

ANGEL COALITION

Trafficking Victim Assistance Center (TVAC)



2008, Moscow

TVAC STAFF



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Gulchehra M. Mirzoeva, Director of Trafficking Victim Assistance Center (TVAC) of the Angel Coalition, Moscow, joins the TVAC staff from her prior work as founder and director of Tajikistan's counter-trafficking NGO, MODAR. As director of MODAR, she was one of the first in Tajikistan to work on human trafficking, women's rights and prevention of violence against women and children. She is known widely for her human rights activism in Central Asia and creative approaches to the growing problem of human trafficking. As Director of the TVAC, Gulchehra coordinates project activities and supervises the work of the TVAC staff. She spends her time designing and supervising new projects, preparing program reports and working with international NGOs, intergovernmental organizations and governments.

Afsona G. Kadyrova – TVAC legal specialist - addresses legal issues related to trafficking, provides consultations to victims, families, prosecutors and law enforcement, liaisons with Russian and international law enforcement on human trafficking and heads a TVAC program on trafficking and illegal migration with embassies, local communities and the Federal Migration Service. Afsona also develops international cooperation for TVAC programs and is working on two trafficking cases for the European Court. Afsona is a graduate of the University of the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation, Moscow faculty of Law.

Alyona Arlashkina - Helpline Coordinator – provides 24-hour a day supervision of all aspects of TVAC helpline operations; whether dealing with emergency calls from victims, training helpline operators or making technical adjustments. In addition, Alyona is engaged in public relations programs to publicize the helpline throughout Moscow and the Russian Federation as well as Europe.

Tatyana Uzakova – manager of the project “Protect Me!” – is in regular contact with the law enforcement officials who help carry out the training of Moscow and Moscow regional juvenile police and staff of the Altufievo Detention Center of the Moscow Municipal Department of Internal Affairs.

Olga V. Shtul – sociologist and trainer for the project “Protect Me!” - has a depth of knowledge and experience based on her prior work in Tajikistan and a creative approach to implementing this program of psychological and social assistance to children who have been victims of human trafficking.

Lena Govorina – translator of the Angel Coalition's materials and publications - is responsible for the TVAC's website. In addition, she has conducted trainings for police and government officials in Central Asia as part of the “Safe Return and Recovery” Project.

Konstantin E. Komarov –psychologist/police adviser – works on the project “Protect Me!” and develops techniques for conducting training seminars for law enforcement officials on identifying children who are victims of exploitation and violence. He also teaches how to provide posttraumatic rehabilitation and methods police can use to prevent re-traumatizing a child.

Alexey Baharev – the computer programmer and tech expert – provides technical support for the TVAC and helps maintains the international database.

ABOUT US

Trafficking Victim Assistance Center (TVAC) - Moscow

The Angel Coalition Trafficking Victim Assistance Center (TVAC) in Moscow works with Russian federal, regional and local government agencies to raise awareness of human trafficking, improve the prosecution of criminal traffickers and provide assistance to victims and their families. The TVAC partners with the members of the Angel Coalition comprising more than 60 nongovernmental organizations from 27 regions of Russia and 9 CIS countries and is able to draw on those partners' experience and relationships to conduct training, research and assistance programs. - Since 2003, the TVAC has operated international hotlines to provide immediate assistance to Russian speaking trafficking victims. Skilled experts provide free 24 hour legal and psychological consultations for victims and their families. The experts offer recommendations and provide other necessary help including contacts with police trafficking task forces who can provide immediate rescue assistance in countries around the world..

Since 2002, the Angel Coalition TVAC and members have trained government officials and law enforcement on the crime of trafficking and the protection of victims. The trainings rely on the participation of experts from different countries who work in the counter-trafficking movement. These seminars allow for an open discussion about the high-level problems encountered in combating human trafficking, and participants in the seminars are able to share their professional experiences and plan ways for further cooperation among the different government, public, and international organizations.

