

Going home.

Challenges in the reintegration of trafficking victims in Indonesia



2016

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Cover photo: *A former migrant worker in her home village in West Java.*

Photographs in this report illustrate various aspects of daily life in Indonesia. Unless stated otherwise, individuals in these photographs are not trafficking victims.

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Zulbahary and Suarni Daeng Caya



This book is dedicated to the late Mr. Dadang F Muchtar, Chairperson of Migrant Worker's Solidarity of Karawang/Solidaritas Buruh Migran Karawang (SBMK), who was very meritorious in fighting for the rights of Indonesian migrant workers, trafficking victims and their families since 1998. NEXUS Institute is grateful for his substantial and generous contribution to this research project on the reintegration of trafficking victims in Indonesia conducted between 2014 and 2016.

Preface from NEXUS Institute

I am pleased to present *Going Home*, the first in a series of studies by the NEXUS Institute that details the uncertain and precarious path toward recovery faced by many victims of human trafficking in Indonesia. As described in this report, for many individuals the ordeal of being trapped in modern slavery and under conditions of severe exploitation is too-often followed by a daunting personal struggle to put their lives back together. Some have the support of their families, but others face this struggle alone. These men and women shared their experiences with us and, in so doing, reveal stories of hope, determination, perseverance, courage, and resilience. This report documents their experiences and introduces what support is available for reintegration of victims of human trafficking in Indonesia, and the constraints and obstacles victims face in accessing that support.

While there has been important progress globally in efforts to end modern slavery, recognition of the pivotal role played by reintegration support as a component of a country's comprehensive efforts to end contemporary slavery has lagged behind. Certainly reintegration support is key in the recovery of victims after trafficking exploitation. In addition, strengthening reintegration helps prevent human trafficking in ways that are distinct from other prevention activities. Former victims of trafficking -- especially those who were unidentified or unassisted -- are among the most vulnerable to being enslaved again, perpetuating a cycle that can be most effectively broken with adequate policies and practices providing reintegration support. Consequently a country's prevention strategy is not complete without including meaningful reintegration support.

Supporting trafficking victims on their road to recovery is also the right thing to do. The imperative for countries to support longer-term recovery – in contrast to providing short-term, emergency care – is found in international law, as well as in global and regional directives, declarations, action plans, and guidance issued by the international community for over a decade. The clear international consensus is most recently reconfirmed in the letter and spirit of the Association of South East Nations' (ASEAN) Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. This multi-lateral agreement, echoing current international law and policy, requires each country to use its best efforts to assist in the reintegration of victims of trafficking in persons.

This report focuses a lens on Indonesia. However, victims of human trafficking from many different countries in many different regions of the world face the same challenges as they try to recover and reintegrate after their exploitation. And they have shared stories similar to the ones recounted here with NEXUS. As such, while we all continue to work toward an end to modern day slavery, it is also necessary to work with those who have already been victimized. This includes helping to reduce, through reintegration services, the hardship and hurdles that trafficking victims face in the aftermath of their servitude as they work to put their lives back together.

We hope that you find this report, along with the other reports in this series, to be informative and helpful in understanding the critical issue of reintegration and the practical steps that are available to enhance the provision of reintegration support to victims of human trafficking – men, women and children – in all of its forms.

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