

# IOM Development Fund



DEVELOPING CAPACITIES IN MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

## ASSISTANCE FOR VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE MALDIVES

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Directory of Identified Services  
(Working Document)



# FOREWORD

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IOM is committed to the principle that human and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an intergovernmental organization, IOM acts with its partners in the national and international community to: assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

This working document is intended to be a tool for those providing services to victims of trafficking for referral purposes. International Organization for Migration (IOM) consulted with counter-trafficking stakeholders' networks to draft the list and takes no responsibility for the services provided or organizations listed below. It is encouraged that before referrals for services, further investigation is undertaken to determine the organizations details are verified and services are suitable.

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# DEFINITION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

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The United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons especially Women and Children defines in Person Trafficking as follows:

The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of threat, use of force or other means of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the receiving or giving of payment or benefits to achieve consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation of the prostitution of other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs;

The consent of a victim of trafficking in persons to the intended exploitation set forth in subparagraph (a) of this article shall be irrelevant where any of the means set forth in subparagraph (a) have been used;

The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation shall be considered “trafficking in persons” even if this does not involve any of the means set forth in subparagraph (a) of this article;

“Child” shall mean any person under eighteen years of age. (Article 3 of the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime)

# OVERVIEW OF MALDIVIAN SERVICE PROVIDERS

SERVICE PROVIDER	AREA OF EXPERTISE / ASSISTANCE
Advocating the Rights of Children	child rights, child trafficking
HOPE for Women	women's rights, gender-based violence, and sexual violence, legal advice and guidance
Journey	youth issues, education and employment advise, HIV, drug abuse
Maldivian Red Crescent (MRC)	emergency referral, family tracing, health issues, first aid, psycho-social support
Migrant Associations	self-help groups
Society for Health Education (SHE)	counseling, SRHR, HIV/AIDS, Thalassemia, gender based violence & domestic violence, safety & protection of children
SWAD	drug abuse, child abuse, violence against women and children
TEAM	employment and legal issues, worker's rights
Transparency Maldives	legal advise
Voice of Women	gender based violence, domestic violence, human rights violations

# SERVICES PROVIDED BY ORGANIZATIONS

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## Advice on drug abuse

- Journey
- SWAD

## Counseling

- Society for Health Education (SHE)
- Maldivian Red Crescent (MRC)
- Hope for Women

## Employment concerns

- Journey
- TEAM

## HIV/AIDS and sexual reproductive health and rights

- Society for Health and Education (SHE)
- Journey

## Human rights violation

- Advocating Rights of Children (ARC)
- Maldivian Red Crescent (MRC)
- Voice of Women

## Legal assistance

- Transparency Maldives
- Hope for Women

## Women's rights

- HOPE for Women
- Society for Health Education (SHE)
- SWAD
- Voice of Women



## Society for Health Education (SHE)

The Society for Health Education (SHE) is an organization that is core active in identifying and addressing the crucial health and social concerns of the Maldives. The society embraces the following mandate to strive to improve the quality of life of the Maldivian people, to harness the expertise of national professionals and to endeavor to raise awareness of health and social issues.

The thalassemia prevention program comprises an awareness component along with provision for screening. Apart from this, the establishment of DNA testing services has contributed to a significant reduction of the number of inconclusive results.

The counseling and psychosocial unit provides a wide range of notable services including telephone counseling, face-face counseling and play therapy (mainly to children). Counseling services are provided in the following areas such as relationship issues, depression, anxiety, marital issues, family issues, health related issues and other social and personal issues. SHE is the only NGO in the Maldives that currently provides *counseling services* that cater specifically to the needs of clients facing gender based violence.

The Sexual and Reproductive Health Clinic of SHE has a long standing reputation for client friendly and quality service provision on SRH and other various general health issues.

SHE conducts migrant fairs half yearly to provide voluntary and free **HIV counseling and testing service and SHR and gender health services for migrants**. A large portion of the migrant population was reached through the migrant peer educators trained during this project. SHE provides all its services except for thalassemia screening free of cost to the community members regardless of their nationality or race.

## Transparency Maldives (TM)

Transparency Maldives (TM) is a non-partisan organization that promotes collaboration, awareness and other initiatives to improve governance and eliminate corruption from the daily lives of people. TM is the National Contact for Transparency International (TI) in the Maldives.

