

Norway



Population: 4,676,305 (July 2010 est.)
Population Growth Rate: 0.334% (2010 est.)
Birth Rate: 10.9 births/1,000 population (2010 est.)
Life Expectancy: *total population:* 80.08 years; *male:* 77.42 years; *female:* 82.89 years (2010 est.)
Literacy Rate: *total population:* 100%; *male:* 100%; *female:* 100%
Net Migration Rate: 1.7 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2010 est.)
Unemployment Rate: 3.2% (2009 est.)
Gross Domestic Product per Capita: \$58,600 (2009 est.)
Religions: Church of Norway 85.7%, Pentecostal 1%, Roman Catholic 1%, other Christian 2.4%, Muslim 1.8%, other 8.1% (2004)
Languages: Bokmal Norwegian (official), Nynorsk Norwegian (official), small Sami- and Finnish-speaking minorities; note—that Sami is official in six municipalities
Ethnic Groups: Norwegian 94.4% (includes Sami, about 60,000), other European 3.6%, other 2% (2007 estimate)
Capital: Oslo¹

Trafficking Routes

According to a 2006 report by the independent research foundation, FAFO, [E: Fafø, per web site—change in Norway text and footnotes? probably used in other PP profiles] many Nigerian women who work in prostitution in Norway come to the country through Spain or Italy. Only a small percentage of manage to reach Europe at all; most end up in other countries en route to their destination.² Other origin countries for women who work in the Norwegian sex industry include “the Russian Federation, the Baltic countries, and other Eastern and Central European countries” as well as Thailand and Latin America.³ There have been reports of Thai women being trafficked and exploited by their own husbands who are Norwegian citizens.⁴

Factors That Contribute to the Trafficking Infrastructure

According to FAFO, many women who come from Nigeria and subsequently become sex workers in Norway and other European states have the support of their families to leave their home countries in search of better economic opportunities. They often become indebted even before they leave their home states, as they utilize the services of different agencies to arrange

¹ CIA, THE WORLD FACTBOOK 2009, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/NO.html>.

² MAY-LEN SKILBREI et al, FAFO INSTITUTE FOR APPLIED INTERNATIONAL STUDIES, AFRICAN DREAMS ON EUROPEAN STREETS: NIGERIAN WOMEN IN PROSTITUTION IN NORWAY, *available at:* <http://www.fafø.no/pub/rapp/525/525-exsumm.htm> (last visited Feb. 25, 2010).

³ ROYAL MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, NORWEGIAN REPORT ON ANTI-TRAFFICKING ACTIVITIES (2002), *available at:* http://www.osce.org/documents/odihr/2002/09/1746_en.pdf.

⁴ Nina Berglund, *Thai Women Dumped in Norway*, AFTENPOSTEN, May 6, 2005, *available at:* <http://www.aftenposten.no/english/local/article1034172.ece>.

their travel abroad. FAFO also reports that the existence of the Schengen visa, which allows for a free travel zone in Europe, facilitates the movement of Nigerian sex workers from some southern European states (where they might have residence permits) north to Norway.⁵ Additionally, the Norwegian Foreign Ministry noted that organized crime networks have been more active in trafficking in persons.⁶

Forms of Trafficking

Aside from trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation, there have been reports of women trafficked to Norway for the purpose of marriage. Although the women might be voluntarily going to Norway in order to get married, they sometimes become victims of exploitation once they reach their destination.⁷

Child trafficking is on the rise in Norway. Toward the end of 2007, there were at least 60 child trafficking victims identified in the country. These victims are exploited through forced labor or begging. There have been reports of children seeking asylum being “used as mules in drug trafficking.”⁸

Government Responses

At the beginning of 2007, the Norwegian government presented a two-year Plan of Action to Combat Human Trafficking. The government **envisioned**[E: this term sounds tentative and is used several times—was the plan implemented?] taking a number of steps in order to address the problem of trafficking in persons both within and outside of Norway. In addition to prevention measures, the plan prescribed steps for victim assistance, including “a temporary work permit for a six-month extended reflection period.” The plan also envisioned pro-bono legal assistance for trafficking victims, as well as help with “safe repatriation and resettlement for victims who wish to return from Norway to their country of origin.”⁹

One project aimed at addressing trafficking and providing support to activists and victims is called ROSA (Re-establishment, Organizing safe places to stay, Security, Assistance). ROSA was an initiative of the Norwegian Ministry of Justice and, since 2005, has been a source of information about victim assistance and about trafficking in persons in general.¹⁰

Nongovernmental and International Organizations Responses

⁵ May-Len Skilbrei *supra* note 2.

⁶ Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs *supra* note 3.

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ Liu Yang, *Child Trafficking in Norway* 42-44, Centre for Development and the Environment: University of Oslo, (June 2008), available at: http://www.duo.uio.no/publ/sum/2008/79032/Thesis_Liu_Yang.pdf.

⁹ Norway: the Official Site in the United States, *Norway Steps Up Efforts to Combat Human Trafficking*, <http://www.norway.org/policy/humanitarian/trafficking.htm> (last visited Feb. 25, 2010).

¹⁰ ROSA prosjektet, *Re-establishment, Organizing Safe Places to Stay, Security, Assistance*, http://www.rosa-help.no/pdf/rosa_english.pdf (last visited Feb. 25, 2010).

Norway's Research Council initiated a project focused on the trafficking of Moldovan children into Norway. The project entailed both research and data collection on the methods of transferring children from Moldova into Norway, as well as on the children's lives once they had reached Norway.¹¹

In 2005, a group of more than 1,000 Norwegian churches collected funds to help the country prevent trafficking in persons. The fundraising efforts resulted in a record amount of donations. The operation was spearheaded by an organization called Norwegian Church Aid (NCA).¹²

¹¹ ANETTE BRUNOVSKIS, FAFO INSTITUTE FOR APPLIED INTERNATIONAL STUDIES, *LITTLE MIGRANTS: INFORMAL CHILD MIGRATION FROM MOLDOVA*, available at <http://www.fafo.no/ais/topics/trafficking2english-childmigration.htm> (last visited Feb. 25, 2010).

¹² Francis Helguero, *Norwegian Churches Fight Modern Day Slavery*, THE CHRISTIAN POST, Mar. 21, 2005, available at: http://www.christianpost.com/article/20050321/8291_Norway_Churches_Fight_'Modern-Day_Slavery'.htm.