From 2004 through 2008, the TVAC organized and conducted international training seminars and roundtables with NGOs, government officials, media and law enforcement throughout Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Participants included major law enforcement figures from Europe, Scandinavia, Middle East and Asia to exchange operational experiences and new information, develop recommendations and mechanisms of implementation national law and inter-regional agreements, develop law enforcement/NGO partnerships, and media relations.



During 2007 through 2008, Angel Coalition members worked in partnership with MiraMed Institute to develop networks of trafficking survivors who were willing and able to work with NGOs and law enforcement to develop protocols for the protection of trafficking victims and the provision of adequate care and support for survivors willing to testify in court.

The TVAC provides a venue in Moscow which enables Angel Coalition members to meet on a regular basis to share their experiences providing legal and psychological assistance to the population and to discuss the latest legislative changes that directly impact the rights and basic freedoms of individuals. Additionally, these opportunities to collaborate also provide a chance for the organizations to discuss the many problems they encounter in their work.

For ten years, the Angel Coalition has worked tirelessly and successfully to address the many problems associated with human trafficking. We believe that human trafficking is one of the worst forms of slavery – one that is particularly monstrous because it is occurring in the 21 century. For this reason, our organization is making every effort to end this horrific crime.

HOTLINE IN 2008 – 5434 CALLS FOR HELP

Since 2003, the Angel Coalition toll-free hotline for trafficking victims and their families has operated 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The hotline can receive calls from any region in Russia, from Europe (the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, and Switzerland) and from the United States. The hotline response team works with other social and human rights organizations and international law enforcement in Russia, Europe, Middle East, North Africa and Asia provide an immediate intervention to initiate a rescue. Comprehensive statistics are kept which provides a growing picture of human trafficking from the former Soviet Union. The qualified specialists who operate the hotline can also provide consultations to at-risk Russians who are considering work abroad including necessary precautions to take before leaving the country.

Over the past year, 5434 people contacted the Angel Coalition on its hotline. Of the total number of calls, 1141 were directly from trafficking victims, and 42 were urgent calls for intervention. The age of the callers ranged from 20 to 53 years old; 996 were women, and 145 were men. Of the 1141 trafficking victims who contacted the Angel Coalition’s hotline, 49% of the victims were recruited by personal acquaintances; 37% were drawn in by deception or force; 10% were recruited by relatives; and 4% responded to announcements and solicitations. Of these calls, 2% agreed to work with Russian law enforcement agencies by providing information and giving testimony.

Table 1. Purpose for going abroad

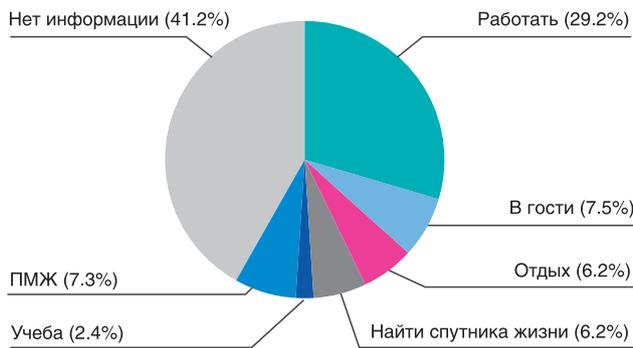


Table 2. Age of the callers

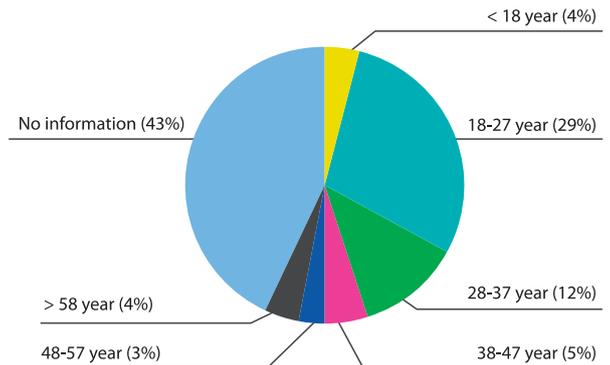
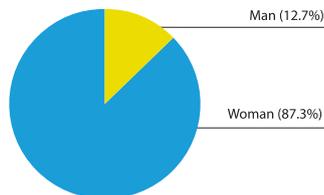


Table 3. Gender of the callers



The majority of callers learned about the hotline from television, local press, and informational materials distributed by the Angel Coalition. In the Moscow region, where most of the urgent calls about trafficking and sexual exploitation come from, the Angel Coalition posted billboards with the hotline number.

