

## **Cyprus STOP Trafficking**

**Report: The phenomenon of Student Trafficking in Cyprus**

## **Introduction**

The Trafficking in People is a phenomenon that has set thinking both the international as well as the Cypriot society and is expanding widely. Our Organization, Cyprus STOP Trafficking, whose main concern is People Trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation, has detected/tracked down three years ago the phenomenon of the exploitation of foreign students coming from poor countries of Asia and Africa, by private colleges and universities. We do not hesitate to speak for Student Trafficking, because this phenomenon has many similarities to the Trafficking of Persons for the purposes of sexual exploitation, especially regarding the way of recruitment.

When talking with students of various private colleges, we have seen the difficulties faced as well as the various problems arising, in particular due to the way the students are being recruited. In an elaborate frame-up, many, if not all private colleges and universities, in collaboration with their agents who travel to third world countries in order to attract foreign students, manage with misleading and false information to present Cyprus as a paradise of prosperity and of work opportunities. This is not true.

On December 12, 2012, we held a press conference at the Journalists' House in Nicosia, to sound the alarm and to highlight this reprehensible trade. The main speakers were Mr. Rick Dugan, a Priest of Nicosia International Church and Mr. Anthony Duke (Production Control and Operations Analyst in Financial Services), who are knowledgeable of the problem and explained in detail the situation in Cyprus. Their speeches, which are very informative regarding this issue, are attached hereinafter.

We have had two meetings so far with officers of the Ministry of Education, who were aware of the problem and agreed that the situation is unacceptable. They expounded on the complexity of the problem and the efforts made for dealing with it.

The purpose of this report is to underline the responsibility of the four Ministries involved (Ministry of Exterior, Ministry of Education and Culture, Ministry of Justice and Public Order and Ministry of Interior) regarding the phenomenon of Student Trafficking.

## **Recruitment.**

The Supreme Court Judge Myron Nikolatos in a speech entitled, “Trafficking in Persons: The Cyprus Experience” at a conference organized by the Europe Office in Cyprus and the Cyprus Bar Association on July 4, 2011, said the following:

*“Trafficking in persons has received major international dimensions and is considered one of the most serious crimes committed in the context of organized crime. The old slave trade has evolved today into a highly organized business of marketing and exploitation of people and is listed as the third most lucrative form of criminal activity in the world after the trading in arms and drugs... The high level of profits generated is undoubtedly a major driving force in this phenomenon, fostered in parallel with the demand for sexual services and cheap labor.”<sup>1</sup>*

The United Nations Office dealing with drugs and other criminal activities defines the trafficking in persons as follows: “The recruitment, transportation, transfer, receipt or concealment, of persons by threat or use of force or of other forms of coercion, abduction, deceitfulness, deception, abuse of power or position of vulnerability or the use of payment or other compensation to secure the consent of those persons who exert power over another person for the purpose of exploitation.”<sup>2</sup>.

Focusing on the words “recruitment” “through deceit”, “fraud”, “to achieve the consent of persons”, “for the purpose of exploitation”, we come to the conclusion that attracting and exploiting student by many private colleges and universities in Cyprus can be considered as trafficking in people.

Most students arrive in Cyprus under false information and promises given by college or university agents, or from other students who are getting paid

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<sup>1</sup><http://www.supremecourt.gov.cy/judicial/sc.nsf/All/C034727E25F13141C22578C70033C178?OpenDocument> , available on 15 January 2014.

<sup>2</sup><http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/what-is-human-trafficking.html>, available on 14 January 2014.

percentages by colleges or by their official representatives who travel to their countries of origin in order to attract students.

The promise given most often is that they will have the opportunity to work in parallel with their studies. They describe Cyprus as a working paradise. They promise immediate employment with high wages sufficient to cover their tuition fees and living costs and a surplus for sending to their family. It is important to note that the required tuition fees and cost of living is represented to be much lower than it is in reality. In other words they promise education with small expenses and at the same time, an easy and lawful employment in Cyprus with prospects of employment and study in other European countries. They promise that after two years of study in a Cyprus Institute, they can automatically secure a visa for the continuation of their studies in some other European country. All of the above promises are blatantly misleading.

