

An illustration featuring a central globe with white latitude and longitude lines on a blue background. The globe is surrounded by five hands of different skin tones (brown, yellow, red, light skin, and tan) reaching in from the top, bottom, and sides, symbolizing global unity and cooperation. The hands are set against a circular background with concentric light blue rings and a green arc at the top.

Victim Assistance: Multilateral Cooperation



Multilateral Cooperation

Presenter

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National Coordinator Anti-Human Trafficking &
Smuggling



Multilateral Cooperation





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- Aruba is a destination country for trafficking in persons
- Risk sectors are: prostitution and labor (service and construction industry)
- In 2007 an interdepartmental and interdisciplinary working group for counter-trafficking activities was installed
- Governmental and semi-governmental agencies tasked with anti-trafficking efforts are represented in the working group



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- Partners in the working group are:
 - Aruba Police Force (chair)
 - Public Prosecutors Office
 - Directorate of Alien Policy, Admission & Integration
 - Directorate of Foreign Affairs
 - Directorate of Labor & Research
 - Directorate of Social Affairs
 - Bureau for Victim Assistance
 - Directorate of Public Health
 - Directorate of National Security
 - Coastguard Aruba & Netherlands Antilles



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- The working group has drawn up a counter-trafficking plan for the years 2008-2010 in which proposals are made for:
 - education and training of government officials
 - a publicity and awareness campaign
 - the realization of a telephone helpline
 - the guidance and support of victims
- This action plan is currently being revised for the years 2011-2013



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- Results so far:
 - the training of government officials in victim identification and victim assistance is ongoing
 - a draft for a publicity and awareness campaign has been completed
 - a telephone helpline has been established (+297) 5923231 as well as an email address LCMM@kparuba.com
 - an outline for a study on human trafficking and the sex industry has been drafted



OPEN YOUR EYES ...to modern slavery

If you know anybody who could be a victim of human trafficking or you are a victim yourself, please contact us for assistance and/or information.

VICTIM ASSISTANCE HOTLINE

5923231

24 hrs a day



For more information contact the Country Coordinator Anti Human Trafficking
and Smuggling at LCMM@kparuba.com



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- an committee (police, prosecutor, labor, alien affairs) has been installed to review information on possible cases of human trafficking (case study)
- an investigative team has been assigned to handle cases of human trafficking
- a basic referral procedure for cases and / or victims of human trafficking has been established
 - the Country Coordinator has to be informed immediately of any possible cases of human trafficking and will alert the review committee
 - the Bureau for Victim Assistance will take care of shelter and support for the victims



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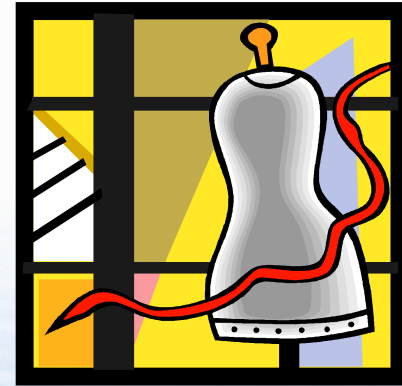
- In 2009 a Memory of Understanding on trafficking in persons, human smuggling and illegal immigration was signed by the ministers of Justice of the Netherlands, the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba to ensure further cooperation and support between the partners in the Kingdom of the Netherlands
- Results of the MoU in 2009:
 - appointment and regular meetings of the National Coordinators
 - additional Dutch funding for the planned activities
 - support of Dutch experts in training and investigative activities



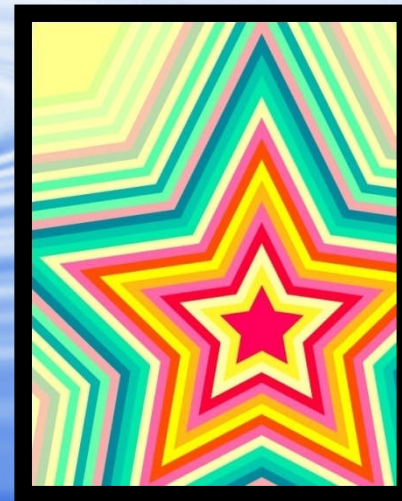
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What happened in 2010?

- one investigation into labor exploitation (HK Taylor)
- * one victim, one suspect



- one investigation into sexual / labor exploitation (Strea)
- * seven victims, four suspects
- * forty-five possible victims





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- at the end of 2009 two American females reported the loss of their passports
- they had been employed by Mister X as dancers in his club and he had taken their passports for safekeeping
- the police officer made a copy of their contract and contacted the National Coordinator who alerted the multi-disciplinary review committee
- a preliminary investigation led to sufficient indications of possible human trafficking and the case was handed to the Organized Crimes Unit for further investigation
- during the meeting of the National Coordinators a strategy for further cooperation was determined



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- in the beginning of 2010 a Lithuanian female in Curacao made a complaint against Mister X, claiming to be a victim of human trafficking
- a male employee reported to have been forced into cooperation by the use of extreme violence
- in the summer of 2010 two Ukrainian females came to a police station and claimed to have escaped from Mister X



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- the investigation was intensified and preparations were made to arrest Mister X and his accomplices
- due to the risk for the victims it was decided they could not receive safe shelter on Aruba
- the Joint Investigations Teams NA&A provided the finances for transport to Curacao and later reinforced the investigative team
- the Victim Assistance Bureau Curacao provided shelter for the victims and made the necessary arrangements with IOM for return
- the National Police Service in the Netherlands provided for an expert investigator to join the team



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- the National Prosecutors Office in the Netherlands provided for a specialized prosecutor
- during the raid at Mister X's club two Brazilian females also claimed to be victims of human trafficking and they were also transported to Curacao
- four arrests were made: Mister X, his girlfriend, his bodyguard and a police officer
- Mister X was transported to the prison in Bonaire





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- the connection between Mister X and government employees is currently under investigation
- after the arrest two Russian females working in Spain contacted the investigative team to report that they were also Mister X's victims
- more than seventy former employees have been identified of which forty-five possibly are victims of human trafficking
- the charges against Mister X will most likely include: human trafficking, being part of a criminal organization, money laundering and assault



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Current status of the case:

- after his arrest Mister X was placed in preliminary detention and led before the investigative judge
- the investigative judge ordered to interview several of the potential victims and witnesses in this case
- as a result 10 more victims made an official complaint against Mister X for human trafficking



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- Mister X made his first appearance before the court on the 17th of December 2010 and will do so again on the 1st of April 2011
- the case is expected to be brought before the court in the third or fourth trimester of 2011
- the nationalities of the known victims are: Lithuanian, Ukrainian, Brazilian, Russian, Hungarian, German, French and Scottish.



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Partners in the STREA investigation are:

- The Aruba Police Force
- The Joint Investigations Teams NA&A
- The Prosecutors Office of Aruba and the Netherlands
- The National Coordinator of Aruba, Netherlands Antilles and the Netherlands
- The Victims Assistance Bureau Aruba and Curacao
- The National Police Service of the Netherlands
- The International Organization for Migration



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Thank you for your attention.
Are there any questions?