



# UKINE'

- Tampep Project for UNICRI-

# REPORT

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# 1. Context/Background

The Association TAMPEP has been working for many years in the City and in the Province of Turin in order to assist women victims of trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Over the years, it has noticed a constant if not increasing presence of Nigerian women involved in the prostitution business.

In effect, in the past 15 years there has been a constant growth of the number of foreign citizens entering the Italian territory. The migration flows started between the end of the 80ies and the beginning of the 90ies and had an impact on the prostitution phenomenon. More specifically, it is the Nigerian women, who appeared around 1991, together with the Albanian women who represented the most consistent presence in the trafficking market in Italy.

The presence of the Nigerian community in Turin is significant since it is officially represented by six communities finding their ethnical backgrounds in the various parts of Nigeria. This is why Nigerian women often choose to reside in Turin even though they might work elsewhere, in other important cities or simply in provinces surrounding Turin.

## 2. Tampep's Methodology

The Tampep Onlus Association is born from a research-intervention project called **Tampep** (*Transnational Aids & STD Prevention Among migrant prostitutes in Europe/Project*), which was financed by the European Commission DG5 in the framework of the "Europe against Aids" program. Tampep is currently present in 21 European countries. In Italy, it has as reference the Committee for the Civil Rights of the Prostitutes. The association has been in Turin since 1993 where it started with the Tampep working group (which later constituted itself as Association in 2001). Since 1997, Tampep has been supported by the Province of Turin, Assessorato alla Solidarietà Sociale, and, more recently, also by the City of Moncalieri. The methodology of Tampep's project is divided in six working areas:

- Mobile street unit and other outreach work in the field;
- Reception of the women in the office, consultancy and accompaniment to the necessary services (health, legal...);
- Gathering of informative data on the target group, evaluation of collected information and analysis of the changing situations;
- Workshops with the target group to evaluate their knowledge and develop together focused education tools, considering linguistic, educational and cultural differences;
- Training for peer educators chosen amongst the girls involved in the Tampep project.

More than anything else, Tampep takes the form of a project aiming at **reducing the psycho-physical harm related to all possible prejudices against persons who prostitute themselves**. The prevention material distributed by the social workers and cultural mediators doing the mobile street unit or in the office inform on HIV-Aids and other sexually transmittable diseases (STDs). It also gives information on contraception, how to deal with bad customers and how to prevent oneself from being attacked while working on the street. In addition, material is distributed informing the target group on the Italian law and on how/where one can have access to the social services.

As foreseen by the methodology of the project, major importance is given to the **cultural mediation** and to the involvement of persons coming from the same culture as the major groups of prostitutes present in the area. First of all the cultural mediation occurs for

linguistic reasons, but it is also of key importance as far as cultural aspects are concerned and their connection to varying systems of belief.

As far as monitoring is concerned, it takes place both during the **mobile street unit** actions and during the **reception of the girls at the office**: during the first contact on the street, the social workers briefly present the project and its goals, explain the content of the prevention material given out and how the social services can be accessed. During this first contact, condoms and additional material are distributed for the security and the personal health of the user. The social workers then communicate the address of the office where it is possible to further discuss the issues at hand or simply as a gathering place to meet a friendly person. Finally, they try to collect basic information regarding the girls: origin, age, length of stay in Italy....

The new or "first" contacts represent in general 50% of the contacts established by the mobile street unit, confirming thereby the high level of mobility of the girls involved in trafficking as well as the enormous amount of new and continuous arrival.

During this first contact the girls usually welcome the cultural mediator of their own nationality and are quite talkative even if they only share basic personal information. During the second or after repeated contacts instead, it is more likely that they open up, talk about their lives and often complain about their conditions.

In the office, the social worker compiles a confidential "**personal data form**" for the women asking for consultation and agreeing to give the necessary information. The forms serve to collect data such as the objective of the visit, the working place, age, origin, education level, previous jobs in home country, transit countries coming to Italy, situation regarding the residence permit, existing network of relatives or friends in the area where she resides.

The almost ten years old presence of the Tampep project in the Turin area has allowed to gather a series of important data regarding the conditions of and changes in the migration flows relative to the trafficking of foreign women and minors with the purpose of sexual exploitation. More than anything else, this was made possible by the interest and the welcoming attitude of the girls met during all these years.

Another fundamental part of the activities concerns the reception of the women who decide to denounce their exploiters and to start a **social protection program**, which, in time, will allow them to regain total autonomy. Tampep offers concrete support to the women, accompanying them through the various steps of the denunciation, assisting them in the procedure to obtain the residence permit, helping them in the search for a protected house in which to spend the first period of time and, later on, helping them to find an apartment to share with other girls. Assistance is also provided to integrate the women in skills building and working programs. Tampep avails of two apartments in Turin for the women following such programs. It also collaborates effectively with the network of territorial resources, that is, of other associations, institutions, public bodies taking care of these women as well as with organizations working in the skills building or job placement sector.

### **3. The situation of the Women**

The Nigerian women involved in prostitution and in trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation face specific difficulties, which can be summed up as follows:

- concrete living conditions (blackmail, exploitation and violence both, from the part of the exploiters than of the clients, weather conditions, working hours, housing, access to public services, regularization of the situation in Italy);
- health risks directly related to prostitution (HIV, sexually transmittable diseases, pregnancies...);
- psychological problems.

First of all, the difficulties relative to the concrete **living conditions** of the women refer to the extreme hardship in which they live. In effect, they are subdued and kept under strict control thanks to psychological, economical and social conditioning. Their documents are taken away from them and kept by the exploiters as a guarantee; in the meantime, the girls are forced to live with others under continuous surveillance. Who resists gets beaten up to serve as an example to the others. Another form of coercion is the use of magic rituals performed according to the culture of origin (Woodoo rituals).

