

**CEC 12th Assembly
Trondheim (Norway), 25 June – 2 July 2003
Partners' Programme
Hearings in the Core Programme
Information about the Hearings**

Hearing 6:

- Title:** A New European Slave Market? Trafficking in Women in Europe – Challenges to the Churches
- Responsible Organization/s:** Ecumenical Forum of European Christian Women (EFECW)
- Date and Time of the Hearing:** Thursday 26 June 2003, 1700hrs-1830hrs
- Languages Used:** English, German, French
- Main Speakers / Presenters:** OKRin Rev. Antje Heider-Rottwilm, Germany; Dr. Kateryna Levchenko, La Strada, Ukraine; Pirjo-Liisa Pentinen, YWCA Finland; Elena Timofticus, Aidrom, Romania; Rev. Dr. Eva Vogel-Mfato, CEC, Switzerland
- Description:** Trafficking in women within Europe is one of the urgent problems. The UN statistics show us, that about half a million women are concerned. They go year after year from East to West within Europe, and they become forced into prostitution. The churches and societies are confronted with the new slave market. This is a challenge! The VI. General Assembly of the Forum of European Christian Women said clearly: "Violence against and trafficking in women and children are destroying lives and corrupting relationships." This fact is against Human Rights. Also the "Charta Oecumenica" emphasizes our common responsibility in Europe. We have to support a human and social Europe. The aims of the hearing are to build awareness among churches and to promote a dialogue for a healed and reconciled community between human beings. The FORUM invites delegates, participants and guests to the hearing to inform and to strengthen solidarity with all, who are suffering under these circumstances.
FOCUS: The Hearing informs about economical struggles as background for trafficking in Women and also will present models of aid-projects of the Christian organisations and churches.