

TITLE: Preventing the Trafficking of Women and Girls for Sexual Exploitation: Understanding States' Obligations to Address Demand Under the Palermo Protocol

ORGANIZER: OSCE Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

CO-ORGANIZERS: OSCE/ODIHR, UNODC, Equality Now and Coalition Against Trafficking in Women

OVERVIEW: Numerous reports and data sources indicate that women and girls are disproportionately impacted by human trafficking, particularly in the context of sexual exploitation. The time has come to move beyond discussing whether trafficking of women and girls is an issue, to taking concrete action to end this form of gender-based violence.

Member states have committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, including by investing in measures to eliminate violence against women and girls, such as trafficking and sexual exploitation. Less clear, however, is the success of such efforts. The recently launched UNODC Global Report on Trafficking indicates that 94% of detected sex trafficked individuals are women and girls¹. Women and girls also constitute 72% of all detected trafficking victims². The scale of the global response to prevent such human rights violations and protect women and girls is not commensurate to the extent of the crisis. Therefore, expansion of current efforts and new strategies are urgently needed. In the context of violence against women and girls through sexual and other exploitation, one such opportunity is to address the demand that fosters all forms of trafficking in human beings.

Nearly twenty years ago, Article 9.5 of the Palermo Protocol urged States to “adopt or strengthen legislative or other measures, such as educational, social or cultural measures... to discourage the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation of persons, especially women and children, that leads to trafficking.” The OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, over a decade ago, echoed such provisions by reaffirming that the demand for sexual exploitation is an integral factor contributing to trafficking in human beings. The OSCE urged countries of destination to take measures to address such demand as a key element in their strategies for effectively preventing and combating trafficking in human beings.

WHAT: This event will explore obligations under the Palermo Protocol and other relevant international instruments to discourage demand as an integral part of efforts to combat trafficking in women and girls. Participants will hear from leading experts on how States can meet these obligations in their responses to the trafficking of women and girls with the goal of ensuring effective implementation of the SDGs, including target 5.2, 8.7, and 16.2.

WHEN: 63rd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW63),
March 14, 2019 8:15 AM-9:30 AM

¹ UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2016 https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/2016_Global_Report_on_Trafficking_in_Persons.pdf

² UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2018 https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/2018/GLOTIP_2018_BOOK_web_small.pdf

WHERE: Conference Room 12 - GA Building (max. capacity: 129)

Panellists to date:

Mr Valiant Richey	Acting Co-ordinator, OSCE Office for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings – <i>Welcoming Remarks</i>
Ms. Shandra Woworuntu	Survivor and Executive Director of Mentari
Ms Taina Bien-Aimé	Executive Director, Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW)
Mr. Grégoire Théry	Executive Director, CAP International
Mr. Ted Bunch	Co-founder and Co-director, A Call To Men
Ms. Tatiana Kotlyarenko	Adviser On Anti-Trafficking Issues, ODIHR (TBC)- <i>Closing Remarks</i>
Ms. Simone Monasebian	Director UNODC New York Office
Ms Yasmeen Hassan	Global Executive Director of Equality Now

ABOUT THE ORGANIZERS:

The Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (OSR/CTHB) was established in 2006 as a high-level mechanism to assist the fifty-seven OSCE participating States in the implementation of commitments and full usage of recommendations set forth in the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings and its addenda. The Office provides a co-ordinating function among OSCE institutions involved in combating trafficking in human beings (THB) with a focus on enhancing the awareness and understanding of THB across the OSCE region; policy development and advocacy, especially in the area of emerging trends of THB and effective approaches to combating THB; and direct assistance to participating States in practical implementation of policies and measures. Recently, the OSR/CTHB issued publications on child protection; the role of civil society in combating THB; model guidelines on government measures to prevent trafficking in supply chains; and identification of trafficking in migration flows.

OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) has been active in preventing and combating trafficking in human beings in the OSCE region since 1999, focusing on the promotion of international human rights standards and gender sensitive measures in responses to trafficking. As a result of its work, ODIHR has developed expertise and a significant role in the domain of victim protection and the promotion of the rights of trafficked persons and groups who are at risk. In particular, ODIHR has assisted its participating States in the creation of the National Referral Mechanisms (NRMs), drawing on guidance provided in ODIHR's National Referral Mechanisms Handbook, as well as paved the way in promoting trafficked persons' access to justice and effective remedies, including compensation. ODIHR's 'Human Rights, Gender and Security' Programme has built a track record assisting OSCE participating States in making their security sector more human rights compliant and gender sensitive, through *inter alia*, expert advice and capacity building on stepping up responses to violence against women and gender based violence for security sector actors.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is the lead UN agency addressing all forms of human trafficking. UNODC is the guardian of the United Nations Convention

Against Transnational Organized Crime and its associated Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and the manager of the UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children. UNODC is the publisher of the General Assembly mandated biennial Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, and the Coordinator of the Interagency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons. UNODC works with governments, the private sector, the media, the arts community, academia, survivors and NGOs to combat human trafficking by conducting research, raising public awareness, engaging in preventative activities, assisting victims and enhancing the capacity and skills of criminal justice professionals and policymakers.

Equality Now is a non-governmental organization founded in 1992 of which purpose is to work for the protection and promotion of the human rights of women and girls around the world. It provides an international framework for raising awareness of issues and providing support to local grassroots groups. The organization's primary focus is addressing sexual violence and trafficking of women.