Advocacy & Legal Advice Centre (ALAC) is a center established within TM to help victims and witnesses to pursue corruption related complaints. In addition to providing *free legal advice* and assistance to victims and witnesses of corruption, ALAC also undertakes advocacy for broader reform as well as conducts outreach and awareness activities.

## Advocating the Rights of Children (ARC)

Advocating the Rights of Children (ARC) is a non-governmental, non-partisan, non-profit organization registered in the Maldives. With a mission to protect and promote the rights and well-being of children of Maldives, ARC hopes to be their voice, advocating for their health, safety, education and wellbeing. ARC's main areas of work include working closely with children's shelters, advocacy and raising awareness on the rights of children through national and international outreach.

ARC works in collaboration with government authorities and like-minded organizations, to lead the advocacy efforts on issues ranging from children's health and nutrition, child abuse prevention, Internet safety, anti-bullying/anti-discrimination, children with disabilities and empowering the girl child.

ARC worked as a member of the Juvenile Justice Coordination Committee and continues to work as a member of the Foster Care Panel of Maldives. ARC has also been selected for the newly established National Anti-Trafficking Steering Committee against Human Trafficking.

## Human Rights Commission of the Maldives (HRCM)

The Human Rights Commission of the Maldives is an independent and autonomous statutory body created by Decree by the President of the Republic of the Maldives with the right to sue and be sued. HRCM was granted amicus curie status on the appeal case of a sexual abuse victim, submitted to the High Court. The case was appealed by the relevant government ministry following the flogging sentence passed by the Juvenile Court. HRCM submitted an investigation report compiled taking into account safeguards, rights and protection afforded to a victim of child abuse under the Maldivian Constitution, Islamic Sharia and the international human rights standards. HRCM further stressed the findings of its investigation in the opportunities given at the hearings to highlight the rights infringed in the aforementioned case.

HRCM has also been selected for the newly established National Anti-Trafficking Steering Committee against Human Trafficking. The organization *advises on issues of human rights*.

## Maldivian Red Crescent (MRC)

Formed on 16 August 2009, the Maldivian Red Crescent (MRC) has been working steadily towards establishing itself as a well-functioning national society both locally and internationally through service delivery with integrated institutional development. Guided by the International Federation's Strategy 2020, MRC's Strategic Plan 2011 – 2015 was adopted during its Third General Assembly. The plan encompasses disaster management, health and social care, youth and institutional development as the main strategic directions for the coming years. To date MRC has established ten branches across the country and successfully rolled out service delivery initiatives in these branches. *MRC could assist in the areas of emergency referral system, health care and prevention, first aid, family tracing and psycho-social support.*

## HOPE for Women

HOPE for Women envisions a society where women are free from violence and discrimination, are empowered and fully engaged in all aspects of public life. The organization aims to eliminate all forms of sexual abuse and sexual violence against girls and women, to protect and promote women's rights as reflected in moderate and liberal interpretations of Islam, to promote measures that would make women self-reliant and empowered through policy dialogue with key stakeholders, to support the work of like-minded civil society organizations and state institutions that work towards gender equality and equity and to encourage youth participation in protecting and promoting women's human rights.

Hope for Women raises issues of gender injustice and violence against women with policy-makers and work to influence changes in the policies for the benefit of improved women's rights' protection. The organization is also capable of providing guidance and legal advice for Maldivians and expatriates within the country, with regards to our areas of focus, through lawyers who are organization members. Hence, areas of assistance include *gender, domestic and sexual based violence and child trafficking as well as legal assistance*.

## The Maldivian Democracy Network (MDN)

The Maldivian Democracy Network (MDN) is a non-partisan NGO which aims to promote human rights and the values and principles of democracy in the Maldives. MDN undertakes a wide range of activities under its broad mandate, including awareness raising, monitoring, reporting, lobbying and advocacy. Although based in the capital Male', MDN is active across the country conducting workshops, trainings, monitoring and advocacy activities in various atolls. MDN promotes human rights and the values & principles of democracy in the Maldives. MDN has conducted a research study on migrant workers in the Maldives in 2014. The report includes case studies of exploited or abused migrant workers.

