



PHOTO REPORT

Photos : Arzuman Harutyunyan
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PHOTO REPORT

Armenia Turkey Anti-Trafficking Cooperation



Աուդիո Վիզուալ
Տարաբերների Կազմակերպություն
Audio Visual
Association of
reporters



«Հայաստանում բրաֆինգի դեմ պայքարի տեղեկատվական պատժիթի զարգացում» ծրագիր
Ծրագիրը ֆինանսավորվել է ԱՄՆ Պետքարտուղարության Ենթամիջոցների դեմ պայքարի
և իրավապահ համագործակցության բյուրոյի դրամաշնորհի շրջանակներում



Turkey-Armenia Networking in Counter-Trafficking

Overview: How it started...

"Association of Audio-Visual Reporters" (hereby AAVR) NGO is the third year implementing a project financed by INL Bureau of U.S. Embassy in Yerevan aimed at facilitation of continued development of a national framework to tackle the problem of human trafficking by implementing activities addressed to raising public awareness with the help of establishment of educational and working platform for the Media representative's nationwide as well as independent professionals and students majoring in journalism, advertising and PR. The Project supports and facilitates awareness raising initiatives on trafficking-related issues to cover both vulnerable groups and general population by the help of Mass Media and creative social advertising and PR campaigns.

AAVR constantly thinks on further developments of the program and one of the directions is the establishment and development of regional cooperation aimed at combating the human trafficking. With this purpose AAVR is making attempts to start cooperation with the neighbor countries.

According to the statistics of RA Police from 2008-2013 we have had 19 criminal acts of trafficking or exploitation characteristics in the cases of which the country of origin was Armenia and the destination country was Turkey. Figures demonstrate that Armenia and Turkey are interconnected in this human crime and they need support of their NGO-s to fight this global issue. Taking into account that absence of diplomatic relations jeopardizes solution of such threatening issues we-as humanitarian organizations are obligated to cooperate within the format of social sector collaboration aimed at fighting society challenges. Human trafficking and human sale do not recognize nationalities, the phenomenon is a huge human disaster and hereby we encourage you to fight against it through joined efforts obtaining desired results and making the impact more efficient.

The Turkey-Armenia cooperation start is an important step for the facilitation of finding, identification and support of the Armenian victims of trafficking, taking into consideration the fact that Armenia is a country of origin and Turkey- a destination country. The absence of diplomatic relations with Turkey puts the anti-trafficking efforts into a very difficult route. However, this does not yet prove the impossibility of cooperation. Due to the presence of non-governmental organizations, and due to Turkey-Armenia civil society ties, such cooperation is possible and should be developed through persistent initiatives. Moreover, the Trafficking in Persons 2015 report specifically highlights the importance of Turkey-Armenia cooperation and recommends the work with NGOs to find ways to identify and assist Armenian victims in Turkey.

Accordingly, AAVR incessantly puts its efforts to establish links and cooperation with Turkish NGOs and media representatives. As the first step, from 06-11 September of 2015, AAVR team visited Istanbul, Turkey for the realization of the following activities and distribution of informative materials:

- a) Creation of an anti-trafficking regional network between Turkey-Armenia to develop cooperation for the exchange of information about trafficking cases.
- b) Round-Table in Istanbul with the Turkish media professionals, NGO representatives dealing with anti-trafficking issues.
- c) Separate meetings with anti-trafficking media organizations, professionals, and anti-trafficking NGOs.
- d) Preparation of informative materials about the Armenian organizations dealing with anti-trafficking issues (Flyers) to be distributed among anti-trafficking NGOs and professionals
- e) Creation of magnets with and Armenian Hotlines (RA Police Hotlines and "Hope and Help" NGO) as an informative tool.
- f) Awareness raising among Armenian migrants (as a future challenge).

