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# HOMELESSNESS AS A CAUSE AND A CONSEQUENCE OF CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY

## ABOUT FEANTSA

The European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless (FEANTSA) is an umbrella association for non-profit organisations throughout the EU and is the only NGO working exclusively on homelessness in the EU.

FEANTSA and its members understand homelessness as a situation that deprives individuals of fundamental rights, including the right to housing. Thus, reducing overall homelessness through an increase in access to housing will help guarantee both the right to housing and connected rights.

Academic research conceptualises homelessness as the outcome of a dynamic interaction between individual/personal factors and structural causes. Since its creation, FEANTSA has mainly focused on the structural causes of homelessness, particularly housing.

FEANTSA has developed ETHOS,[[1]](#footnote-1) the European Typology of Homelessness and Housing Exclusion. ETHOS categories attempt to cover all living situations which amount to forms of homelessness across Europe:

* rooflessness (without a shelter of any kind; sleeping rough)
* houselessness (with a temporary place to sleep, e.g., in institutions or a shelter)
* living in insecure housing (e.g., threatened with severe exclusion due to insecure tenancies, eviction, domestic violence)
* living in inadequate housing (e.g., in caravans on illegal campsites, in unfit housing, in extreme overcrowding)

## INTRODUCTION

There has been little research done on the relationship between human trafficking and homelessness so, as a European federation, we have contacted our members to find out more about the situation in different EU member states (MS). The following pages contain a combination of the work of FEANTSA at the EU level, desk research, and the input received from our members working on the ground at national level. We were only able to gather information from Hungary, the United Kingdom (information exclusively from desk research), Italy, Lithuania, Ireland and the Netherlands.

The limited response to our call does not necessarily mean that the situations described do not exist in other MS but may indicate that homeless organisations are not always aware of these situations, or that this topic is outside their regular scope of work. One useful preliminary recommendation will be for more availability of awareness raising activities and training for support workers in services for the homeless.

Most homeless people who are victims of modern forms of slavery may be hidden from statistics and services. They may be staying in accommodation in exchange of work or sexual favours or living in inadequate housing such as squats or sheds. These people are “hidden homelessness”.

## WOMEN AND HOMELESSNESS

People in vulnerable situations, such as women and children exposed to gender-based violence (GBV), face a higher risk than others of social exclusion and homelessness. It is pivotal that our societies are able to develop methods to ensure that they have access to permanent housing. Strong and consistent research from the EU shows that gender-based violence is near universal for all women experiencing homelessness. Collaboration between GBV specialists from women's services and homelessness services is essential.

FEANTSA recently launched FEANTSA Women. Its mission is to build a community of practice which will bring together anyone working on ending women’s homelessness in Europe. Our activities include the sharing of best practices, creating a knowledge base with resources, organising exchanges, and jointly developing new ways of working to improve support for women, and to end and prevent women’s homelessness. See also a publication of good practices on migrant women and homelessness by FEANTSA. [[2]](#footnote-2)

There is a lack of specialised expert support for female victims of trafficking and homelessness, so a major recommendation could be to organise specialised training for support staff in homeless services.

## MIGRATION AND HOMELESSNESS

### Seasonal work and homelessness, Seasonal workers Directive

According to Article 20 of the DIRECTIVE 2014/36/EU “*Member States shall require evidence that the seasonal worker will benefit from accommodation that ensures an adequate standard of living according to national law and/or practice, for the duration of his or her stay*.” [[3]](#footnote-3)

In practice, however, seasonal workers, many of whom are migrants, are often at risk of exploitation, housing exclusion, inadequate housing, and homelessness. FEANTSA members have reported in the past a picture of improper and unsafe housing, without sanitation or access to drinking water. Many times, workers’ housing is linked to their work contract and their employer, which makes them vulnerable to becoming homeless or to accepting wages that are less than half the legal minimum wage.

During the coronavirus pandemic, the situation for seasonal workers worsened. In some cases, people were left homeless; workers may have been fired and left to sleep on the streets, or simply denied renting. This was the case of Spain where migrant workers went to pick up fruits in the local farms and were rejected when trying to rent an apartment or rooms in hostels/hotels.[[4]](#footnote-4) Discrimination against migrants from locals contributed to this as, despite being out of business due to the pandemic and lack of tourism, no hotel accepted them - local associations denounced racism.