Any opportunity to create contacts and develop friendships in Italy is prevented and the girls are threatened in order to discourage them to have contacts with law enforcement agents. Furthermore, even the families left back in the country of origin are threatened if the girls do not cooperate.

Next, the access to health care and social services is made difficult because the victims lack awareness and knowledge of their rights to be assisted, as well as of the possibility to easily access these rights (for logistical, linguistic, cultural and psychological difficulties): in this case, the role of the social workers working on the street is fundamental.

Finally, also the housing situation is problematic. When the women work on the street, they usually live in precarious conditions: they live in group, stuffed in houses, small rooms, previous warehouses, small and decadent hotels and pensions, and are generally marginalized from the society in which they are forcefully inserted and kept under control.

As far as **health conditions** are concerned a series of problems are to be taken into consideration: the termination of pregnancy because foreign prostitutes use it as a contraceptive method, and often have recourse to multiple abortions; unprotected sexual intercourses because they lack awareness of the risks they incur, and because clients are ready to pay more for this type of services.

When facing serious health problems, the women often turn to inappropriate rudimentary methods, to medication that is unknown to them and which they do not know how to use, taken in excess and maybe even mixed with alcoholic drinks.

Regarding the psychological hardship, a constant stress situation and continuous anxiety are key elements. They are related to their illegal judicial situation (continuous fear of the police), to their working situation (fear of aggressions and violences from the exploiters and the clients), to their isolation (prostituted women are usually not very much integrated into the territorial social framework).

## 4. The Uchine' Project

The UKINE' project (November 2002 – December 2003) – carried out by Tampep for UNICRI "Programme of Action against Trafficking in Minors and Young Women from Nigeria into Italy for the purpose of sexual exploitation" – following the various actions and proposals of the project, has involved an important number of Nigerian women victims of trafficking for sexual purposes in Turin and its Province.

Next, we will look back at the initial objectives and actions planned in the project, analyzing for each of them the achieved results.

## Action 1

Action 1	Objectives	Methodology	Beneficiaries
Diffusion of information on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal aspects</li> <li>• Help line</li> <li>• Art.18</li> <li>• Health related aspects</li> <li>• Access to public services</li> <li>• Local Nigerian network and community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate understanding of opportunities provided by the Italian legislation;</li> <li>• Improve access to public services;</li> <li>• Build a trust relationship, a space free of moral judgment and open to understanding of the other.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of cultural mediators and written information material written in women's mother tongue;</li> <li>• Involvement of local Nigerian community leaders for information and support;</li> <li>• Mobile street unit;</li> <li>• Individual interviews at the association's office;</li> <li>• Accompaniment to public services.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nigerian women and minors victims of trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation.</li> </ul>

## Achieved Results

The dissemination of information, as mentioned in the paragraph regarding Tampep's methodology, is realized mainly during the mobile street unit activities, which, in 2003, has been carried out 3-4 times a week, in the afternoon or at night, throughout the year and in the various areas of Turin and its Province.

All the information material used and distributed by Tampep is always first "tested" by the women to whom it is addressed. In effect, the material is created following their requests or/and according to specific problems, which concern them. The material is therefore created together with the cultural mediators and then shown to the women for further comments and improvements.

In 2003 the new updated version of the **Agenda Legale** (Legal Agenda) was inaugurated and distributed to the women. It is a practical and handy tool elaborated by the Committee for the Civil Rights of the Prostitutes and by the Tampep International Foundation. It contains information in the languages represented by the major linguistic groups on:

- How to legally enter Italy with a working permit, being married... (Law 139, 30 July 2002);
- Expulsions;
- Health and rights;
- Protection/tutorship of minors;
- Street work, Art. 18, help line against trafficking

In addition, in 2003 Tampep produced on its own, a new **leaflet containing specific information on themes related to the Political Asylum and on how to deal with law enforcement forces**: It thereby directly responded to numerous requests made by the women who showed confusion regarding the status of political refugee, as well as regarding their rights/duties when they get arrested by the police forces (for example not to give fake names, that they can ask for a receipt for the goods taken away from them...).

Another **information leaflet** was created, this time **for Nigerian women detained at the CPT (Temporary Detention Center) of Turin**. It explains the possibilities to participate to a reinsertion project in their country of origin, gives indications on how to contact members of the Tampep team for private encounters while at the centre and informs on the current Nigerian law on prostitution. This material has also been adopted and distributed by the Women Section of Red Cross, which is a referent, within the Temporary Detention Center, for expelled immigrants.

More specific information was then given on demand to women who came to the office during reception hours (daily from 10.00 to 13.00). There, the women were received and listened to by a social worker and a Nigerian cultural mediator. In general they asked to be

accompanied to the health services or to be assisted to handle the heavy paperwork relative to the release of official documents or residence permits.

As far as the **access to public services** is concerned, the request usually emerges during the women's visit to the office. The channels leading to a visit to the office are as follows:

- The encounter with the social worker and the cultural mediator during the mobile street unit leads to a first contact and thereby knowledge of the existence of Tampep.
- The information material distributed to the women helps them to orient themselves and makes them more aware of the various possibilities to take care of their health.
- The hearsay is very efficient; many girls come to the office sent by friends who already know the services offered by Tampep.
- Clients themselves are sometimes the mean by which girls access the office.

In 2003, **56 new personal data forms were registered** following encounters with Nigerian women seeking assistance at the Tampep office. An additional **126** of them were **accompanied** to health service in Turin.

Furthermore, Tampep's cultural mediators were at the disposal of the Help line against trafficking over the year 2003.

The local network of reference was principally activated thanks to the contact with the **Nigerian pastor** from the Pentecostal church in Turin.

