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### **THE NETHERLANDS: COUNTRY OF VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN**

Recently, the Walk Free Foundation released the new Global Slavery Index which assessed the approach to human trafficking in 167 countries. According to the Index, the Netherlands is the only country that scored an ‘A’, making it the country that does the most against human trafficking of all these 167 countries.

The government increased efforts to prevent trafficking. The Human Trafficking Task Force, composed of local and national government authorities, the private sector, and NGO representatives, set long-term anti-trafficking policies, while the Ministry of Justice and Security led the implementation and coordination of anti-trafficking efforts. In November 2018, the government issued its new national anti-trafficking action plan, designed as a “living document” that allowed for ad-hoc updates and revision. The action plan focused on improving information sharing across stakeholders, identifying more victims, strengthening local governments’ anti-trafficking programs, and increasing efforts against labor trafficking. Several NGOs criticized the action plan for its lack of measurable goals and monitoring tools. The government increased efforts to target illicit financial flows from trafficking by expanding a public-private pilot project that notified law enforcement about suspicious

transactions. The Netherlands Organization for Applied Scientific Research published statistical reports that evaluated the country's anti-trafficking landscape. The government continued multiple awareness campaigns with videos, websites, handouts, and school prevention curricula. The labor inspectorate continued to focus on sectors with an elevated risk of exploitation. Teams of police, labor inspectors, and health care personnel continued to conduct brothel inspections, which included screening for signs of trafficking. Authorities trained immigration, hotel, aviation, customs, and labor inspection staff in methods to identify victims and child sex tourism. Three more market sectors (pension, insurance, and food services) joined the government's Covenant on Reducing Human Rights Violations in Supply Chains. The government did not make efforts to reduce the demand for commercial sex acts. The government continued to implement a national plan against child sex tourism, and in cooperation with foreign governments, screened for potential child sex tourists at airports. The foreign ministry continued to conduct outreach to foreign diplomats' domestic workers, without their employers present, on how to report cases of abuse. A government-funded NGO maintained a victim assistance hotline during extended business hours.

The government maintained law enforcement efforts. Article 273f of the criminal code criminalized sex trafficking and labor trafficking and prescribed punishments of up to 12 years' imprisonment or a fine of up to €83,000 (\$95,180) for trafficking offenses involving an adult victim, and up to 15 years' imprisonment or a fine of up to €83,000 (\$95,180) for those involving a child victim.

The government did not report complete sentencing data but confirmed several cases in which traffickers received significant prison terms. For instance, in April 2018, a district court in The Hague sentenced a man to 11 years in prison and a fine of €250,000 (\$286,700) in compensation to six victims of sex trafficking. In June 2018, a court in Groningen sentenced a man to eight years in prison for human trafficking. In August 2018, a district court in Arnhem sentenced a man to seven years in prison and a fine of €100,020 (\$114,700) in compensation to three victims of sex trafficking. The BES islands (fully under the authority of the Netherlands) did not prosecute or convict any traffickers in 2018. The government continued to participate in international investigations and led joint investigation teams with other EU nations. Strong coordination between the Dutch police, an NGO, and Nepali authorities led to the conviction of two child traffickers in Nepal. Both traffickers received sentences of seven and eight years in prison, respectively, and paid compensation to the victims. Through an in-country liaison, Dutch police provided information to Philippine police that led to the arrest of a child sex trafficker exploiting children to perform sexual acts through internet webcams. Judges with trafficking-specific training heard all trafficking cases in 2018. The government delivered a high volume of anti-trafficking training to law enforcement and allocated €2 million (\$2.29 million) to

increase the number of police certified to investigate trafficking cases and boost overall law enforcement capacity. Anti-trafficking police officers were required to pass examinations in a training course focused on policing commercial sex. Authorities trained custom and coast guard officials in the BES islands. Judges, prosecutors, and defense attorneys continued to receive specialized training in applying the anti-trafficking law and dealing with traumatized victims. In February 2019, a district court sentenced a deputy chief prosecutor investigated for soliciting sex from a child in sex trafficking to 10 months in prison under the charge of sexual misconduct with a minor. Prosecutors reported the government frequently did not charge child sex traffickers under the trafficking law but under a sexual abuse law (article 248b), which carried lesser penalties. The Ministry of Justice and Security elevated trafficking to one of its four top law enforcement priorities in its strategic agenda for 2019 to 2022.

Wherefore, from the above it becomes clear that the main crime in the Netherlands is human trafficking for many years, and therefore the government is improving against this offence the means of protection and counteraction to.

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### **THE ROLE OF THE POLICE IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ABUSE**

Responding to the domestic and family violence incidents is a frequent and significant component of a police officer's work of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Domestic violence is among the most underreported crimes worldwide for both men and women. The continuing increase in the number of reports of domestic and family violence over the past years is seen by police and other community agencies, as evidence of an increase in community awareness reinforcing that this form of abusive behavior must no longer be seen as a 'private' matter. It is recognized by all sectors that abusive behavior towards a person in a relationship constitutes 'criminal' behavior and is punishable by law [1].

The problem of domestic violence in society is worldwide and various countries have been working on ways to overcome it for a long time. The number of women who reported about being abused by their family ranges from 15% in Japan to 71% in Ethiopia. According to some