

The Angel Coalition



*Research, education, training
and public information programs
for the prevention of sexual trafficking
of girls and young women
from Russia and the CIS*

Members, mission, accomplishments

The Angel Coalition is a consortium of 43 NGO's throughout Russia that was created in 1999 in response to the growing international crisis of sexual trafficking. According to the UN, the U.S. State Department and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), more than 500,000 Russian women have been trafficked to more than 40 countries in the past 10 years alone.

Registered in Moscow and St. Petersburg, the Angel Coalition mission is the prevention of sexual trafficking from and within the Commonwealth of Independent States through research, education and training and the rescue, return and rehabilitation of victims.

The Angel Coalition is Russia's largest, most-respected anti-trafficking consortium. Each year, it conducts an international conference in Russia which brings together not only members, but international anti-trafficking leadership. The organization is funded by foundations, private donors, Russian and foreign governments.

Trafficking Victims Assistance Center, Moscow

In June 2003 the Angel Coalition in partnership with MiraMed Institute, opened the Trafficking Victims Assistance Center in Moscow. With the establishment of the Assistance Center, NGOs in Russia and internationally can work directly with Russian Federation government structures and other international agencies to provide necessary support for the coordination of victim return. Many organizations and government bodies working on trafficking from the NIS are currently located in Moscow (e.g. European Union, UNDP, IOM, ILO, foreign embassies, etc) and most returning victims must pass through Moscow to be legally repatriated and issued new documents before they can be sent back to their home regions or to an intermediate safe house for their rehabilitation.



Access to and communications with these Moscow based organizations is essential for the members of the multi-regional Angel Coalition network in order to perform effective victim assistance and rehabilitation services in their regions.

Network of regional safe houses

To help survivors of trafficking returning to Russia, the Angel Coalition selected nine of its member NGOs – all with experience in working with trafficking survivors and with strong community coalitions in place – to become a part of a multi-regional network providing safe house and rehabilitation services.

Safe houses are currently operational in Kazan, Petrozavodsk, Murmansk and St. Petersburg (one for minors and one for women). In each safe house, victims are provided with room and board, psychological assistance, legal consultation and vocational job training. Although there is no provision of medical services in the shelter, residents can receive medical screening, tests and treatment in the local clinics upon the arrangements done by safe house's staff.

In the February of 2004 four more safe houses operating in Irkutsk, Chelyabinsk, Yaroslavl and Nizhniy Novgorod will join this sheltering network.



International Russian

At the end of this year, the Angel Coalition will be opening a toll-free Russian language help-line for trafficking victims trapped in Europe and United States. It will allow trafficked women and girls to get emergency information that will hopefully lead to their rescue and return. The toll-free line will also serve to provide relatives of trafficking victims and people interested in working abroad with qualified advice and assistance in their native language.

Making sure these help-line operators are comprehensively trained to give accurate information in a high-stress crisis will be the responsibility of the Psychological Crisis Center (PCC) in St. Petersburg, one of the founding partner organizations of the Angel Coalition. Over the past four years, the PCC has developed a unique method of complex training for crisis center counselors/specialists, and runs Russia's most established safe house for trafficking survivors.



Victim assistance protocols

In 2003, Angel Coalition partners worked collectively to develop Russia's first trafficking victims rehabilitation protocol to serve as a "best practices" guide for government and NGO's who wish to provide repatriation and rehabilitation services to victims of trafficking in Russia.

To draw on the experience of other international organizations that currently operate safe houses, Angel Coalition partners made site visits to programs in Europe then returned to pool expertise to create a protocol unique for Russia..

To ensure that repatriated victims are provided with the most effective treatment, the protocol will be updated each year to reflect the evolving experience of Russian safe houses as well as those overseas. These annual updates will be provided to national and international governments and non-governmental organizations committed to the rehabilitation of trafficking victims.



Community and government training

The Angel Coalition and its partners have conducted hundreds of educational meetings in orphanages, schools and colleges throughout Russia. Using videotapes, brochures and research created by Coalition members, the UN and other NGO's, thousands of at-risk girls and young women have learned about the dangers of trafficking and the techniques traffickers use to lure them abroad.

Training of police, media, educational, community and elected leaders and other NGO's has also been a priority of Angel Coalition members. From Petrozavodsk, Russia to Dushanbe, Tajikistan, Angel Coalition members have been meeting on a regular basis with regional authorities to make sure they

are aware of trafficking and what can be done at the local level to prevent it.