The pastor showed interest in the project and the willingness to collaborate. Agreements were then made to verify the availability of the Casa Circondariale "Le Vallette" in Turin in order allow the pastor to celebrate religious services inside the jail and to have private interviews upon the request of the women. The strong personal motivation of the pastor made it possible for him to be active within the jail in favor of Nigerian women.

## Observations on the Phenomenon

Regarding the distribution of information material, the most appreciated one amongst Nigerian women is "Augusta's Way", a comic, which has as main protagonist a Nigerian woman victim of trafficking. She is shown arriving in Europe and meeting all the various difficulties, which life on the street involves as well as receiving advices from her friends on how to resolve these problems. The women usually enjoy the images, appreciate the simple language and recognize themselves in the story.

Concerning the type of requests made in Tampep's office, a gradual change has been noticed aiming towards a growing specificity of the women's needs. While Nigerian women once came to the office, often after having met Tampep's mobile street unit, just to chat and to have a contact with someone of the same community who would help them to orient themselves, they now mostly come to the office with specific requests to access particular services and information. Therefore, the information level of the women grew over the years. Tampep's work, together with the other components of the network, which all work in the same direction, has certainly contributed to the creation of primary basic information, which leads women to come to the office with specific questions and requests.

Nigerian women usually ask to be accompanied several times to the health services, even though they have already been there and would only need to go back to the same place. This means that, even though some of them are autonomous regarding health care services, they feel reassured by the presence of a social worker, who can intervene, should there be any occurrence of difficulties or incomprehension with the medical staff.

Contrary to Eastern European women, Nigerian women do not use private medical services.

## Critical Points

- √ It became evident that some of the Nigerian women are illiterate and that, in this case, the dissemination of information is more efficient at the level of a direct personal contact with the women or through the distribution of information material containing pictures.

- √ The Nigerian women, like many foreigners who have been in Italy for only a short time, have difficulties to handle the bureaucratic aspects of accessing public services. This is due to the fact that they do not yet understand the language well enough, and, above all, to the necessity to follow the various steps requested by the system in order to obtain what they need. This is true for health care and social services as well as for the access to housing facilities.

## Perspectives

The dissemination of information occurring during the mobile street unit outings, after having been done for years by the association, can now be considered consolidated. On the one hand side, the women now trust the social workers, and on the other hand, the continuous collaboration with the other organizations of the network which also actively work on the territory, has allowed a constant exchange of information, resources and good practices.

But with the bill n° 65 of 16.07.2002 on the regulation of prostitution, there might be a possible important change of the legal context. In effect, this new law, which is currently at a standstill, would prohibit prostitution in public places. This means that the possibilities to create a direct contact with the women would be drastically reduced, that they would be more controlled and would not have easy access to information material or public services. Should this happen, it would be necessary to think of alternative strategies to activate efficient communication channels with them.

## Action 2 and 3

What follows is the presentation of both actions 2 and 3 of the project in order to give a more complete picture of the prostitution phenomenon.

Action 2	Objectives	Methodology	Beneficiaries
Mapping of the phenomenon of migrants' prostitution	Constant updating of the phenomenon's developments on the territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of the mobile street unit in the Province of Turin;</li> <li>• Compilation of data sheets and reports relative to every mobile street unit outing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nigerian women and minors victims of trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation.</li> </ul>
Action 3	Objectives	Methodology	Beneficiaries
Research on Nigerian prostitution	Implementation of the mobile street unit activities and mapping of prostitution focusing on the situation of Nigerian women on the territory.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research activity on the specified target</li> <li>• Implementation of the mobile street unit in the Province of Turin;</li> <li>• Compilation of data sheets and reports relative to every mobile street unit outing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nigerian women and minors victims of trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation.</li> </ul>

## Achieved Results

The data was collected during a period going from the **1<sup>st</sup> of November 2002 to the 30<sup>th</sup> of November 2003** and is drawn from the data forms compiled following the mobile street unit outings. The information below regards exclusively the Nigerian target.