General figures and numbers

Armenian Situation on Trafficking Cases (2008-2014) (Source: Republic of Armenia Police)

Human trafficking victims identified by Armenian authorities	164
Human Trafficking victims	Women and minors
Trafficking types	Sexual exploitation, labor exploitation, organ trafficking and begging
Human trafficking countries of origin, identified in Armenia	Republic of Armenia, Russian Federation, Thailand, China
Trafficking destination countries	USA, Republic of Armenia, Turkey, Russian Federation, Shri Lanka
Number of lawsuits filed in Republic of Armenia	66

Armenia-Turkey Route (2008-2014)

Country of origin	Country of destination	Exploitation type	Lawsuit number	Year
Armenia	Turkey	Sexual exploitation	3	2008
Armenia	Turkey	Sexual exploitation	2	2010
Armenia	Turkey	Sexual exploitation	1	2011
Armenia	Turkey	Sexual exploitation	2	2012
Armenia	Turkey	Sexual exploitation	2	2014

The visit 06-11 September 2015, Istanbul, Turkey

Political crisis, Syrian migrants, Homeless people, Conflict with Kurds



During AAVR visit, Turkey's Pro-Kurdish Party HDP Party offices were attacked in Ankara.



Each evening during 5 days of stay, we saw marches, protestors walking along the main Sisley Street shouting nationalist slogans



Parallel to the situation with Kurdish conflict, there was another situation with migrants from Syria, sitting on the streets, homeless, nowhere to go. Just behind those sitting migrants, there was the active trade, people, buying selling... That was rather hard to digest such contrasting information, in one side the active trade, cafes full of well-dressed up people, hotels standing out with their clienteles going in and out. Such controversiality applies to all aspects of Turkey.

Photo caption: Syrian migrant family



Photo caption: Migrant woman, feeding her child



Photo Caption: Homeless children



Woman of Slavonic routes, with her children, begging for money, singing Russian folk song.



Many children, especially in Sisley area were homeless and begging for money or food. At Sisley Street especially children were many. They would come out with one request, then would disappear and come again to ask for the next request. Seemed there was someone behind organizing the children...



Photo Caption:
Sysley Street



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Photo Caption:
Sysley Street



Meanwhile... Trade



Diversity of services...





Contrast which
impressed in each
and every step





Contrast which impressed in each and every step



The core activities of our journey

Round-Table, 8th of September, 2015,
Hrand Dink Foundation' Anarad Hikutyan
Building Hall, Istanbul, Turkey

Participants: Representative from International Organization for Migration (Angelina Ryabkova-AVRR Focal Point in Istanbul), Human Resource Development Foundation- (Gokcen Getiner-Phsycolgist in Shelter), representatives from Caritas Turkey(Belinda Mumcu, Selin Dagistanli-program coordinators), Turk and Armenian journalists-(Bagrat Estukyan-editor, Gozde Kazaz-reporter)



Achievement of the Turkey-Armenia component has been the organization of the round-table in Istanbul which gathered professionals from non-governmental organizations, media professionals around one topic with the discussion about the Turkish context with regard trafficking, about the Turkish awareness raising campaigns, Turkish counter-trafficking organizations and sharing Armenian best practices, Armenian public awareness campaigns. The round-table was important since a lot has been learned on the methods of cooperation with the given Turkish context.



What was discussed?

- Activities of Audio-Visual Reporters Association and the project “Development of Anti-Trafficking Platform” in Armenia
- Turkish context about the trafficking
- The routes and causes of Turkey-Armenia trafficking cases,
- Anti-Trafficking Coverage in Turkey,
- Presentation of Armenian organizations dealing with trafficking (distribution of the flyers), their campaigns
- Presentation of Turkey organizations/ journalists dealing with anti-trafficking issues (floor to participants), their campaigns ,
- Discussion on how to create the network (tools)





What was pronounced?

- Trafficking is not a recognizable term
- The topic is not actual
- There is a political crisis in Turkey that is why the topic is not actual
- The topic is not interesting from Journalistic point of view
- It is very rare to find an article on a trafficking case
- All those articles go under "prostitution case"
- Trafficking victims are not regarded as victims
- Turkey population today is unaware of trafficking issues and risks
- Uninformed and vulnerable are migrated Armenians in Kumkapi Region
- There are few non-governmental organizations dealing with trafficking issues (Human Resource Development Center and Women's Solidarity Foundation) and one shelter in Istanbul



AGOS, 7th of September, Istanbul

Meeting with Agos journalists - Bagrat Estukyan and Yetvard Danzikyan and the rest of the team

Discussed issues:

- Consultation and talk with Pakrat Estukyan and Yetvard Danzikyan
- Inquiries about the Armenian school in Istanbul
- Media related information from Bagrat Estukyan
- TV program Patuhan, as an awareness raising tool for Armenian community in Istanbul.
- During the TV program trafficking issue has been discussed and revealed to the Public
- The program was also a public awareness try



Photo Caption:

Anahit Arakelyan, Arzuman Harutyunyan,
Pakrat Estukyan (Agos newspaper),
Armenuhi Nikoghosyan (Hrand Dink Foundation)



Photo caption:

Pakrat Estukyan, Yetvard Danzikyan,
Gayane Markosyan, Anahit Arakelyan
Discussing the media coverage of trafficking



The editor of Agos newspaper Pakrat Estukyan prepared a 45 minutes video material inviting Arzuman Harutyunyan to an interview at a program “Patuhan” (Window) which is being broadcasted for the Armenian community. During this TV program, the aim of Turkey-Armenia project and trafficking issues has been discussed. The program has been broadcasted and AAVR team believes, this was the first public awareness try.



Photo caption:

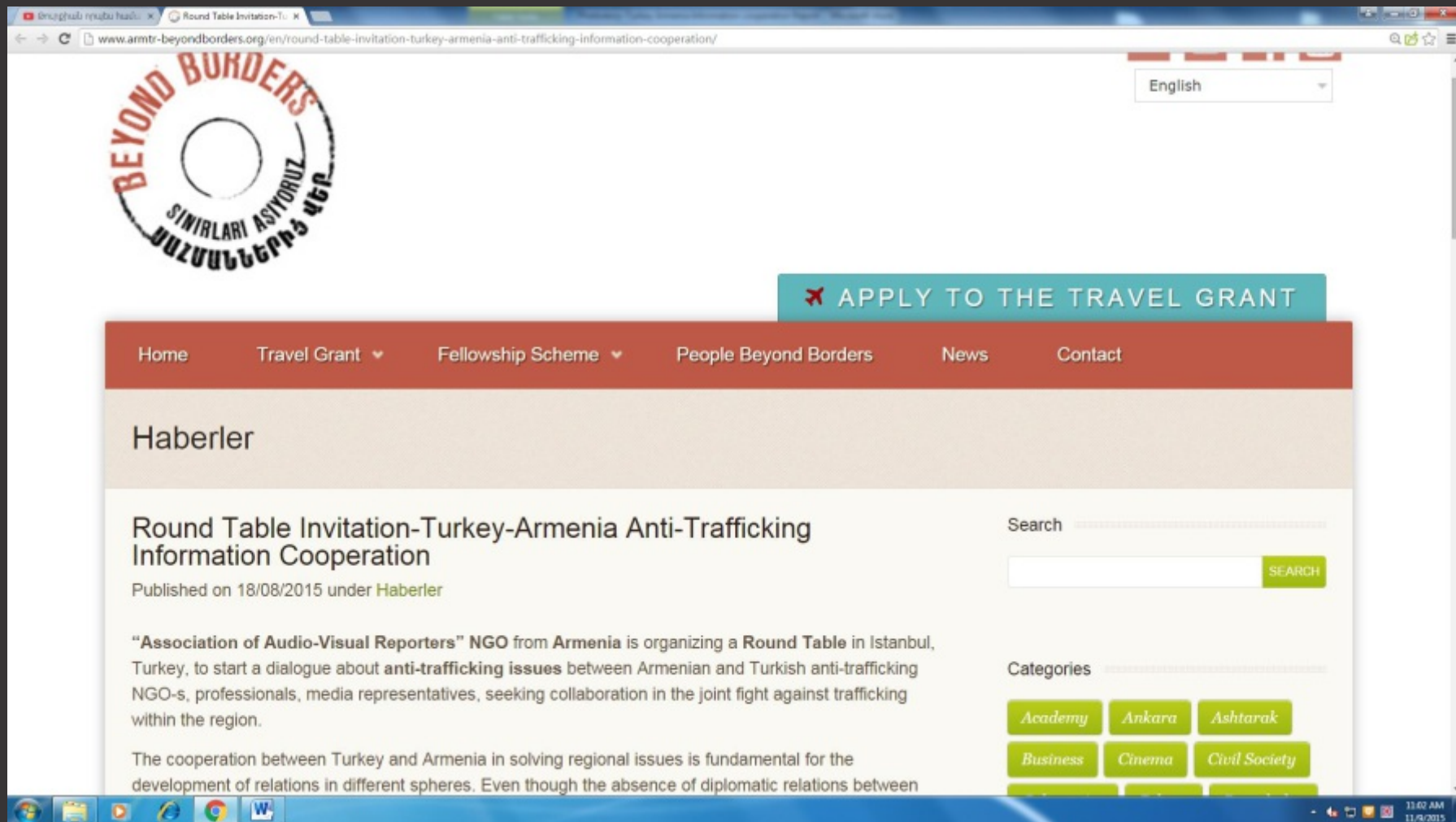
Arzuman Harutyunyan,
Pakrat Estukyan (left to right)



