



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

ALLIANCE AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS CONFERENCE

“National Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism to Address THB:
the Role of National Rapporteurs”

Vienna

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Concluding Remarks and Recommendations by Ms. Eva Biaudet, OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

Ladies and Gentleman,

Today, we had six rapporteurs sharing with us their experiences. They all demonstrated clear evidence of the impact such mechanism can have as a contributing factor in combating trafficking in human beings.

We understand that countries are at different stages in the process in creating anti-trafficking mechanisms, and have different constraints, including the one of human and financial resources. But, let me once more stress the importance of fulfilling the functions of a national rapporteur or equivalent mechanism – it is not about structure, it is about – reporting, reviewing, measuring progress made at national level based on assessment and evaluation, as well as making recommendations in order to address the knowledge gap. Please allow me to come to some initial conclusions and recommendations from this day:

1. Recalling those OSCE Action Plan and Brussels MC Decision No.14/06 in which “participating States are recommended to consider appointing National Rapporteurs or similar independent monitoring mechanisms”. The establishment of national rapporteurs or equivalent mechanisms throughout the OSCE region can contribute towards better statistical knowledge and understanding of THB based on concrete evidence. Such national mechanisms can also contribute towards better regional and international co-operation among similar counterparts since information can be a means of creating a better basis for drawing up policy and developing appropriate action;
2. We urge the participating States to consider that national reports focus to the extent possible on all forms of trafficking (trafficking for sexual exploitation, for labour exploitation and for the removal of organs) in accordance with Article 3 of the UN Protocol, thus ensuring a comprehensive coverage of the problem;

3. We call upon the participating States to ensure independency of National Rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms, appropriate jurisdiction including access to all existing information and allocation of resources in order to allow these mechanisms to fulfill their mandate(s) and achieve the results expected. The distinct roles of the national rapporteur and national co-ordinator need to be clearly articulated and maintained;
4. A National Rapporteur or equivalent mechanism should be responsible for the collection and analysis of data (qualitative and quantitative information) on the broader issues related to trafficking in persons in the context of the ‘three Ps’, prevention, protection and prosecution, including addressing measures taken to protect victims. A national report should not lose sight of the importance of issues related to identification, treatment and assistance of victims of trafficking, consequently the ‘voice’ and concerns of trafficked persons should be reflected in the report as part of a victim-centred approach;
5. The participating States should enable National Rapporteurs or equivalent mechanisms to submit, on a regular basis, once a year an annual report to the respective legislative bodies (i.e., national parliament, senate, etc) and/or ministerial task forces or other coordinating inter-agency bodies in the country for discussion. The annual report should be made public and accessible to the society;
6. National Rapporteurs and/or equivalent mechanism should consult with stakeholders at large, including civil society and experts, as well as include their contributions to the national report whenever relevant. Data collection should always be done in a manner which protects the integrity of trafficked persons, and research must be an integral part of the work of a National Rapporteur and equivalent mechanisms, including gathering and analysis of information on important trends. National Rapporteurs and/or equivalent mechanisms can also contribute as a national focal points to gather and disseminate information on THB;
7. National reports should include a review, assessment and evaluation of government measures to combat THB, as well as document the scope of the problem on the basis of both quantitative and qualitative analysis of information. Such national reports should be used to evaluate and review the information reported, identify gaps, make reference to shortcomings and potential areas of improvement, as well as having the “added value” of measuring progress made based on the assessment and evaluation of previous reports;
8. Making recommendations to areas where improvement or amendments are needed is an integral part of the national report and of the work of the National Rapporteur or

equivalent mechanism. Recommendations should also be addressed to NGOs and the general public, private sector, media and other actors whenever relevant to the issue at large. In addition, governments should act in accordance to the recommendations;

9. Recommendations should also cover aspects of relevant national policy which have an impact on THB. For example, in the field of prevention in relation to root causes, recommendations on policy issues related to development assistance, migration policy, gender equality and social protection may be pertinent vis-à-vis the national context. In addition, National Rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms should not shy away from making broader recommendations regarding strategies in the field of prevention, which would include the identification of factors of vulnerability which contribute to THB (e.g., lack of protection for children at risk, such as unaccompanied minors, minority groups, street children, etc)

I hope to follow-up this event next year with many more of your peers, dear rapporteurs, so that we can continue discussions on concrete issues, such as data collection, methodology, etc.

Thank you all for your participation. We form an anti-trafficking community and we can make a difference in the fight against trafficking in human beings. My job is to help you when you need it and also to “push” you when you need it. Please feel free to “push” me if you feel I also need it.

My concern is not that we do too much, my concern is that trafficking is growing and if we don't become more effective in what we do, traffickers will always stay one step ahead.