Cooperation with the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Labor are key priorities in victim repatriation and assistance for the Angel Coalition.



Embassy training

To help visa sections of foreign embassies understand how traffickers work, the Moscow office of the Angel Coalition has developed an embassy training program. Using actual advertisements from newspapers, interviews with agencies “promising good jobs overseas with no experience necessary” and case work examples of how to determine what could be a trafficking situation and how to use the anti-trafficking network; the two-day seminar also includes a quantity of anti-trafficking brochures and posters for embassies to use in their consulates in Russia.



Research

The Angel Coalition regularly publishes reports on and about trafficking. Reports currently available include the largest survey (3300 adults) ever done in Russia on attitudes and awareness of trafficking; two volumes of Proceedings of Angel Coalition International Conferences and a Statistical Abstract and Summary of Russia’s most comprehensive anti-trafficking multi-media campaign. In 2002 and 2003, the Angel Coalition provided statistical research for the US State Department Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report for Russia.

Multi-regional media campaign

Although regional information campaigns by Angel Coalition members are ongoing, Russia’s first multi-regional, multi-media campaign against trafficking was conducted by the Angel Coalition in May, 2001. With technical assistance from MiraMed Institute and funding from a variety of government and private foundation sources, the Angel Coalition produced a six region multi-media campaign using radio, TV, buscards, stickers, community actions and printed matter. More than 600,000 brochures, posters and printed materials were distributed. The campaign reached more than 10 million Russians .



Anti-trafficking legislative advocacy

The Angel Coalition has been very active in training its membership to advocate for strong anti-trafficking legislation in Russia and serves as members of the Legislative Working Group advising the Russian Federal Duma on such legislation.

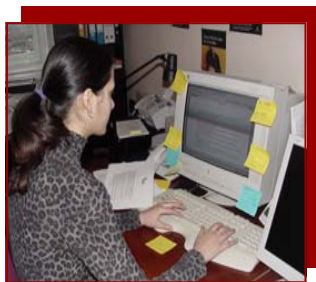
Earlier this year, for example, the Angel Coalition conducted a nationwide conference entitled "Regional lobbying strategies" to train Angel Coalition members and other NGO's working in Russia and the CIS on new lobbying strategies. In addition to Angel Coalition staff, participants also received training by 'The Institute of Election Systems Development' and MiraMed Institute. As part of the conference, each participant developed a regional action plan to meet with elected Duma representatives, educate them about pending anti-trafficking legislation and enlist their support.



In November 2003, the Duma passed (second reading) amendments to the Criminal Code that for the first time, makes trafficking a crime in Russia.

Anti-trafficking global Internet conference

Each year, the Angel Coalition conducts an international Internet conference on the issue of trafficking from the CIS. This year, people from 11 countries took part in this event, representing about 40 different Russian and foreign organizations as well as individuals interested in the problem of human trafficking. This Internet conference served as a global opportunity to share information and programs as well as to build new contacts and collaboration around the world.



On-line accessible database

The Angel Coalition is currently developing a Russian language database containing contacts of anti-trafficking NGOs working in Russia, CIS and other countries. The database will have information on government, consulate, law-enforcement and other contacts.

This database will be available on-line and serve as a valuable reference tool for every organization in need of this information.

Part of the database will also be used by the Angel Coalition Victim Assistance Center in Moscow to develop statistical data on actual trafficking cases.

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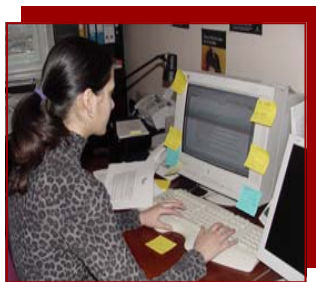
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Contract services:

Training for public information campaigns:

The Angel Coalition and/or its individual members can design and develop an educational/training campaign for your organization. Such campaigns can be narrowly focused to impact specific at-risk groups such as teenagers or broad-based to involve an entire community. Costs are determined on the time involved and materials needed.

Research and consulting:

Research and consultation on trafficking in the CIS can be developed using the Angel Coalition network in Russia and the CIS as well as partner NGO's in other countries based on the needs of the organization or government agency.

Training of embassy personnel:

Two-day sessions for embassy personnel (visa section and/or others) have been created that can be modified to suit the particular needs of the embassy. A quantity of brochures (500 minimum) and posters are included in the cost of the training.

The Angel Coalition is supported by:

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MATRA KAP, Netherlands

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MiraMed Institute

Moscow City Government

International Organization of Migration



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