

COMITATO ITALIANO CONTRO LA TRATTA DELLE DONNE E DEI FANCIULLI

Milano - Corso Porta Nuova 20.

-----

International Congress for the Suppression of Traffic in Women and Children.

Paris - 9 - 12 November 1937.

-----

Question 2. - REHABILITATION.

- 5) Institutional work.
- 6) Individual work outside Institutions.

Summary of the Report of the Italian Committee.

A very important enquiry into measures of rehabilitation of adult women prostitutes, has been undertaken by the "Traffic in women and children Committee" of the League of Nations in the years 1935-36.

The results of this enquiry have first of all revealed the general lack of active interest on the part of Governments in the question of rehabilitation of adult prostitutes. Action in view of rehabilitation should come into the scope of General Public Assistance, since prostitution is generally due to economic and social factors, against which every Government recognises its duty to fight; it is therefore the duty of Governments to try and help those women for whom the action of general assistance has come too late or has proved inadequate.

The Committee is of the opinion that the assistance to prostitutes for rehabilitation should be carried out by special Institutions, where a limited number of guests should render possible personal attention and individual treatment in every case. This would be a work of real moral reconstruction, which would provide training for a profession. It is necessary to accomplish this, and it could not be carried out without continuity. This would not be possible if the women to be treated remain at large.

The co-operation of individuals will still be essential, on the contrary, for the assistance of the women after they have been dismissed from the Institutions and put again into normal life.

Individual work of assistance in connection with prisons and hospitals for V.D. is specially recommended

For the employment of redeemed women it appears to be almost impossible to establish any fixed rule: conditions, customs, and mentalities being too different in the various countries to permit of any general conclusion.

It must also be recognized that the work of rehabilitation of women prostitutes encounters very serious difficulties both in the mental and moral complexes and in the habits of the persons to be treated, and in external conditions, such as the difficulty of finding employment and the influence of the previous life.

Public and private initiatives, while still backing the efforts of these Institutions, should therefore be directed towards prevention. The Italian Fascist Government has given the most remarkable example of how much is possible to obtain, with its laws for the protection of mothers and children.

The resolutions which the Italian Committee recommends to the Congress, are as follows:-

- 1) That Governments and Public bodies should give their help in the work of rehabilitation, and consider it as a part of Public Assistance;
- 2) -that this work should be carried out through special Institutions, with a limited number of guests, so that, as far as possible, individual treatment can be given in every case;
- 3) -that the work of Institutions should be rounded off by personal assistance to women after their dismissal;
- 4) -that Committees, Institutions and private individuals should always keep in mind the greater importance of prevention over rehabilitation, and the importance of moral and educational factors.

-----