

National Coordinating Unit for Victims of Trafficking - Norway

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National Coordinating Unit for Victims of Trafficking

National Police Directorate in Norway

Organised Crime Section



Norway

- Ratified the Palermo protocol in 2003
- Ratified the European Convention February 2008
- Criminalize the buying of sexual services 01.01.2009
- 3 National Action Plans - current 2006-2009
 - Measure 29: National Coordinating Unit for Victim Support
- 9 larger criminal cases with convictions on human trafficking
 - 8 on sexual exploitation, 1 on forced labour
 - Victims from Russia, Lithuania, Estonia, Albania, China, Thailand, Rumania, Great Britain, Brazil and Nigeria
 - Many ongoing investigations

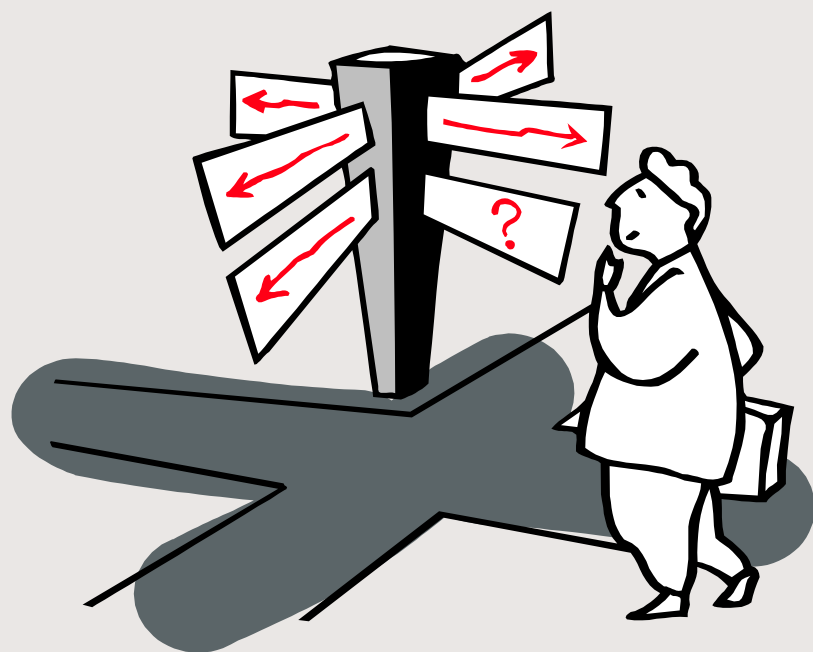


Why did we need a coordinating body?

2001-2006:

- 2 National Action Plans
- High political priority
- Inter-ministerial commission
- Many NGOs with different political agendas and little cooperation
- Local authorities with a lot of responsibility – but little knowledge and guidance





