

**OSCE Human Dimension Implementation meeting 2013**  
**Canadian Statement for Working Session 10:**  
**Humanitarian issues and other commitments I:**  
**Implementation of the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human**  
**Beings**  
**Monday, 30 September 2013**

Mme Moderator,

Canada fully supports the OSCE's efforts to combat trafficking in Human Beings. We also commend the Ukrainian Chairmanship for making the fight against this form of modern day slavery one of its priority areas in 2013.

Human trafficking is a dangerous and despicable crime. It is the victimization of the world's most vulnerable; those that are most affected by poverty and discrimination, those without access to education or employment. Women and girls are disproportionately the victims of human trafficking because they are disproportionately the world's most vulnerable.

This is a cross cutting issue that affects all our communities, in all regions around the world. This is an issue of health, human rights, development, as well as security from organized crime. In 2012, the Government of Canada awarded its John Diefenbaker Award , which honours human rights defenders, to Susana Trimarco, an Argentinian activist and founder of the Fundación María de los Ángeles, who, in 2007, helped to shed light on the world of human trafficking and forced prostitution while searching for her missing daughter .

Canada is committed to the global fight against human trafficking and to that end launched its National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking a year ago. This Action Plan is a comprehensive blueprint to guide the Government of Canada's fight against this serious crime.

Canada also supports international efforts to combat human trafficking, and has made contributions to support the establishment and reinforcement of National Referral Mechanisms across the OSCE region, as well as to protect and empower victims using a human rights lens.

Moreover, Canada has long understood the importance of partnerships in addressing this crime, particularly recognizing the integral role played by civil society groups. Such groups are very often the first point of contact for victims and work to advocate on their behalf. We must all ensure that these important partners are part of the response to trafficking and the dialogue on how to improve our performance. To this end, the Canadian government met face-to-face with stakeholders from across the country. The information flowing from these consultations is being used to inform our future anti-human trafficking direction and policies under the National Action Plan.

To succeed in our fight against human trafficking, countries cannot act alone. Only through a sustained, multi-faceted and collaborative effort can we be successful in tackling the human trafficking problem, and prevent it from affecting even more people. With its broad membership, the OSCE can play a useful role in that regard, notably through sharing best practices and providing assistance to participating States in the establishment of national referral mechanisms and action plans to combat trafficking.

We welcome this discussion at HDIM on how best to combat human trafficking and look forward to additional discussions throughout the fall, including on a possible addendum to the OSCE's Action Plan, as preparations for the Kyiv Ministerial Council get under way.

Thank you.