that are responsible for combating human trafficking, and that deal with investigation and prosecution of perpetrators as well as with organizations that provide shelter and assistance to trafficked persons.

We consider human trafficking to be a violation of human rights and a gross violation of the integrity of the trafficked person. CoMensha always acts in the best interest of trafficked persons and defends their rights and interests.

CoMensha has extensive knowledge and experience in the areas of data collection, shelters, (social) assistance, referral mechanisms, legal assistance and information sharing. CoMensha coordinates finding a suitable shelter for all trafficked persons. We identify bottlenecks and propose solutions. We believe in cooperation and in connecting all relevant parties.

Our goal: to contribute to a world without human trafficking.

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## 1. Introduction

This English version of the CoMensha annual report is a summary of the Dutch version.

The scope of trafficking in human beings in the Netherland is becoming increasingly clear. This can be concluded after looking at the annual CoMensha facts and figures. Not only has the amount of reported trafficked persons increased again since last year, we're also getting a better insight in the different forms of human trafficking.

Females trafficked into prostitution are still dominant in the numbers. In addition, we notice an increase in male trafficked persons, larger groups and in trafficked persons outside the field of prostitution. Trafficking still is a mayor (inter)national problem that needs to be addressed.

CoMensha applauds the effort of the Dutch government and other organizations that combat trafficking and is willing to contribute to these efforts. The contacts with the Ministries of Security and Justice, Health, Welfare and Sport and Social Affairs and Employment are essential to combat trafficking and are needed to provide trafficked persons with shelter and care.

CoMensha was asked to become a full member of the special Task Force on human trafficking. We contribute by drawing attention to trafficked persons and their rights and interests

In 2010 the number of request to provide information on trafficking has risen enormously. Our hotline workers are spending more and more time to sort out complicated legal issues. In short, the focus on human trafficking has increased. Demand for expertise of CoMensha is also still increasing.

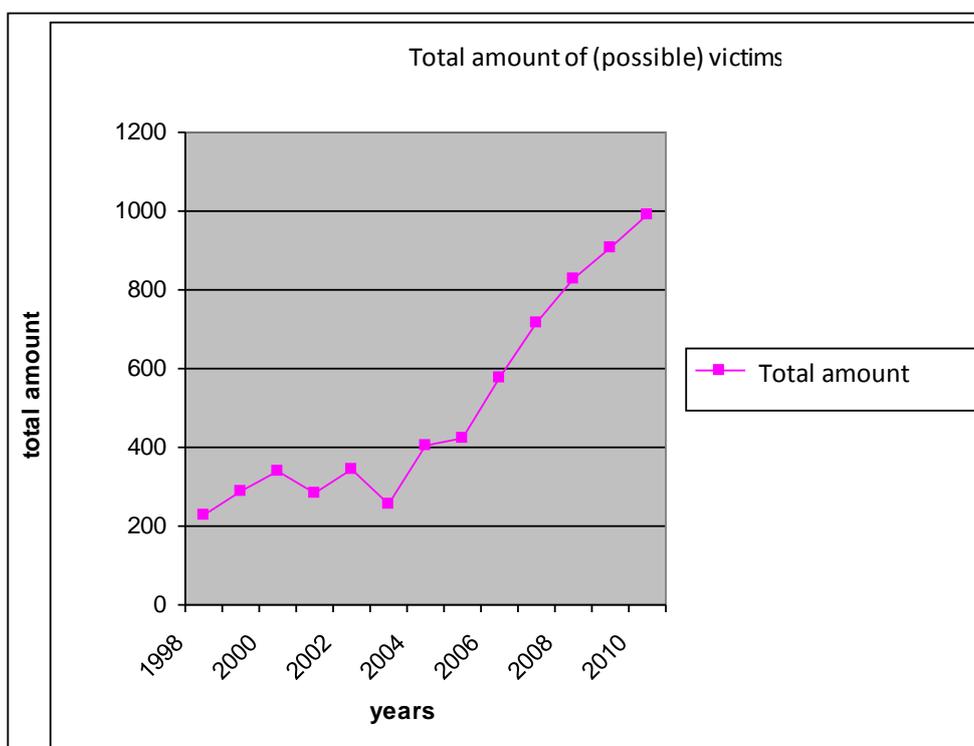
## 2. Victim Registration Data

### 2.1 Introduction

One of the main tasks of CoMensha is to register the total amount of identified trafficked persons in the Netherlands. CoMensha records facts about the nature and extent of the identified victim population in the Netherlands. We and others use these facts to identify bottlenecks, successes and trends in the execution of the national anti-trafficking strategy.