According to the *Aliens and Immigration Law no. 184(I)/2007*, and as stated on the website of the Department of Labor, the employment of foreign students from third countries is permitted only when specific procedures are followed and it concerns limited fields of employment.<sup>3</sup> For example, working hours must not exceed 20 a week, while on midterms the hours of employment must not exceed 38 weekly. At first glance the legislative framework it is evident that the fields of employment that work is allowed are low paid and jobs that many Cypriot citizens would often refuse to take, such as gas station personnel, carers in old peoples' homes, bakery workers, workers in animal feed units, drainage workers and the like. At the same time, the promises for automatic issuance of visa to pursue studies in other European countries are false and legally groundless. These facts alone disprove the myths fed by various agents to students.

The agents also use other deceptive tactics like advertising private colleges and universities in luxury hotels in the countries of the students' origin, with the intention to impress students and to present their colleges as very high level educational institutions.

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<sup>3</sup> [http://www.mlsi.gov.cy/mlsi/dl/dl.nsf/dmlemployment\\_gr/dmlemployment\\_gr?OpenDocument](http://www.mlsi.gov.cy/mlsi/dl/dl.nsf/dmlemployment_gr/dmlemployment_gr?OpenDocument), available on 13 January 2014.

An additional practice is the promises for parallel employment within the framework of their studies at the university for the purposes of training and professional experience. The representatives of the universities produce brochures which show employment options for the practical training of students in at least 3-4 different industrial sectors. If one looks at the sites of some of these colleges or universities, one can easily confirm the above.

Investing in these promises, the students often make financial sacrifices in order to ensure the financial conditions for their arrival to the “promised land” of Cyprus. More specifically, the students are required to obtain a substantial sum to them for the purposes of paying their first year tuition. This sum may also include additional percentages as a commission for the agent. An example is the case of a student from Ghana, who, in order to obtain the required sum used the savings of his 70-year-old father. This testimony was given to Pastor Richard Dugan of the International Church of Nicosia, who deals, among other things, with the problems faced by foreign students.

Also typical is the testimony of a student from India, who reported to our organization, Cyprus Stop Trafficking, that he was deceived by promises that he would come to Cyprus, which is a member state of the E.U., and this fact would help him to find work in any country of the E.U. upon the completion of his studies. Also, the same young man told us that these agents attract young people from his country, require from them a particular sum to cover the tuition of the first year and thereafter they commit themselves that the private college or university in Cyprus will arrange to find them jobs during their studies, so that they will be able to earn a living to pay for their rent and tuition. Which, as he reported, *“did not happen, not in my own case or in many other cases that I know of. I am ashamed to return to my country and face my parents.”*

It is therefore evident that the student do not only become the victims of deception and misinformation, but also the rest of their lives is marred, since they are forced, for a period of time, to endure humiliating and degrading conditions that wound the dignity of any human being.

## **The collision with Truth**

Upon their arrival to Cyprus, students realize that reality falls far short of the promises they were given. But it is now too late.

Students, most of the times, after the first or second semester, are unable to work, unable to pay their tuition. Automatically they are withdrawn from colleges or universities. Since they are no longer considered students, they find themselves violating the terms of their visa and therefore they become illegal.

At the same time, students are unable to pay rent, food or medical care. Thus, from one day to the next they are transformed into homeless people and in the best case scenario, to illegal workers. They end up depending on a society that has deceived, exploited and marginalized them, thus resorting to illegal and often unethical means of survival. In particular, they are cases of prostitution, drug trafficking and illegal work in degrading conditions, for the sole purpose, no longer their attendance to classes but their survival.

Two particular testimonies of victims are shocking. The first testimony reads as follows:

*“We cannot find a job to earn a living, forget our tuition. The agent took our money and didn’t even pay for the tuition. Foreign students in Cyprus are allowed to work only for specific hours and in particular jobs. Employers take advantage of us. Some students work illegally for 8 to 10 hours a day and get paid only 10 euros. I am ashamed to say it, but many girls resort to prostitution so as to be able to survive. Unfortunately, this is the truth. This is the reality here in Cyprus!”*

The second witness adds that there have been efforts to use him as an intermediary, stating decisively: *“We will not become accomplices. We will not destroy more lives.”* He adds that despite the difficulties he faces, he persistently refused to act as a middleman, even when he was offered 600 euros for each new student who would be convinced to come to Cyprus for “studies”.

