

Hotline for Migrant Workers Annual Report 2011



Dear friends of the Hotline for Migrant Workers,

I am writing this preface to our 2011 report at the peak of a xenophobic rise that has taken hold of the public, and our elected officials. Currently we see pogroms in south Tel Aviv, arrests of families with children, and the regression of the rights of trafficking survivors, only to criminalize migration from Africa. All of these being manifestations of the battle our government wages by consciously spreading misinformation in the media, waving the flag that this is the only way to preserve the Jewish state of Israel.

As constantly pointed out, the vast majority of Africans are refugees and asylum seekers that cannot be deported according to the 1951 Refugee Convention, Israel agreed on. They have no formal access to housing, healthcare, welfare and primary education, which drive this vulnerable group into poverty and despair. In addition, these people are not allowed to work, pushing them on the so-called black labor market, and Israel turns a blind eye on this de facto illegal labor condition. Consequently, asylum seekers have been forced to reside in the most deprived and poverty-stricken neighborhoods in Israel. Their concentration in these areas exacerbates an already difficult reality and the situation has become intolerable for the resident population and for the African refugees.

No asylum seeker wishes to live in conditions of poverty and over-crowded accommodations. Governmental intervention ensuring the access to basic human rights would avoid the step in the poverty trap. Moreover, experience in other countries have shown that if the government invests its resources in improving infrastructure in deprived areas - rather than on the futile incarceration of refugees as occurring in Israel - the living conditions of all of the residents in these neighborhoods would improve.

Asylum seekers are deliberately pushed to the margin of society by the Israeli government.

Driven to this margin, they remain invisible, foreign and alien, and therefore it is just too easy to blame the outsiders, to inflame and incite against them. High governmental officials accuse asylum seekers to be “infiltrators”, “criminals”, to “spread diseases” and “to pose a demographic and a security threat to Israel”.

The Hotline for Migrant Workers cannot and will not stand by as hate and xenophobia are propagated and rights of migrants and refugees are being violated. We will continue to fight for an open and informed debate about migration and refugees, one that is based on verifiable facts and a moral conscience.

Despite the difficult working environment, we should celebrate our successes this year. Amongst other, a Court petition led by NGOs resulted into a government Directive stating the rights of children in immigration detention; based on information we provided, the Israeli police arrested a member of a trafficking network operating within Israel; the High Court of Justice ruled on a petition submitted by the Hotline for Migrant Workers and Kav Laoved, as well as other organisations and declared a Ministry of Interior's Directive restricting rights of pregnant migrants, as illegal.

Join us in promoting a responsible dialogue on the protection of the rights of refugees and migrants, as well as in our mission to empower all communities living together in Israel.

Sincerely yours,
Reut Michaeli
Executive Director

I. Developments in 2011	6
A. Refugees and Asylum Seekers	7
Facts and Figures	8
Torture Camps in Sinai	8
Government Program to Combat "Illegal Infiltration"	10
The Refugee Status Determination Process	10
"Hot Returns"	12
Interior Ministry Refuses Group Protection for Nationals of Somalia, Cote d'Ivoire and South Sudan	13
Contested Nationality Cases	14
B. Migrant Workers	15
Facts and Figures	16
An Amendment to Entry to Israel Law Reintroduces Binding Policy	16
Achievement: High Court of Justice Victory for Pregnant Migrant Workers	17
Research on Recruitment Practices of Migrant Workers	17
Employment systems for construction workers	18
Biometric database	18
C. Human Trafficking	19
Facts and Figures	20
Trafficking Networks Operating in the Sinai	20
Research Report on Rehabilitation of Trafficking Survivors	21
New Form of Trafficking Uncovered	22
Saar Unit Dismantled	22
D. Children	24
Detention of Child Asylum Seekers	25



Unaccompanied Minors	25
Segregated Education for Child Asylum Seekers	27
Children in Irregular Status	27
Children of Embassy Workers Included in Regularization Campaign	28
Ministry of Interior publishes directive for detention of children	28
E. Anti-Xenophobia Campaigns	31
Facebook campaign: Not Foreigners. People.	33
World Refugee Day	34
Black Labor Conference	34
Educating Migrants about the Jewish Holidays	34
International Migrant's Day	35
II. Activities in Numbers	36
Direct Assistance	37
Legal Cases	42
Public Policy Activities	43
Media	44
Talks and Tours	45
Volunteers	46
III. Organizational Developments	48
Changes in staff	49
Cloud Based Database	50
IV. Acknowledgements	51



I. Developments in 2011





A. Refugees and Asylum Seekers



Facts and Figures

Asylum seekers continued to arrive in significant numbers in 2011, with almost 17,000 crossing through the Egyptian Border (See illustration). At the end of 2011 with the total number of asylum seekers was estimated at 45,000.¹ Over 82% of asylum seekers currently residing in Israel are from Eritrea or Sudan. In 2011 these two groups comprised 96% of new entrants.²

The government has continued to refrain from conducting individual examinations of asylum applications of Eritreans and Sudanese, hiding behind what it terms as "group protection" for these two groups that together comprise the vast majority of asylum seekers. Acknowledging that Eritreans and Sudanese face life-threatening in their countries, they are not being deported. Yet, despite the fact that an individual examination of most asylum cases has never been undertaken, officials repeatedly declared that they are economic migrants and referred to them as "infiltrators".

The temporary group protection afforded to asylum seekers from Eritrea and Sudan does not entitle them to basic rights or social services: it does not prohibit detention, does not accord the right to work and does not allow access to social goods such as healthcare, social housing, welfare or legal aid. Without the right to work and without any state funded assistance refugees are being pushed into destitution.³ Many have become homeless or reside in substandard conditions in the most deprived neighbourhoods of Israel. Some have turned to petty crime in order to survive⁴. This has given rise to inter-group tensions in these neighbourhoods and to mounting xenophobia.

Torture Camps in Sinai

Horrific violence, torture and rape continue to be inflicted on migrant in the Sinai en-route to Israel. Smuggling networks operating in the Sinai and beyond (Israel, Ethiopia, and Sudan) lure victims by promising to guide them to Israel for an agreed sum.

They then proceed to lock them up in encampments and force them to call relatives while they

Did you know?

Over 82% of asylum seekers in Israel are from Eritrea and Sudan. Israeli government recognises that they may not be deported due to the dangers they face at home but they are nevertheless denied access to the asylum system.

are tortured, in order to extort ransom money for their release. The methods of torture include administering electric shocks, branding with hot metal rods, beatings, hanging by the legs, starvation, and gang rape. Horrified by the cries of pain they hear over the phone, relatives pay up to \$40,000 to free their relatives, often selling their homes and taking out loans. Captives are held for months, in some cases more than a year, until the money is paid, or they die. In some cases they are sold from one smuggler to another.

The recent political changes in Egypt have left the Sinai region in turmoil, exacerbating the situation. More than 1,300 testimonies have been collected by Physicians for Human Rights and the HMW from people that have reached Israel, and information received from family member and other NGOs indicates that thousands are still held captive in Sinai. We have also encountered a worrying number of cases of people kidnapped from Ethiopia and Sudan and even from Israel and taken to these torture camps.