In the Netherlands the police, the Royal Military police and Social Information and Investigation Service are obligated to report to CoMensha. This obligation is defined in section B9 of the Alien Act 2000 and in the anti-trafficking Directive of the Public Prosecution Office.

### 2.2 Total amount of possible victims



The CoMensha data collection aims to be an overview of all known identified trafficked persons in the Netherlands. In reality it approaches the actual number of known victims in the Netherlands.

The number of reports of identified and probable trafficked persons has increased again this year compared to previous years. CoMensha knows that in reality not all probable trafficked persons are reported. This is partly due to the fact that the requirement to report trafficked persons does not apply to all organizations. The obligation to report to CoMensha only applies to the police, Royal military police and social intelligence and investigations services. Misunderstandings and differences of interpretation concerning the reporting requirement are also some of the reasons why not all probable trafficked persons are reported.

It is important to realize that CoMensha registers officially identified as well as probable trafficked persons. There is no official identifying organization that determines whether the reported trafficked persons are “real” victims of trafficking or not.

CoMensha distinguishes three categories of reported (probable) trafficked persons:

### **Registration**

Reports of (probable) trafficked persons that do not need help, advice nor shelter.

### **Registration and shelter**

Reports of (probable) trafficked persons that are in need of shelter. CoMensha mediates in finding a suitable shelter and coordinates the social, medical and legal assistance. This also includes the coordination of assistance to trafficked persons that were registered in earlier years.

### **Registration, information and advice**

Reports of (probable) trafficked persons who do not reside in shelters but live on their own. CoMensha often operates as case manager (=regional care coordination) to these victims.

<b>Category</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>
Registration	626	593	533
Registration and shelter	226	201	175
Registration, Information and Advise	141	115	118
<b>Total</b>	<b>993</b>	<b>909</b>	<b>826</b>

## **2.3 Requests for shelter**

In 2010 CoMensha received 226 requests for shelter for (probable) trafficked persons.

<b>Requests for shelter 2010</b>	
Placed in shelters (that also facilitates victims of other violence related crimes such as domestic violence)	106
Placed in trafficking-specialized shelter (pilot)	69
No shelter needed anymore, client has found accommodation	26
Client has left before shelter was found	4
No shelter found yet	-
Client has been placed in a temporary shelter/bed because no suitable shelter could be found. Client moved at a later date when suitable shelter was found.	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>226</b>

In 2010 a pilot shelter project was started: trafficking-specialized shelters for adult women and men and their children. 50 extra beds in trafficking-specialized shelters were provided to reduce the existing waiting list for shelter. (for more information 3.3)

CoMensha supports this initiative and has strongly advised the Dutch government these last years to start with this pilot. It is important however, that these trafficking-specialized shelters are integrated and cooperate with the already existing other shelters (that also facilitate victims of other violence related crimes). So that together they can provide the needed support, care and social assistance for victims of trafficking.

Not all (probable) trafficked persons meet the requirements to enter the trafficking-specialized shelters. These shelters are only suitable for a so called crisis situation. Moreover, the beds were occupied rather quickly. Therefore CoMensha still has to make use of the other (non-specialized) shelters.

Increasingly more and more large groups of (probable) trafficked persons are being reported and identified. These groups are not eligible for the trafficking-specialized shelters. They don't meet the requirements. Alternative solutions for sheltering large groups of trafficked persons have yet to be found. CoMensha believes that most of these groups need housing accommodation and not a shelter. This requires a different approach. During a conference in December 2010, CoMensha has drawn attention to this relatively new phenomena of larger groups. (more information 5.3)

## 2.4 Reporting Organizations

CoMensha records the organizations that report (probable) trafficked persons. In the Netherlands the police, the Royal Military police and Social Information and Investigation Service are obligated to report to CoMensha. This obligation is defined in section B9 of the Alien Act 2000 and in the anti-trafficking Directive of the Public Prosecution Office.