The experience of modern forms of slavery, exploitation, and trafficking by migrants currently left in homelessness in Brussels is confirmed in a recent report from the Human Rights League in Belgium.[[5]](#footnote-5) This was the case of a homosexual teenager from Cameroon, who fled due to the risk of imprisonment on account of his sexual orientation. After walking across part of Africa on foot he fell into the hands of human traffickers in Libya, was kidnapped and reduced to slavery. In Spain he was exploited as a seasonal worker in tomato fields for a salary of two euros a day.

### Domestic workers, exploitation, and homelessness

Housing may be tied to employment also in the case of domestic workers, many of whom are migrants. This was confirmed in FRA’s report from 2019, where more than half of the interviewees mentioned housing as a problem, as they lived either at the workplace or in their employer’s home. Consequently, they relied on their employer for both employment and housing, making them particularly vulnerable to improper housing and even homelessness. This situation has worsened lately: because of the pandemic domestic workers were more exposed to having their contracts terminated and, consequently, being rendered homeless.

Migrants, in particular those who are irregularly residing, may face additional barriers to reporting or accessing justice in instances of abuse. Due to the isolated nature of migrant domestic workers’ living and working conditions, they tend to have a limited support network and are often unaware of their rights. Domestic work takes place in the private sphere and migrant domestic workers are considered one of the least protected groups of workers under international labour laws, due to the absence of recognition of domestic workers’ labour rights by the MS or, where these rights exist in legislation, a lack of monitoring mechanisms to regulate them. Migrant women who work in personal and household services are specifically vulnerable to gender-based forms of discrimination and violence. They are often not aware of their rights and suffer from very poor working conditions such as long working hours, low salaries, and no sick or annual leave.

In many cases, their irregular migration status pushes them into precarious jobs in the informal economy where they are less protected in the case of employment abuse. FRA reported in 2019 that 57% of 237 migrant workers interviewed did not report labour exploitation to the police for fear of losing their jobs, being arrested or deported. It is common that third-country national domestic workers’ visas are tied to one specific employer. Consequently, domestic workers often endure exploitative working conditions to keep the job which allows them to be regularly residing in the country.

Another problem identified in FRA’s study is connected to a lack of labour inspection in the domestic work sector, which exacerbates the social isolation of people living in private homes and without co-workers. Work contracts did not exist in approximately half of the cases and, in several cases where they did, workers were not able to understand them due to language barriers. Additionally, almost two thirds of the interviewees recruited via agencies were later recognised as victims of trafficking in human beings. [[6]](#footnote-6)

### Migrant sex workers, homelessness, and exploitation

Migrant sex workers are an extremely marginalised group because of the nature of their job, which exposes them to dangerous situations and social exclusion. Moreover, street-based sex workers are one of the most excluded groups among the homeless population. Housing is a significant challenge especially for migrant sex workers who often struggle to reside regularly. In Spain, migrant sex workers reported homelessness as a chronic problem within the community. In England, a study that investigated the experiences of a group of street-based female sex workers revealed that homelessness was a recurrent issue in their lives.

Despite the lack of concrete data on the connection between sex workers in Europe and human trafficking, there are some estimates on the number of victims of human trafficking who are forced into sexual exploitation. These may vary from 60% to 84% in Europe, of which 92% are women and girls. This is a form of gender-based violence that disproportionately affects women, and a clear example that sex work and human trafficking are extremely intertwined with socially constructed gender roles. Human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation is far from disappearing in Europe: between 2003 and 2007, only 26% of countries considered there was a decreasing trend in this crime in their country. There is also a struggle in detecting the victims of trafficking, which makes it increasingly difficult to know the actual number of victims. For instance, the ILO estimated that in 2005, there were 279,000 victims trafficked for all purposes in Europe and North America. However, in 2006, there were 7,300 victims detected in Western and Central Europe. Around 50% of detected victims of human trafficking may come from countries in the European Union, but again this number may not accurately capture reality as detected victims only represent a small portion of the estimated number of victims.[[7]](#footnote-7)

Alias,[[8]](#footnote-8) is a Brussels based organisation which supports sex workers, in particular trans women from Latin America, who are victims of sexual exploitation. It is common for these individuals to live in ‘work flats’ provided by a trafficking network, where they have no control on the clients they receive, nor access the money they generate. Additionally, victims of sexual exploitation generally spend a huge amount of money for a room in these ‘work flats’. When the person concerned accepts it, Alias may get in touch with support organisation Pag-asa (Brussels) to offer specialised support.

