

Study Visit of Kosovo Counter-Trafficking officials in the United Kingdom



Joint photo of Counter Trafficking officials from Kosovo and representatives of Scotland Yard

As a part of its capacity building component, IOM Kosovo's Counter Trafficking (CT) Unit -through the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA)-funded project of "Assistance for the Protection, Return and Reintegration of Trafficked Women and Children in the Western Balkans and Main Countries of Origin" organized a study visit to the United Kingdom for high-ranking CT officials from Kosovo and NGO representatives. The visit was focused on recently established CT mechanisms in the United Kingdom and aimed to increase understanding of the national referral mechanism for trafficked persons. In addition to the Kosovo Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, the following heads of departments of different Ministries participated: Head of Victim Advocacy and Assistance Unit in the Ministry of Justice, Head of Serious Crime Unit in the Kosovo Police Service, Head of the Social Service Department in the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, and Project Coordinator of the NGO, Hope & Homes for Children.

The visit aimed at improving participants' understanding of the UK counterparts' operational procedures, focusing on referral mechanisms and the identification of victims of trafficking. In addition, the division of roles and responsibilities and coordination mechanisms between the police, NGOs and governmental structures in the UK were presented by the Metropolitan Police, Scotland Yard representatives, the Home Office representatives and the government-funded NGO, 'Poppy Project'.