We have been very active in **documenting, publicizing and advocating against this abuse**, joining forces with Kav Laoved, Physicians for Human Rights and international organisations.⁵ Following our publication in June 2010 which first revealed the phenomenon,⁶ in February 2011 we published a report titled "the Dead of the Wilderness" based on 60 testimonies collected during 2010⁷. Findings were also shared in yearly shadow reports to the U.S. State Department, and later included in its annual report on trafficking in persons.⁸ In November 2011 we published an urgent appeal to release the thousands of hostages held in the Sinai desert with several other organisations.⁹ We have also supplied information to the Israeli police regarding individuals who reside in Israel and who collaborate with the torturers in Sinai, and after a year of tenaciously pursuing these complaints at the beginning of 2012 we finally saw some investigations and arrests carried out by the police.¹⁰

These efforts have led significant media coverage, including reportage by the New York Times, the BBC, the Guardian, the Huffington Post, CNN, and the British Channel Four as well extensive coverage in the Israeli media and overall we successfully initiated 73 media items on the issue nationally and internationally.¹¹ Public figures as well as international institutions,

Achievements

Our research report “The Dead of the Wilderness” based on the testimonies of 60 victims was distributed in Hebrew and English to more than 2,000 policy makers, government and NGO representatives, embassy staff, the media and other stakeholders.

Significant media coverage has led to growing awareness and for calls from prominent figures to put an end to the horrors in the Sinai. Israeli police arrested a member of a trafficking network operating within Israel based on information we provided.

including the Pope,¹² the High Commissioner for Refugees,¹³ and the European Parliament¹⁴ have all spoken out against these abuses and have called on the Egyptian and Israeli governments to stop the brutalities and protect the victims. However, as yet we have not seen action by the Egyptian government to fight this phenomenon, and support for the victims reaching Israeli is still severely lacking.

Government Program to Combat "Illegal Infiltration"

Desperate to show that it is addressing the growing number of asylum seekers the government has resorted to harsh measures.

On 11 December 2011 it allocated 630 million NIS (about €130/£104/\$163 million) for a program to combat "illegal infiltration".¹⁵ This includes building a fence on the border with Egypt, enforcement measures against anyone employing asylum seekers, dramatically increasing the number of immigration detention places, passing an "Anti-Infiltration" Bill, and examining ways to deport "infiltrators".

The Law to Prevent Infiltration

Although we had succeeded for some time to stall the passing of an amendment to the Law to Prevent Infiltration, on 9 January 2012 the Knesset passed it, targeting anyone entering Israel without a permit. The law stipulates that a person crossing into Israel without authorisation may be detained for up to three years. Anyone entering from a country that Israel considers as a "Hostile Enemy State", for example Sudan, may be detained indefinitely. It portrays asylum seekers as "infiltrators" and invokes the language of security rather than that of protection. The law does not include special provisions for vulnerable people such as children or victims of torture, rape and other types of trauma. Under the law, a review of detentions will be conducted

by a special tribunal, which has the authority (but not the obligation) to release detainees only where exceptional circumstances exist.¹⁶

Proponents of the law openly admitted that one of the main goals of the legislation was to enable the detention of "infiltrators" for long periods and to deter others from coming. The new legislation requires a higher degree of legal expertise in order to provide representation to detainees and creates steeper barriers for release. The law has been criticized by NGOs, the UNHCR, and international groups,¹⁷ and described as a "disgrace"¹⁸ "repressive" and "a blow to migrants' rights".¹⁹

Increasing Detention Capacity

At least 8,900 asylum seekers were detained in 2011 mainly at the Saharonim detention facility near the border with Egypt.²⁰ In 2011 Saharonim had a capacity to detain up to 2,000 people and plans were developed to expand it to 5,400 places. Conditions in Saharonim were criticized by the Israeli Public Defender in its 2011 report on Israeli prisons, stating, among other things that "In the Saharonim facility, the wings are surrounded by tall barbed wire fences, reminiscent of a criminal prison and not of a facility meant to hold refugees."²¹ Additionally, the government is planning the construction of a new detention facility for a further 10,000 detainees.²²

The Refugee Status Determination Process

Since mid-2009 the authority to review applications for asylum and to determine whether they meet the conditions set out in the Refugee Convention has been transferred from the UNHCR to the Ministry of the Interior. However, only 2 of the 812 applications deliberated by the Interior Ministry in 2009, and 6 of the 3,366 applications deliberated in 2010 were accepted as refugees (recognition rates of 0.24% and 0.17% respectively).²³ These rates are significantly lower than the norm in developed countries. For example, in 2010 recognition rates in the first instance (i.e., not including appeals) in some other countries were: 13.5% in France, 25.3% in the UK, 37.9% in Sweden, 41.0% in Norway, 47.4% in Canada, 48.3% in Australia, 50.8% in the U.S., and 72.7% in Switzerland.²⁴

In January 2011 the Interior Ministry released new procedures for handling asylum seekers creating even greater barriers for applicants. These include a one-year time limit on applying for asylum and allowing the dismissal out of hand of applications, based only on a preliminary interview carried out by personnel who lack the necessary qualifications for conducting refugee status determination interviews. Even before the new procedure recognition rates were below one percent. Under the current procedure we are witnessing many dismissals out of hand and some applicants have even been arrested immediately after their screening interview at the offices of the Interior Ministry.

Achievement: Court Instructs Interior Ministry to Digitally Record Asylum Interview

In November 2011 the Supreme Court ruled to allow the audio-recording of an asylum interview of one of our clients and advised the Ministry of the Interior to revise its procedures so that this becomes common practice. The Interior Ministry has thus far resisted revising its procedures, however this ruling is an important precedent paving the way for other asylum seekers to request the audio recording of their interviews.²⁵

department prepared an in-depth report on the nascent Refugee Status Determination system in Israel detailing its flaws and setting out recommendation for improvements. The report was published at the beginning of 2012.

The low recognition rates are a result of a system that is designed to reject asylum claims. Refugees describe long, arduous interviews which are conducted as if they were police interrogations, unprofessional interpreters who misinterpret replies,²⁶ being harassed by interviewers, and drilled about insignificant events and minor details such as the colour of the bus they rode when fleeing the country. Information collected by Interior Ministry about countries of origin is often inaccurate and misleading and reasons for rejection are normally not disclosed.²⁷ During 2011 our legal

Did you know?

Over 82% of asylum seekers in Israel are denied access to the Israeli asylum system. Less than one percent of those that are allowed to submit asylum applications are recognised as refugees. The result is an asylum system that does not ensure adequate protection for refugees.

"Hot Returns"

In 2007 we petitioned together with the Tel Aviv University Refugee Rights Clinic against the practice of pushing asylum apprehended at the border back to Egypt, denying them access to the asylum system in Israel. Even worse, asylum seekers were being turned into the hands of the Egyptian Military notorious for shooting at migrants attempting to cross into Israel and despite reports of people returned being detained incognito and in some case deported to their countries without their claims for asylum being reviewed. After many deliberations in court, the government informed the court in 2011 government to the court that following political changes Egypt it would at this time cease from carrying out "hot returns" of asylum seekers at

the border. Consequently, on 7 July 2011 the High Court of Justice dismissed the petition.²⁹ Despite this, we have evidence that this practice continues. On 2 August, 2011 we filed a complaint to the State Attorney's Office and to the Legal Advisor of the IDF supported by affidavits from reserve soldiers a refugee. We have been informed that the Military Police has opened a formal investigation into the matter.

