

BLUE BERET



UNFICYP marks the World Day against Trafficking in Persons

On 29 July 2016, UNFICYP marked the World Day against Trafficking in Persons (marked globally on 30 July) with a briefing on the situation of human trafficking in Cyprus.

Nicola Smith, President of the Freedom Dolls Initiative (FDI), a non-governmental organization dedicated to raising awareness of the realities of human trafficking and providing assistance to survivors, delivered a presentation to UNFICYP staff. She highlighted the ever-present danger of sexual exploitation and abuse and the plight of the survivors of human trafficking. Ms. Smith stressed that many young people were drawn into the web of traffickers through the Internet, and that the youth needed to be more aware of the existing risks.

The Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and Head of UNFICYP, Elizabeth Spehar noted that trafficking in persons is a serious crime and a violation of human rights. She highlighted that the United Nations has a zero tolerance policy when

it comes to sexual abuse by anyone working under the blue flag.

Over the past few decades, 15 NGOs located in the south and the north of Cyprus have been working tirelessly to combat human trafficking on this island, providing assistance to both survivors of abuse and exploitation.

With the assistance of UNFICYP's Inside the Blue team, dolls made by the FDI and cookies were sold after the briefing, the proceeds of which were donated to the FDI.

In his message on the day, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said: "On this World Day against Trafficking in Persons, I urge everyone to recommit to protect, respect and fulfill the human rights of all migrants and refugees. Creating and supporting well-governed, safe and human rights-based migration and asylum procedures will be an important step towards ending the abhorrent practice of profiting from human despair and misery."



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