

KEY JUDGEMENTS JANUARY 2023

Title: Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation

Location: Brazil, South America to Europe

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INTRODUCTION

As the largest and most densely populated country in Latin America, Brazil faces significant challenges in identifying and preventing human trafficking, particularly of women and trans women trafficked to Europe in large numbers for commercial sexual exploitation.

WE ASSESS AS FOLLOWS

RECRUITMENT

- a) Since the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, and perhaps prior to this point, women in Brazil have become increasingly vulnerable (first reported by STOP THE TRAFFIK Group in the fourth quarter of 2021). Traffickers attract victims through false offers of education in Europe, namely in the arts and languages, or work opportunities in music or entertainment
- b) Trans women are also targeted, being lured with offers of paid for surgery or work as above.
- c) A high percentage of victims are recruited from rural or remote areas of Brazil.
- d) Social media platforms and job search groups/platforms are the primary methods of attraction.
- e) Brazilians in Europe, without legal status, often having entered visa-free arrangements for limited stays, are also vulnerable to established trafficker groups.

DEMAND

- a) The strongly growing online sexual exploitation market is a growing phenomenon for Brazilian women and trans women.
- b) Since late 2021, adult sex ads in Europe, particularly France, Ireland and the U.K. have featured ever-increasing numbers of Brazilian women and there is clearly a market for the sexual exploitation of trans women. During the World Cup in Qatar, Brazilian women were advertised using U.K. cell numbers.
- c) There is a profile in sexual services in Poland and reports of a profile in Croatia. It is likely the profile is more widespread across Europe.

MONEY (REVENUE)

- a) The payment of multiple single airfares from Brazil to European destinations, particularly Portugal and Spain should be considered suspicious. Repeat payments for parking at major airports in Portugal and Spain, together with property rentals in those countries.
- b) In the U.K. and Ireland women in sexual exploitation are expected to deliver between £20,000 - £35,000 per month for their endeavour, a significant proportion of which is likely to be transferred by traffickers to Brazil. In Western Europe income in Euros is likely to be of a similar order.
- c) Brazilian groups have a history of attaching keywords to transactions for accounting purposes.

INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Any information on the sexual exploitation of Brazilian women and trans women in Europe.
- 2) How are Brazilian traffickers moving money (money service bureaux/bank transfer/cash in luggage/other), and what is the revenue being used for in Brazil?
- 3) Any information on trafficker groups for Brazilian women/ trans women in Europe.

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