Interior Ministry Refuses Group Protection for Nationals of Somalia, Cote d'Ivoire and South Sudan

Despite a recommendation of UNHCR to grant group protection to nationals of Somalia and numerous reports of human rights violations there, the Ministry of Interior decided that such protection was not necessary. Consequently, on 16 October 2011, we filed petitions in the name of four Somalian asylum seekers challenging this decision. In December 2011 the government announced that it would lift "group protection" from nationals of Cote d'Ivoire³⁰ and later it also announced the ending of group

Achievement:

Court Grants Refugee Status to HMW Client

An important District Court decision from December 2011 instructed the Ministry of the Interior to grant refugee status to an Ethiopian national after she was made to meet with representatives of the Ethiopian Embassy while in detention, exposing the fact that she had applied for asylum to the very same people she feared. During this interview she was told by the Embassy representatives that she would meet the same fate as her father, who had been arrested in Ethiopia and whose whereabouts remain unknown. The court criticized the Interior Ministry both for unnecessarily risking the applicant's life and for concluding that she was not credible.²⁸ This is only the second time in Israel that a court decision has been given to grant refugee status.

protection for nationals of South Sudan and their impending deportation as of April 2012. We anticipate having to represent nationals of these countries in 2012.

Contested Nationality Cases

During 2011 we handled several cases of asylum seekers whose nationality was contested by the authorities. These were mostly people whose claims of being nationals of Eritrea were rejected by the Interior Ministry. In January 2012 we launched a collaborative project with ARDC, with the help of funding by the European Union, to work together on such cases. In the framework of this project we help asylum seekers to obtain documentation supporting their claims and in some cases expert opinions, and assist in securing their release from detention.





B. Migrant Workers



Facts and Figures

At the end of 2011 approximately 90,000 migrant workers resided in Israel. Most were employed in three sectors: care-giving (52,000), agriculture (25,000) and construction (7,300).³¹ The majority come from Asia, particularly Thailand (23.5%), the Philippines (18%), India (9.6%), and China (5%). According to the 2010 census nearly half of all migrant workers (48%) are women.³² Ever since the introduction of migrant labor in Israel in the 1990s their employment has been fraught with problems and rights violations are rampant. The most frequent abuses are underpayment, excessive working hours, neglecting to pay for medical insurance and inappropriate living conditions. In some cases mental and physical abuse also occur as well as sexual violence. The inherent vulnerabilities of being foreign, unfamiliar with local laws and avenues for assistance, and living away from family and in unfamiliar surroundings are compounded by inadequate enforcement of labor laws and an employment system that increases employer's power over the workers vis-à-vis a binding arrangement.

An Amendment to Entry to Israel Law Reintroduces Binding Policy

In 2006, following a petition filed by human rights organisations, the High Court of Justice declared that binding migrant workers to their employers was illegal and tantamount to modern day slavery.³³ Consequently, the Israeli government slowly began to remove restrictions on changing employers. However, on 26 May 2011 the Knesset amended the Entry to Israel Law to enable it to circumvent the ruling and reintroduce restrictions on free movement between employers. According to the amendment, the Ministry of the Interior may limit the number of times that a worker is allowed to change employers and may create geographic restrictions, so that for example, a worker who was first employed in Be'ersheva may not transfer to an employer in Jerusalem. Previously, labour migrants were restricted to changing employers only within the sectors they were brought in to work for (the main sectors are agriculture, construction and caregiving). Under the new law, the Interior Ministry may declare new subcategories within sectors, such as elderly and severely disabled, within the caregiving sector,

restricting movement between subcategories. This amendment affects all migrant workers, but in particular eas targeted at some 42,000 authorised migrant caregivers, creating a fertile ground for abuse and exploitation at the hands of employers. At the end of 2011 it had not yet been implemented.

Achievement: High Court of Justice Victory for Pregnant Migrant Workers

Until recently, migrant women lost their right to work in Israel when they became pregnant and were required to leave three months after giving birth. In April 2011, after a six year legal battle, the High Court of Justice ruled on a petition submitted by Kav Laoved, the Hotline for Migrant Workers and other organisations and declared the Ministry of Interior's directive regarding pregnant migrants illegal.³⁴

In her ruling, Judge Ayala Procaccia stated that the directive did not “conform to Israeli labour laws” and “contravenes the protection of migrant workers' rights as determined by international conventions.” The State has been directed to prepare a new directive that would allow migrant women with children to remain in Israel for the full period originally allocated in their permits. However, this ruling does not mean that migrant workers may now freely establish families. Migrants are still prohibited from bringing their family members with them or even from forming romantic relationships with other migrants while in Israel, and children born to migrants remain without legal status.

Research on Recruitment Practices of Migrant Workers

Under-regulation and lack of enforcement has enabled an industry of illegal fees to thrive, whereby migrants who wish to gain the opportunity of legal employment are forced into payment of exorbitant recruitment fees: \$6,000 on average in the care-giving sector, \$8,000 in agriculture and \$22,000 in construction. In order to finance these fees migrants take out loans, sometimes mortgaging their homes and futures, and find that they must work for 1-2 years simply to repay them.³⁵ These are some of the findings of a comprehensive research into the recruitment mechanisms of migrant workers which we contributed to and that was conducted by the Ruppin Academic Centre during 2010-11 with funding from the Jewish Distributions Committee Center for International Migration and Integration and the European Union. The research, published in March 2012, is based on in depth interviews with 196 migrant workers, owners and managers of manpower companies and with government officials. It includes recommendations for policies to combat the illegal practice of charging exorbitant recruitment fees ad measures for improving protection of rights for migrants. These included signing bi-lateral agreements with

sending countries, conducting recruitment via state actors rather than private agencies, including NGOs in monitoring of recruitment, signing contract before departure, screening at Israeli embassies and more.

Employment systems for construction workers

In 2009 a large manpower company filed an appeal with the High Court against a provision in the directives for employment of foreign workers in construction, which stipulates that migrant workers should be paid for at least 211 monthly hours, regardless of how many hours they reported working. This provision was put in place as a response to the widespread practice of employers to falsely record working hours of employees in order to avoid payment. In 2009 we asked to join as respondents and provided the court with our views and data on the necessity of keeping the provision. In January 2011, after many hearings and deliberations, the manpower company agreed to drop the case.³⁶

Biometric database

We petitioned to the High Court of Justice against the practice of taking biometric prints from migrants and placing these in a government database. We argued that the Ministry of Interior was acting without authority and infringing on the rights of migrants to privacy. In response, the government informed the court that it was in the process of introducing legislation that legalise the practice. Consequently the court set another for July 2012.³⁷

Did you know?

Migrant workers in Israel must work for 1-2 years just in order to pay back recruitment fees illegally obtained from them and ranging from \$6,000 to \$22,000.

C. Human Trafficking

Facts and Figures

It is difficult to give accurate numbers of people trafficked to Israel, due to the clandestine nature of the offense and the vulnerability and fear of victims to obtain. Therefore we can only provide estimate. We know that concerted efforts by NGOs and the government over the past decade have contributed to a dramatic decrease in the number of women trafficked into Israel's sex industry from thousands to what is currently estimated at hundreds of victims. Awareness that labor trafficking, force labor and slavery like conditions occurred among migrant workers has been slower to develop and although some steps have been taken to protect victims prevention and enforcement are still severely lacking. Most of these cases involve domestic workers held under extremely exploitative conditions, and cases of exploitation and abuse of workers in the agricultural sector. In 2011 we also encountered a new form of trafficking of migrants brought in on sailors' permits (see sections below). Most worrying is the growing number of asylum seekers kidnapped, trafficked and abused in Sinai.