It is noteworthy to mention, that during the program Pakrat Estukyan-the author of the program has explained the word trafficking as sale of humans and highlighted the reason of migration which causes the occurrence of trafficking cases. Arzuman talked about the start of the development of anti-trafficking campaign and efforts in Armenia, about the RA Anti-trafficking working group, when and how it has been established, what it does and what it achieved. He talked about latent character of the crime of trafficking, explaining how the trafficking occurs, what stands for the countries of destination and source countries. Discussed was the case of Armenians and the destinations countries where Armenians become victims. He focussed on the fact that people migrate because of the social bad situation. During the program, Arzuman Harutyunyan explained the causes of trafficking giving tips to the public how to avoid trafficking.

The full video material of the program “Patuhan” is available through the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AKzv3nsybcA>



Hand Dink Foundation, 8th of September

Meeting with Hand Dink Foundation team

Hand Dink Foundation, administering the travel grant organization, helped AAVR team greatly in establishment of contacts and in distribution of the AAVR announcement about the Round-Table Invitation on 8th of September, 2015.

<http://www.armtr-beyondborders.org/en/round-table-invitation-turkey-armenia-anti-trafficking-information-cooperation/>



Hrand Dink Foundation team members,
who helped us in the organization
of the round-table.

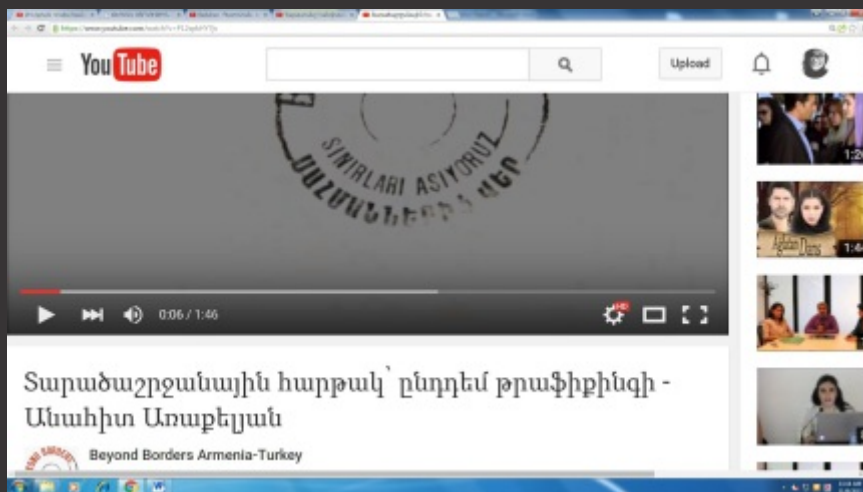
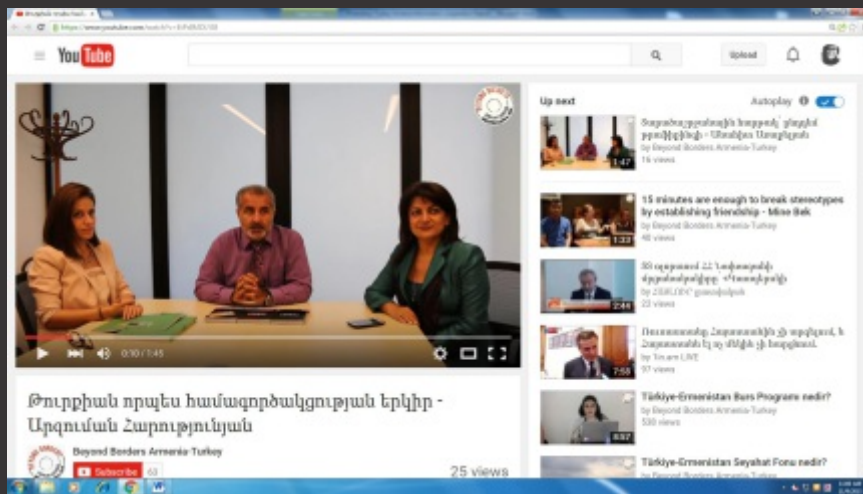
Photo Caption:

Arzuman Harutyunyan,
Armeniuhi Nikoghosyan
Muge Yamanyilmaz
Anahit Araqelyan (Right to left)



Photo Caption:

Arzuman Harutyunyan



Further in the framework of the Travel grant program, the team of AAVR has been interviewed by Hrand Dink Foundation staff to tell about the purpose of the visit to Istanbul and about the issue of trafficking on the Turkey-Armenia route.

Here is the link for the interviews in Armenian and print screens.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FiPdIMDLy18>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NmB2JE6PhXo>



International Organization for Migration office in Istanbul,
9th of September

Meeting with Eleni Diker-(Operations Assistant), Anahit Arakleya (AAVR), Angelina Ryabkova (AVRR Focal Point in Istanbul), Meltem Ersoy (Program Coordinator), Anastasia Saglam-(Project Manager), Arzuman Harutyunyan (AAVR), Hrantik Dikran Topakian

Photo Caption:

Eleni Diker-(Operations Assistant), Anahit Arakleya (AAVR), Angelina Ryabkova (AVRR Focal Point in Istanbul), Meltem Ersoy (Pr.Coordinator), Anastasia Saglam-(Project Manager), Arzuman Harutyunyan (AAVR)



What was discussed?

The International Organization for Migration head office is in Ankara. Hence visiting the office in Istanbul, the office staff organized a teleconference to establish connection with the Ankara office. The discussion began with our presentation about the goals of our visit and continued with their presentation of what projects are being realized in Turkey for the ant-trafficking fight.

We have been informed about 2 main anti-trafficking awareness raising projects in Turkey which are

The BUY RESPONSIBLY

(<http://www.buyresponsibly.org/>) and the production of the soap opera "Ucurum" translated as The Abyss sponsored by IOM, Turkey.



AAVR met Hrantik Dikran Topakian,
who is of Armenian descent and
works for IOM Turkey.

AAVR distributed the magnets,
booklets and PSA discs to the
IOM representatives, so that
the latter transfer it to relevant
stakeholders





Human Resource Development Foundation, 9th of September

Meeting with Tuba Dunder, Human Resource Development Foundation Program Coordinator

Tuba Dunder-Program Coordinator of Human Resource Development Foundation. AAVR team has been in contact with Tuba before the visit and already during the meeting in Istanbul with Tuba, different ways for cooperation have been discussed

AAVR team has been presented by Tuba Dunder the anti-trafficking situation in Turkey, the published materials and reports in Turkish on anti-trafficking statistics; she talked about the nationalities who become victims of trafficking or are at risk to be trafficked. (migrants from Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Moldova, Ukraine, Romania. The discussion between AAVR team and Tuba covered also the possible cooperation through the translation of the AAVR guidebook into Turkish and distribution among the journalists that the foundation is working with.



Armenian Patriarchate, 10th of September
Meeting with Armenian Patriarchate of Constantinople general surrogate Ter-Aram Archbishop Ateshyan



Issues with the community,
situation in Kumkapi region,
situation with migrated Armenians

Situation with Armenians have
been discussed with the Armenian
Patriarchate.



Hay Dproc visit in Kumkapi region, Istanbul, 10th of September
Meeting with the principal and founder of the school,
Heriknaz Avagyan, HayDproc

To make the visit more effective and productive, and to create a fundament for the next steps, the AAVR delegation visited an Armenian school in Istanbul comprised of children migrated since 2004.