PUBLICIZING THE HOTLINE

- In partnership with the City of Moscow, the Angel Coalition designed billboards, bus and metro placards, metro posters and informational booklets for distribution at airport passport control. The hotline advertising campaign in 2008 consisted of growing exposure in print and broadcast media:
- 120 billboards posted near university and college bus stops in downtown Moscow.
- 4 billboards were printed and hung on a space available basis along the roads to Moscow's international airports.
- 10,000 booklets distributed through Federal Migration Service to firms to Russian citizens seeking to travel for work abroad.
- 1000 booklets and cards with the European hotline were distributed among participants at European embassy trainings.
- 5,000 of our informational booklets were distributed in Switzerland by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.



- Over 20,000 copies of booklets, pamphlets, and posters have been distributed by our regional partners at training sessions throughout various regions in Russia and Central Asia, including: Petrozavodsk, Yaroslavl, Chelyabinsk, Nizhny Novgorod, Ribinsk, Tambov, Dushanbe, Bishkek, and Almaty.
- 500 cards and 500 booklets were distributed to the owners of small and mid-sized businesses through a growing partnership with "Integra."
- The Coalition's hotline number was displayed on national television when famous Russian singer, Valeri, discussed the problem of human trafficking.





- As our relationship with Russian and international media grew, Angel Coalition publicized its hotline number on Russian television channels like REN TV, NTV, ORT, TNT, TVTS and on international networks such as CNN and BBC.
- The hotline has gained press coverage from ongoing interviews in “Gazeta-Gazeta,” “Moskovskii Komsomolets,” and “Komsomolskaya Pravda.”

CLASSIFICATION OF CALLS FROM JANUARY – DECEMBER 2008*

Regions—organized by numbers of calls

Number of calls

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Dagestan | 848 |
| Kemerovsk region | 316 |
| Altai territory | 322 |
| Moscow | 227 |
| Chelyabinsk region | 217 |
| Rostov region | 157 |
| Voronezh region | 128 |
| Novosibirsk region | 126 |
| Omsk region | 125 |
| Perm region | 106 |

Regions—organized by duration of calls

Duration of calls, min.

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| Dagestan | 1053 |
| Moscow | 978 |
| Kemerovsk region | 719 |
| Altai territory | 465 |
| Chelyabinsk region | 418 |
| Bashkorostan | 307 |
| Rostov region | 284 |
| Lipets region | 222 |
| Permsk region | 207 |
| Sverdlov region | 114 |

* Total Calls 5045

PROJECTS

EU PROJECT – CHANGING STEREOTYPES, BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

Project “Training law enforcement agencies on the implementation of new standards of humane treatment of victims of sexual trafficking in the Russian Federation and creating models of partnership between NGOs and law enforcement agencies to prevent human rights violations by police and remove the threat of criminal traffickers from civil society.”

(Project Donor: European Commission, 2007-2009).

This 14-month project was conducted in five target regions in the Russian Federation (Moscow, Chelyabinsk, Yaroslavl, Nizhny Novgorod, and Petrozavodsk). In 2008, 350 participants included 200 law enforcement and government officials, and 150 leaders in the nonprofit sector.

Main Goals for the Project:

- Develop methods for defending human trafficking victims.
- Increase public safety for citizens of the Russian Federation.

During the initial stages of this project, the Coalition gathered information on cases where law enforcement failed to identify victims of human trafficking or human. We also examined cases where police further violated the human rights of human trafficking in the target cities.



Trafficking survivors from Angel Coalition rehabilitation programs participated in the design of the project and gave recommendations for working with survivors to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Federal Prosecutors, Ombudsman for Human Rights, Department of Migrants for the United Nations, participating NGO partners from four regions and mass media.