Trafficking Networks Operating in the Sinai

Initially testimonies of asylum seekers about the horrors in the Sinai were understood as a case of "smuggling gone wrong" or hostage-taking. Gradually awareness has emerged that we are dealing **with a trafficking business whereby people are commodified, sold from one smuggler to another, held in slavery-like conditions, sexually enslaved , their labour exploited and they are tortured.** The government of Israel has been reluctant to recognize these victims as falling under trafficking legislation, firstly because as with every new phenomenon it tends to be several steps behind NGOs in recognizing new forms of slavery and adapting, and secondly because of the large number of victims. However, as international recognition increased, and as bodies such as the U.S. State Department, the European Parliament and the UNHCR have labeled these as trafficking, this is gradually beginning to change. For example, following our campaign with PHR the prison authorities announced that as of 19 February, 2012 they have begun to implement a procedure for identifying victims

of trafficking in detention. Some victims have been moved from detention to the shelter for trafficking victims. However, while the number of testimonies of torture victims collected so far exceeds a thousand, there are only 35 beds at the shelter and consequently trafficking victims often remain in detention or end up living on the streets. The harsh policies towards asylum seekers exacerbate their hardships.

Research Report on Rehabilitation of Trafficking Survivors

We facilitated the publication of a research report on rehabilitation of trafficking victims which was published in March 2012.³⁸ The research was a very complicated undertaking, conducted by researchers for Tel Aviv University and involving victims, practitioners, the shelter and NGOs. It highlighted the changes that have occurred over the years with the people receiving assistance, from primarily women trafficked into the sex industry to cases of labour trafficking, forced labour and people trafficked and tortured in the Sinai, and need to adjust and adapt the system to accommodate for these changes. In particular, the report recommends granting of rehabilitation visas to all victims of trafficking, including trafficked asylum seekers.

Gynaecological Treatment at the Saharonim Immigration Detention Facility

Many of the torture victims in Sinai have been repeatedly raped and some have also been impregnated. Yet gynaecological examinations and treatment are not regularly offered at the Saharonim detention facility where many are detained. In November 2011 we filed a petition against the Prison Authority together with Physicians for Human Rights and the Association of Rape Crisis Centres for its lack of gynaecological treatments in Saharonim for women. Consequently the prison authority informed us that women who request treatment will be

Did you know?

Over a thousand testimonies were collected at the PHR health clinic in 2011 of migrants tortured in the Sinai en route to Israel. And yet a systematic review of 10,210 minutes of Immigration Detention Tribunal hearings conducted during 2011 reveals that reference to rape or torture appears in only 93 hearing.³⁹ Screening procedures for victims are severely lacking, and support for victims is given only on rare occasions.

referred to the nearby hospital. We continue to maintain that all detained women should be offered such treatments. The case is still pending. [HCJ 8391/11 Physicians for Human Rights et al v The Prison Authority et al.]

New Form of Trafficking Uncovered

During 2011 we uncovered a new form of trafficking in Israel involving migrants from Sri Lanka. These were brought in on sailor's permits and then employed as fisherman under extremely abusive conditions, which included sleep deprivation and insufficient supply of food. The first cases were encountered in 2011 and by the beginning of 2012 a total of 13 cases had been identified including victims from the Philippines. We assisted in getting these men out of the hands of their abusers and transferring them to a safe shelter. In November 2011 we filed petitions regarding three victims to the District Court against the Ministry of the Interior, demanding that they are recognized as victims of trafficking and afforded the rights and assistance under the victims of trafficking directive and as prosecution witnesses. A fourth victim was added to the petition in January 2012. In early 2012 the court rejected the petition, ruling that only the abusive employers should be held responsible and the state has no obligation towards the victims. On March 19th 2012 we submitted an appeal to the Supreme Court. The appeal is still pending [Admin. Petition 29275-11-11, Admin. Petition 29311-11-11, Admin. Petition 29352-11-11, Admin. Petition 6135-01-12, Admin. Appeal 2292/12].

Saar Unit Dismantled

Until July 2011 a special police unit was entrusted with investigating crimes against migrants and particularly trafficking related offenses. Over the years, the Saar Unit had gained considerable expertise in dealing with trafficking crimes and was an important element in enforcing anti-trafficking laws and pursuing traffickers. In July, however, the police announced organizational changes which would result in the immediate dismantling of the Saar Unit. Instead of being referred to specialized officers, each trafficking crime is now dealt with by local

police forces. In cooperation with Kav La'Oved, the Hotline for Migrant Workers submitted a petition against these changes on 20 July. While the petition was rejected, the court requested a detailed response from the police explaining how it intends to ensure that traffickers are efficiently prosecuted. It also left the door open for submitting another petition in the future should the police not live up to its obligations to maintain a high level of commitment to fighting trafficking.⁴⁰

Achievement: Redress for Victims

Some of the tort cases against traffickers we had been handling for a few years were brought to completion in 2011. In one case that was filed in 2006, the court ruled that the traffickers must pay 750,000 NIS in compensation to a sex trafficking survivor. The problem now remains to make the traffickers actually pay the compensation money [TA 2727/06].

In another case which was filed in 2008 a settlement agreement was reached whereby the abusive employer paid 50,000 NIS in compensation to a labour trafficking survivor [10092/08]. In a third case, also filed in 2008, the court awarded a sex trafficking victim compensation in the sum of 2.5 million NIS (421,400 GBP) to be paid by one of the traffickers, and a settlement agreement was reached with a second trafficker in the sum of 30,000 NIS [TA 2003/08]. Whilst the courts tend to award much higher sums than those reached in settlement agreements, it is extremely difficult to collect these sums from the traffickers who tend to either disappear or conceal their assets.



D. Children



www.activestills.org

Detention of Child Asylum Seekers

According to government statistics about 3% of asylum seekers entering Israel in 2010-11 were children. There is no special provision in the Law to Prevent Infiltration to prevent the detention for children, and indeed they are often detained with their mothers. Recently the Public Defender described the conditions in Saharonim thus:

"In the Saharonim facility, the wings are surrounded by tall barbed-wire fences, reminiscent of a criminal prison and not of a facility meant to hold refugees. We are of the opinion that there is a need to examine other possibilities of protection, especially surrounding the wings where women and children are detained. In addition, the living quarters in the facility are divided into two parts, old and new, together intended to hold 2,000 persons. Because the new wing cannot be gender-segregated, the women and the children stay in the old part under harsh conditions and overcrowding (between 10-15 women and children in each tent). It should be noted that although ventilators were installed in the tents recently, the female detainees complained to us that they suffer from the cold weather at night. The central tent, equipped with a television and air conditioning system, is used as a classroom and a food-distribution centre. Also, the poor maintenance of these tents places the detainees in danger for their safety, as some of the tents have not yet been replaced with fire resistant tents."⁴¹

Whereas unaccompanied minors are entitled to representation by the state in matters concerning their detention, accompanied children, like their parents, must rely on the Hotline for Migrant Workers or private lawyers for legal assistance.