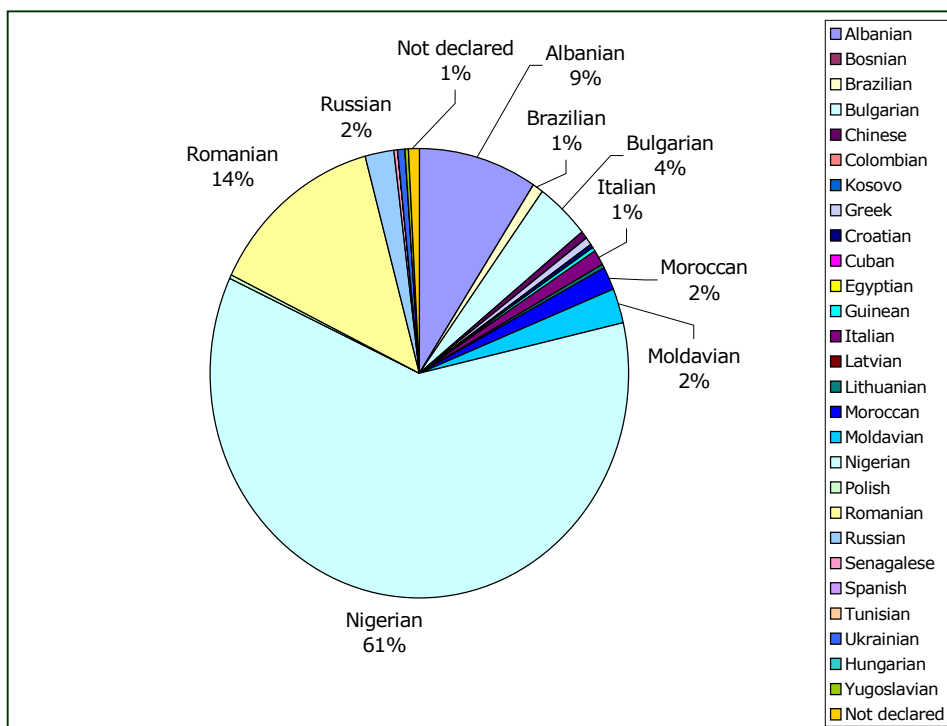
# 1) Nationalities

**Table 1. Nationalities**

Nationality	N.	%
Albanian	112	9.1
Bosnian	1	0.1
Brazilian	9	0.7
Bulgarian	54	4.4
Chinese	5	0.4
Colombian	1	0.1
Kosovo	1	0.1
Greek	6	0.5
Croatian	2	0.2
Cuban	1	0.1
Egyptian	1	0.1
Guinean	2	0.2
Italian	15	1.2
Latvian	1	0.1
Lithuanian	3	0.2
Moroccan	21	1.7
Moldavian	30	2.4
<b>Nigerian</b>	<b>749</b>	<b>60.6</b>
Polish	1	0.1
Romanian	169	13.7
Russian	29	2.3
Senegalese	1	0.1
Spanish	2	0.2
Tunisian	1	0.1
Ukrainian	5	0.4
Hungarian	1	0.1
Yugoslavian	1	0.1
Non declared	12	1.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1236</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 1** informs on the nationalities of the women met on the street during the indicated time period: on a total of 1236 contacted women, 749 (60.6%) are of Nigerian origin. These numbers confirm the continuing predominance of Nigerian women in Turin and its surroundings. In the meantime, the composition of eastern European women has changed: a few years ago, Albanians were predominant; nowadays it is the Rumanians who form the biggest group.

**Graph 1. Nationalities**

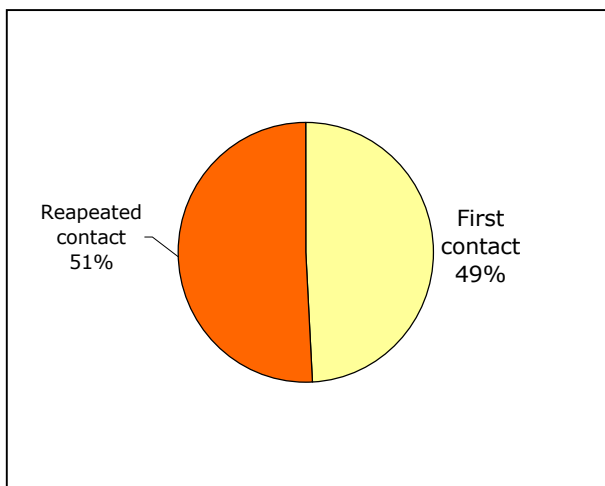




## 2) Contacts

As far as Nigerian women are concerned, there is a fair balance between the number of first contacts and the repeated ones. But observing the next table (length of stay in Italy), it becomes evident that there is a higher number of newly arrived women. This is explained by the important turn over of girls and their constant movement.

**Graph 2. Contacts**



**Table 2. Contacts**

First contact	368
Repeated contact	381
<b>Total</b>	<b>749</b>

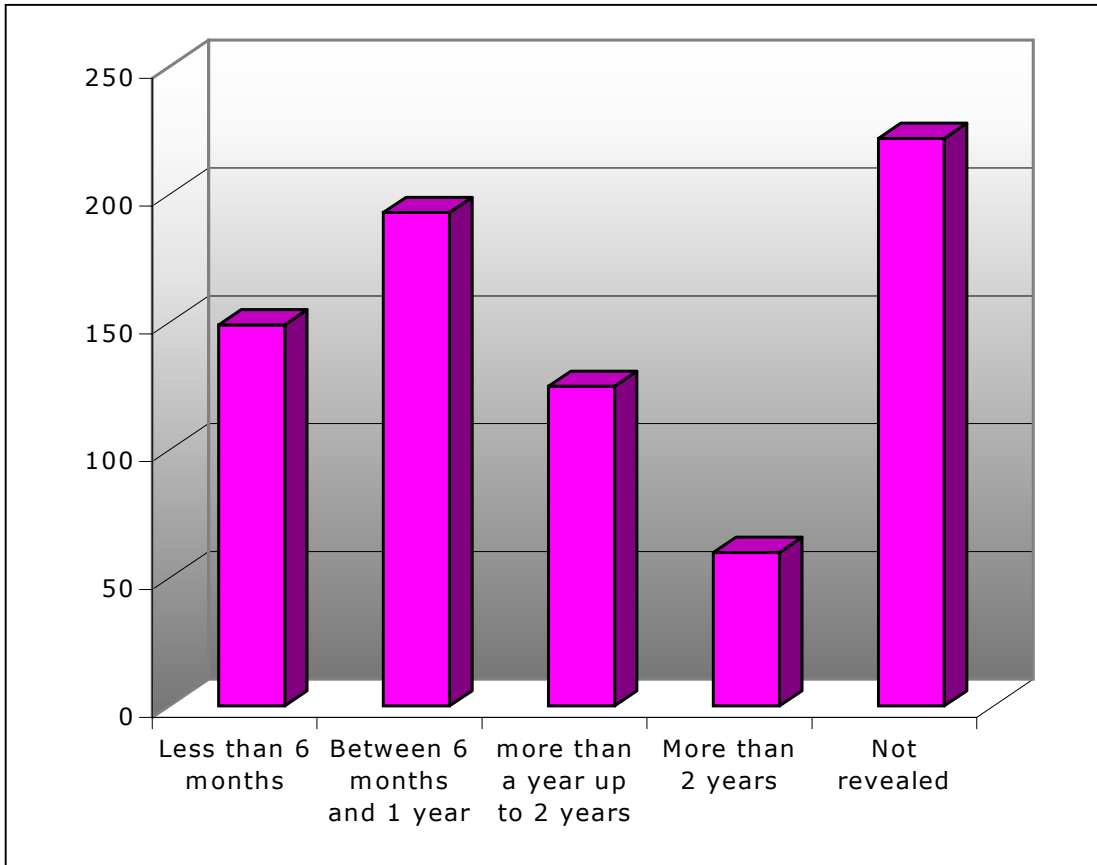
## 3) Arrival and length of stay in Italy

