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- Ethiopia has almost 1 million orphans due to HIV/AIDS, however, less than 5% of orphan youth are adopted.
- 73% of orphan youth feel depressed for extended periods of time.*
- 90% of orphan youth in Eastern Europe do not feel they have the means to live independently upon leaving.*
- In Russia, one in five former orphans becomes a criminal, one in seven falls into prostitution, and one in ten commits suicide.**
- Almost half of orphans reported they would accept a job to work abroad even if they knew it might lead to human trafficking.

*Results from IOFA and Fair Fund interviews with over 100 orphan youth in Eastern Europe

Empowering Orphan Youth in Russia and Ethiopia

Last fall, IOFA announced the launch of Project Prepare! a unique educational program targeting orphan youth to help them gain the knowledge, skills, and support needed to live safe, happy and productive lives once they transition from institutional care to independent life. IOFA is proud to announce new partnerships to implement Project Prepare! in Russia and Ethiopia!

For many orphan youth, the orphanage is the only home they've ever known. When they leave, youth often struggle with self-sufficiency, including finding a job, managing finances, securing a place to live, health care, relationships, and more. This leaves orphan youth vulnerable to crime and exploitation, including human trafficking, prostitution, the drug trade, and begging on the streets.

Project Prepare! is an orphan

transition program that aims to stop these problems before they start. The *Project Prepare!* curriculum covers a range of topics, including: How to search for jobs and manage finances; How to differentiate between safe migration and human trafficking; How to create a healthy social network and avoid drugs and violence. In addition, the project aims to establish local advisory council to build support networks for program participants.

The Perm Center Against Violence and Human Trafficking in Perm, Russia and Ethiopian Orphan Relief have agreed to partner with IOFA to implement *Project Prepare!* in Russia and Ethiopia. Both organizations have witnessed firsthand the devastating results of lack of intervention for orphan youth who are not adopted and face a harsh transition to independent adulthood.



Orphan youth in Perm, Russia

What You Can Do

IOFA is creating an "Adopt an Orphanage" campaign to help support *Project Prepare!* in orphanages in Russia and Ethiopia and soon, Latvia. Sponsoring an orphanage is a positive and effective way to help change the life of an adolescent in need and bring hope to his or her entire community.

The campaign will launch before the new year. To 'adopt' an orphanage and support *Project Prepare!* programs in Ethiopia and Russia, or just learn more about it, please visit www.iofa.org for updates!

IOFA Helps Build Anti-Trafficking Movement in Dominican Republic

In February, 2008 IOFA and the Centro de Orientacion e Investigacion Integral (COIN) in



Youth outreach campaign in Boca Chica

Santo Domingo presented their final results of our program, Community Response to Trafficking (CRT): Dominican Republic. The program trained key responders and assisted in building regional collaborative working groups to combat the trafficking problem at the community level via grassroots campaigns. The project resulted in several successful community

outreach campaigns, which increased awareness of human trafficking. Over a dozen new trafficking victims were identified, and referred to local agencies for recovery services and protections.

Participating community organizations joined IOFA and COIN in their presentation to Dom. Republic national representatives, media, and the U.S. State Department.

Child Trafficking in the United States: While it is estimated thousands of child trafficking victims exist, between 2001 and 2007, less than 200 minors were recognized by U.S. authorities as being trafficked. To learn more about IOFA programs to help increase identification of child trafficking victims in the U.S. and prevent child trafficking, please see www.iofa.org or email us at iofa@iofa.org.

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Introducing New Members of the IOFA Team!

IOFA is proud to announce new members of the Board of Directors and Advisory Board:

Shelby French, MSW, M.S., Board Member

In June, Shelby French joined IOFA as a Board Member. Shelby has twenty years of non-profit experience in the areas of international development, the treatment of trauma, major gift fundraising, and the provision of social services. She is currently the Program Officer and Department Manager for Humanitarian Grants at The Rotary Foundation. Shelby also worked for the international humanitarian organization CARE for seven years. She worked for three years as a social worker and therapist, focusing on children and families from multicultural backgrounds who had experienced severe trauma, and sexual abuse. In addition, she worked as a program manager for victims of human trafficking at Heartland Alliance.

Lorna Grenadier, M.A. Advisory Board

Lorna is a national expert on assistance to victims deprived of liberties, including human trafficking. She has been at the forefront of human trafficking issues working as the National Victim Witness Coordinator/Program Analyst at the U.S. Department of Justice. She has several years of experience helping government agencies and non-governmental agencies provide assistance to victims of human trafficking, and is extremely dedicated to the issue.

Brigitte Schmid, M.A., Advisory Board

Brigitte is a passionate international human rights and social justice activist. She brings a breadth of human rights knowledge and professional experience to IOFA's Advisory Board. Brigitte has been a researcher, activist, author, film producer, and program officer. She has worked for human rights organizations in Europe and the United States.

For more information about IOFA's newest members, as well as other staff, please see www.iofa.org

IOFA in Action: Training & Advocacy Highlights

National Training Institute on Human Trafficking and Civil Remedies, Washington, DC

October 2008. The American Bar Association invited IOFA to lead a panel on "Special Considerations for Child Trafficking Victims," which included case examples, identification techniques, and protections available for child trafficking victims under U.S. law.

United Nations General Assembly Thematic Debate on Human Trafficking, New York, New York

June, 2008. IOFA was invited to participate as part of a panel on best practices in criminal justice responses and protection of human trafficking victims before the United Nations General Assembly headquarters in New York City. The presentation included a mock interview and trial with a child trafficking victim, followed by Q&A. IOFA played the role of the victim support advocate. Approximately 250 people attended, including representatives and dignitaries from around the world.

IOFA Presents at International Organization for Migration Conference in Riga, Latvia

April 2008. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) invited IOFA to present to leading Latvian lecturers in social work, law, and criminal justice to discuss ways that human trafficking issues can be incorporated into respective course work. The conference was also supported by the U.S. Embassy in Latvia.

IOFA Presents at Women and Children's First International Conference on Institutionalized Youth and Orphan Transition in Moscow, Russia.

February 2008. IOFA and FAIRFund, Inc. were invited to present on Project Prepare!, an orphan transition life skills program to NGOs, government agencies, and international organizations. IOFA's Co-Founder, Alison Boak presented research findings and an overview of the Project Prepare! program.

If you are an organization that would like to receive trafficking training, or learn more about IOFA's international and U.S. training and technical assistance services, see www.iofa.org or email us at iofa@iofa.org.