

Transcript of video address
by
US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton
to the
**OSCE/Alliance against Trafficking in Persons conference on prevention of
modern slavery**

Vienna, 14-15 September 2009

Hello everyone,

I want to thank all of you for your efforts to stem the tragic tide of Human Trafficking. I especially want to thank the 'Alliance against Trafficking in Persons' and OSCE Special Representative Eva Biaudet for organizing this very important conference.

Human Trafficking flourishes in the shadows and demands attention, commitment and passion from each and every one of us!

Today, millions of people are living in bondage around the world. Under threat of violence they are forced to labor in fields and factories, to work as domestics in homes that might as well be their prisons, and to walk the streets as prostitutes and beggars.

Trafficking weakens legitimate economies, it breaks up families, it fuels violence, it threatens public health and safety, and it shreds the social fabric. It also undermines our efforts to promote peace, prosperity, and Human Rights worldwide.

I have seen firsthand the suffering that trafficking causes. In Thailand I met girls who had been trafficked as young children and were dying of AIDS. I have met mothers in Eastern Europe who lost daughters to trafficking and had nowhere to turn for help. I have been on every continent and I have met those who have suffered because of this scourge.

Thanks in part to efforts of activists and leaders like you, we've seen progress: more than half of all countries have enacted laws prohibiting all forms of Human Trafficking. New partnerships between law enforcement and Non-Governmental Organizations including women's shelters and immigrant rights groups have led to thousands of prosecutions as well as assistance for many survivors.

But despite this progress, today *at least 12 million people world wide are victims of trafficking*. And that estimate is certainly too low.

New economic pressures are likely to aggravate the problem further, so this conference comes at a time of renewed urgency. It is an opportunity to place a renewed focus on prevention and the root causes of trafficking.

Along with prosecution and protection, prevention is one of the '3 Ps' of the Anti-Trafficking Fight.

In the United States we found our National Trafficking Report to be an effective tool in guiding our efforts and we are eager to share from our experiences and learn from yours.

I would like to encourage each OSCE Participating State to consider preparing your own National Report on Human Trafficking, including recommendations for further actions.

Together we must implement a comprehensive approach that both confronts criminals and cares for survivors.

So, thank you again for your hard work and your commitment to this critical issue. Let's redouble our efforts and make a real difference this year.

Thank you all very much.