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→ **BERATUNG**
umfassende Beratung für Lateinamerikanerinnen
→ **LERNZENTRUM**
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→ **TAMPEP**
Unterstützung für Migrantinnen in der Sexarbeit
→ **IBF**
Interventionsstelle für Betroffene von Frauenhandel
→ **ÖFFENTLICHKEITSARBEIT**
Informations-, Sensibilisierungs- und Lobbyingarbeit

18th October 2013: EU Anti-Trafficking Day

“Trafficking of women constitutes a violation of human and women rights. That is to say: The rights of the victims have to be placed in the centre of any measures to combat trafficking in women.” Evelyn Probst, the head of the Intervention Centre for Trafficked Women (LEFÖ-IBF) asserts. She sees further need for action in order to strengthen the rights of victims and their protection as well as crime prevention.

Recently raised demands to legally ban sex work are viewed critically by LEFÖ. “Banning sex work is not an appropriate means to combat trafficking of women. It does not strengthen their position. To the contrary, it stigmatises and criminalises them. Demands to ban sex work completely ignore the situation of women being exploited in domestic work or in the agricultural sector. In whatever sector they are exploited – they are properly helped only if their rights are strengthened.”

A secure status of residence for victims of trafficking is the most important demand according to Probst: “The main problem we encounter in our work as an organisation for victim protection is the status of residence.” In order to receive a residence permit, the current legal situation requires that legal proceedings for human trafficking are instituted and the victim testifies in court. The permit is also linked to the duration of the process. “This means that women cannot stay in Austria in cases where they do not want or cannot testify if, for instance, they just do not know enough. And if they do not manage to fulfill the criteria of the Austrian integration agreement – meaning to learn German and to find a job – they do neither have the right to a permanent residence.”

It was to be seen positively that victims of trafficking in women have access to rights provided under the “Law on Victims of Crime” and, thus, to health care and therapy. It was furthermore

positive that victims were granted higher damages and compensation. There were, however, still possibilities for improvement states Probst: “It is extremely difficult for women to actually get their money. Offenders cloud their financial situation and hide their money. The victim come away empty-handed. A regulation similar to the Dutch model would be desirable. There, the state advances money and later sues the perpetrators for it. In our view, damages and compensation are not only a form of reparation, but a means for prevention. That way, the women receive a financial basis to start a new life. This prevents women from again sliding into poverty and become again victims of trafficking.”

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