The Coalition also developed an educational training module that provides information about human trafficking in Russia, educates participants about international and federal legislation, and then asks participants to apply the skills and knowledge that they have acquired.

In 2008, the Angel Coalition also conducted the two-day training session, “Increasing the level of tolerance of law enforcement officers towards human trafficking victims” in the cities of Petrozavodsk (July 24-25, 2008), Chelyabinsk (October 21-22, 2008), Yaroslavl (October 23-24, 2008), and Nizhny Novgorod (December 25-26, 2008).

While discussing ways to provide efficient and effective assistance to trafficking victims, the participants analyzed trends in criminal trafficking, shared their experiences and identified deficiencies in defending victims’ rights. They also discussed how to develop a sympathetic approach to victims and change the stereotypes that law enforcement officers generally harbor towards trafficking victims.

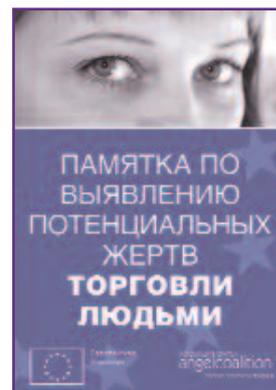
The project launched a new website: www.yk127-1.ru which provides law enforcement and NGOs full access to online resources including lists of anti-trafficking organizations, international documents, and databases containing the laws of the Russian Federation.

In 2009, 20,000 pocket-sized copies of “Instructions for identifying potential victims of human trafficking” will be printed and distributed to law enforcement and NGOs. NGOs in each region are monitoring the use of the cards by law enforcement.

During the period from January – March 2009, the Angel Coalition will be issuing textbooks which were developed by Angel Coalition, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Federal Prosecutor, the law faculty of the Russian State Social University in Moscow and the law universities in Petrozavodsk and Nizhny Novgorod. The textbook is intended as a resource book for law enforcement agencies, NGOs, and university students and faculty.

The project has resulted in the strengthening of partnerships between regional NGOs and law enforcement agencies, better coordination efforts to protect the rights of human trafficking victims and increased numbers of trafficking survivors agreeing to serve as witnesses for prosecution.

There has also been an increase in the number of referrals of victims from law enforcement to NGOs and an increased number of invitations for NGOs to participate in Ministry of Internal Affairs trainings and programs.



CHILDREN'S PROJECT “PROTECT ME”

In 2008, the Angel Coalition fulfilled the second phase of its project, “Law Enforcement Training on Working with Child Victims of Trafficking and Other Extreme Forms of Exploitation” in Moscow and the Moscow region through 4 different programs:

The strategic goal of this project is to assist in the development collaboration between NGOs, government institutions, law enforcement agencies, and international organizations who work against the trafficking of children and the exploitation of minors in prostitution.

During 2008, the Angel Coalition conducted 72 training sessions in which 1300 law enforcement officers and Ministry of Internal Affairs psychologists working with children from Moscow and the Moscow region took part. The training took place in the Juvenile Detention Center (Altufovo) that is run by the Moscow City Police Department. The trainers taught the participants to identify and expose sexual abuse and non-traumatizing ways to speak with a child victim in order to obtain as much evidence as possible relating to his or her sexual abuse without causing further harm. After explaining the theoretical material to the participants, the trainer demonstrated the practical application of these methods by conducting interviews with children. These interviews took place with the psychologists and employees from the Internal Affairs units watching from behind two-way mirrors. By seeing the practical application of what they had discussed in the sessions, the participants retained more information and gained a deeper understanding of what they had learned.

At the end of the sessions, the Angel Coalition conducted a survey of the participants asking them about the effectiveness of the training sessions. 100% of the respondents marked “excellent” in response to the topic of the program, noting the relevancy of the training session to their work. Around 80% of respondents indicated that they intend to use the knowledge and informational materials that they gained at the session in their everyday work.



With the assistance of Moscow City Police Department, specialists of the project “Protect Me” created an educational film, “Systematic methods for post-traumatic rehabilitation, psychological preparation, and the correction of negative psychological conditions,” for internal use and distribution among various structures of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation. The film was given to the Bureaus of Psychological Protection in the Moscow City Police Department and in the Moscow region for training their psychologists and investigators who work with minors.