The CoMensha data collection depends completely on the information the reporter has about the trafficked person and his or her willingness to share it. In 2010 a minimum dataset was developed by CoMensha. This set provides clarity about the minimal needed facts. Much time was invested in approaching organizations that provide this information to complete the missing facts and figures. CoMensha visited various organizations to promote the obligation to report to CoMensha and uses every possible opportunity to address this issue.

To work more efficiently, it is important that the minimum data are linked to a national broader reporting requirement. Not only investigation services should report to CoMensha but all organizations that are or come into contact with (probable) trafficked persons. This should be part of national anti-trafficking legislation.

All data collected by CoMensha is treated confidentially and with care. CoMensha only provides statistics. Personal information is never shared, it is regulated by strict privacy legislation.

There are many questions about the reporting requirement. The law states that the slightest indication of human trafficking should lead to offering, the so called, reflection period. This should always be reported to CoMensha.

<b>Reporting organizations</b>			
	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>
Lawyers	9	12	42
Refugee organizations	6	4	9

Self-reporting client	8	2	2
Care organization	3	1	2
Immigration and naturalization service	-	-	4
Social Services	4	7	13
Shelters	27	7	22
Royal military police	42	32	15
Regional referral mechanism	108	160	136
Youth services	47	11	72
Other	25	58	22
Private person	8	18	10
Police	730	573	493
Social Information and Investigation Service	39	48	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1056</b>	<b>933</b>	<b>842</b>

Several organizations can register the same client. The total number of reports therefore exceeds the total number of clients. The number of reports by the police in 2010 is much higher than in 2009. CoMensha has made efforts to ensure that the various police corps report all required information.

## 2.5 Background information reported on (probable) trafficked persons

<b>Top 10 Countries of Origin</b>					
<b>2010</b>		<b>2009</b>		<b>2008</b>	
1. Netherlands	315	1. Netherlands	240	1. Netherlands	320
2. Nigeria	130	2. Nigeria	101	2. China	78
3. Hungary	56	3. Romania	89	3. Nigeria	64
4. Romania	49	4. Hungary	47	4. Hungary	45
5. Bulgaria	46	5. Bulgaria	39	5. Sierra Leone	44
6. Slovakia	39	6. China	37	6. Bulgaria	32
7. Sierra Leone	36	7. Guiney	35	7. Guiney	20
		7. Sierra Leone	35		
8. Guiney	26	8. Ghana	23	8. Romania	19
9. China	23	9. Poland	19	9. Brazil	13
				9. India	13
10. Ghana	21	10. Indonesia	17	10. Thailand	12

A total of 83 nationalities were registered by CoMensha. The total number of (probable) trafficked persons with a Dutch nationality is, more or less at the same level as before, after a slight decrease in 2009. As always the number of Dutch victims is numerically the highest.

The number of Nigerian (probable) trafficked persons has increased again. There are indications that they haven't entered the Netherlands through Schiphol (the main national airport). The national police is currently investigating this.

The number of Romanian trafficked persons has decreased. In contrast, the number of (probable) trafficked persons from Hungary and Bulgaria has increased. Slovakia was new in

the top 10 of main countries of origin. This is due to a large group of Slovaks that were being exploited, working in the strawberry fields in the province of Flevoland.

<b>Top 10 male countries of origin</b>					
<b>2010</b>		<b>2009</b>		<b>2008</b>	
Nigeria	19	Romania	44	China	12
Slovakia	16	China	11	India	8
India, Netherlands	7	Ghana, Indonesia	10	Nigeria	7
Ghana	6	Nigeria	6	Sierra Leone	6
Brazil, China	4	India	5	Netherlands	3

<b>Most common industries worked</b>			
<b>Industry</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>
Prostitution	797	427	480
Not worked yet	73	91	58
Agriculture	45	56	-
Unknown but outside prostitution	37	48	29
Massage	3	2	14
Catering	8	6	7
Domestic work	12	16	6
Construction	3	14	-
Food	2	13	-
Drug Trafficking	9	8	5
Cleaning	2	1	3
Au pair	6		
Incitement to crime	6		
Slaughterhouses	5		