Unaccompanied Minors

The government does not release data on the number of unaccompanied minors under its care, however a systematic review that we conducted of minutes of Immigration Detention Tribunal hearings from 2006-2012 reveals the following: At least 1591 hearings were held for some 600 unaccompanied children, the vast majority having arrived since 2008.⁴² Of these, 58% were from Eritrea and the rest were mostly from other African countries including Sudan (6%),

Guinea (5%), Ethiopia (5%), Ghana (5%), the Ivory Coast (5%), Nigeria (4%), and Somalia (2%).

Following our advocacy in previous years there is now a procedure in place for handling unaccompanied minors, which instructs the authorities to find alternatives to detention. Since November 2009, 121 unaccompanied minors have been transferred to boarding schools which may accept minors under the age of 16. However, as the number of places made available at boarding schools is insufficient, many remain in detention. Those aged 16-18 must find a family that will take them in and take responsibility for them, a difficult task that prolongs the detention periods.

In August 2010 a special detention facility, Matan, located in the city of Hadera, was opened for the purpose of holding unaccompanied minors. Even so, whenever Matan fills up unaccompanied boys are held at Saharonim prison together with adults, and girls are held at Givon prison in a separate cell. The authorities have maintained that Matan has been accommodated to attend to the needs of children. The facility can hold up to 70 detainees at a time, who reside in seven rooms. In a tour of the facility held by the Knesset Committee on Foreign Workers on 22 September 2011, 60 minors were in residence, two of whom were under the age of 14. One of the minors had been detained for 13 months and the average detention time was seven months. Up until August 2011 children were locked inside their rooms for 23 hours a day. Following our advocacy the prohibition on free movement in the facility was lifted. Additionally, the average detention period was reduced to three months by the end of the year. And yet, in this so-called "child-friendly" facility the authorities had recorded 19 suicide attempts within its first year of operation. At least 179 minors thus far have been detained there.

T., 14-years-old, now living at the Nizana boarding school, recounted her experience of detention:

I was detained for 6 months in Matan Prison and 3.5 months in Saharonim Prison. I was detained for 9.5 months in Israel. Life in Saharonim was very difficult. It was extremely hot and we were about 11–12 children in every tent. The food was good and the guards were nice. They counted us twice, morning and night. In Saharonim there is no possibility to make a phone call and I

was very worried about my family that I left in Eritrea, and them not knowing whether I'm dead or alive. It was very boring there. We studied there twice a week, an hour and a half every time. Matan Prison was much better, but it was still a prison. In Matan we had real rooms and not tents. We were ten children in five bunk beds. There was also a television in our room. We were able to get out of the room for an hour every day. During 23 hours a day we were locked in our rooms, and this was much more difficult than when we were in the tents.⁴³

Segregated Education for Child Asylum Seekers

While in Tel Aviv asylum seeking children are enrolled in regular schools, most notably the Bialik-Rogozin school whose exceptional work was recently portrayed in the Oscar-winning documentary "Strangers No More", in other cities the situation is markedly different. In Eilat, for example, asylum seeking children are not admitted into regular schools. Instead, they are required to attend a makeshift and substandard separate school. Together with the Tel Aviv University Refugee Rights Clinic, we filed a petition on 18 July 2011 to the District Court of Beer Sheva on behalf of 15 asylum seeking children and their legal guardians.⁴⁴ The petition claims discriminatory segregation of children based on their race, ethnicity and legal status. While the Eilat Municipality rejected the argument that it has an obligation to provide equal education to asylum seeking children,⁴⁵ the Ministry of Education agreed to allocate additional funds to the separate school and was granted six months by the court to consider a long term solution.

Children in Irregular Status

Following public outcry and pressure by NGOs, in August 2010 the government announced, for the second time, that it would grant residency status to some of the children of migrants in irregular status, and in accordance to a set of predefined criteria. In all, 701 families applied, and by January 2012 the requests of 257 families were approved, 118 cases were denied and the cases of 260 were pending. In mid-February 2012 the Mol announced that it would inform

Did you know?

19 suicide attempts were recorded at the "Matan" detention facility for unaccompanied minors during its first year of operation.

all families of the outcome of their request and those denied status would be given a month to leave.

The HMW took 31 cases of families whose applications were rejected out of hand and one case of a detained migrant family. In most of these cases the court instructed the Ministry of Interior to re-examine the applications. We also handled 6 cases of children of asylum seekers whose applications were rejected because their parents had applied for asylum. Most of these were rejected and in February 2011 we filed an appeal to the High court of Justice which is still being heard. Additionally we represented two cases of children of trafficking victims who were denied residency because their mothers had entered the country illegally. Following our petitions the Interior Ministry agreed to re-examine these as well.

Children of Embassy Workers Included in Regularization Campaign

Initially, the government sought out to exclude embassy workers from regularising the status of their children. The reason given was that these are diplomatic representatives who have strong ties to their country of origin. However, in practice, children of low level workers such as cooks and cleaners that had been employed by embassies (most often not even in the Embassy of the country from which they originated) were excluded from the regularisation scheme. At the end of 2010 we filed four petitions to the High Court of Justice concerning the families of such children. As a result the Ministry of the Interior agreed to examine the applications according to the criteria set out in the government regularisation program and consequently in February 2012 we agreed to withdraw the petitions. The rulings have affected not only the families represented in our petitions, but an additional 40 families who were also allowed to re-apply for residency.⁴⁶

Ministry of Interior publishes directive for detention of children

Whilst many children and families waited to receive a decision on their applications for status, the Interior Ministry began to arrest families whose applications had been rejected out of hand,

in particular those with very young children. The first wave of arrests, frequently taking place during the night, began in February. There were instances in which children were separated from family members who had been arrested and left with family friends. In other cases fathers were prevented from seeing their children before deportation.

Achievements

257 migrant families had their status in Israel regularized in 2011.

Our video clip against the detention of children was viewed more than 7,000 times and over a 1,000 participated in our campaign.

Whilst we were unsuccessful in preventing the detention of children, pressure and a court petition by NGOS led to the publication of a government directive detailing the rights of children in immigration detention.

In August, the Association for Civil Rights, the HMW and other human rights organization took the case of a four-year-old Filipino girl who had been arrested with her mother to court. The court did not rule against the deportation of the family; however it criticized the Interior Ministry for implementing "such an expedited procedure which is inappropriate and should not exist in a civilized state. Human beings are not cattle and they should be given the opportunity to digest that they are being removed for the country and to make arrangement for leaving in a reasonable manner".⁴⁷

Consequently arrests were halted for four months until on 14

December, 2011 the Interior Ministry published a new directive

which outlines the rights of detainees in the airport detention facility where families are held. It also specifies special provisions for children, including meeting with a social worker within 24 hours of detention and visitation rights of family members. It does not, however state that detention of children will be a measure of last resort. In mid-December arrests and deportations were resumed.

Campaign against the arrest of children

Between the beginning of January and the end of June, 2011, 30 mothers were detained with their small children before deportation. The arrests often took place in the middle of the night and



some children were separated from their fathers without another chance to see them before deportation. The detention facility migrants are usually held in at Ben Gurion Airport is not suitable for children and has no facilities catering to their needs. Contrary to other detention facilities in Israel, detainees are held here in isolation, with no access to a court yard and without access to cell phones. Women and children have been prevented from meeting with their relatives and meetings with lawyers have been delayed.

