

Original: ENGLISH

United States Mission to the OSCE



**Response to the OSCE Special Representative and Co-coordinator on Trafficking in Human Beings
Maria Grazia Giammarinaro**

As delivered by Chargé d’Affaires, a. i. Carol Fuller
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
April 7, 2011

Special Representative Giammarinaro, we welcome you to the Permanent Council again today and thank you for your thorough report detailing the excellent work you and your staff have done since your appearance here last October.

We congratulate you and your Office on the recent release of the occasional paper entitled "Unprotected Work, Invisible Exploitation: Trafficking for the Purpose of Domestic Servitude," which follows up on the meeting of the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons Conference last June. We believe it serves as a valuable platform to inform our efforts at the national level as well as within the OSCE. Indeed, we hope that participating States could support a Ministerial Council Declaration in Vilnius, expressing their commitment to combating domestic servitude and setting out recommended activities to address and respond to this crime. We view a possible Declaration as particularly timely given the work of the Special Representative, the Alliance, as well as participating States. We also note the new ILO Convention on domestic workers that is currently being developed, and that will be discussed and possibly adopted at the next International Labor Conference in June. We stand ready to collaborate with interested participating States to develop and propose language for a Declaration on domestic servitude.

The United States stands committed to combating human trafficking in all its forms. We fully support the important role your office plays in this regard, and we commend your efforts to help participating States achieve the goals of the OSCE Action Plan on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings. We strongly encourage your efforts to mainstream our anti-trafficking initiatives. We agree that it is impossible to tackle the huge obstacles to elimination of trafficking in persons effectively without a comprehensive, cross-dimensional approach.

We agree that a human rights-centered approach must underlie all efforts to fight this modern slavery including full implementation of existing anti-trafficking legislation, proactive identification systems, victim assistance, access to justice, and social inclusion programs. We concur that structural factors related to gender and children, as well as the need for the economic empowerment of women, are key issues which need to be addressed in order to effectively fight trafficking. Additionally, we acknowledge the need for policy change in labor practices and a rights-based approach to migration, and we appreciate the concrete, succinct evidence you have brought to the Permanent Council today.

As you know, we support your call for participating States to implement their international obligations and OSCE commitments. The United States has sought to promote implementation of international obligations through the annual release of the Trafficking in Persons Report (TIP). The State Department is currently preparing this year's TIP report and will publicly release it this summer. The participating States' continued cooperation with your office and the Alliance against Trafficking will be beneficial to foster improvement in States of concern.

Special Representative Giamarinaro, thank you for continuing the fruitful dialogue with delegations and for your dedication working with parliamentarians and government authorities to help put an end to human trafficking. We look forward to your forthcoming work program for 2011 and we are honored and committed to remaining a strong partner in your efforts. We commend you, particularly, for your dedication in this very difficult area and we stand by to support you. Thank you for your work and thank you, Chair.