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Identifying Swedish contributions to stem the demand combating the trafficking of human beings, I would like to place the production of the feature film *Lilya 4-ever*, by *Memphis Film* on top of that list. This film has made it possible to raise the awareness of millions of individuals, not only in Sweden, but in no less than 56 other countries on all continents to which the film was distributed commercially. The film is also frequently used for educational purposes by schools, police academies, judges and prosecutors, non-governmental organizations and other institutions in several countries. It has furthermore been screened in the Parliaments of Sweden, Russia, Belgium and other countries and is a compulsory part of the training for all Swedish peace keeping troops to the Balkans and other destinations. *Lilya 4-ever* was also nominated for an Oscar award.

The film *Lilya 4-ever* manifests not only the extreme vulnerability of the victims but also the importance the demand factor has for maintaining this lucrative business in human bodies. Very sadly, the film is based on a real case of trafficking to Sweden:

Her name was Dangoule. She was a 16 year old girl from Lithuania with the same dreams and the same hopes for the future as any other teenager. She was enticed by the man she loved and trusted to go to Sweden with promises of a better life and a steady job picking vegetables. She arrived to Kristianstad, a city in the south of Sweden, on the 17th of November 1999. Her passport was taken from her and she was locked up in an apartment and told that she now had a debt of 20.000 Euros for her travel, passport and accommodation costs. Dangoule was beaten, raped, starved and humiliated. Her pimp told her that if she informed anyone of her situation, she would be thrown in prison since prostitution is a crime in Sweden. Moreover, she was an illegal immigrant since her passport was faked. The terror forced Dangoule to be silent and to suffer several customers per day. On the 7th of January 2000, in utter despair, Dangoule jumped from a bridge to end her life.

In one of the last sequences of the film you see Lilya being taken away by the ambulance. In real life 16 year old Dangoule survived another few days in hospital. She however never regained consciousness and died alone and deprived of all dignity in a foreign country. Her identity and other circumstances would have remained unknown for always, had not police found a piece of paper with a telephone number in her clothes. The telephone number led police to the apartment where she had been kept prisoner. Dangoule's few belongings were found, including some letters she had written to friends in Lithuania. These letters made police eventually identify her friends, who could fill in the missing parts of Dangoule's short life in her home country. The trafficker was never identified. In a last attempt to pursue the legal case, the police made an announcement on Swedish TV requesting information from the public. Surprisingly, a man came forward. He was Russian by nationality and admitted that he had been paid to take Dangoule from the airport to the apartment upon her arrival to Sweden. He claimed that he did not realize that this was a case of trafficking and that he had no further information. Due to lack of legislation at the time, specifically targeting trafficking of human beings, the man was set free. In fact, no one was prosecuted for the trafficking of Dangoule; for assaulting her, deceiving her, buying her body, raping her or causing her tragic death.

Had this case taken place two and a half years later, after 1st of July 2002, when a comprehensive law was introduced in Sweden, targeting all phases of trafficking of human

beings, that is, the recruitment, transport, providing accommodation, the advertising and the selling of sexual services, the Russian man would have been prosecuted and convicted.

But let us take a step further back in time: Had Dangoule had a higher level of education, would she not have realized that picking vegetables was not a realistic job offer in the middle of the Scandinavian winter? Had the passport officer in the airport had special training on trafficking of human beings, would she not have inspected Dangoule's passport more carefully, maybe to detect that it was faked? Had the general public had more knowledge of trafficking, would not someone in the building where she was locked up have reacted to Dangoule's screaming and the coming and going of different men? To these rhetorical questions I believe we find some important answers how to combat trafficking. Finally, had not Dangoule's traffickers correctly counted on the demand factor, would Sweden have represented a lucrative market? Trafficking of human beings operates exactly on the same principles as any other trade, that is, it is based on supply and demand. Contrary to the trade in arms and drugs, human bodies can be sold over and over again, making trafficking in human beings an exceptionally lucrative business.

In conclusion I would like to share with you the following:

Our history books claim that slavery long ago was wiped out because it belonged to an uncivilized world. Today, we call ourselves modern, well educated and civilized. And yet slave trade in children is flourishing, here and now and during every minute of this seminar.

To deny, to turn a blind eye or to passively observe is a contribution to the continuous contemporary slave trade that is manifested by trafficking of human beings. I therefore look forward to renewed efforts from all parties involved in order to save children from suffering the faith of Dangoule from Lithuania.