In reaction to these circumstances, the HMW and its partner organization Israeli Children initiated a public campaign against the arrest of children. As a result of the campaign:

- Our video clip against the arrest of children was viewed more than 7,000 times on YouTube.
- More than 1,900 people entered our special website on the topic.
- 1,000 postcards against the arrest of children were sent to Members of Knesset
- More than 900 people signed our online petition.
- 15 items about the arrest of children were published in the Israeli media.

To see the petition and the video go to <http://bibidontdeport.com>





E. Anti- Xenophobia Campaigns



www.activestills.org



Xenophobia and racism continue to impact the lives of migrants and refugees in Israel. The notion that asylum seekers are hostile "infiltrators" is widespread. This is in large part the result of a disinformation and incitement campaign directed at asylum seekers is spearheaded by Knesset members and high ranking officials. Asylum seekers have been described by officials as "a danger to society"⁴⁸ and "a plague",⁴⁹ whilst a Tel Aviv Municipality councilman has called for separate buses for "smelly foreigners".⁵⁰

The Minister of the Interior, Mr. Eli Yishay, has repeatedly described asylum seekers as "an existential problem"⁵¹ and as criminals who must all be detained and deported⁵² and Prime Minister Netanyahu has warned that they are "a threat to the economy, to society, to security and to the delicate demographic fabric upon which the State of Israel is based."⁵³ Some Rabbis have also called on Israelis not to rent out apartments to Africans.⁵⁴ It is therefore hardly surprising that a public atmosphere characterized by distrust and disdain towards asylum seekers has developed. In March 2011 extreme right-wing activist Baruch Marzel established a "neighbourhood patrol" in South Tel Aviv, where many migrants live. Claiming that the citizen patrol is supposed to uphold "order" in the area, in practice they intimidate immigrants and encourage them to leave. In December 2011, hundreds demonstrated against migrants in Tel Aviv, accompanied by several right-wing parliament members.⁵⁵

To counter these troubling phenomena, the HMW has stepped up its efforts to work with the Israeli public and educate them about refugees in Israel and the issues they face. In addition to providing informational tours and lectures as well as conducting several awareness campaigns, we organized **eight dialogue meetings between refugee leaders and representatives of the veteran residents in South Tel Aviv** in order to bring the two groups closer together. A positive development was the participation of refugees in the social protests of the summer, during which activists from both the migrant and the local community joined forces in South Tel Aviv to protest social inequality. We also authored a chapter on racism against migrants and refugees in the yearly report of the Coalition Against Racism, of which the HMW is a member.⁵⁶

“Open Houses” Informational Tours in South Tel Aviv

Since March 2011 the HMW has been offering walking tours in South Tel Aviv to the general Israeli public. This is the part of the city where most migrants live – and where the threat of a clash between veteran residents and migrant newcomers is most eminent. During the tours, participants learn about the history of the neighborhood, Israel’s immigration and asylum policy and flaws within these policies, and they get to meet migrants and learn about their stories, dreams and hopes firsthand.



Media coverage of the tours was excellent with 22 items covering it. Responses to the tours have been overwhelmingly positive and participants often display great surprise and even shock when they discover how much of their “knowledge” about migrants had been based on misinformation and stereotypes. ‘The tours really make a difference in people’s opinions’, says Myriam Darmoni-Sharvit, Chair of the HMW’s board, who has guided some the tours. A quote from a participant would be better I know, I just couldn’t get one out of Rona or the guides...

Since March, the HMW has offered 11 “Open Houses” tours, in which 315 people participated.

At any given time there is a waiting list of more than 100 people waiting to join one of the tours.

Facebook campaign: Not Foreigners. People.

In cooperation with the Wizo Academic Center for Design in Haifa the HMW started the campaign “Not Foreigners. People.” Sixteen students designed posters to bring attention to xenophobia and the discrimination migrants in Israel face. Then voters could choose their



favorite design via the HMW's facebook site. The winning entry will be used in one of the HMW's upcoming campaigns.

World Refugee Day

Together with other refugee aid organizations such as ASSAF and A.R.D.C. the HMW had planned a festive event on the occasion of World Refugee Day on 20 June, 2011. Music performances, informational booths, children's activities and more were scheduled to take place at the Old Central Bus Station in South Tel Aviv. However, although we had applied for a permit from the police many weeks in advance the day before the festival was scheduled to take place, the police suddenly informed us that the chosen venue did not meet security standards. This is despite the fact that similar events had taken place at the same location in the past without such requirements having been presented before. In the end, the event had to be cancelled and the participating organizations arranged a demonstration in the adjacent Lewinsky Park instead. In addition, films about refugees were shown in five art house cinemas across the country and each film was preceded by a panel with representatives of refugee organizations.

Black Labor Conference

As part of the Women's Coalition for Fair Employment of organizations such as Achoti, Kol Ha-Isha, Anwar and the Women's Parliament, we participated in a conference on black labor and working conditions for women. We facilitated the participation of Ambika Chahatry, a caregiver from Nepal, who gave a speech about her experiences as a foreign worker in Israel. The event took place at January 4th 2011.

Educating Migrants about the Jewish Holidays

In September we distributed with our partners information in eight languages regarding the coming holidays and their meaning to the Jewish population in general and for the residents of south Tel Aviv in particular. We advised people not to light fire or play loud music in public

during in these days, particularly during Yom Kipur in order to avoid unnecessary friction with local residents.

International Migrant's Day

Following previous years tradition we celebrated on December 17th the International Migrant's day, continuing our many years cooperation with the Tel Aviv Cinematheque. Four different movies and a panel were offered to the public who participated in the event and a rally of NGO providing information to the public as well as activities for children.



II.

Activities

in Numbers

Direct Assistance

The HMW's Crisis Intervention Center operated 5 days and provided information, advice and para-legal representation by telephone and through direct consultation. In November we decided to limit our in-take office hours to 25 hours a week and telephone hotline to 40 weekly hours. The difficult decision came as a result of the realization that with government policies and legislation, cases have become very complicated to assist and required more work hours than in the past. Our volunteers and staff members continued to visit detention centers to provide information and assistance there. In particular, we facilitate the release of detainees, especially those that have been held for unreasonable amounts of time and mothers with children. We also assist our clients in receiving visa extensions, access to RSD procedures and social rights, as well as in addressing complaints regarding their treatment at the hands of the authorities.

Clients

In 2011 our clients originated from more than 81 different countries. Most were from Eritrea (20%), the Ivory Coast (12%), the Philippines (8%), Sudan (7%), Ethiopia (5%) and Nigeria (5%).

Visits to Detention Facilities

In total, we conducted 194 to eight detention facilities and prisons where migrant were held in 2011, during which we provided more than 2,000 consultations.