<b>Worked industries men</b>		<b>Worked industries women</b>	
<b>Sexual exploitation</b>		<b>Sexual exploitation</b>	
Prostitution	23	Prostitution	495
Escort	12	Window prostitution	80
Private home*	11	Private home*	76
Brothel	1	Brothel	50
Private company*	1	Escort	26
Street prostitution	1	Street prostitution	15
<b>Labour exploitation outside prostitution</b>		Private company*	5
Agriculture	21	Massage parlor/nail studio/sauna *	3
		Internet	1

Unknown industry	13			
Catering	3		<b>Labour exploitation outside prostitution</b>	
Incitement to crime	2		Agriculture	24
Domestic work	2		Unknown industry	24
Construction	2		Domestic Work	10
Food	2		Drug Trafficking	8
Drug Trafficking	1		Au-pair	6
Cleaning	1		Catering	5
Slaughterhouses	1		Incitement to crime	4
			Slaughterhouses	4
			Construction	1
Not worked yet	13		Cleaning	1
Unknown	6		Textile industry	1
			Not worked yet	60
			Unknown	37

\* Private house: the victim must receive customers in a private house, usually the home of the trafficker.

\* In a private company, there is a business. A private house is not usually home.

\* Massage parlor / Nail / sauna: disguised prostitution.

### Age

CoMensha registers age and gender, to gain insight on the most vulnerable group. In 2010, this is again the group of women between 18 to 23 years.

<b>Age and Gender</b>						
<b>Age group</b>	<b>2010</b>		<b>2009</b>		<b>2008</b>	
	<b>M</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>F</b>
10 t/m 14	-	21	1	17	0	4
15 t/m 17	7	124	6	94	3	96
18 t/m 23	29	357	29	323	16	353
24 t/m 30	36	214	49	199	10	196
31 t/m 40	26	112	30	95	10	104
40 – and older	15	52	23	42	7	26
Unknown*	-	-		1	-	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>880</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>770</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>778</b>

\*Unknown is used when gender is not known

The number of reported (probable) trafficked persons in the age of 10 to 14 years has increased in the recent years. The reason for this increase can be found in the fact that the

local juvenile prostitution hotline in one specific region has started to report facts and figures to CoMensha.

### Report crime and B9

Dutch authorities provide temporary residence permits to allow foreign trafficked persons to stay in the Netherlands during a three-month reflection period, a time for trafficked persons to receive immediate protection, care and assistance while they consider whether to press charges, and separately, during the investigation and prosecution of their traffickers. This procedure is called the B9 procedure and refers to section B9 of the Alien Act 2000.

<b>Press charges of trafficking to the police</b>			
	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>
Yes reported	407	306	232
Decided not to report	392	307	149
Unknown	169	255	429
Still within the reflection period	25	41	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>993</b>	<b>909</b>	<b>826</b>

Important: These are the trafficked persons whose data were collected in 2010. Trafficked persons reported in 2009 who reported the crime of trafficking in 2010 are not found in this table. (Probable) trafficked persons who have been reported the last three months of 2010 are still in their lawfully provided reflection period.

The number of reports are increasing slightly. In 2009, 33% of trafficked persons denounced their traffickers. In 2010 it reached 40% (calculated to the time the annual report was written). Again CoMensha has successfully committed to the extra effort to reduce the category "unknown" to a minimum.

The B9 procedure (see table below) is only accessible to non-Dutch trafficked persons. The B9 procedure consists of a reflection period of three months. In this period the trafficked person can decide to report or cooperate with the criminal investigation. If the person cooperates or reports, a temporary residence permit is granted for the duration of the criminal proceedings.

<b>B9 procedure different stages</b>			
	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>
Applied for resident permit after reflection period	259	199	146
Reflection period offered	466	361	199
Report by victim of trafficking	402	293	223
Report by witness	5	3	5
Unknown	-	10	-

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## 2.6 Modernizing Data Collection

The second phase of the project Modernizing Data Collection is completed. The task: build a new data set and examine the feasibility of collecting sufficient data for a complete overview of the Dutch known victims population.

