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Warning against human traffickers offering shelter to Ukrainian women and children for the purpose of sexual exploitation

"We've made it for now," says Olga, who fled Kiev alone this week with her 10-year-old daughter and found shelter with relatives in Duisburg. Her husband is not allowed to leave Ukraine. "But now there is an unbearable fear for our Ukrainian women and children," says Olga and other women from *FemUA Nordic Model*, who had demonstrated against Germany's prostitution laws in front of the German Embassy in Kiev in 2017. "We, the women of *FemUA Nordic Model*, are Ukrainian feminists, and support the criminalisation of johns along the lines of Sweden. We understand prostitution as violence perpetrated by johns. Germany promotes sexual exploitation and lures young women from Ukraine into prostitution," they complained in front of the German Embassy in Kiev and warned against introducing German laws in Ukraine.

The women of *FemUA Nordic Model* are shocked because they now hear about human traffickers at German borders and train stations offering money and sleeping space to women and children. The German criminal police are also trying to warn the Ukrainian women and children. Experts who observe German john forums report "anticipation" of the supply. With its prostitution laws, Germany has turned on the tap of human trafficking and sexual exploitation, but has not managed to protect the women and children from the perpetrators for 20 years. Even beyond human trafficking and sexual exploitation exists a very wide grey area where the most vulnerable people among us are unprotected.

Together, *Alliance Nordic Model* and *FemUA Nordic Model* are taking up the justified warnings of the German criminal authorities against human traffickers who offer shelter to Ukrainian women who have fled, for the purpose of sexual exploitation. **The men at German train stations and borders should be met with scepticism, and women should never hand over their passports.** However, there are also women among the traffickers. **The best thing for women to do is to contact the local authorities and official aid organisations. It is also possible that the women and children are first offered accommodation and that sexual acts are later demanded in return.** In an area where there are no witnesses, it is almost impossible to convict the perpetrators in Germany. Perpetrators claim that there was a quid pro quo and that the woman was a voluntary sex worker. In the case of minors, perpetrators exonerate themselves from punishment by misrepresenting their age.

Germany's laws and regulations on the prostitution trade and operator obligations give the impression that there is no human trafficking, no exploitation and no forced prostitution. This is a fallacy. Prostitution has long taken place underground. The perpetrators know that there is no effective criminal prosecution in Germany. They take advantage of the plight of the most vulnerable people in our society without serious risk.

The Steering Committee *Alliance Nordic Model* (V.i.S.d.P.) supported by *FemUA Nordic Model*
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Explanation: Alliance Nordic Model is active nationwide and includes over 45 associations, networks and initiatives as well as numerous individuals from civil society. Together, the Alliance advocates for a progressive prostitution policy in the context of universal human rights in Germany and demands the introduction of the Nordic Model: 1. decriminalisation of prostituted people; 2. criminalisation and effective prosecution of all profiteers: johns, pimps/madams, brothel operators and traffickers; 3. exit assistance (nationwide and comprehensive), protection and support and 4. education and public relations work through anti-sexist education and prevention with the aim of a social rethink.