The predicament of these people is catastrophic not only financially only for young students and their families, but also it is psychologically devastating, because it destroys hope and steals years from the life of these young

students. Furthermore, this kind of trafficking in people has negative impact to the image of Cyprus internationally and also to the economy of Cyprus, since the Ministry of Interior is called to pay for the return tickets of these now illegal students to their countries.

**Suggestions (Role and Responsibilities of the competent Ministries)**

A. The Ministry of Exterior, through the embassies and consulates that it maintains in each country, must ensure, before the issuance of student visas, that the candidates are fully aware of the reality of what they are going to face in Cyprus, for their study and living expenses and for the legal framework governing the employment opportunities for students, so that there is absolutely no room for misinformation by representatives of private universities and colleges. This can be done through printed material, both in English and in the language of each country, which will be delivered to students when applying for a student visa.

Also, the Ministry of Exterior should require that a sum covering the tuition fees of the students for all the years of their studies be deposited in a bank, as required by the UK and Germany.

B. The Ministry of Education and Culture should check carefully the function of various colleges regarding curricula, the academic qualifications of teachers and their classrooms.

C. The Ministry of Justice and Public Order in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior, before punishing illegal foreign ex-students, should examine the reasons that led them to illegal activities and blame those who create the problem.

Finally, we want to emphasize that the four Ministries are responsible for the existence and perpetuation of the phenomenon of Student Trafficking since, while it was not a practice unknown to them, they are still to take any steps towards remedying the situation.

We also underline that we do not demand the closure of private universities and colleges. What we require is that the recruitment of student is not based on misinformation.



## **APPENDIX**

Dear friends,

Thank you for being here with us today to talk about a serious social problem and to try and find a solution.

Our Organisation, Cyprus STOP Trafficking, would like to denounce the exploitation of foreign students from poor countries. We know that, because of the huge financial interests involved, this will not be an easy problem to solve or even to admit.

During the past two years we have been approached by many students from African and Asian countries asking for our help. We have met six students from India, one from Sri Lanka and twelve from various African countries. Their stories were very similar and they reminded us of the stories told by victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation that our Organisation has been trying to help since 2007.

This is the story told by a young man from India who was recruited by an agent and came to Cyprus to study. This young man mentioned that the agents who recruit students from his country ask them to pay a fixed amount to cover the Private College's fees for the first year of their studies. After that, they promise that the College will see to it that they find an employment which will allow them to pay for their living expenses, their rent and the fees needed for them to continue their studies. "At the end of the day none of these things happened in my case or in many other cases that I know of". He went to say: "I am ashamed to return to my country and face my parents".

Another young man from Cameroun told us that he was approached to be an intermediary. "I will not be an accomplice and help them to destroy more lives", he stated and went on to add that the proposition was made by a director of a College. He was offered 600 euro for each young man he would manage to persuade to come to Cyprus to "study". In spite of the difficult situation in which he found himself, he refused.

Is this not trafficking of students? If the term trafficking disturbs, let us find another term. Let us not worry about labels and just try to find a way to solve this serious problem.

I would now like to ask Mr. Richard Dugan, Pastor of the Nicosia International Church and Mr. Anthony Duke, Production and Operation Analyst in Financial Services, to tell us more about a problem that they know very well.

Thank you very much for your attention.

**By Pastor Rick Dugan**

## **Press Conference on Trafficking/Exploitation of International Students in Cyprus – 10 December 2012**

### **1. Introduction**

#### a. Personal

- i. Pastor of the Nicosia International Church
- ii. Interim General Secretary of IFES Cyprus chapter.
  - (1) IFES (International Fellowship of Evangelical Students) is a global Christian student movement that began on Harvard University in 1947.
  - (2) Today IFES has a presence on universities in 154 countries with approximately 500,000 students actively participating.
  - (3) The purpose of IFES is:
    - (a) To prepare students to use their academic credentials, career goals, and natural gifts to the glory of God and for the good of mankind.
    - (b) And to prepare students for leadership in business, government, education and the arts.
      - (i) This is done by developing character, integrity, multicultural understanding, and ethics with a distinctively Christian worldview
      - (ii) Through a systematic program of leadership development
  - (4) We don't need to look far to see that our societies are failing to develop leaders of integrity who have the skills to build institutions and governments which add value to the community rather than taking from the community.
  - (5) This leadership crisis is one need that IFES seeks to address, and it is the reason we are here today.