The film is divided into separate sections that can be watched independently so that specialists can use the film as an instrument in their work with children as they undergo rehabilitation.

Training and preventative programs for children

Working directly with at-risk children is another important aspect of this project. The Angel Coalition together with the Juvenile Police conducted training sessions in which more than 220 students (grades 9-11) from 9 schools in the Moscow region took part. For the students in the Juvenile Detention Center Altufovo 2 presentations of “Protect Yourself!” in which 58 young people took part were carried out.

“Don’t disappear on a promise! Work and study abroad – Myths and reality,” acquaints children with human trafficking; trainers work together with the children to identify signs of human trafficking, and discuss how to find work safely.

“My Choice” is a preventative session that focuses on confidence building as a way to lead a healthy life. Children in at-risk groups frequently end up in situations where they may be used in commercial sexual exploitation and sold into slavery.

A similar training session for teenagers was conducted at the Juvenile Detention Center Altufovo. These teenagers have only committed petty crimes, and are, for the most part, from poor families or are victims of trafficking. After they are released from the Center, many of them are at risk of being trafficked again because they do not know how to obtain social and legal help. Participants in these sessions receive information on the government structures that are responsible for offering help and support for trafficked children, and receive the legal booklet “Protect Me,” in which the addresses and telephone numbers of these government agencies are listed.

The Office of the Public Prosecutor invited our specialists on the children’s project to interview minors who had been the victims of trafficking. The specialists discussed the details of what happened with the children, developed an individual rehabilitation plan for each child, and provided social and legal recommendations to the Office of the Public Prosecutor. For example, in December 2008, by invitation from the Office of the Public Prosecutor of the southwestern administrative district of Moscow, Angel Coalition workers took part in interviews dealing with the rape of a 14-year old girl; the involvement of an 8-year old and 12-year old in pornography; and the rape of a 15-year old boy and his involvement in pornography.

The leadership of the City Administration of Internal Affairs of Moscow recognized the Angel Coalition’s work with a letter thanking the Coalition for offering continuing education to its psychologists and law enforcement officers on rehabilitation methods (2008).



PARTNERSHIP WITH SWEDEN IN CENTRAL ASIA: SAFE RETURN AND RECOVERY

In 2008, the Angel Coalition organized educational training sessions with law enforcement officers and NGOs from the Central Asian republics and Sweden, and conducted international training sessions in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

STOCKHOLM

MiraMed and the Angel Coalition conducted a seminar in Stockholm from March 1-6, 2008 for law enforcement officers and NGO leaders from Russia and Kazakhstan. The participants were actively engaged in the seminar, and the representatives from Sweden and Kazakhstan were encouraged by the extent of their mutual understanding and cooperation.

CENTRAL ASIA

Training sessions took place in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (May 28-29, 2008) and in Kazakhstan in the cities of Aktobe (June 2-3, 2008) and Taraz (September 22-23, 2008). More than 120 representatives of government and law enforcement agencies, NGOs, and the media, along with international experts from Sweden and Russia, participated in these sessions. Participants at the training session discussed the further development of mechanisms for defending human trafficking victims in their own countries and brainstormed new ways for collaborating with one another in the fight against human trafficking. Training participants created a regionally specific "Instructions relating to the identification of victims" and "Working book of specialists in anti-trafficking efforts" for those providing assistance to trafficking victims in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

These sessions resulted in the development of international collaboration between participants, the creation of channels for the exchange of information and a database of statistical data, and the exchange of work experiences.

EUROPEAN COURT

The Angel Coalition is using its international experience in preparation for taking a case to court to the European court. The case of N.M. Rantsev against Cyprus and Russia – is the Angel Coalition's first international legal case dealing with human trafficking and sexual exploitation. Lawyers from London, Yekaterinburg, and the Angel Coalition are working together on this case. Presently the European Court of Human Rights is examining the case and preparing a decision on the international settlement agreement for the government of Cyprus.