The data that CoMensha needs, are scattered around various organization. This includes the police, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the Expertise center Trafficking and Smuggling and other (non) governmental organizations. This information can't always be shared because of privacy legislation. Privacy covenants need to be set up in the near future.

The new data set is layered and consists of three parts: a layer of data collected for all registered (probable) trafficked persons, a layer of information about shelters and received (social) assistance and a layer about the criminal procedures.

The first category only includes probable trafficked persons who are reported and do not require shelter or any form of assistance. The second category concerns probable trafficked persons that are in need of shelter and help. The last category includes the criminal process. For example, information about the trial and possible conviction.

### **Recommendations from the second phase:**

- To extend the duty to report possible trafficked persons to CoMensha to all organizations;
- To better define the duty to report to CoMensha;
- A Client tracking system for CoMensha;
- Regional care coordinators (case managers) in all Dutch police regions;
- Comprehensive monthly reports.

The final report of the second phase is presented to the Ministry of Security and Justice. The report was well received. CoMensha has been asked to review the conclusions and recommendations and to go further to the next phase of implementation. Not all recommendations from the second phase can be realized by CoMensha. One example is the extension and further definition of the requirement to report to CoMensha.

### 3. Shelter

#### 3.1 Introduction

As previously described, CoMensha holds a complete record of all (probable) trafficked persons. Based on that information and a needs assessment CoMensha looks for a suitable shelter.

CoMensha coordinates the search for suitable shelter for all trafficked persons. When a suitable shelter is found, this task is delegated to the regional care coordinator. (S)he then ensures the necessary assistance. In districts without a coordinator CoMensha functions as the regional case manager, making sure the basic needs are covered.

#### 3.2 Temporary trafficking-specialized shelters (TTSP)

The Temporary trafficking-specialized shelters project (TTSP) is the precursor of the pilot trafficking-specialized shelters and the result of constant awareness raising of the shortage of specialized shelter facilities for trafficked persons. CoMensha has been advocating for this for many years.

Because of the critical shortage of suitable crisis shelters, it was decided not to wait for the pilot trafficking-specialized shelters but to start with 17 temporary extra places for trafficked persons in shelters. The TTSP started on December the 15<sup>th</sup> 2009 and ended the 15<sup>th</sup> of June 2010. During this period 17 extra beds were located at shelter Jade (8 beds) in Veenhuizen, shelter Vieja (6 beds) in Utrecht and shelter PMW (3 beds) in Rotterdam.

CoMensha developed a manual for the staff of the 3 shelters. Instead of mediating on behalf of clients CoMensha was given the new task of direct access in those shelters. The 3 shelters and CoMensha worked together to collect as much information as possible. During TTSP CoMensha gave information to all partner organizations.

Initially new clients were given shelter for the period of 3 months, but due to the lack of appropriate follow-up care most clients stayed longer.

This problem is still a very hot issue together with the lack of suitable shelters in the Netherlands. Currently CoMensha and the Dutch Shelter Foundation are working together identifying the bottlenecks.

##### *Nationalities*

<b>Jade</b>		<b>Vieja</b>		<b>PMW</b>	
Nationality		Nationality		Nationality	
Bulgarian	1	Sierra Leone	2	Guiney	1
Chinese	1	Nigerian	3	Hungarian	1
Ghanese	2			Netherlands	1
Romanian	1				
Nigerian	1				
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>		<b>5</b>		<b>3</b>

#### Age

<b>Jade</b>		<b>Vieja</b>		<b>PMW</b>	
18t/m 23	3	t/m 17	1	24 t/m 30	3
24 t/m 30	2	18 t/m 23	1		
31 t/m 40	1	24 t/m 30	3		
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>		<b>5</b>		<b>3</b>

#### Police district

<b>Jade</b>		<b>Vieja</b>		<b>PMW</b>	
Police region		Police region		Politice region	
Groningen	1	Amsterdam-Amstelland	1	Brabant Noord	1
Haaglanden	1	Gelderland Midden	1	Gelderland zuid	2
Limburg Zuid	2	Groningen	1		
Schiphol	2	Haaglanden	1		
		Schiphol	1		
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>		<b>5</b>		<b>3</b>

### 3.3 Trafficking-specialized shelters

By mid-June 2010 the TTSP project ended and the two year pilot Trafficking-specialized shelters started. The pilot is designed to understand the nature and extent of the population of trafficked persons in the Netherlands: who is this group exactly, and what type of assistance and shelter is required? To answer these questions the Research and Documentation Centre of the ministry of Security and Justice is conducting a research to answer these questions.