#### b. Subject

- i. Students all over the world find themselves barely getting by financially.
- ii. International students in particular face the challenges of a new culture, new educational styles, and new freedoms.
- iii. Our concern today is not with the normal difficulties of student life.
- iv. Rather, our concern today is with the deceptive recruiting practices of some schools and the systemic problems within the broader culture of higher education in Cyprus.

- v. Both the deception and systemic problems put students – primarily international students – in desperate situations where their lives are harmed, their hopes are destroyed, and their family finances are depleted. As a result, many end up making poor decisions that cause them to become a liability for Cypriot society with a social and economic costs for all of us. And this is to say nothing of the moral issues involved.

## **2. Deceptive recruiting**

- a. You have already heard from Mr. Duke the process by which many international students, primarily in Africa and Asia, are recruited to study in Cyprus.
- b. We have heard far too many stories of students who have been told by agents and even by officials from the colleges and universities who visit these countries for recruiting, that they only need come with the first year's tuition. They are told that it is both legal and easy to find work to cover tuition, room and board, and perhaps even enough extra to send home to family.
- c. Of course, the agents, the recruiting students, and the official school representatives know that this is not the case.
- d. But on the assumption that the agents and schools are telling the truth, the students gather money from family and friends and make the journey to Cyprus, only to find out rather quickly that things are not as they have been told. They will not be able to work to cover their expenses.

## **3. Consequences**

- a. Once the money runs out, students have few options.
  - i. One Indian student told his family of his financial crisis. They sold more lands and fields to keep him here a second year. When that money ran out, with tears he confessed that he could not ask his father to sell more lands. "I have 3 younger brothers and sisters. Must my father sell everything just to care for me? There will be nothing left for them." After two years in Cyprus, he returned home with nothing but lost hope and a poorer family.
  - ii. Another Pakistani student, like so many others, found illegal work. The police raided the workshop and he was arrested. Now on top of school debt he had fines and legal fees.
  - iii. Yet another student from Kenya took illegal work in a warehouse for a month. At the end of a month of hard manual labor, the "employer" refused to pay him and the other students. When the students complained he just laughed

and said, “You’re not allowed to work anyway. Go to the police if you want.” The students did, and were then laughed at by the police.

- iv. Both male and female students from Asia and Africa have turned to prostitution to pay school bills. One Chinese girl paid her landlord sex in exchange for rent because she had no other means by which to pay. Some students unwilling to go to such extreme measures sleep outside.
  - v. And yet other students have turned to crime – internet fraud, extortion, drugs, and illegal trafficking of migrants from North Cyprus.
  - vi. And finally, many students turn to marriages of convenience, finding an EU citizen willing to marry them for money or in desperation themselves. Many of these marriages are highly dysfunctional and often bring children into the world who do not have parents who are socially, emotionally, or financially able to care for them.
- b. Having already been victimized once by the schools, many become victims of employers, landlords, or their own bad – but desperate – decisions. It’s a vicious cycle.
  - c. When students are victimized and find they are unable to pay for rent, food, and medical care they either become dependent on society or turn to illegal measures to survive.
  - d. I speak today as a simple pastor who reaches out to such students to try to help them. But we have limited resources and are not equipped to deal with all their problems. As a church, rather than adding value to society by helping people develop as whole persons, we’re spending our time and money buying food, paying bills, and visiting students in prison. The situation of the students is creating financial and emotional problems that we as a church are not equipped to address, but which we cannot ignore. We’re asking for your help.
  - e. All of us – schools, governments, NGOs, and churches – must work together to help students receive the best possible education when they come to Cyprus. This is not only in the best interest of the student and the country he or she represents, but it is in the best interest of Cyprus as well.
  - f. The social and financial cost created by the exploitation of students is one that Cypriot society cannot afford to pay.
  - g. And it doesn’t need to be this way.

