Deception of a Filipino woman for work in a Czech massage parlour

A Filipino woman was recruited from Poland to work in a massage parlour in the Czech Republic, where she was also accommodated. The employer violated her labour rights in various ways: she was fined if she was late for work; she was not paid the statutory allowances; and her wages were only paid in full if she assisted a certain number of clients. Eventually, the women discovered that she was deceived, her employment contract was for a position of a cleaner and not of a masseuse, as she had been told. Subsequently, the woman was dismissed by her employer, which meant she lost both her job and accommodation. This termination of the employment relationship was not in accordance with the Czech labour law. On top of this violation, the employer also withheld her qualification certificate as a masseuse and demanded that the woman’s next employer would have to pay him CZK 30,000 (approx. EUR 1,200).

La Strada Czech Republic offered direct support services to the woman, including accommodation in their shelter. They discovered that the employer was engaging in similar unfair practices against other employees on an ongoing and significant scale and reported the case to the police. Moreover, the organisation prevented the termination of the contract by the employer which was contrary to labour law.

GOOD PRACTICE

La Strada’s cooperation with the police led to the employer being found to be engaging in unfair practices against other people on an ongoing and significant scale, and thereby prevented that these unfair practices could continue.

BOTTLENECK

Without the organisation’s intervention, the employer could have easily terminated the employment contract although this was contrary to statutory employment law provisions.