### The relation between discrimination, housing, and homelessness

An additional challenge regarding migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees is an increasing and pervasive discrimination problem in accessing housing. Studies in France and Germany show that migrants are confronted with a very high level of racial discrimination when it comes to renting housing. In France, 87% of private landlords and 68% of public landlords racially discriminate when renting out a property. Someone with a Sub-Saharan African profile has 38% less chances of renting a property than a person with a French-sounding name. The German Federal Anti-discrimination Agency provided data showing that more than one third of people with migrant backgrounds have been discriminated against based on their origin when trying to rent or buy a property.[[9]](#footnote-9)

Discrimination contributes to further the marginalisation of people with a migrant background and excludes them from taking part in society on equal footing with national citizens. Many are consequently exposed to unsafe housing or homelessness, and exploitation. People become more exposed to trafficking networks that take advantage of their vulnerable situation or are left with no other option than to accept informal jobs, engage with begging, or undertake other types of menial and low paid jobs.

## COUNTRY INFORMATION

### Hungary

Hungary has one of the top-five highest rates of human trafficking within the EU – consisting mostly of sex trafficking to Switzerland, Germany, and other Western-European countries. Young Roma women and children from extremely poor communities are especially hit by this issue.[[10]](#footnote-10) According to the estimation of the global slavery index, 36,000 persons are affected by slavery in Hungary.[[11]](#footnote-11)

Domestic slavery impacts mostly vulnerable people living in rural settings: they may be kidnapped or forced in other ways, have their documents and social transfers taken away, and then made to perform domestic work in return for poor housing and food. Additionally, even when freed from captivity, housing continues to be an issue for those affected by human trafficking - a charity service ran by the evangelical church realised this issue and founded a shelter for rescued victims of slavery, in response.

Women are more frequently scorned, beaten and sexually exploited. Several documentary films have been made on the issue of slavery. *A Woman Captured*,[[12]](#footnote-12) tells the story of a Hungarian woman who was kept as a domestic slave for 10 years.[[13]](#footnote-13) A documentary by *Szabad Europa* explores modern-day slavery through the cases of three people who managed to escape from their captors[[14]](#footnote-14) Finally, this topic has also been addressed in the fictional film, Csicska.[[15]](#footnote-15)

One report from *The Guardian (UK)* addresses this issue and features people living in extreme poverty who end up travelling to the United Kingdom for ‘arranged marriages’ and other forms of exploitation.

Modern slavery can be understood as a symptom of the often-rural face of deep poverty and social exclusion. Along with modern slavery, other forms of exploitation are present in the most disadvantaged rural areas - villages where families live in deep poverty and face social exclusion, resulting in the formation of an ‘underclass’. These individuals lack access to the legal job market, public services such as quality education and healthcare, affordable and decent housing, and transport. They have extremely limited income coupled with low levels of education. Often local actors with power step in and fill a ‘market gap’; these individuals provide loans, food, housing, driving and other services under usury conditions. Between three to thirteen percent of the population is exposed to usury[[16]](#footnote-16) due to economic, housing, and general deprivation levels.[[17]](#footnote-17) Vulnerable persons living in these circumstances have higher probability to be forced into prostitution or unpaid work. In these rural settings rooflessness (e.g., rough sleeping) or houselessness is not a common issue, as in cities; but inadequate and insecure housing due to overcrowding, insecure legal tenure and/or generally unfit housing are immensely present issues, especially among Roma communities.

A recent case of slavery appeared in a national newspaper.[[18]](#footnote-18) A family of six was living in deep poverty and their home became uninhabitable. They were offered a new housing solution, however, to pay rent a male member of the family was beaten and forced into hard physical labour. In return the family was provided with a limited amount of food and clothes, and occasionally some money. The prosecution proposed charges for human trafficking, forced labour, and minor physical assault.

According to our members in Hungary, there is anecdotal evidence about vulnerable people being exploited as slaves: their documents are confiscated, and they are forced to perform housework, or to beg, and in exchange they receive food and accommodation (usually both poor in quality). If they have a regular income (some form of pension) it is taken by the ‘abuser’.

