



KAVOD

A holistic approach to helping victims of sexual exploitation

■ *In the thick of it*

Being in the thick of the red light scene is our calling, and we love it.

On our latest tour time down in Styria just about everywhere the doors were open for us. Some of the proprietors even greeted us like old friends. We've become a part of the scene and the women are pleased when they see us

again. It's a sign that these regular visits are relationship builders, so that when any woman wants to get out, it's not such a big step for her to get in contact with us. Our next tour will be in September.

Being part of the scene means we hear stories – and we ask questions. For example, we wanted to know why one of the night-clubs goes by the odd name of 'Heiner's* Bar'. >>

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It turns out it's named after one particular Heiner who got himself shot by the owner of another brothel twenty years back.

Micha*, a minder at one of the brothels, tells us, "Yeah, once in a while a pimp might knock one of his girls around. But if I lay a hand on him, he goes running straight to the cops."

Rosa*, who been working 5 five nights a week in the bar in one of the clubs for 35 years. She loves her job and would never want to do anything else.

Roxana does not have a bus where she can receive the clients. The "street guard" has forbidden her because she has no driver's license and no one to drive the bus.

** Name changed*

Then there's Mira* who prefers hanging around in the bar to being in the whorehouse itself. The guys here often just want a bit of a laugh, she says. They don't always come here to have sex.

In a couple of places, we run into women we've already talked to. It is easy to pick up where the conversation left off and we end up leaving our contact details, so we can keep in touch.



■ Project Ukraine

We have been back since the beginning of June. Now we're already planning our next trip which will be mid-July.

This time around we went to Kyiv with Pastor Igor. He has a large van which we were able to use to distribute the food and hygiene articles we had either bought ourselves or been given by other organisations.

The way we work there is holistic – on the one hand we meet material needs by giving people things they need, on the other hand- to meet their spiritual needs – we preach and then we offer psychological help. Melinda has spent the last three months as a crisis psychologist at the border. She and Sabine worked together demonstrating a stabilisation exercise and helping people to put it to work right away. It's a really useful exercise in reducing panic and lowering stress levels. A lot of the time, however, we weren't doing anything as sophisticated: ***we simply spent a lot of time simply embracing people – often people we had only just met. In times of crisis, this kind of human contact is tremendously valuable.***

It made the long journey all the way to Ukraine more than worthwhile. After the first couple of days spent visiting refugee camps in Suceava and Chernivtsi, our mini three vehicle convoy travelled on to Kyiv. We visited villages in the vicinity which had been occupied by



Russian soldiers. The third vehicle belonged to Samuel and Micha, who had driven their van laden with relief supplies all the way from Vorarlberg. Villagers showed us their destroyed houses and the bullet-riddled gates to their yards. We

showed them that we were there, empathizing with their tremendous loss and trying to understand. We listened to them telling their stories, saw the destruction, the wrecked tanks standing in their gardens, all the burnt-out cars. Women and children had hidden out for weeks in some of the cellars of those houses.

We got to know Bogdan who runs several alcohol and drug rehab centres in the area. We visited three of those houses and spent time with the residents. The war has affected them, too, of course, because since it started the modest donations to the work are even lower. The houses are in a pretty bad state and the living conditions very basic. Since this visit, we have been exploring possible solutions to their urgent needs by putting them in touch with Teen Challenge, one of the biggest charities working worldwide with drug addicts.



In Kyiv, we also distributed some food supplies to poor people. We attended the service at Pastor Igor's church. This church has a flourishing youth work, which started when they began going to a local park, meeting children there and celebrating their birthdays – something which was quite novel for some of the kids. In the meanwhile, those kids have grown into young adults. Many of them come from deprived family backgrounds. They are part of the church and receive various kinds of support there. One of

them, 17-year old Andrey, came back with us to Austria. He will be living with the family of a colleague and continue his schooling. This will also mean that he avoids being drafted into the army when he turns eighteen.

On this latest journey we covered a total of 4350 km (2700 miles). We are deeply grateful to the Lord for his protection. We are also grateful for all the people we met. The need for spiritual, psychological and material help is enormous. The psychological assistance Sabine and colleagues offer is unique and much-need-

ed. For this reason, we are planning another two-week trip from 10th July, first to Kyiv and then to the surrounding villages. A friend might well be traveling with us to go and teach English at the camp in the Carpathian mountains which we mentioned in our last news.

