

Statement by the Delegation of CANADA

By Yves Beaulieu, Deputy Head of Delegation

Review Conference on the Implementation of OSCE Commitments  
Human Dimension

Astana, 26 November 2010.

**TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS**

Mr. Chairperson,

Canada recognizes the serious nature of the crime of trafficking in persons. It is reported by the United Nations to be the fastest growing form of transnational organized crime. Bringing an end to the global trade in people, this modern-day slavery, is in keeping with values that place a premium on human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

Efforts to address this crime are often challenging for law enforcement and criminal justice practitioners due to issues such as a difficulty to identify a victim because of an unwillingness of victims to come forward from a fear of police or concern of deportation. Strong crime prevention and criminal justice responses are necessary to effectively address this crime.

The OSCE plays an important role on the ground through its expertise in combating trafficking in persons, a shared concern to all of us, affecting families and communities in transit, destination and source countries.

Canada, through the Canadian International Development Agency, is pleased to support the "Human Dimension of Security" project in Eastern Europe in partnership with the OSCE. We are encouraged by the project's results in the following key areas: gender equality, combating trafficking in persons, migration/freedom of movement and human rights.

Canada is also pleased to support a European regional program to combat trafficking in persons, an initiative of the ODIHR. Through the Canadian International Development Agency, Canada supports the anti-trafficking program in its coordination and implementation activities across several OSCE countries.

The Government of Canada's response to trafficking in persons is coordinated and advanced by the Interdepartmental Working Group on Trafficking in Persons, which acts as a dedicated focal point for all federal anti-trafficking efforts. It brings together

representatives from seventeen federal departments and agencies and serves as a central repository of federal expertise.

Guided by the Protocol, the Working Group strives to strengthen federal responses to combat TIP in accordance with the 4 P's: preventing trafficking, protecting victims, prosecuting offenders and building partnerships domestically and internationally.

This Working Group is an example of a good practice that could be used as an example for OSCE participating States in enhancing efforts to combat trafficking in persons.

Canada recognizes that victims are often from society's most vulnerable populations. We have taken measures to enhance our capacity to protect children from sexual exploitation, including the following:

- In February 2007, the Canadian parliament passed a motion on Human Trafficking, which called on the Government to condemn the trafficking of women and children across international borders for the purpose of sexual exploitation and to adopt a comprehensive strategy to combat the trafficking of persons worldwide.
- In June 2010, a legislative bill was passed which amends the Criminal Code of Canada to place a mandatory sentence of five years imprisonment for anyone convicted of trafficking a child under the age of 18 in Canada, and a minimum of six years imprisonment for cases with aggravating factors.

We recommend that other participating States also adopt legislation to prevent trafficking and protect victims.

We also trust that strong language on the subject will be reflected in the Astana Declaration to be adopted at the OSCE Summit next week.

In closing, I would like to note that we are joined today by our common desire to fight trafficking in persons. Allow me to thank the OSCE Special Representative and Coordinator and her team for their efforts in carrying their mandate.

Thank you very much. Merci beaucoup.