In the 2013 annual survey, the following question was asked: "If you lived in an apartment before you became homeless, what were the conditions of your stay?". Out of the 9196 people who responded yes, 22.9% said there were no conditions and 42% paid for the accommodation. Of the other 35.1% of respondents, 17% said they had to work in exchange. This could mean ‘normal’ labour, but usually it refers to either low paid labour in exchange for housing (e.g., an unheated house in exchange for guarding a property) or exploitation. In any case, exchanging labour for housing is a vulnerable situation. A further 18% mentioned more severe restrictions: 7.8% had to "behave well", 2.3% could not drink alcohol, 4% had to listen to scolding, 1.3% had to put up with physical abuse, 2% had to have sex with people they did not wish to. Following this, we may regard 27.3% of respondents as vulnerable, and 7.3% as extremely vulnerable (and abused). Research has shown that people under 29 or over 70 years of age, as well as women, are more likely to be exploited (extremely vulnerable). Those with low levels of education are also more likely to be taken advantage of.[[19]](#footnote-19)

One newspaper article offers a report from a small town in Hungary, Szarvas (16,000 inhabitants), where "everyone knows of about 150 homeless people exploited by locals".[[20]](#footnote-20) There are prima facie no homeless people in town, as they are all ‘employed’ by this exploitation mafia, who even recruit at homeless services in the region. One former homeless person has been living with a family, taking care of horses, for accommodation and food twice a day. His disability pension is taken by the family, and sometimes he is beaten. He cannot explain why he chooses to stay and does not turn to the police. He refers to himself as a family member. Other live in unheated accommodation. Those who run away are beaten to serve as an example to others. A family might ‘keep’ four to five people as victims of slavery. Most of them are men above 50 years old, who are recruited through the promise of accommodation, work or even romantic relationships. Locals mention a pregnant woman who ran away and turned to the police to help her buy a bus ticket and escape but was unaided, finally a local charity bought her the ticket.

In another story, and old lady came to town to buy a house shown in an advertisement. She had sent a deposit and a first payment earlier. Locals warned her that this was more than likely a scam, and she left - there is no mention of the police here, either. Locals recognise people in slavery by their clothes. Some are sent to do grocery shopping for the family, arriving to the store with a list of what to buy and exact change, as many as five times a day.

There is a charity box with food in the centre of town, where each person may take only three items at a time. Reportedly, some enslaved persons were sent to raid the box and take all the food. The local charity once got a call from a pub that two victims would like to run away but they are terrified. They were smuggled out during the night. People stay with their enslavers for lack of better, more secure accommodation. There had been a police raid in town, but all charges were dropped for lack of evidence.

In another interview a man talks about how he had been lured to the same town by a woman, in hope of finding a steady relationship.[[21]](#footnote-21) He was living in rented accommodation when she invited him to live with her and save the rent money, offering to drive him to work every day. In the beginning, all was well, then he missed days at work for lack of transportation, eventually lost his work. They had him sign a paper to have his salary sent to the account of the enslavers. He ran away twice and was found, brought back, and beaten. He found support in his workplace, who paid for him to move to a nearby town and commute from there. The enslavers threatened to kill him if he did not return, however, he did not go to the police for worry that if someone in the enslaving family went to prison, the remaining others would keep threatening him. Now he lives in a permanent home for elderly homeless people.

Another tenant there lost his farm due to debts and was ‘rescued’ by an enslaving family who offered to take him in in exchange for ‘a small portion of his pension’ and some odd work around their farm. He ended up living in a small hut with no water, electricity, or heating. His whole pension was taken from him, and he was working from 5:30 AM. When he complained he was beaten. He eventually turned to the old people's home where his mother had stayed for help, who referred him to the safe house of the charity. The charity says each year they can convince about 20 people (from the above mentioned 150) to leave their enslavers - but their places are filled rapidly. They say enslavers recruit in homeless services: they send someone to stay in a shelter or hostel for a few weeks, where they lure people to come stay with them instead.