Detention Facility	Total Visits
Givon	131
Saharonim	48
Airport detention facility	2
Nizan	1
Eshel	4
Haela	1
Dekel	4
Matan	3
Total Number of Visits	194

Letters to Authorities

1,429 letters were written on behalf of our clients and were sent to the following authorities regarding the following issues:

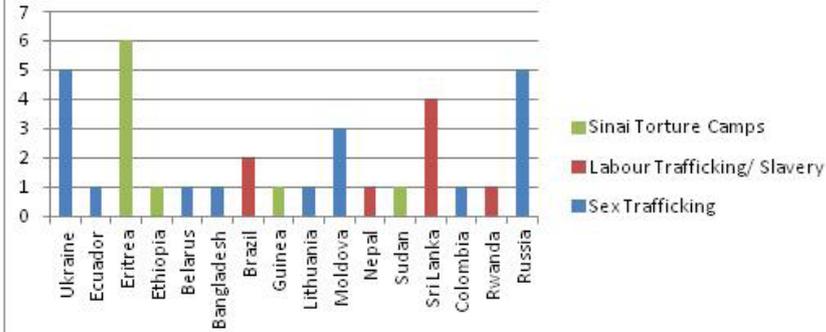
Authority	Asylum Seekers and Refugees	Migrant Workers	Migrant Families	Total
Prison Tribunals: Requests for release from detention	405	160	9	574
Interior Ministry: Requests for release from detention, requests for extension of visa	252	152	5	409
Interior Ministry: Refugee Status Determination procedures, requests for residency permits, appeals to the humanitarian committee	194	82	0	276
Immigration Authority: Requests to refrain from arrest	32	58	3	93
Prison Authorities: Humanitarian requests (including health and education issues), family visitations, transfer of belongings	45	32	0	77
Total	928	484	17	1429

Direct assistance to Trafficking Survivors

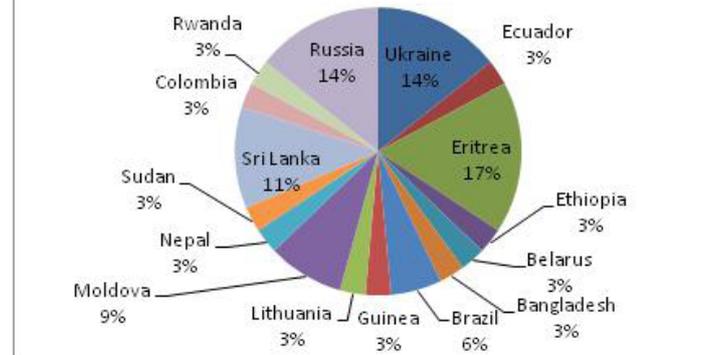
Our ultimate goal has always been to end trafficking, protect the victims and bring perpetrators to justice. To this end, we take a holistic approach, combining personal assistance with impact litigation and policy public campaigns. As government recognition of the issue increased and important services such as the shelter, medical care and legal aid began to be provided to victims our role as service providers decreased. The following chart summarizes the cases where we provided direct assistance to victims of trafficking or slavery 2011. In total we provided direct services to 35 victims. This included legal representation, assistance in obtaining medical care, representation in Immigration Detention Tribunal, facilitating transfer from detention to shelters, information and support. This work was complemented by policy publications, campaigning, and educational work.

	Sex Trafficking	Labour Trafficking	Migrants Trafficked and Tortured in the Sinai
Women	18	3	7
Men	0	5	2
SubTotal	18	8	9
		Total	35

**Trafficking Survivors Assisted by HMW
by Country of Origin and Case Type**
January-December 2011



**Trafficking Survivors Assisted by HMW
by Country of Origin**
January - December 2011



Legal Cases

In total, HMW handled 142 legal cases in 2011, 70 of which were ongoing cases from previous years and 72 new cases.

	Migrants		Trafficking Survivors		Undocumented children		Asylum Seekers and Refugees		Total		All Cases
	Pre 2011	2011	Pre 2011	2011	Pre 2011	2011	Pre 2011	2011	Pre 2011	2011	
Supreme Court	3	2	0	0	4	1	3	1	10	3	13
District Court*	0	0	1	4	27	4	1	49	28	58	86
Tort cases/ Labor Court	0	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	4	1	5
Appeal Committee	0	1	4	0	0	2	0	0	4	3	7
Pre Trial	0	0	0	3	5	0	18	4	24	7	31
Total	3	3	9	7	36	7	22	54	70	72	142
	Subtotal Migrant Cases	6	Subtotal Trafficking Cases	16	Subtotal Undocumented Children	43					

*Of the 49 new cases in 2011, 15 were represented in house by HMW attorneys, and 34 were outsourced to the Tel Aviv University Refugee Clinic and private attorneys. Additionally, some cases are cross-sectional, for some of the undocumented children are also asylum seekers or children of trafficking survivors.

Public Policy Activities

In addition to publishing policy papers and meeting with various government officials, we regularly participated in Knesset committee meetings to promote better policies for migrants and refugees.

Knesset Committee	Number of meetings we Attended	Issues Discussed
Committee on Foreign Workers	7	Domestic workers, detention of unaccompanied minors, "voluntary return" to South Sudan, victims of torture and trafficking in Sinai
Subcommittee on Trafficking in Women	6	Dismantling of Saar unit, care for trafficking victims in particular of those who had been tortured, raped and trafficked in Sinai.
Internal Affairs and Environment Committee	5	Binding Law, the Law to Prevent Infiltration, treatment of refugees
Committee on the Rights of the Child	1	Welfare services for foreign children
Education, Culture and Sports Committee	1	Education for foreign children, following the success of the film "Strangers no more"
Labor, Welfare and Health Committee	1	Regulations regarding mediation fees.
Total	21	

Media

In 2011, the HMW initiated 440 items in the local and international media.

	Type	Asylum Seekers and Refugees	Undocumented Children	Trafficking in Persons	Grand Total
Hebrew Language Publications	Other	4	0	0	4
	Magazine Article	1	0	0	1
	Newspaper	122	60	24	295
	Radio	63	13	7	99
	Television	16	4	3	29
	Subtotal	206	77	34	428
Publications in Other Languages	Newspaper	3	2	3	10
	Radio	0	0	0	1
	Television	0	0	1	1
	Subtotal	3	2	4	12
Grand Total		209	79	38	440

In addition, we initiated 8 articles in the newspaper “Focal”, catering to the Filipino community in Israel, which emphasized the HMW’s work and called on potential clients to turn to us for help.

Topics included news about new procedures and proposed laws, information on worker's rights and recent developments concerning migrants in Israel.

Talks and Tours

The HMW offers talks and tours and educational tours to various groups in order to increase awareness of the issues facing migrants in Israel and to educate the public about migration and asylum policy.

	Migrant Workers	Refugees	Combined Talk – Migrants and Refugees	Trafficking	Total
Academic Institutions	11	5	7	0	23
Schools	4	0	2	0	6
NGOs	2	1	1	0	4
General Public	3	4	11	0	18
Government Agencies	1	2	0	2	5
Other	0	0	1	0	1
Total	21	12	22	2	57
Total Participants	657	203	647	40	1547

Over 1,500 people participated in talks were given by HMW staff and volunteers. Of these, 21 were accompanied by walking tours in South Tel Aviv as part of our Open Houses. In cooperation with Messila, the Tel Aviv municipality's Migrant Aid and Information Center, we

also conducted a workshop on trafficking and forced labor with migrant women and a talk with the South American community.

Volunteers

A total of 89 exceptional individuals volunteered with the HMW throughout 2011 in a variety of roles, contributing their labor, knowledge and enthusiasm to advance our goals.