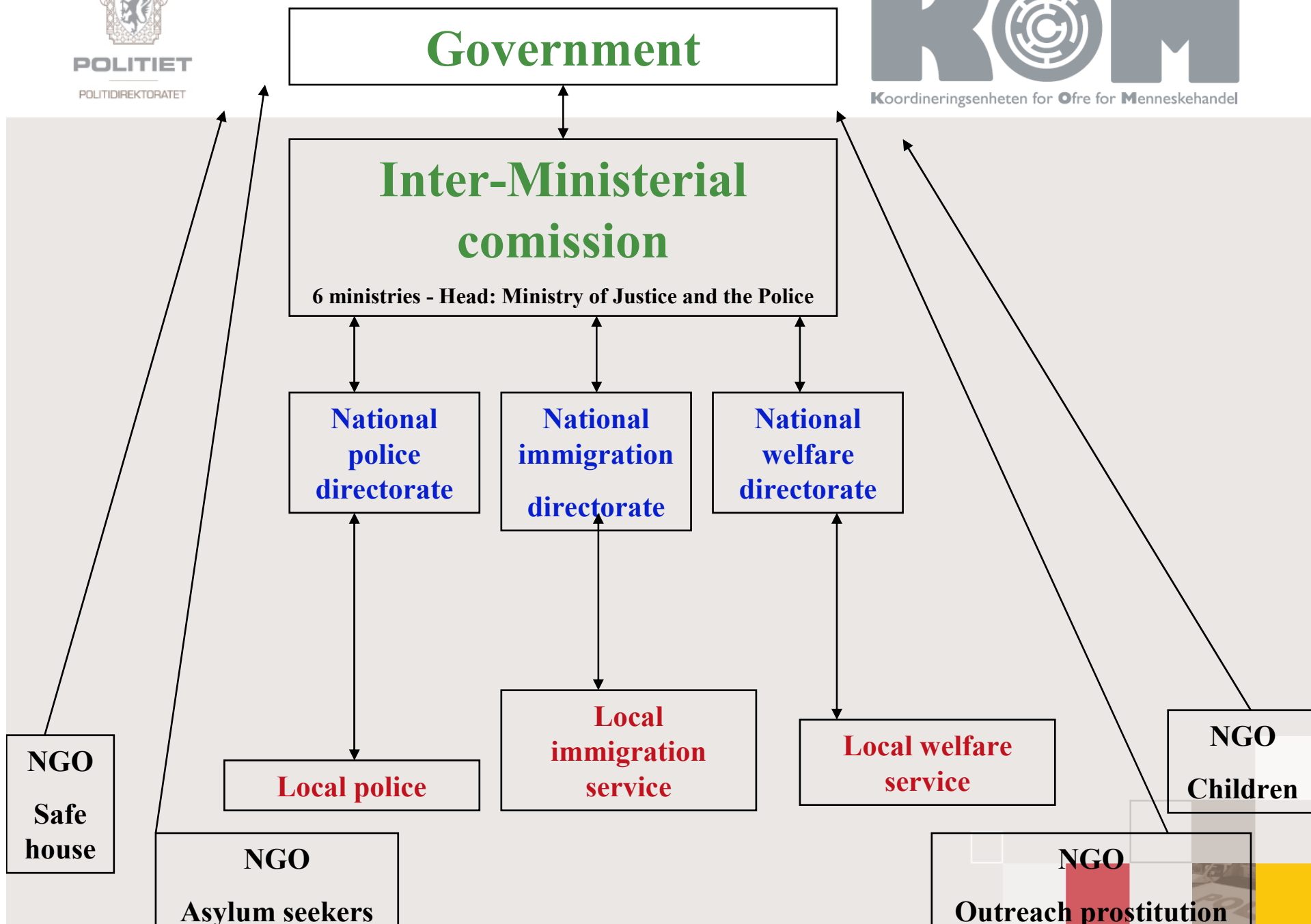
2001-2006: Lack of coordinated action on national and local level

Confused victims

Confused NGOs

Confused authorities

Massive complaints to media, the politicians and the inter-ministerial commission



Who profited on this?



Kingpins



Media



Government

**Inter-Ministerial
Comission**

6 ministries - Head: Ministry of Justice and the Police

National Coordinating Unit for VOT

Project manager: National Police Directorate

Project-group

Police
Prosecutor
Immigration authorities
Social authorities
Health authorities
Labour authorities
Child welfare authorities

Reference-group

NGOs
Labour unions
Employers agencies
Projects

**Local Coord.
Units**

**Local Coord.
Units**

**Local Coord.
Units**

How do we work:

- Receive reports on problematic cases/issues from different local authorities and NGOs
- Monthly meetings in Reference group
- Monthly meetings in Project group
- Joint 3 days seminars twice a year
- Contact lists and agreement on 24 hour readiness for all members in both groups
- Report to the inter-ministerial commission
- Report to the local coordinating units



■ **Tasks:**

- National guidelines for identification of VOT
- National indicators for VOT
- National guidelines for information on VOT rights
- National guidelines for interdisciplinary cooperation in assistance and protection of VOT
- National system for report and monitoring on VOT
- National system for voluntary safe return of VOT to home country

- Assistance and guidance to local actors when needed
- Speeches in seminars
- Training of personnel



Results:

- Higher number of persons identified as possible VOT
- Higher percentage of identified VOTs that accepts our offer on assistance and protection
- Approximately 300 VOTs under support 2007 – 2008
- From 30% to 40% of VOTs deciding to cooperate with the police
- Higher number of investigations and prosecutions
- May 2008: 6 months reflection period available for possible VOT from all nationalities + further temporary residence permit to all VOT that cooperate with the police
- November 2008: Permanent residence permit to all VOT that have given evidence in court



Current challenges

- Focus on minors
- Focus on people being exploited in labour, begging, petty crimes...
- Safe houses for men
- Suited long term accommodations for VOT
- Cooperation between police and care providers across the borders



Thanks for Your attention!

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