#### **4. Suggestions**

- a. I'm neither a professional educator nor a public official, but I'm one who must deal with the consequences of the deception and the broken system almost every day. So from that perspective, let me offer 3 suggestions for you to consider.
- b. First, agents and schools must be held to strict standards of honesty when marketing their programs. Students must know that their families will be required to cover their expenses while they study. The schools must learn to police themselves in this regard.
- c. Second, a vetting process should be implemented and enforced by government that only allows enrollment for those international students who can reasonably prove they have the financial means to afford education in Cyprus. Many governments already have such requirements in place, and Cyprus needs to enact such laws.
- d. Thirdly, allow international student groups such as IFES to operate as voluntary clubs on school campuses to help Christian students develop character and integrity and to provide voluntary pastoral care and guidance for students before they make poor decisions.

## **5. Conclusion**

- a. Higher education in Cyprus has a bright future, can be a positive growth industry for the country, can promote a positive image internationally, and can add value to both Cypriot and global society.
- b. But this requires a long-term vision of justice, integrity, honesty, quality education, leadership, and a strong work ethic.
- c. Are we ready to work together for this preferred future, or will we sacrifice our future for short-term gains?

**Speech by Anthony Duke**

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen, officials of embassies present here today, members of the press, various stakeholders involved in stop trafficking Cyprus. It is a great honor to be invited to address you on this sensitive issue of Student trafficking. The issue of student trafficking has been a very challenging one because of the numerous theories out there on the subject. Therefore it is only prudent that we look at what trafficking is and see whether the elements of trafficking can or cannot exist in the case of student recruitment.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes defines trafficking in persons as the: recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability, or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.

This definition of trafficking has unchallengeable elements within it that clearly show and prove that students can and are trafficked day in day out. Within student trafficking the elements that exist are those of recruitment, fraud and deception. These elements spin back and forth from the sources of supply and demand.

Within our own context of gathering here today, which is Cyprus, let us see how student trafficking unravels and thrives:

There is the source of supply which is mainly the developing world with involved countries mostly being: China, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Guinea, Gambia and Cameroon.

Within these countries, there are agents who recruit students independently and some on behalf of the various colleges and universities here in Cyprus. The tactics of deception and fraud they apply in the recruitment of students are numerous and I will share a couple with you.

**Tactics the agents use:**

- 1) The most typical tactic is to deceive prospective students that in Cyprus, they will be able to work alongside their studies, when this is not true as the law of the island does not permit that. So what then is the impact of these lies? These students who are definitely not prepared financially, consume this deception, embark on a journey to Cyprus with the hope of being able to work to support themselves whilst studying, only to realize the bitter truth. At this point, it becomes too late and impossible for some to return home since most of them and their families could have taken out bank loans or sold properties to enable the student embark on this trip. Last year in dealing with 6 students from Ghana who were victims of deception. One of them for instance got here with the help of his 70 years old fathers entire pension money. Now, what is he going to tell his family upon return????? This is the kind of evil student trafficking by means of deception is pouring out on people out there.
- 2) Another tactic of deception is giving the student false and obviously extremely lower figures as per how much is needed for tuition fees and covering of living expenses. Students and their families therefore make budgets around these figures only for

unexpected financial demands to be made by the universities from the students once they arrive.

- 3) Another tactic of deception is promising students that after a year or two in colleges here in Cyprus, the colleges will automatically facilitate and acquire visas for them to study in other developed countries within Europe and North America. This is a complete lie and deception because as the embassy officials here present will agree with me, most foreign students have to return to their countries of permanent domicile to apply for student visas.