**Table 3. Length of stay in Italy**

Stay	N.	%
Less than 6 months	149	19.9
<b>Between 6 months and 1 year</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>25.8</b>
More than a year up to 2 years	125	16.7
More than 2 years	60	8.0
Not revealed	222	29.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>749</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The number of Nigerian women with a short stay is very high and relative to their important turnover. Still, a fair balance can be observed between short and longer stays indicating a fairly constant presence on the street even though not necessarily in the same location.

**Graph 3. Stay in Italy**



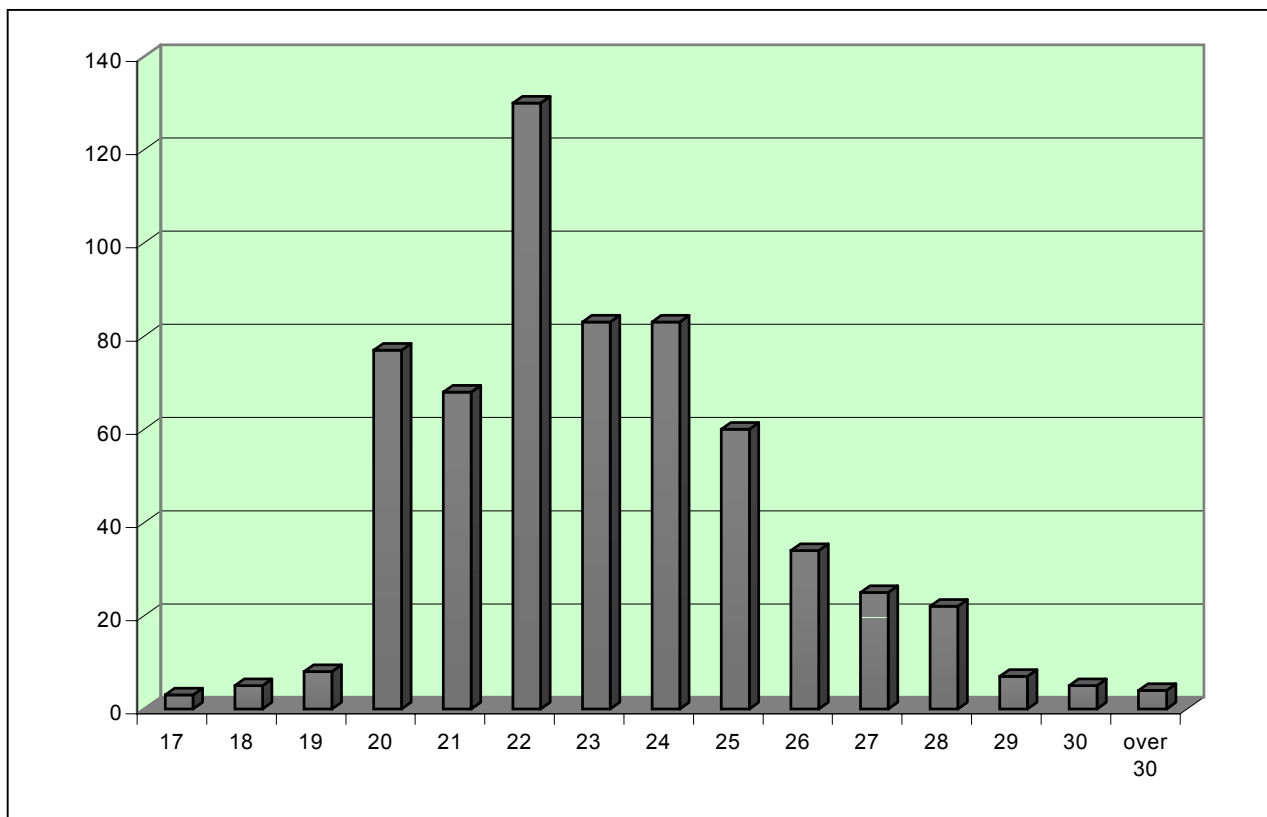
#### 4) Age

**Table 4. Age**

Age	N.	%
17	3	0.4
18	5	0.7
19	8	1.1
20	77	10.3
21	68	9.1
<b>22</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>17.4</b>
23	83	11.1
24	83	11.1
25	60	8.0
26	34	4.5
27	25	3.3
28	22	2.9
29	7	0.9
30	5	0.7
Over 30	4	0.5
Not revealed	135	18.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>749</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The age most often declared is **22 years of age (17 %)**. Compared to previous reports, the presence of girls declaring to be minors or having only just reached majority is to be underlined. This revelation indicates the diminishing age of the girls as well as a different mode of recruiting them (probably also related to the greater ingenuity and weakness of younger girls).

**Graph 4. Age**



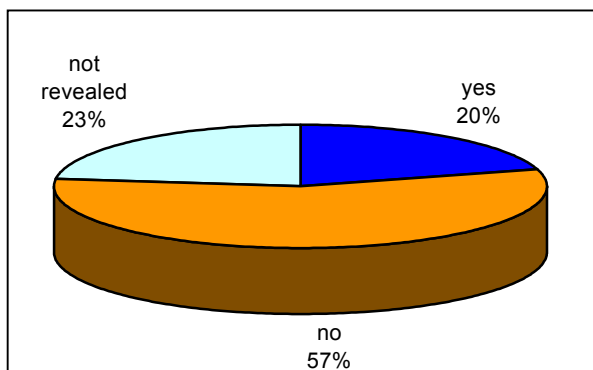
## 5) Use of public health care services

**Table 5. Have you been to a health care service?**

Health care service	N.	%
Yes	153	20.4
No	423	56.5
Not revealed	173	23.1
Total	749	100

The use of health care services is usually poor. Over the totality of women met, only 20% of them declare to have taken advantage of these services, while over half of them never made use of these services.

