



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

ALLIANCE AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS CONFERENCE

“Assistance to Trafficked Persons: We Can Do Better”

Vienna

10-11 September 2007

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

Ladies and Gentleman,

In the past two days, we had a number of experts sharing with us their experiences and empirical data on issues related to victim identification, protection and assistance. They all demonstrated clearly the importance of evidence based knowledge through use of research and how this exercise can contribute toward better policies and programs on combating trafficking in human beings from a victim centered approach.

We understand that countries experience different constraints, including the one of human and financial resources, but here I also call upon donor agencies to devote more resources towards information gathering and analysis from a multi-disciplinary approach in order to develop a greater understanding of phenomena which are constantly changing.

And here let me reiterate the importance of fulfilling the functions of a national rapporteur or equivalent mechanism, which is not a mere setting up of another anti-trafficking structure, but an important mechanism which can contribute to address the gaps in knowledge and understanding of trafficking in human beings by delivering a national report, reviewing policy, measuring progress made at national level based on assessment and evaluation, as well as being able to produce sound recommendations. Please allow me to come to some initial conclusions and recommendations from these two days:

- Recalling the OSCE Action Plan and Brussels MC Decision No.14/06 in which the need was underscored to improve research and create a system of data collection and analysis in order to better assess the character and scope of the problem, while developing effective and well-targeted policies on THB by participating States. In addition, it was “recommended to consider appointing National Rapporteurs or similar independent monitoring mechanisms”. Within this context, we recall the recommendations from the 6th Alliance Against Trafficking in Persons Conference on 21 May on the national rapporteurs or equivalent mechanisms.

- We remind the participating States to consider strengthening their efforts to gather and analyze quantitative and qualitative information that includes the views and concerns of trafficked persons in a manner which protects their integrity, while considering the gender dimension within all forms of trafficking¹ in order to ensure comprehensive coverage of the problem. We recall participating States' attention to the importance of the role of research as a major tool to identify gaps in the system, and as a policy guide;

- We call upon participating States and donor agencies to strengthen their support and efforts in the field of research with a view to assessing and evaluating measures, programs and policies to combat THB, including identification of gaps, making reference to shortcomings and potential areas of improvement, such as:

- a. the factors which expose individuals/or groups to the risk of being trafficked;
- b. the changing patterns of trafficking;
- c. the weakness of law enforcement and social services in identifying and providing services to trafficked persons;
- d. the complex relationships between traffickers and victims, between migration and trafficking in human beings;
- e. the challenges of identification, and how to improve identification and referral for trafficked persons;
- f. the scope of child trafficking, missing/disappearance of children - addressing protection of children as early as possible;

¹ In accordance with Article 6 of the UN Protocol (UNTOC)

- g. the discrepancies between the estimated numbers of victims and the number of victims served;
- h. the health impact on trafficked persons and the involvement of health experts in the design of services and procedures;
- i. the capacity building needs of authorities and social service providers with a view to improving services to trafficked persons, including legal protection and redress to victims;
- j. lessons learned from intervention programs (e.g., integration, return and reintegration etc);
- k. regarding anti-trafficking interventions and programs, further assessment on the level of understanding the coercive and abusive circumstances of THB among social service providers, and how this affects social service providers' capacity to deliver services to presumed and identified trafficked persons as needed;
- l. include specific research themes from all forms of trafficking – also male victims of trafficking and their needs, issues related to exploitation of migrants and the links to trafficking, factors of vulnerability;
- m. etc;

Thank you all for your participation, support and broad interest in the theme of this event, which acknowledges the importance of doing better in identifying and assisting girls, boys, women and men at risk for and being victims of THB. It also shows the significance of the Alliance Against Trafficking in Persons as a forum for exchanging information and networking among authorities and practitioners from the OSCE participating States. As mentioned, we need more studies which can shed light onto dynamics of this crime and help us building mechanisms of prevention, prosecution and last but definitely not least protection of victims of trafficking.

I have learned a lot today and yesterday. I have also heard that others have also learned a lot. It is not easy to make this impression on the diplomatic community here in Vienna. I think that the High Level Alliance Conference is very special in this way.

This makes feel good, it gives me hope and strength to continue with our fight against trafficking.

We will all go home feeling that we can do better.