Volunteering Role	No. of Volunteers*
Crisis Intervention Centre	40
Public Policy	19
Education/ Outreach	12
Media	5
Legal Action	2
IT	4
Other	10

* Note: the total in this common is larger than the total number of volunteers working with us, since some people volunteered in more than a single capacity.

During the year of 2011 we changed our training system, adding to our yearly main course 5 more courses during the year. Each and every course of the new courses was dedicated to volunteers from specific departments. In all courses participants received both theoretical and practical training. 41 new volunteers participated in our courses and additional 9 joined us and received individual training.

In 2011...

Our Crisis Intervention Center assisted **2,140** people from over **81** different countries.

We sent **1,429** letters to authorities on behalf of migrants

Our staff and volunteers made **194** visits to immigration detention facilities where we conducted **2,234** interviews

440 media items were initiated by us

We handled **142** legal cases

We gave **57** talks and tours reaching **1,547** people

We identified and assisted **35** trafficking victims

III.

Organizational Developments

Changes in staff

Emi Saar, Director of Government Relations and Trafficking Victim Support: After nine intensive and extremely demanding years as the Director of the Crisis Intervention Centre, in September 2011 Emi took on a new role at the HMW as Director of Government Relations and Trafficking Victim Support. This post was created in order to insure timely and quality services for trafficking victims and to enhance the HMW's connections and cooperation with various local and national governmental bodies. Emi continues to be employed full time.

Ms. Adi Lerner, Director of Crisis Intervention Centre: Adi joined the HMW staff in March 2011. Until September 2011 she was employed at 33% time to support the day-to-day running of the centre in order to allow Emi Saar to devote more time to liaise with authorities and seek broad based solutions. In September 2011 she took over Emi Saar's role as the Centre Coordinator and is currently employed at 80% time.

Attorney Yonatan Berman/Attorney Asaf Weitzen, Legal Advisor – Asylum Seekers and Refugees: We regretfully parted with Attorney Yonatan Berman, a long standing and dedicated member of the HMW, who accepted the offer to head the Legal Clinic for Migrant Rights at the Ramat-Gan Academic Centre for Law and Business. During October and November 2011 Yonatan continued his work at the HMW at 40% time in order to complete the hand-over process to attorney Asaf Weitzen who began working full time in October 2011. Asaf gave up a position in a private commercial law firm in order to join the HMW. He had previously volunteered in various NGOS and interned at the Israel Religious Action Centre.

Ms. Rona Perry, Public Campaigns Coordinator: Rona was recruited in January 2011 to coordinate our anti-xenophobia campaign and public outreach activities, including "open house" tours. This post was created as a response to a marked increase in anti-immigration

sentiment and hate speech led by high ranking government officials, further marginalizing migrants and refugees and hampering HMW's ability to provide assistance and influence policy. From January to March she was employed at 50% time and since then at 40% time.

Francesca Katz, Disputed Nationality Officer: Fluent in five languages, including Arabic, and a long standing and much appreciated volunteer at the HMW, Francesca was recruited in November 2011 to help implement a new project with the African Refugee Development Centre, assisting asylum seekers to prove their nationality and releasing them from detention. She is employed at 50% time.

In addition, several teams were set up to focus on specific issues. For example, we set up a dedicated team for handling Saharonim detention cases, and a dedicated team for disputed nationality cases (see below). While we find that many of these changes have increased our capacity to implement our goals, it has nevertheless been challenging.

Cloud Based Database

Towards the end of 2010 we introduced a new cloud-based database for case management as well as for donor, membership and volunteer relations. Staff and volunteers received special training and implementation was gradual. We underwent a learning process that also involved changing and adapting the system to our needs.

IV.

Acknowledgements

**We are grateful to our generous donors and friends
for their encouragement and support in 2011:**

- Sebba Trust
- CAFOD
- Joint/CIMI
- Sigrid Rausing Trust
- Moriah Fund
- Keren Ezvonot (Ministry of Justice)
- The Zanyvl and Isabelle Krieger Fund
- UN VTSCFS
- US State Department
- TA Municipality
- Stiftung Do
- UNHCR
- NIF
- Keren Aviad
- UNODC
- And many private donors from Israel
and abroad

To Contribute to Our Work:

For tax deductible donations in Israel:

Please send checks to: The Hotline for Migrant Workers, 75 Nahalat Binyamin Street, Tel-Aviv 65154, Israel or contact Maike Harel at maike@hotline.org.il.

Bank transfers can be made to:

Account holder: Hotline for Migrant Workers

Bank: First International Bank of Israel

Branch: 067 (Shalom Tower)

Account No. 609064

IBAN number: IL660310670000000609064

Swift code: FIRBILITXXX

* Please let us know if you've made a donation via bank transfer so that we can follow up and issue a receipt.

Online donations

Online donations can be made via

<http://www.israelgives.org/amuta/580333094>.

For tax deductible donations in the U.S.:

Contributions of at least \$100 may be made via the New Israel Fund. Contributions should be marked as donor-advised to The Hotline for Migrant Workers (grantee number 5334) and sent to The New Israel Fund, PO Box 91588, Washington DC 20090-1588.

Contributions of at least \$25 may also be sent (and must be made payable) to P.E.F. Israel Endowment Funds, Inc., 317 Madison Avenue, Suite 607, New York, NY 10017 referencing the Hotline for Migrant Workers.

For tax deductible donations in Canada, the U.K, Switzerland or Australia:

Contributions can be made via the New Israel Fund. Please send checks to the relevant office and mark as donor-advised for the Hotline for Migrant Workers.

Canada: New Israel Fund of Canada, 801 Eglinton Ave. West, Suite 401, Toronto, Ontario M5N 1E3

U.K.: New Israel Fund UK, 25-26 Enford Street, London W1H 1DW

Switzerland: Neuer Israel Fonds Schweiz, Postfach 425 CH-4010 Basel

Australia: New Israel Fund Australia, Level 10, 65 York Street, Sydney NSW 2000

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42. Minutes traced to unaccompanied minors are those in which one of the following search terms appeared: 'age test', 'age assessment', 'bone test', 'hand wrist', 'age of bones', 'unaccompanied', 'age verification', 'legal assistance to minors'.
43. Testimony taken by an HMW volunteer on 16 June, 2011 at the Nizana boarding school.
44. Admin. Petition 29883-07-11, Atush Majid Manjan et al. v The Municipality of Eilat et al.
45. In its response to the petition, the Municipality of Eilat argue, regarding these children: "The State of Israel and Eilat Municipality are not obliged to include in its educational system those who have infiltrated Israel and are residing in it against the law...humanitarian obligation do not and cannot include all the rights afforded by the state to its citizens, including equality in education". It went further to describe asylum seekers thus: "As a generalization we can say that that most infiltrators possess minimum, if any, awareness as to the importance of education for their children...the petitioners are illegal infiltrators from Sudan (an Enemy country) who have stolen the border to Israel and entered it using deception and trickery... The presence of the petitioners in Israel is not intended to culminate in their naturalization, acceptance in Israel, acclimatization or integration in any way...The petitioner's ungratefulness for the benevolence that has been showered upon them and their insolent and aggressive demands – reflect mainly on the petitioners themselves and on whoever guided them in submitting this petition."
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