

Introduction

This is the 7th assessment of the effects of the war in Ukraine on the trafficking and exploitation of persons. *Previous editions can be found [here](#).*

The war continues toward the winter with a surprising turn of tide as the Ukrainian military makes gains in the East and some progress in the South. This advent probably creates more uncertainty for refugees than might have been the case with a stalemate.

There has been little hard evidence of trafficking and exploitation of Ukrainian evacuees from the war, save for that previously reported where we have seen instances of labour exploitation in illicit manufacturing of cigarettes in Italy and Belgium and trafficking for sexual exploitation to Greece, Turkey and Spain. There is serious concern about those in occupied areas, particularly the wholesale removal of young people to Russia.

There are emerging unforeseen issues.

We assess as follows:

a) It remains clear that displaced Ukrainian people, mainly women and children, will become increasingly vulnerable to exploitation as we head into colder weather and as seasonal work dries up. Greater numbers are returning to Ukraine and the risk of trafficking and exploitation in Ukraine must be considered rising.

b) With the build-up of the NATO military forces and the attendant war economies on the western borders of Ukraine a new market for trafficking and exploitation is being served by trafficked labour and sex exploitation from South America. Mexican, Brazilian and Colombian victims are identifying themselves with local NGOs seeking help and repatriation. This is clearly identified in Poland and Baltic States.

- Arrivals to the EU via Portugal and Spain may be en route to Ukraine border areas.
- Transaction patterns to South America from immediate border areas of Ukraine are worthy of scrutiny for trafficking typologies in financial institution systems.
- NATO Military Law Enforcement on the ground
- Fake or exploitative jobs are advertised on social media platforms or through apparently trustworthy portals.

c) Host and guest fatigue in receiving nations for Ukrainian evacuees will continue to render a percentage of evacuees vulnerable to homelessness, trafficking and exploitation.

d) It is likely that brokers will become more active with fake or exploitative jobs in the next weeks as financial pressures grow.

Information Requirements (what we need to know)

1) Any information regarding trafficking for exploitation of both men and women from Central or South America (or elsewhere) to Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania or Moldova or Baltics.

2) Evidence of attempts to or the trafficking and exploitation Ukraine refugees. (place and nature of recruitment – place and nature of exploitation – any details of recruiters and exploiters for either aspect – any financial transactions or debt accrued – any details of coercion / control)

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