



... to move from poverty and despair to self-sufficiency and hope

Trafficking in Syria*

- Syria is principally a destination country for women and children trafficked for the purposes of domestic servitude and commercial sexual exploitation.
- Women from Iraq, Eastern Europe, former Soviet states, Somalia, and Morocco are recruited as cabaret dancers and subsequently forced into prostitution after their employers confiscate their passports and confine them to their work premises.
- A significant number of women and children in the large Iraqi refugee community in Syria are forced into sexual exploitation by criminal gangs or, in some cases, their families.
- Some desperate Iraqi families reportedly abandon their girls at the border with the expectation that traffickers on the Syrian side would arrange forged documents for the children and “work” in a nightclub or brothel. Iraqi families arrange for young girls to work in clubs and to be “married,” often multiple times, to men for the sole purpose of prostitution.
- Syria is becoming a destination for sex tourism by citizens of other Middle Eastern countries, due in part to the influx of Iraqi women and girls exploited in prostitution.
- Syria is also a transit country for Iraqi women and girls trafficked to Kuwait, the UAE, and Lebanon for forced prostitution.

Jinishian Memorial Program Syria

The **mission** of the Jinishian program, a ministry of the Presbyterian Church (USA), is to enable Armenians in need to move from poverty and despair to self-sufficiency and hope - through relief, development and spiritual uplift.

The Jinishian program’s response to trafficking in Syria has taken an indirect approach:

Jinishian social workers in Aleppo, Damascus, and Kamishly provide guidance and counselling to individuals and families suffering from severe poverty and emotional, mental and physical health problems.

Jinishian social workers are given the tools to identify the signs of domestic violence, drug addiction, and indicators of trafficking, in order to take necessary steps for prevention and intervention.

In Syria, the Jinishian Memorial Program operates under the sponsorship of the Armenian Apostolic, Catholic and Protestant church denominations.

To find out more about the Jinishian program visit: www.pcusa.org/jinishian

*from U.S. Department of State 2009 Trafficking in Persons Report on Syria