The Hungarian state runs victim support services in the regional seats of public administration, which can be accessed during office hours. There is also a phone line available. They can offer legal and (limited) financial help.[[22]](#footnote-22) They have national and regional networks, cooperating with NGOs and other actors (e.g., police, and child welfare).[[23]](#footnote-23) The Otemplomi Charity[[24]](#footnote-24) operates in Szarvas, the town from the first response, and has a home for 12 homeless people and 40 people with addiction issues. The Baptist Charity also work in the area [[25]](#footnote-25) and the Ecumenical Charity have safehouses and an online help forum for people fleeing abuse.[[26]](#footnote-26) The latter is the most well-known organization in Hungary supporting women escaping forced prostitution (usually from abroad).

### United Kingdom

The situation in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland regarding modern slavery and homelessness is explored in Crisis' report "No Way Out and No Way Home".[[27]](#footnote-27) A strong correlation was found between homelessness and modern slavery, highlighting the vulnerability of homeless people to exploitation, often related to housing problems. Indeed, survivors were mostly in informal living arrangements like rough sleeping or sofa surfing when they were recruited into modern slavery, showing many people experiencing homelessness were forced into exploitative situations. However, nearly two thirds (65%) of people were living in accommodation linked to their exploitation whilst it was ongoing and were often then forced into homelessness when the exploitation ended.

Exploitation has gendered aspects, with women being at a higher risk of experiencing sexual exploitation, forced marriage and domestic servitude, while men are more prone to labour exploitation (agricultural or construction work) and forced criminality (forced begging). The study's findings also showed that most human trafficking survivors were British, followed by individuals of Albanian, Romanian, Nigerian, and Polish background, with most falling between theages of 18 and 44. Moreover, those who experienced exploitation tended to be younger, with 55% of victims being aged 34 and under, and only 13% aged 55 and above. The research also highlighted that survivors from different nationalities have unique experiences of exploitation. Notably, a majority of those who were criminally exploited were British, while individuals from Central and Eastern Europe (within the EEA/EU) were more likely to be exploited for labour. On the other hand, individuals from African or Asian backgrounds were at a higher risk of being forced into domestic servitude. Sexual exploitation was identified as a pervasive issue affecting people from all regions of the world. Shockingly, of the 13 men who experienced sexual exploitation, nine were minors under the age of 18. Regarding perpetrators, they employ diverse tactics of control that do not necessarily require physical imprisonment. These tactics can involve seizing bank cards or identification documents, making threats to report individuals to the police or immigration authorities, withholding access to drugs or alcohol for those with substance abuse problems, subjecting individuals to debt bondage, and making threats of violence. Given the multifaceted nature of modern slavery's methods of control, it is essential to adopt a perspective that considers various forms of disadvantage. The report underscores that survivors of modern slavery often require multifaceted support, including assistance with mental health, housing, substance abuse, and financial difficulties.

Despite the significant support needed by survivors of modern slavery, fewer than 50% of homeless individuals are referred to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM), which is the government's support system. In 2020, referrals were made for 5,087 adults and 5,852 children. However, only 17% of survivors who had completed their NRM support had secured suitable permanent housing upon exit, while a fifth remained homeless and at risk of re-exploitation. Furthermore, individuals who declined an NRM referral were more likely to remain homeless and at risk of re-exploitation. Shockingly, the report revealed that 25 survivors had been re-exploited, and some individuals had become homeless or remained trapped in homelessness, which contributed to their re-exploitation. The report stresses the need for action to break the cycle of individuals being ensnared in both homelessness and modern slavery.

However, there are positive measures being implemented by civil society organizations. Project TILI, a two-year project funded by the Tampon Tax Fund, aims to understand the links between homelessness and modern slavery and develop a model for the identification, support, recovery, accommodation, and integration of women who have escaped modern slavery and who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.[[28]](#footnote-28)

The project is delivered by a partnership of Crisis, Hestia, BAWSO, Women's Aid, and Shared Lives Plus; providing training to frontline service staff and collecting data to enhance the national understanding of the link between homelessness and modern slavery. An interim evaluation report by AVA highlights the positive impact of Project TILI on organizations, professionals, and victims of modern slavery - highlighting the effectiveness of organic, flexible support models, experienced staff, partnership working, and thorough data collection.