**Tactics the universities use:**

- 1) Some, and I repeat, some of the colleges and universities here in Cyprus have also facilitated the deceptive tactics and fraudulent approaches used by agents in the supply countries. There are colleges and universities that send recruitment officers to these countries of supply to hold recruitment seminars in exclusively posh 5 star hotels. In the developing world, holding a recruitment seminar in a 5 star hotel, you have already sold the credibility of your message. Not only do they use the choice of the 5 star luxury hotels as a public relations front, but they also go ahead to verbally deceive students by promising students that Cyprus that allows students to work and there are so many jobs flying all over the place. Just put yourself in the position of a prospective student hearing this from a European who is coming straight from the university and is lodged and holding a seminar in a posh 5 star hotel. I only see this as a holistic deceptive and fraudulent package. Sounds like a petty tactic, but trust me it's a powerful tool that's working. Those 6 students, I mentioned earlier from Ghana, actually met the head of a college from Cyprus under this same circumstances where they were made to believe all the juicy and rosy stories.
- 2) Also another concern I know prospective students who meet these university representatives have always raised is whether they will get industrial work experience in tandem with their academic studies or not. The verbal promises prospective students get is that they will be placed in industry to acquire industrial experience alongside their studies. Furthermore they are shown leaflets and brochures where program of study content shows at least 3 or 4 industrial work placements for which they will earn academic credits. Is this the case on the ground? Certainly not and I beg to differ. There are hotel management students who have not set foot in a hotel throughout their entire 4 years of studentship and they are 5 months shy from graduation. The quality education sold to them from the beginning becomes a big lie as they leave without the needed industrial experience and find it extremely challenging to compete back in their countries. Not only is this bad for these students, but eventually the alumni of these colleges and universities will be so poor in quality and the reputation of the colleges and universities will suffer greatly, making a certificate earned from them a laughing stock.
- 3) The colleges have also started using students already in their colleges as recruitment agents in their various countries to help peddle falsehoods to get other students in to the colleges. Now one interesting question that will go through your mind is why would a student who does not like his situation agree to that? The answer is very simple: You recruit one new student; you get paid a sum of 500-800 dollars or get part of your fees

defrayed. This has become a booming deceptive tactic for the colleges in recruiting because most students they use here, are in such financial hardships and difficulties as a result of the same issue and hence agree to do anything to survive. If it even means being used as agents to perpetuate this crime of recruiting students with false information.

- 4) Some of the content on the website, promotional brochures of certain colleges here in Cyprus are also completely fabricated lies. You will sometimes find a very long list of universities in Europe and North America being touted as partner universities. And my understanding of a partner is someone who has accepted your standards right? However, students who sometimes try to apply for a transfer on further studies at these same listed universities, have either courses unrecognized and thrown out of the window or are asked to complete some semesters at these universities at undergraduate level before they are accepted for graduate studies. The problem isn't the students academic record but it is the fact that, the college here in Cyprus has no partnership agreement or MOU whatsoever with some of these listed universities. This is completely deceptive and fraudulent.

Ladies and gentlemen, the objective of putting these troubling issues to bare, is not to put people, colleges and universities in Cyprus out of business. This is a wake-up call that, look there is a huge canker eating into the fabric of the tertiary educational system here when it comes to recruitment of foreign students from the developing world. The brunt is bore by poor families back in these developing countries, as well as the government and civil society here in Cyprus.

We want Cyprus to prosper. We want the colleges and universities to become institutions of academic excellence that produce great men and women the world over. I am proud to say that the vice president of the republic of Kenya is an alumnus of one of the educational institutions of Cyprus. What he has actually done now is to set up a scholarship scheme that students from Kenya to come study at the tertiary level in Cyprus. These are the stories we want to hear. Stories of prosperity on the part of students from developing countries and the colleges/universities and Cyprus as a whole.

I am another example of what we seek. I studied for my bachelors degree in Cyprus some years back. I was given the opportunity to gain valuable work experience with an offshore company where I equally excel working with graduates from prestigious universities in the United Kingdom and North America. I am relocating to Ghana in few weeks with this education and work experience to join the political process and ongoing development over there.

These success stories shouldn't be one out of thousands. It can and should be the story of every student who embarks on a journey to come seek tertiary education here in Cyprus. The question thereore is how are we able to work towards this together?

### **Recommendations:**

- 1) Colleges and universities reps who travel to embark on recruitment seminars must be honest in their recruitment of students. For the love of God, let not the end of year bonuses mar your morality and ethics. Honesty should be the key.
- 2) For colleges that engage the services or partner with recruitment agencies in these countries, must take responsibility to make sure these agencies are transferring the truth on the ground to prospective students, most importantly, the truth that students are not allowed to work in Cyprus, and also give an honest projection or estimate of tuition fees and living expenses for their entire period of studentship
- 3) In addition if there are government representatives here, we pray on them to use the Cyprus embassies in these countries to sieve out students and issue visas to only those who prove beyond all doubt that they have financial capacity to sustain their tuition fees and other living expenses through rigorous processes just as the British, American and German governments does by asking for financial statements and other documents from a sponsor.
- 4) Colleges and universities should engage in responsible and ethical content management on their websites and brochures they send out to these countries and try as much as possible to be clear and honest in the information they present.