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Where are the 40.000?

- Statement on Trafficking during the World Cup -

You must have heard the rumor that 40.000 “forced prostitutes” were to come to Germany for the World Cup. This number was published several times in the media. Nobody double-checked its credibility. The media has jumped on to a rumour and unfortunately some NGO's are using it for publicity.

Now that the world cup is over , as an NGO that assists trafficked women in Berlin, we would like to share our experiences with you:

- Four different national hotlines have been set up by NGO's. For Berlin Ban Ying had agreed to assist trafficked women, if any would have called. The 1st hotline started on the 1st of May. Till today we have received **one** (!) phone call – but even this one case was not a case of trafficking. We do not know how many calls were directed to NGO'S in other cities – but had there been an increase we would have realised it in Berlin.
- Besides these hotlines, we had business as usual – no more phone calls from (potentially) trafficked women or clients.
- The police in Berlin raided 71 (!) Brothels during the world cup; they found no evidence of trafficking – but did deport 10 women. The police also mentioned that they were surprised to see, that only very few men were in the brothels.

So you can see there is clearly **no evidence of an increase in trafficking during the world cup**. Actually we need to acknowledge, that life for sex workers during the world cup was quite hard – very little income and a massive increase in raids – not only in Berlin.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact Nivedita Prasad or Babette Rohner.