50 extra beds are available in three different shelters: 40 places for women (and their children) and 10 places for men. The places for women are located in Amsterdam and Rotterdam and the places for men are in the province of Drenthe. CoMensha designed a special manual. It describes the activities to be performed and responsibilities of each organization.

#### Role CoMensha:

- Guides trafficked persons to the specialized shelters;
- Ensures access;
- Arranges transportation;
- Provides an operational flow chart;
- Reports and collects information for the evaluation;
- Provides progress reports;
- Provides capacity building for the shelters;
- Consults and identifies bottlenecks.

CoMensha needed some time to get adjusted to her new role. During several meetings with the shelters and the ministry of Health and the ministry of Security and Justice the requirements to access the specialized shelters were defined. The diversity of the population of trafficked persons who are in need of a shelter is slowly becoming more clear. Bottlenecks regarding follow-up care and follow-up shelters have been made visible due to this project.

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The trafficking-specialized shelters are fully occupied. Despite everyone's efforts, it is very difficult to collect all individual supervision plans. These are needed to be able to conduct research. CoMensha is working towards a solution.

Statistics are not included in this annual report. These were sent separately to the ministry of Health and Security and Justice.

### **3.4 Hotline 24 hours**

CoMensha operates a special hotline for all organizations that are involved in the anti-trafficking field. The hotline is designed to support trafficked persons by providing information to all organizations that are involved after a trafficked person has been identified. The hotline is open during office hours (09.00-17.00) from Monday to Friday.

The police, other investigative services and shelters have indicated their need for a 24 hour hotline operated by CoMensha. Due to a lack of finances it has been impossible to address this issue until July 2010.

CoMensha received funding from the ministry of Security and Justice to operate a 24 hour hotline, 7 days a week, for a period of six months.

At the beginning of the project, CoMensha informed all police districts about this project and the conditions involved. The extra operating hours were intended for the sole use of the police and were only meant for trafficked persons in a crisis situation who are in urgent need of a shelter and help. In cases where there were no beds available in the trafficking-specialized shelters, so called emergency regional crisis beds in non-specialized shelters were to be used.

The project has been evaluated in December 2010.

Outcomes:

- Most police districts were aware of the extended opening hours of the hotline;
- Little use has been made of the availability outside office hours. Mainly between 19.00-21.00 hours;
- CoMensha only received a few calls during weekends;
- Trafficking-specialized shelters were almost always completely occupied;
- The CoMensha staff feels that little or no use has been made of the availability and there is no added value.

Due to the outcomes the ministry of Security and Justice decided not to extend the funding for a new period. Because of that CoMensha decided to stop operating a 24 hour hotline. Since the first of January 2011, CoMensha can again be reached during office opening hours only.

### **3.5 Capacity building for regional caretakers**

CoMensha always organizes special capacity building workshops/training for caretakers and shelter workers. The intention of these workshops is to provide tools for people who work with trafficked persons.

The central theme in 2010 was "approach and treatment of trafficked persons". Together with the NGO *Bonded Labour in Nederland* (BlinN), CoMensha designed a special training. The

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training was attended by different professionals, care takers from different shelters (specialized and non-specialized shelters) and representatives from civil society.

Two specific presentations on psychological issues of victims of trafficking were given and special attention was paid to the position of trafficked persons in detention. The day ended with a performance of the self-organization of trafficked persons *Samen Sterk*.

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## 4. Strengthening local referral mechanisms.

### 4.1 Introduction

CoMensha does not provide direct support and care for trafficked people but works by referral only. CoMensha mediates. In districts where no shelters are available and no special care is given to trafficked persons, CoMensha actively advocates for a local referral mechanism.