## JOURNEY

JOURNEY is a Non-Governmental Organization formed in November 2005, which reaches nationwide to liberate the individuals and families from the devastating life of drug addiction and reintegrate them to community as productive citizens of the nation. The vision of Journey is “an educated Maldives on drugs, HIV and related issues” and the mission is “to empower and *educate young people and communities for prevention of HIV and drug use* and reduce the suffering brought by addiction. JOURNEY seeks to provide an inter-disciplinary approach to the recovery of addiction and to promote opportunities for recovering addicts and suffering families.

## Society for Women against Drugs (SWAD)

Society for Women against Drugs (SWAD) is an anti-drug NGO *providing drug abuse prevention, intervention and aftercare service* for drug users. SWAD helps the drug users, to think about their relationship with drugs and to consider whether their use is turning into a problem for them.

## Voice of Women (VoW)

The vision of VoW is to create a society where men and women work side by side, mutually respecting each other's rights. The main activities include: to empower women by information, education and communication so they are able to stand up for their rights, to build respect for human rights in the Maldives in general by *creating awareness of the rights of women and to document any human rights violations*, domestic violence, sexual abuse that takes place specifically based on gender. Vow has conducted interviews with migrant women. The topics of the interviews included child trafficking in the Maldives and sex workers in Male'.

## The Vibe

'The Vibe' is a Non- Governmental Organization registered in July 2012. Their main objectives are to empower adolescent and youth through various developmental programs and activities, to promote inter-youth dialogues and education to help reduce/end violence/abuse against and among young people and to create awareness among youth on sexual and reproduction health issues. They are willing to carry out *sexual and reproductive health and HIV awareness programs including outreaches.*

## Nepalese Association

The Nepalese Association is not officially registered with the government and has only volunteers. Members of the association meet from time to time to help each other and provide support. According to the association there are around 5000 Nepalese in the Maldives. The main problems they face include: health problems, no health insurance, non-payment of salary, no identification, working long hours and visa extension problems. The association is not only giving support to Nepalese in the country, but also to other migrants in need.

## India Club

The India Club was established as a social and cultural organization and its main focus is on Indian expatriates. Recently the main focus was on most vulnerable groups such as domestic and construction workers. The Club implemented interventions in collaboration with the High Commission of India. These interventions include educating workers about rights, making referrals for different services, conducting camps and developing multi lingual leaflets on rights.

## Friendship Association of India Maldives (FAIM)

FAIM is a friendship association registered in the Maldives in 2009 and established to promote the welfare of the Indian and Maldivian community and to create and build a strong bond between the people of both countries. FAIM is determined to work in closely relations with both the governments for their economic, social and welfare developments. The organisation implemented interventions such as education and business development. The association can provide *support regarding employment issues and social welfare*, particularly for Indian nationals. FAIM is planning to assist talented and intelligent students who are not able to continue their studies due to financial reasons.

## Sri Lankan Friendship Forum

Sri Lankan Friendship Forum was established to create friendship relations with Maldivian population. The forum works in close partnership with the 3rd Secretary, Labour Officer from Sri Lankan Embassy in Maldives. The Forum could provide *support regarding employment and pension issues* of mainly Sri Lankan citizens.

## Maldives Association of Tourism Industry (MATI)

The Maldives Association of Tourism Industry (MATI) is a non-governmental, non-profit organization formed in 1982, for the purpose of promoting tourism in the Maldives. Its membership comprises of Maldives companies and individuals engaged in travel and tourism related activities; local and foreign travel agents; tour operators, dive bases, suppliers, airlines, banks and financial institution. The central role of MATI is to assist its members in addressing the problems and issues as may arise in the tourism industry of the Maldives. It co-ordinates its activities in line with Maldivian government policies, and collaborates with other organizations, nationally and internationally, to render its members the necessary services.

## **Tourism Employees Association of Maldives (TEAM)**

TEAM is a trade union for tourism workers in the Maldives. TEAM was established to protect the rights and advance the interests of its members concerning wages, benefits and working conditions. The organization provides free legal advice and handles human and labor rights violated cases for workers irrespective of nationalities in the tourism sector. TEAM is willing to support migrants working in the tourism sector and give advice on their rights. In addition, legal assistance and advice can be provided in connection to employment.

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Sheikh Hussain Rasheed Yoosuf	Deputy Minister of Islamic Affairs
Ali Waheed	Advocating the Rights of Children (a local NGO)



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