**Graph 5. Have you been to a health care service?**



## 6) Theft and Aggressions

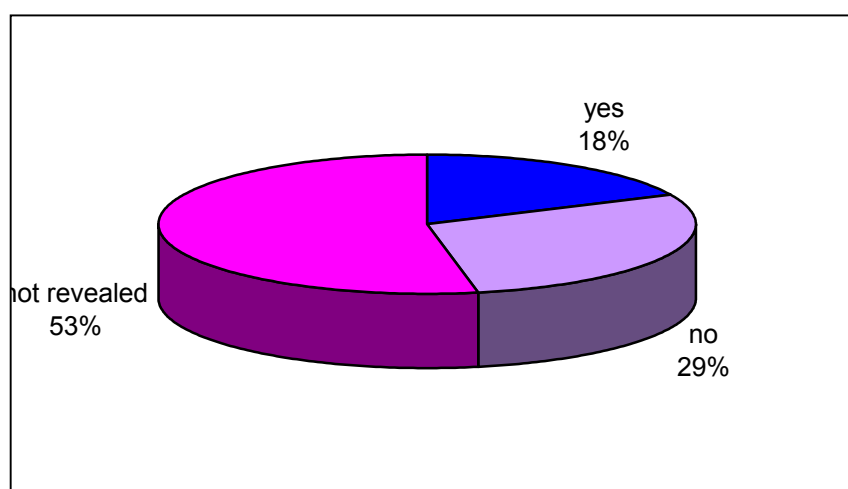
**Table 6. Have you been victim of theft or aggressions?**

Theft and aggressions	N.	%
Yes	135	18.0
No	216	28.8
Not revealed	398	53.1
Total	749	100

Women working on the street are frequently victims of theft and/or aggressions.

Nigerian women confirm the dangers of the street: about 20% of them declare that they have been victims of theft or that they have been ill-treated.

**Graph 5. Have you been victim of theft or aggressions?**



Besides the mobile street unit outings effectuated in Turin and its Province, a cultural mediator from Tampep has collaborated with a cooperative from Milan called "Lotta contro l'emarginazione" ("Fight against Social Exclusion"), which has a **mobile street unit active on the Milan territory**. Tampep's mediator thereby informed the Nigerian women working in Milan of the presence of Tampep in Turin. In effect, Milan's cooperative found out that many Nigerian women living in Turin work as commuters in Milan and its suburbs. The collaboration between Tampep and Fight against Social Exclusion was fruitful. As a consequence, some of the women met on the streets of Milan came to Tampep's office in Turin for personal interviews and accompaniment to the health care services.

In addition, a **focus group** has been realized **with representatives of the Nigerian community**, among which the pastor mentioned above. The theme was the situation of Nigerian women victims of trafficking, and more particularly their forced repatriation. The participants underlined how important it is to assist expelled women, since it would be easy for them to fall back in the exploitation business. First of all, it is the stigmatization in the home country, which does not allow them to start a new life, which pushes them to fall back into being exploited/trafficked. The following obstacle is represented by the families who often judge, abandon or exploit their daughters instead of supporting them. Last but not least, there is the serious financial situation, whereby women lacking economical support face the same problems they tried to escape from and will eventually opt to follow the same road to Europe again.

## Observations on the Phenomenon

The presence of Nigerian women in the area of Turin and its Province is fairly constant. Many of them can be found on some of Turin's street such as (strada Settimo, via Puglia, strada del Portone) and in the industrial zone of Trofarello-Moncalieri (via Pianezza). Even though the zones in which they work are always the same, the women often change working place. This is done for various reasons such as new arrivals, police round ups, movement imposed by the *madams* to attract new clients etc...

The phenomenon by which women commute to Milan confirms the centrality of Turin as a place of residence of the Nigerian community. During the year 2002, 1601 Nigerians were registered at the General Registry Office of Turin, of whom 1122 were women<sup>1</sup>. Their important number has pushed Nigerians to recognize Turin as their "home", where they would live, develop social bonds and important informal networks. This occurs despite the fact that with the constant arrival of new girls, the women have to work at an ever-growing distance from Turin.

## Critical Points

The study on Nigerian prostitution has recently revealed an important change, evidencing the fact that **women declare more often that they have been victims of serious ill treatments**. The novelty lies in the fact that these acts of violence are organized by their own exploiters. Until a few years ago, it was commonly believed that amongst the victims of trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation, it was the Albanian women who were the victims of the worst violences. Today, thanks to the declarations made by the women to Tampep's social workers and to information reported by the Police forces, we know that the Nigerian prostitution racket has increased the level of violence towards the women. While up to recent times woodoo rituals or minor aggressions perpetrated by the *madams* were sufficient to keep the women under control, they now hire Nigerian, Moroccan or Albanian thugs to subject women to acts of violence in order to prevent them from rebel themselves.

Unfortunately this is the negative response to a positively increased independence of the women, who tend to be less submissive than in the past, and sometimes even radically

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<sup>1</sup> Data collected from the *Osservatorio interistituzionale sugli stranieri in provincia di Torino*, Rapporto 2002.

refuse to work on the street upon their arrival in Italy. The *madams* have understood that the traditional response to the women's refusal is no longer powerful enough and have therefore increased the level of violence and fear amongst the girls. This is how one of them told us that she has been beaten up by a group of six men.