As before, this upcoming trip depends on your support. If you would like to support us, here are our account details:

KAVOD, Kennwort: Ukraine

IBAN: AT77 2022 7004 0001 0872

BIC: SSKOAT21XXX

youtu.be/hqi6r28Z_AQ

> This is a link to the church with which we want to work.



■ *TOPIC: Sexual abuse – Something which needs to be talked about*

“Experts estimate that every third or fourth girl and every seventh or eighth boy under 16 has had some experience of sexual abuse, that is on average every fifth child. Applying this to Austria results in a figure of around 400,000 young people. Only 10-15% of these are victims of people from outside their family circle, – neighbours, priests or teachers. Despite the enormous preponderance of perpetrators from within the family – fathers, brothers or uncles –, most prosecutions concern perpetrators from outside the family.”¹

These are shocking facts which make us realise how likely it is that each one of us knows someone who has been affected. This is a very good reason why sexual abuse is Something which needs to be talked about

Sexual abuse is a crime. It is tragic that many churches, fellowships and families do not deal with sexual abuse in the light of this fact. Everything gets swept under the carpet, or far too quickly the focus is on forgiveness before what has happened has been worked through. The responsibility of the perpetrator has to be made clear. In the bible we read of people being held to account for their deeds. Sexual abuse is a crime which must be brought to the attention of the police.

■ WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF SEXUAL ABUSE?

As we have seen from the above statistics, sexual abuse often occurs within families. From our point of view, parents who engage in abuse lose their status as parents, as the first people with whom the child bonds. The abused child experiences an inner conflict now that the person with whom they have their closest relationship is the source of succour and danger at the same time. The child continues to identify with the parent and has to ‘split off’ what has happened, dissociating it as the only way to deal with the confusion: parental succour on the one hand and the torture of the abuse on the other. This adaptive mechanism serves a dual purpose- firstly as an expression of resistance to the overwhelming pain and secondly as a way to maintain the relationship in chaotic circumstances.

The perpetrator is a masterful manipulator and passes on his or her perverse way of thinking to the victim². Sometimes the perpetrator apologises and asks for forgiveness, in order to unburden him or herself and bring the victim back under his or her control. The perpetrator projects his or her arousal onto its object and would like to believe the child sexually desires him or her in the same way. It is always a question of power and control.

In addition to perpetrators from within the family circle, there are also paedophile abusers. Paedophile perpetrators from outside the family circle often commit themselves to a long process of insinuating themselves into the family and gaining trust. They do fun activities with the child, buy presents and have a finely developed sense for when the child is ready. Having gained the mother's trust, often they will volunteer to babysit when no one else is available. Paedophiles look for vulnerable or neglected children and shower them with attention. This emotional seduction works like a charm. When physical contact occurs for the first time, it can be anything from an innocent hug to an inappropriate touch. The child's alleged consent to the abuse produces shame and feelings of guilt: I could have said **NO**. But that actually isn't the case – the person is 'frozen' and unable to act. A layer of shame and secrets overlies this, the feeling that 'this cannot be!'" Threats are another aspect of the perpetrator's manipulative behaviour – things like: "If you tell anyone, you will destroy our family and it will be your fault!" – or: "If you open your mouth, then I will do the same with your little sister."

Perhaps you are reading this and have endured sexual abuse yourself. To anyone like this, let me say this: ***"It's not your fault. This was an act that was done to you, quite apart from your physical and emotional reaction to it. Look for professional support. Going through this alone is not a good idea. You are worth it!"***

If you suspect that sexual abuse may be taking place in your environment, then pay attention to this suspicion. Learn more about abuse and get professional advice (below you'll find a list of places where this can be found). Often we get hunches like this when something isn't right.

1: Abuse in the family: Every fifth child is a victim of sexual abuse (German article) > www.profil.at/home/missbrauch-familie-jedes-kind-opfer-gewalt-268250

2: Victim is used here in a criminal context. In the face-to-face encounter, the person is a survivor.

3: - Tamar, Counseling center for sexually abused girls and young women > tamar.at
 - Die Möwe, Child Protection Center > www.die-moewe.at
 - Viennese network against sexual violence of boys and girls > www.wienernetzwerk.at

If you have any further questions, we would be happy to answer them.
Write to us at kavod.office@gmail.com
(Sabine Kallauch > KAVOD Operational leadership, Social pedagogue,
Life and Social Counsellor, Trauma Consultant)

Thank for all
your support
and encourage-
ment. Without
you we could not
do what we do.

*The
KAVOD team*



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