

## V.I.C. – WORTH A VISIT

We had the chance to visit the incredible building of the “United Nations Office in Vienna” and it was as well interesting as educational. First, we were informed by a guide about the UN and were led through the whole establishment.

There are four headquarters in the world: New York, Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi. This Organisation consists of many different programmes which occupy themselves mostly with human rights, peace, environment, child labour, crime, nuclear energy and much more.

The United Nations was founded in 1945 after the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War, but the establishment in Vienna was built in 1979.



*6AG in front of the Vienna International Center*

After our guided tour we attended two lectures, held by members of the “UNODC”, which fights against illicit drugs, crime and terrorism. Especially it was about human trafficking and smuggling:

### “AFFECTED FOR LIFE”

Trafficking in persons is among the fastest growing criminal activities worldwide. The minimum number of persons in forced labour, including sexual exploitation, is 2.45 million. These traffickers even “sell” the victims to corrupt surgeons who are involved in illegal removal of organs. The traffickers promise them a better life and trick them to leave the country with them. But when they arrive, they take all the documents, including the passport from the victims, so they can’t escape. In many cases, women are forced to prostitute themselves and are mostly sexually abused. They suffer from psychological pressure and are also beaten by their traffickers.

We also heard about the differences between smuggling and trafficking:

- ➔ **Smuggling:** the people leave their country voluntarily and they just pay one time for the export. But the conditions of travelling are mostly inhuman. The boats and lorries are filled up with a big sum of people and the illegal immigrants risk their lives for leaving behind their poor country.
- ➔ **Trafficking:** they are often forced to come with the traffickers and are even sometimes kidnapped. But trafficking doesn’t mean leaving the country. In some cases the relatives or parents sell their own children to earn some money, but the victims don’t receive any money.

But there is only a small number of identified victims, because they’re either too ashamed or fear to get killed when they tell somebody. They often get blackmailed because the traffickers know every detail of their lives. Another problem is that they don’t know where to get help and are sometimes frightened to accept help.

One of the survivors is Jana. She also fell victim to human trafficking. One day, Jana went to an interview to apply for a job, when she was suddenly kidnapped by one of the staff members. They beat her and took away their documents. She couldn’t do anything because they had her Curriculum Vitae and so knew everything about her life. She had to sell her body. Fortunately, a woman who also worked there helped



blue heart  
campaign  
against Human  
Trafficking

Jana to escape by giving her back the documents. Now, Jana is helping other victims and speaks in front of students to tell them about the cruel things which are happening in the world.

And now it's YOUR turn! Human trafficking is one of the most profitable crimes worldwide and no country is immune! It's up to you to help and fight for human rights.

You can join the Blue Heart Campaign Against Human Trafficking.

See more information on:

<http://www.ungift.org/knowledgehub/>