## Perspectives

The networking with the Nigerian community and its collaboration becomes increasingly important for successful interventions. Beside the activities of the cultural mediators, Tampep tries to consolidate the relations established with the Nigerian community to further understand the migration phenomenon of Nigerian women victims of trafficking with the purpose of sexual exploitation. Thanks to the assistance of persons whom the women will recognize as representative, it is expected that the team will be able to intervene more efficiently and timelier, and that it will be possible to create a real network with the Nigerian community to supplement the already existing traditional one.

## Action 4

Action 4	Objectives	Methodology	Beneficiaries
Assistance to women and minors who denounce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Activation of the local network (formal and informal resources) for the enrollment of women and minors<sup>2</sup> into social protection programs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assistance of the victim in the denunciation process and in the acquisition of the necessary documents;</li> <li>Reception in a protected shelter;</li> <li>Assistance in the professional orientation and formation and/or for the insertion in the labor market;</li> <li>Support to autonomous housing;</li> <li>Notification of minors to the Turin municipality for tutorship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nigerian women and minors victims of trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation.</li> </ul>

## Achieved Results

### *Summary of the situation from November 2002 to December 2003*

During the year 2003 some **social protection programs** were started in favor of the Nigerian women who requested them. In short, the program foresees the handling of the denunciation and of the residence permit, the admittance in a protected accommodation (community) and the selection of a skills building and professional program in order to prepare the women for an

<sup>2</sup> For minors inserted in the social protection program, it is planned that the Turin municipality will tutor them. This will be done through the Ufficio Minori Stranieri (Office for Foreign Minors) and the public services' network, which will both be in charge of being in contact with the family of origin (whenever possible), of finding an accommodation for the minors and of orienting them in their studies and professional career. The tutorship goes on until the child reaches the age of majority and is guided by the indications of the Committee for Foreign Minors, which operates at a national level.

autonomous living. Additional resources such as medical or psychological assistance for example can be activated. The program will end after some time, once the women have reached housing, working and social independency.

In 2003, a total of 7 Nigerian women were following a program of social protection after having denounced their exploiters as foreseen by the Art. 18. Some of these women had already started the program previous to 2003, while others started it that same year.

Of these 7 women:

- ⇒ 2 were minors and after the first contact, Tampep transferred them to the appropriate projects under the tutorship of the adequate public services;
- ⇒ 1 abandoned the program;
- ⇒ 1 arrived at the end of her program during 2003 with a working contract;
- ⇒ 1 remained pregnant and was taken on by the "Mamma Bambino" Project ("Mother Baby" Project) run by the "Centro Aiuto per la vita" (Help Center for Life);
- ⇒ 1 came back from Nigeria to settle down in Turin and pick up again the program she had previously interrupted;
- ⇒ 1 is still following the program.

As far as Tampep's **shelters** are concerned, they currently (in December 2003) accommodate 6 Nigerian women: 4 of them are under the responsibility of Tampep, while 2 other are under the responsibility of two other associations in Turin. In total from November 2002 up to now Tampep's shelters hosted a total of 18 women, 13 of whom were Nigerian.

## Observations on the phenomenon

Over time, Tampep notes as constant the number of women who decide to undertake a social protection program.

Having a closer look at the phenomenon and considering years of experience acquired in direct contact with the girls, specific factors can be identified as crucial for them to take such a decision. These factors are found in the stories of numerous women:

- ⇒ *The external factor*, the occasion for the woman to have a contact allowing her to get out of the exploitation circle: this factor might be represented by a particularly sensitive client, by a friend or a parent, by finding a phone number allowing to have access to other resources and to people who can help. It might also be represented by social workers and law enforcement forces, which are present in various types of offices and who give out information and the necessary confidence to try to put a definitive end to that type of life.
- ⇒ *The willingness to legalize ones situation*: some women take the opportunity, with the Art. 18, to obtain a residence permit, which, in turn, allows them to have new prospects for an active insertion in Italy.
- ⇒ *The sense of justice*: many women who denounce also find the strength to do so because of their strong awareness that they have been wrongly harmed, that they were victims of injustices and the victims of a traffic of exploiters. The possibility to denounce their traffickers and to see them prosecuted and punished is stronger than the fear of retaliations on them or on their families.
- ⇒ *The free will*: this last factor seems to be decisive for the decision. In effect, the sum of the precedent factors is not enough to support the resolution of a woman who lacks strong personal motivation. No data helps to define what triggers their decision in this type of situation. Tampep's experience reveals that the decision is independent from age, culture, length of time spent on the street or of the violences endured. Every woman has her distinct personal limit, a threshold, which, once exceeded, gives her the motivation to move on. This moment is also decisive for the continuation of the program.

## Critical Points

Some recurrent problems have been identified in the social protection program. They are characteristic and are faced by all the members of the network collaborating for the good functioning of these projects.

- ⇒ There is a timing problem linked to the time at which the woman starts her program: if this happens during the summer, the lack of resources that could otherwise be activated immediately can be felt. The social workers of the various organizations working in this field are not always reachable, the housing facilities lack rooms, the training facilities are not active and the working possibilities are reduced. If the resources cannot be activated immediately and the women are not starting the planned program right away, their personal motivation is put under stress.
- ⇒ There is a shortage of rooms in the housing communities: the demand exceeds the offer. Sometimes these structures are not adequate for the women, who need to be surrounded by social workers specially trained to understand and relate to them. The relation between the guests themselves is often problematic.
- ⇒ Once the woman is professionally autonomous, the accommodation problem continues since housing facilities are scarce and cannot always be found: the rent is expensive, the owners are not always willing to host foreigners, a deposit needs to be paid in advance and the candidate needs to prove that she has a stable job. The cohabitation with women of other nationalities proves to be difficult since Nigerian women have particular cultural habits: while being prepared, their food emanates a strong odor, the women raise their voice during conversation...
- ⇒ Job opportunities are missing: in a generally difficult moment of economic recession and of unemployment, big difficulties are recorded when it comes to find work for persons who often do not have the necessary qualifications to enter the labor market. In effect, the women are often not fluent in Italian, have a low educational level and have integration difficulties due also to the different pace of life they are used to. Some of them therefore have a hard time to respect regulated working hours.
- ⇒ The handling of bureaucracy, the payment of taxes or bills, the respect of deadlines and of schedules as well as the difficult language are all objective obstacles to the smooth integration of the women.
- ⇒ In addition, there is a problem directly linked to Turin and its surroundings since Nigerian are heavily stigmatized in this area. They are immediately put in connection with prostitution.