The school has been created in 2004 with 7 school children only and up to now it has 150 schoolchildren. AAVR distributed its materials to the school asking the director to transfer the information to children's' parents.

Photo Caption:

Arzuman Harutyunyan, Heriknaz Avagyan,
Anahit Arakelyan (Left to right)



Stories of debt bondage occurring in the community of recently migrated Armenians and stories about the migrated children's situation have been revealed by the school director.

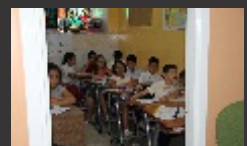
Based on those stories by the School director who we describe as a diligent, honest, objective and caring person AAVR delegation observed that the community members are at a trafficking risk being mostly from a social low class and unaware of the issue.

Hence, a need for awareness is crucial among this group. Especially with the huge migration of Syrians and Lebanese to Turkey, the trafficking risk for also Armenian community is getting bigger and the rational is that with the coming of new people, it is becoming tougher to find job and the hopelessness of a job seeker gets him trapped into debt bondage or trafficking. The community needs to be informed and a challenge here is to find right formats for awareness raising.





It was not their will to move to Turkey.





Caritas Turkey ,
10th of September
Meeting with Belinda Mumcu,
Selin Dağıstanlı

Caritas is actively supporting and addressing the issues of migrants including the migrants from Armenia. Their main focus is the Armenians of Kumkapi region and they are in direct contact with the Armenian School in Istanbul run by Heriknaz Avagyan.



Black Sea Economic Cooperation Armenian Representation Office, 11th of September Meeting with Arsen Avagyan

Arsen Avagyan from BSEC Armenian Representation, gave us a more statistical information and confirmed the existence of the problem with debt bondage in Turkey, Kumkapi regions.

He told about the Kumkapi region, about the situation of migrated Armenians and mentioned the sizes of Armenian community (56,000 population of Armenian descent, of which 20,000 is illegal). He talked of the Armenian schools and mentioned about Heriknaz Avagyan's school and the stories connected with it. Discussed was also the issue with the media which does not cover trafficking cases and does not recognize the term trafficking. Arsen Avagyan confirmed that issue exists. However promised to send us those newspaper name which ever covered, or may possibly cover the issue of trafficking and update us with any info on the topic.



Main challenges of the project:

Challenges were many...

Making of contacts was a challenge in the Turkey-Armenia cooperation attempt. In the preparation to visit Turkey, AAVR team has contacted many non-governmental organizations (Women's Solidarity Foundation, Family Counsellors Association, Human Resource Development Foundation, Jamanak, Marmara, Agos, Aras Publishing House, Support to Life, Koç University Migration Department, Ege University Department of Sociology), however received few responses back. The reason to this is that first of all few organizations actively deal with anti-trafficking in Turkey (only 3 NGO-s) and secondly, the topic is not at all a hot topic in Turkey, even though cases of trafficking are a lot.

Media challenge: Lack of coverage of trafficking issues, non-usage of the word trafficking, and lack of concerned journalists and newspapers which could potentially cover the topic.

Political crisis:

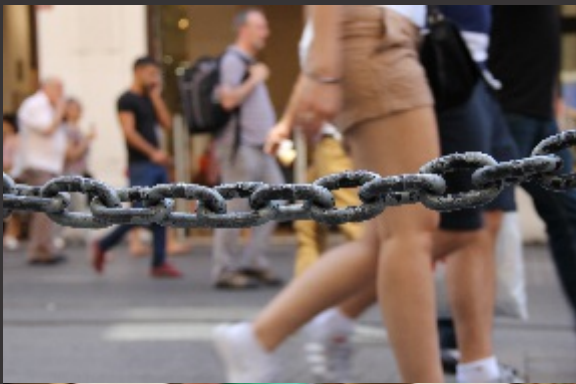
The political crisis situation in Turkey puts the trafficking issue among its secondary issues. In the first place is the conflict with Kurds, situation with ISIS, Syrian migrants' flow to Turkey, terrorism issue, hence the topic of trafficking, which is directly a result of migration, is left aside.





Coverage of the visit
<http://goo.gl/BHPIkT>
<http://goo.gl/Q2xVv8>





The fight
against
trafficking
continues...!