### 4.2 CoMensha and local referral mechanisms

A key issue in the success of a local referral mechanism is the role of the municipality. Local referral mechanisms are only successful if the municipality is willing to finance sufficient specialized beds in shelters for trafficked people and is willing to provide a local coordinating caretaker. Only then can police and caretakers ask for direct assistance from this coordinator and the entire process of finding a suitable shelter, care and legal and medical aid is facilitated.

CoMensha has made an inventory of the current situation in all police districts. The inventory shows how the cooperation between organizations works, which shelters are available and how the role of CoMensha differs in each district.

Local referral mechanism can be classified in three categories:

**Category 1:** Fully operational and independent local referral mechanism. A local coordinating care taker for trafficked persons is available.

**Category 2:** Local parties recognize the need and usefulness of a local referral mechanism. Different organizations already work together. Funding is not yet available.

**Category 3:** There is no local referral mechanism. There are some organizations. Little awareness on trafficking. CoMensha has an active role bringing parties together and advocating for a local referral mechanism.

CoMensha aims that eventually all Dutch districts can be found under category 1. CoMensha benefits from well-functioning local referral mechanisms. These referral mechanism are needed:

- To record all facts and figures on trafficked persons in the Netherlands;
- To enable and optimize suitable shelter and assistance for all trafficked persons;
- To enable CoMensha's role as a national anti-trafficking coordination center.
- To stimulate local awareness about trafficking and prevention.

For the end of 2012 CoMensha plans to release a monitor on local referral mechanism in the Netherlands. Based on the actual and current situation districts will be given colors: red, orange and green. Indicating the position of the district.

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## 5. Information sharing

### 5.1 Introduction

The need for information about human trafficking and trafficked people is growing. This is mainly due to the increasing political and public interest on this important issue. CoMensha provides information and educates as many professionals on various aspects of trafficking and trafficked persons. CoMensha also provides knowledge and skills and plays the role of consultative body for policy-makers from various ministries and other stakeholders.

### 5.2 Information

Goals:

- Facilitating optimal care and support for trafficked persons;
- Promote and intensify cooperation between organizations,
- Inform and educate professionals and new organizations who work with trafficked persons;
- Encourage organizations to report to CoMensha;
- Answer question the media has about trafficking;
- Promoting measures that can benefit trafficked persons (advocacy);
- Advising policy-makers and governments.

### 5.3 Awareness campaign

In 2009 CoMensha started an awareness campaign called: *Do you ever wonder about (labour) exploitation? Don't close your eyes for human trafficking!* Dutch actor and comedian Viggo Waas supported this campaign in 2010. During the European ant-trafficking day a picture of Viggo and an ecard were distributed to politicians and stakeholders.

Part of the awareness campaign was a special conference organized by CoMensha in December 2010.

Due to the priority of police and the Social Investigation and Intelligence service big groups of (probable) trafficked persons are being found more and more, all over the country. This phenomena is relatively new and brings along new challenges, like finding suitable accommodation and care for these people. The current system of crisis shelters doesn't meet the requirements and needs of this new phenomena.

Goal of the conference is to draw attention to these new groups and raise awareness about their special needs.

Outcomes:

- The needs of trafficked persons should determine whether a crisis shelter is needed or other types of accommodation like housing;
- More different types of shelters are needed;
- Pay more attention to housing possibilities; involvement of local governments and housing associations;
- A national referral mechanism should be in place;
- More prevention and awareness is needed.

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In 2011 CoMensha will make sure these outcomes will be picked up by (local) governments. CoMensha will also draw attention to the outcomes during consultations and working groups, including the special Task Force on human trafficking.

#### **5.4 Task Force**

The special Task Force on human trafficking was established in 2008 by the Minister of Justice. The main task of this Task Force is to identify bottlenecks in the anti-trafficking policy and approach and its implementation. The Task Force also proposes solutions.

No NGO's were invited to participate in this Task Force. Only CoMensha was given a special status and access to all the documents and meetings.

During the evaluation of the first few years of the Task Force CoMensha was asked to become a full member.

The members of the Task Force found that the Task Force has an added value and that its work should continue for at least 3 more years. During this period CoMensha will keep asking attention for the position of trafficked persons, shelters, social assistance and the possibility for compensation.