## Perspectives

Since the new law on immigration has not modified the enforcement of the Art. 18, it is still possible to suggest this great tool to women victims of trafficking, who wish to change their lives. The prospect is therefore to consolidate the networking activities and to ask for an increase of the resources made available to these women.

In this respect, a pilot experience made in connection with a European Community project, *Equal*, showed to be very successful. This project, which is still being run in Turin under the direction of the Province and of which Tampep is a partner, is a pilot project experimenting a reproducible methodology of insertion in social protection programs.

The innovation lies in the fact that the women already receive a sort of scholarship while they go to school or follow skills building training. This turns out to be a good support since it partly reduces problems related to the autonomy of the women, to their housing resources and to their personal motivation.



## Action 5

Action 5	Objectives	Methodology	Beneficiaries
<p>Training</p> <p><b>Duration:</b> January 2003 training for cultural mediators and peer educators. Additional training will take place during the year 2003</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training for peer educators and cultural mediators on health prevention;</li> <li>• Training for socio-sanitary personnel, law enforcement personnel and teachers on migrants' prostitution, trafficking and sexual exploitation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Production and revision of information material;</li> <li>• Organization of seminars and workshops;</li> <li>• Involvement of qualified trainers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultural mediators;</li> <li>• Peer educators;</li> <li>• Socio-sanitary operators;</li> <li>• Law enforcement personnel;</li> <li>• Teachers</li> </ul>

## Achieved Results

In January 2003 a **Training Day** was organized for social workers, cultural mediators and volunteers.

Topics:

- TAMPEP, carried out activities and current projects
- Street and prevention activities as well as reception of the women and their assistance with the Art. 18
- The experiences which led to the constitution of the Association.
- The current prostitution panorama in the city of Turin and the general situation in Italy.
- The international panorama and the policies against trafficking.
- Legislative proposals on prostitution and on the repression of the trafficking phenomenon.
- Projects launched for 2003 and the involvement of the countries of origin.

In addition, **refresher courses** directed at social workers, cultural mediators, volunteers and Tampep's staff have taken place between January and February 2003.

Topics:

*Tampep's methodology in the field of health prevention.*

Research action: target outreach work

Street work

Involvement of the network of health services.

*Cultural mediation and peer education*

Involvement and training of peer educators

The role of the cultural mediators

*Organization of the activities*

Team constitution and competences

Adherence to the proper role within the team

*Refresher course on the immigration law and on the application of the Art. 18*

Discussion of Case Studies

Definition of the working plan, the protocols etc... as well as of the relations with institutions

*Reception of the women*

Discussion of case studies

Definition of the working plan, of the management of housing communities etc...

In March 2003, Tampep was invited to **lecture in the framework of the Obstetrician Course of the University of Turin**. Amongst the various topics presented, Tampep focused on the trafficking question. Midwives are in effect amongst the health workers who often enter into contact with women victims of trafficking when these access health services.

In October 2003, an additional **refresher course was organized regarding the difficulties trafficked women encounter in the use of health care services**. This course was more particularly designed for cultural mediators.

The following lecturers were involved:

Comitato per i diritti civili delle prostitute (Committee for the Civil Rights of the Prostitutes), Pordenone  
Tampep onlus Association, Turin,  
UNICRI, Turin  
Ospedale Amedeo di Savoia (the Amedeo di Savoia Hospital), Turin.

The training was positively received by the members of the network: an average of 30 persons participated to the training, including social workers of the various public services and associations (Municipality of Turin, Gruppo Abele, Casa di Carità Arti e Mestieri, LILA...), cultural mediators, volunteers, students (from the University and the School for Educators) and Tampep's staff.

A collaboration started with the Sant'Anna Hospital of Turin foreseeing the insertion of 26 graduates from the Obstetrician course (graduating during the academic year 2002-2003) in a short internship with Tampep. The interns have been involved in Tampep's daily activities and were progressively introduced to the reality of the women assisted by the association, to the functioning of the various services...

In addition, a collaborator of "Advocacynet" (an American NGO working to promote the visibility of actions and projects undertaken by organizations involved in the protection of human rights) has done an **internship** with Tampep until August 2003.

## **Observations – Critical Points**

The training of social workers should be on going and involve all the staff that, in one way or another has contact with the concerned women. In effect, the specific problems faced by women victims of trafficking and the cultural issues relative to Nigerian women need to be well understood to assist them more efficiently.

Furthermore, during the training of the social educators, it is important to distinguish the trafficking of human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation from prostitution in general, since there tends to be confusion with respect to these two concepts.

## **Perspectives**

In the future, the intention is to keep room for training sessions, both participating to external training and organizing ad hoc training for the social workers of the Turin area. In effect, the rapid changes occurring at various levels of the trafficking phenomenon create the need for a constant update. Information therefore needs to be continuously acquired regarding changing legislations both in Italy and in the country of origin as well as regarding the living/working conditions of the women. Finally, the exchange of information on good practices and on the experiences made by other groups working in the area is essential.