

RECOMMENDATIONS

To: UN General Assembly High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development
From: NGO Committee to Stop Trafficking In Persons
Date: 18 Jun 2013
Subject: Proposed Recommendations for the 15 July 2013 Informal Interactive Hearings for the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development

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The General Assembly High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development has an important role to play in combating the scourge of Human Trafficking around the globe.

The NGO Committee to Stop Trafficking in Persons (NGOCSTIP) reminds delegates that every year men, women and children choose to leave their home for a better life elsewhere, anticipating safety, jobs, and freedom. Unfortunately, for some of these migrants, these dreams become nightmares. Those who are forced by war or poverty to leave their homes with little more than the clothes on their backs, are especially vulnerable to human traffickers who promise them jobs and opportunities but instead sell them into sexual and labor slavery.

Women and girls as well as men and boys fall prey to these false promises in the hope of finding a way to help their struggling families. Women and girls are particularly vulnerable and comprise of approximately 75% of all trafficking victims, according to both the ILO and UNODC. A large percentage of these are being trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation.

There is a major difference between smuggling and trafficking of migrants. In contrast with trafficking and migration, smuggling requires the crossing of borders and the illegal entry into a different nation. It does not involve an element of coercion because the participants are willing to be smuggled and no subsequent exploitation is intended. Many victims of trafficking, on the other hand, believe they are paying a smuggler/trafficker to help them move across borders so that they can work in legitimate businesses, only to find that their money and papers are taken from them and they are trapped into forced labor, prostitution and debt bondage. To add to this problem, many people living in poverty or escaping from war have no identity papers, making them "non-citizens" in every nation.

The escalating and unrelenting demand for individuals who might be very vulnerable to exploitation has been identified as the primary "pull" factor associated with human trafficking; without demand, there would be no market for the traffickers. The demand

for trafficked persons is fueled by the following: employer demand to minimize labor and production costs as well as consumer demand for cheap goods and services provided by trafficked persons. In addition, cultural and social norms often diminish the status of women, migrants, and other human beings. Most States are complicit in sustaining the demand for victims of trafficking. Current laws for prosecution of traffickers and exploitative employers are often inadequate, insufficiently funded and rarely adequately enforced.

The NGOCSTIP recommends that States undertake the following:

- * Develop and implement strategies to ensure safe migration, including awareness-raising campaigns and access to education for those who are in vulnerable situations;
- * Support their legal framework through legislation and law enforcement and support efforts to implement UN protocols on arresting and prosecuting traffickers; support the training of public officials, border agents, law enforcement, and the judiciary to recognize signs of human trafficking and prosecute those who exploit victims;
- * Urge companies to perform periodic and robust evaluations of their supply chains to ensure that no individual is being exploited and that the rights of all employees to decent work and safe working conditions are enforced -- any company in non-compliance with protecting those rights should be sanctioned accordingly. In addition, corporations should be encouraged to sign international codes such as the Global Compact, the Women's Empowerment principles, and End Human Trafficking Now so that they may stand at the forefront of leadership and advocate with others to promote the human rights of those most vulnerable to human trafficking, such as migrants;
- * Take steps to address the social, cultural, economic, political, legal and development factors that shape demand and enable the trafficking of persons at the local and international levels;
- * Take swift action to implement specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound objectives to halt both the supply and demand of trafficking victims; to prosecute both the sex trafficker and buyer of commercial sex; to reform inadequate laws; and to develop multilateral agreements to ensure collaboration among law enforcement and judicial bodies to address the heinous crime of human trafficking.

If the NGOCSTIP can facilitate in any way, please contact us.

Thank you,

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The following ECOSOC-accredited NGOs with consultative status are signatories to the above Recommendations:

Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd

Congregation of Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Edmund Rice International

The Grail

International Council of Jewish Women

International Federation of Women in Legal Careers

International Federation of Women Lawyers

International Presentation Association of the Sisters of the Presentation

International Young Catholic Students

Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary

Salesian Missions, Inc.

Scalabrini International Migration Network

The Sisters of Mercy of the Americas

Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur

Soroptimist International

UNANIMA International

Zona International