From February to May 2008, the lawyer for the Angel Coalition worked at The International Centre for the Legal Protection of Human Rights, INTERIGHTS, in London. During her time at the Center, our lawyer conducted a seminar on the problem of human trafficking in Russia and gave presentations to the Center's lawyers on the Angel Coalition's anti-trafficking efforts and received legal training which has prepared the Angel Coalition to take cases to the European Court. A second case will be initiated in 2009.

In 2008, Angel Coalition participated in the following events:

- January 17, 2008 the seminar “Crisis in the Teenage Years: Challenges and Possibilities,” which took place with the support of the charitable foundation “The Glance of a Child.”
- January 23, 2008 roundtable meeting on the “UN Convention on Children’s Rights” with the Union of Lawyers in Moscow.
- January 30, 2008 the conference “Childhood without Tears: Prevention of Family Violence,” which took place in the northeast administrative district of Moscow. The conference was organized with the assistance of the Moscow Department of Family and Youth Policy’s Center of Social Help for Family and Children “Medvedkovo.”
- February 14, 2008 international conference “Experience of creating and developing effective support for children who are orphaned or abandoned during their formative years.”
- May 13 2008 conference “Children at Risk – Support for Parents.”
- May 14, 2008 meeting with Embassy of Great Britain
- May 16, 2008 training seminar on “socio-legal aspects of respecting the interests of minors in educational spaces,” which took place with the support of the NGO “The Glance of a Child.”
- May 21, 2008 the 2nd All-Russia Conference “The Rubicon of Childhood: Transitional Conditions and Extreme Situations.” The conference was organized by the National Fund of Child Protection from Cruel Treatment, the mayor of Cherepovets, and the Interdepartmental Service of Aid to Children and Youth, “Ascension,” in Cherepovets.
- June 10-11, 2008 a forum devoted to the 15th anniversary of cooperation between Swedish and Russian partners, which was held in St. Petersburg.
- June 19, 2008 a roundtable meeting for the Union of Lawyers on the topic of “Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: the Condition of the Problem.”
- September 30 – All-Russia Public Forum “Civil Society and Law Enforcement Structures – protection of the rights of victims of crimes.” The forum was conducted under an initiative of the human rights organization “Resistance“ with the support of the Public Chamber of the Russian Federation and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation.
- November 12-14, 2008 international conference “International Cooperation in the Area of Combating the Selling of Children and Child Pornography.” (Hosted by the Committee Concerning Family, Women and Children at the State Duma together with the Public Chamber of the Russian Federation on Social and Demographic Policy)
- November 14, 2008 the Angel Coalition meeting with Alexander Vladimirovich Kolesnikov, Deputy of the Municipal Assembly Orekhovo-Borisovo in the southern district of Moscow. Kolesnikov is also the general director of the group of companies “Stalker.” The group of companies has several youth organizations that are involved in educational programs, advertising, manufacturing, and also various media-related activities.
- November 25, 2008 the 5th anniversary ceremonies of the National “RuNet Awards for 2008.”
- December 10-14, 2008 the inter-regional seminar, “Civil Organizations and Human Rights Organizations: Trust, Interaction, Human Rights” in Sochi.

DONORS

Swedish International Development Agency

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

World Childhood Foundation

European Commission

U.S. State Department, Office to Monitor and Combat Human Trafficking

Coalition against Trafficking in Women

International Organization for Migration

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Greece

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway

Moscow City Government

Swiss Embassy

SPONSORS

Ministry of Internal Affairs, RF

Federal Migration Service, RF

Moscow City Parliament

Moscow Commission on Minors

Office of Federal Prosecutor, RF

General Directorate of Domodedovo Airport

Commercial Agency "Pressinfor," Sheremetovo Airport

Juvenile Detention Center Altufovo

Ministry of Internal Affairs of Moscow City and Moscow Region

Presidential Commission of Kyrgyz Republic

Ministry of Internal Affairs of Kazakhstan

Presidential Administration of Tajikistan

United Russia Party, Republic of Karelia

City Administrations of Yaroslavl, Chelyabinsk,
Nizhny Novgorod and Petrozavodsk



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