

The parliamentary groups of SPD, Bündnis 90/Die Grünen, FDP, CDU/CSU and Die Linke - as well as Ms Ronja Kemmer MdB
Mr Marcel Emmerich Member of the Bundestag
Mr Alexander Engelhard Member of the Bundestag
Ms Ekin Deligöz Member of the Bundestag

"Ways out of human trafficking and sexual exploitation in the Danube Region"

Dear Sir or Madam,

from October 19-22, the highly acclaimed international online conference "Ways out of Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation in the Danube Region" took place. The Danube Office Ulm/Neu-Ulm, the City of Ulm, the Ulm Alliance against Human Trafficking and Forced Prostitution, SOLWODI Baden-Württemberg and the Ulm Police Headquarters brought together more than **150 selected experts** from **10 Danube countries** for virtual exchange and transnational networking in order to fight human trafficking in the Danube Region more effectively. The main focus was on the countries Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, the Republic of Moldova and Germany.

Human trafficking and especially the trafficking of women and children along the Danube is a massive problem that requires better cooperation between both the authorities and civil society of the Danube countries. The transnational field of action is characterized by organized crime and corruption. To achieve long-term success here, a common strategy is needed. The interdisciplinary conference had in particular facilitated the **exchange of experiences and the sustainable network building** between local authorities, non-governmental organizations and law enforcement agencies from the Danube countries across state and sector borders. On three consecutive days, the experts discussed along the topics, **sanction, help for victims and prevention.**

The three-day conference showed how great the need is for networking and educational work on this important topic. This was shown, among other things, by the great response as well as the appreciation of the platform offered by the participants. In the light of the past conference, the undersigned can also derive the unanimous CALL of all participating experts and practitioners to those who bear political responsibility to give the fight against human trafficking and sexual exploitation greater political attention, in short, to put the issue on the political agenda, with the aim of a stronger fight against this inhuman problem. Following this classification, we, the undersigned, would like to express herewith. **Particularly in view of the current coalition negotiations of a "traffic light government", we appeal in this respect to all politically responsible persons to recognize the fight against human trafficking and sexual exploitation, as one of the most pressing problems of our society, to fight and to take appropriate measures. In particular, a closer cross-border and cross-sector networking of the operational level must be supported.**

In the exchange with the practitioners of the different sectors and countries along the Danube, it also became clear that in particular an agreement on the so-called "**Nordic Model**", which has been introduced in Sweden, Norway, France - and since 2018 also in Israel - can also make a substantial contribution to the fight against human trafficking and sexual exploitation in Germany.

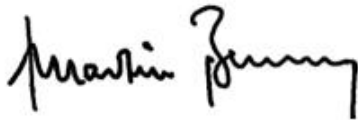
Taking note of the complex problems, assessments and impressions of the past conference, we, the undersigned, would like to take this opportunity to explicitly call for the introduction of the "Nordic Model".

Background:

Many recognized experts considered the "Nordic Model" to be an effective measure against human trafficking and sexual exploitation. In particular, it provides law enforcement agencies with a fundamentally different approach to containment and can be seen as a consistent response to the prevailing conditions in prostitution. A main argument in favour of legal prostitution is that there is less control / influence in a sex purchase ban and that legalization at least provides a certain, controllable framework. This argument is understandable, but it ignores the fact that de facto, in formally legal structures, there is already no controllable framework. According to experts, 70 to 90% of the cases involve coercion, including accompanying criminality. In this respect, the maintenance of the current system of order and the status quo in Germany is unacceptable and disproportionate in the face of the suffering of trafficked persons and sexual exploitation.

It is not the women in prostitution who should be punished, but the clients. In Sweden, a change of perspective has been achieved in the last 20 years since the introduction of the Nordic Model. This would also be urgently needed in Germany. Since the EU's eastward expansion, human trafficking and sexual exploitation have increased massively. At the same time, the red light has changed considerably: Many victims of human trafficking and sexual exploitation come from the countries along the Danube. The Corona crisis has further aggravated the situation. Unemployment and economic hardship are deliberately exploited by traffickers.

Therefore, we suggest putting the issue on the political agenda. This would be an important political signal.



Stadt Ulm, vertreten durch den 1. Bürgermeister Martin Bendel



Donaubüro Ulm/Neu-Ulm, vertreten durch den Geschäftsführer Ralph Seiffert



**SOLWODI Baden-Württemberg e.V., vertreten durch Leiterin Beratungsstelle Aalen
Marietta Hageney**



**Ulmer Bündnis gegen Menschenhandel und Zwangsprostitution, vertreten durch Leiterin
des Frauenbüros Ulm Diana Bayer**