### Italy

Foreign agricultural laborers in Italy are often exploited in conditions likened to modern slavery, with the mafia benefiting significantly from the situation. The workers, many of whom come from Africa, live in rural ruins or shanty towns, have few rights and are subjected to violence and intimidation. Gangmasters, who recruit seasonal workers, are said to squeeze as much work out of them as possible at the lowest possible cost. According to the UN’s special rapporteur on slavery, nearly 400,000 agricultural workers in Italy are at risk of being exploited, and almost 100,000 are forced to live in inhumane conditions.

*The Guardian*'s article, "Are Your Tinned Tomatoes Picked by Slave Labour?" (2019) analysed this issue and found that workers frequently need to borrow money to travel to Italy. Upon arrival, they are burdened with debt and have no one to turn to for help when they encounter difficulties.[[29]](#footnote-29) The so-called Bossi-Fini law of 2002 only grants a residency permit to those who have work contracts, meaning that immigrants will put up with exploitation in order to obtain one. Pay is already low, and many labourers say that gangmasters withhold their identity documents and pay. Sexual violence is common, especially against women, and general violence is alarmingly common. The mafia in the south controls the reception of immigrants, and centres for asylum-seekers often process hundreds of thousands of immigrants. The Italian state pays €35 per immigrant per day (and €45 for minors) to reception centres that house them.

In Italy, there are laws against labour exploitation, but there are still thousands of illegal companies that use undeclared work, especially in agriculture. The exploitation of irregular and underpaid workers is a difficult phenomenon to eradicate, and even the political class is aware of it. Former Agriculture Minister Teresa Bellanova has made the fight against labour exploitation her workhorse. There are far too many laborers who work for less than five euros per hour, performing day-long, gruelling tasks in the fields and beyond, forced by desperation and the inability to find better work. Contractors, intermediaries, and employers are all complicit in a criminal system that is continually fuelled by widespread poverty and the ineffectiveness of the measures taken.[[30]](#footnote-30)

### Lithuania

Caritas Vilnius programme specialists have come across cases where migrants have been exploited in modern forms of slavery, such as forced labour. Their team has noticed a trend that has seen a recent significant increase in the number of cases of exploitation in labour relations. At the time of this report (2023), as many as seven out of eight cases of human trafficking involves the exploitation of foreigners in labour. These foreigners often came to Lithuania on work visas from the Caucasus and Central Asian countries and have been subjected to unfair treatment by Lithuanian employers; they had hoped to get well-paid jobs in Lithuanian logistics companies and factories, but unfortunately fell into employers' traps. The following is the observed pattern of exploitation in labour relations by trafficking criminals, resulting in people becoming homeless:

First, the third-country worker arrives in Lithuania on a work visa, with the obligation on the employer to employ and accommodate them in Lithuania. Then they face various traps set by the employer (e.g., fines for non-fulfilment of additional conditions not foreseen in the employment contract, training at the employee's expense, non-payment of salary, shifting material responsibility for car accidents, and so forth). At the same time, the employer uses blackmail against the foreigner, threatening to fire them, which would result in the termination of the work visa or residence permit. When migrants fail to meet the employers' requirements and quit their jobs, they end up homeless, having lost their employer's guaranteed place of residence, income, work visa, and the possibility to get a legal job in Lithuania.

Secondly, there are cases where the same homeless illegal migrant workers have been exploited by other unscrupulous employers, as the migrant falls into the trap of other scammers while looking for a new job in Lithuania.

Thus, it can be argued that homelessness, like addiction or other vulnerabilities, puts a person at a higher risk of being exploited, and vice versa (the exploitation of migrants at work threatens them with or makes them homeless).

Three of Caritas Vilnius’ clients from Sakartvelo (Georgia) and four of their clients from Central Asian countries, have become homeless according to the above model of labour exploitation. Here are two case examples:

1. The case of Hasan.

Hasan is a 40-year-old man; a long-distance driver. He has a family back home; three children. He arrived in Lithuania from Uzbekistan at the end of July 2022. He borrowed several thousand euros from relatives in order to come to Lithuania to work for a logistics company. When he arrived in Kaunas to sign the contract, he found out that he could only start training as a driver in Europe if he paid an extra €300. He had already paid €300 for hostel accommodation and did not have that money, so he worked illegally for a month in construction. On 3rd September, he paid the required amount, got a bed in a dormitory (for 30 days), and started to prepare for his job, i.e., attending paid lectures in the same building. Each working day there were two lectures (one in the morning and one in the afternoon) at a cost of €30 each. Each lecture was followed by an exam (test). There were two tests a day. If you failed the test, you had to repeat the course the next day and pay another €30 for the lecture. You also had to pay a dormitory fee of €10 for every day you were late to graduate after the initial 30 days. Hasan thus graduated on 25th October and started working as a trainee, owing his employer more than €2,000 in advance. According to the man, the work was varied, with his employer constantly deducting various expenses: for fuel consumption, for the work phone bill, for the 95-code permit, for the bank card etc. He had to replace the truck's fuel tanks at his own expense because they had been punctured by thieves while the driver was asleep, and to pay for all the fuel stolen because it turns out that the car and the load are insured but the fuel in the tank is not. The truck Hasan was driving was old, kept breaking down, he had to go on business trips to find garages and get it repaired, and when the accident happened, his employer demanded that the driver undertake to pay for the damages to the car and to sign an agreement that he would agree to a deduction of €500 per month for several years from his salary. When Hasan did not agree to these demands, he was dismissed from his job, lost his work visa, and became unemployed and homeless.

1. The case of David

David is a 30-year-old man from Sakartvelo (Georgia). He has a wife and a four-year-old daughter back home. David’s parents are dead. He borrowed money from his uncle to come to Lithuania. According to his employment contract with his Lithuanian employer, David was to work 40 hours a week as a butcher in a poultry factory. But when he started working, the employer demanded at least one and a half hours of additional work, and fines were imposed for every hour he did not work, which meant that he was not paid for all the hours he worked. In addition, the workers were not allowed to be sick and were constantly threatened with dismissal and deportation. When a young man started to have joint pain due to the low temperature in the workplace, he was not allowed to take holidays or other days off to see a doctor and was required to either work or quit. When David quit his job, he lost his work visa, tried to look for another job and got a job in construction. Unfortunately, his new employer did not give him a formal contract, promising to "process it later". He paid David an advance of €150 at the beginning of his work, and then kept asking him to wait for his salary. With no money and no chance to get a legal job, David became homeless and is now waiting for his illegal employer to pay him back his unpaid salary.

Caritas Vilnius cooperate with the specialists of the Lithuanian Trade Union Alliance[[31]](#footnote-31) in to provide assistance to clients in this group.

### Ireland

Our members in Ireland have informed us of one migrant organisation in Ireland, MRCI, which worked on forced labour in the Irish fishing industry and found migrant workers with no alternative accommodation beyond sleeping on the boats they worked on.[[32]](#footnote-32) The Director of Youth Services at Focus Ireland, Neil Forsyth, has also highlighted the risk to young people in homeless services being utilised by gangs for forced labour in sale of drugs and sexual exploitation, but we do not have any research or scoping of this issue.

### The Netherlands

FEANTSA members in the Netherlands have highlighted some Dutch institutions that can be helpful in relation to modern forms of slavery: Comensha[[33]](#footnote-33), Fairworks[[34]](#footnote-34), and the Centre against Child Trafficking and Human Trafficking (Centrum tegen Kinderhandel en Mensenhandel, CKM).[[35]](#footnote-35)

**FEANTSA TEAM**

1. ETHOS, European Typology of Homelessness and Housing Exclusion <https://www.feantsa.org/download/ethos2484215748748239888.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Good Practices in Securing Access to Housing for Migrant Women: [https://www.feantsa.org/public/user/Resources/News/Homelessness\_Among\_Migrant\_Women\_in\_the\_EU\_(final).pdf](https://www.feantsa.org/public/user/Resources/News/Homelessness_Among_Migrant_Women_in_the_EU_%28final%29.pdf) (pg 26-27) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Directive 2014/36/EU of the European Parliament and of The Council of 26 February 2014 on the conditions of entry and stay of third-country nationals for the purpose of employment as seasonal workers.

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32014L0036> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. <https://www.rfi.fr/fr/europe/20200603-espagne-covid-traitement-travailleurs-migrants-saisonniers-pol%C3%A9mique?fbclid=IwAR2H_I7UVKt2fJgv7qonmZsbon2qg1cZtdh_6QNXTf9TNZ7ABAEIzHZzyEY> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. <https://www.liguedh.be/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/EDH-droitalaccueil.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
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7. Vid supra [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
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