

Warsaw, 17 September 2002

Dear Colleagues,

Earlier this year, as Co-Chairs of the Informal Group on Gender Equality and Anti-Trafficking, we requested OSCE participating States to prepare and present country reports. We are grateful to those who have responded to our request thus far and are pleased to be able to present you with this compilation of country reports on the occasion of the special anti-trafficking day of this year's OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting.

While this compilation of reports is not a comprehensive picture of trafficking and governmental responses, it does contain valuable information. It recounts how participating States have made concerted efforts to prevent and to combat trafficking and highlights good practice in recognising trafficking as a human rights violation, addressing organized criminal activities and providing assistance and protection to victims.

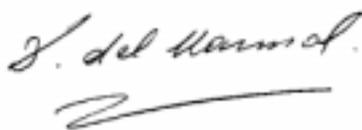
We are deeply impressed by the good will of OSCE delegations and their desire to participate in the preparation of this compilation. Furthermore – taking into consideration that it was a proactive, voluntary action, rather than one imposed by a decision or commitment – we highly appreciate this contribution by delegations to the OSCE's anti-trafficking initiatives. Your response is recognition that we have a responsibility to play a significant role in preventing and combating trafficking.

In order to take up this responsibility, we must increase our co-operation in this field and make a realistic assessment of issues to address in countries of origin, transit and destination throughout the OSCE region. We must remain vigilant in our efforts to address the root causes of trafficking such as inequality, discrimination, poverty and violence against women. In addition, countries of destination have a responsibility to address the demand for cheap, unprotected labour and to consider the adoption of progressive labour migration policies, as well as the development of national referral mechanisms to identify, protect and assist victims.

Achieving the desired results outlined in our political commitments will require resolute political will and additional resources allocated to these efforts. We hope that careful study of this compilation and our different approaches to addressing trafficking will assist us in identifying gaps and prioritizing areas for our future work on the national and regional levels.

We look forward to our continued co-operation with you and once again thank you for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,



*Ambassador Danielle Del Marmol*



*Dr. Vera Gracheva*