

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF WORKING GROUP II: ANTI-TRAFFICKING ISSUES

Participants: OSCE field missions from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, fYR of Macedonia, FRY/Kosovo, FRY/Yugoslavia & ODIHR Anti-Trafficking Unit

Recognising the diversity among the missions including their different mandates and resources, we discussed whether we could really share and promote common policies and priorities. We agreed that the framework for our work---monitoring, coordinating, advocacy, capacity building, etc – is based upon the commitments that OSCE participating States have made in this area. As stressed in the Vienna OSCE Ministerial Decision – OSCE participating States have the primary responsibility to prevent and to combat trafficking. According to their mandates and resources, OSCE field missions and the ODIHR should work to monitor these commitments and to assist participating States in fulfilling their commitments. This is particularly important when seeking to address a cross-border issue such as trafficking in human beings.

Therefore, we should continue to raise awareness about this problem and to further elaborate and deepen existing OSCE commitments in this field in order to strengthen the framework for our work and to further promote a human rights based approach to the issue. Lack of awareness and hard data remains a problem and even though political will has increased, there still is not enough activity in this area.

We propose that, despite our different mandates and resources, the OSCE must work to develop a common voice---clear priorities on the programmatic and policy levels, as well as minimum standards within these priority areas.

Questions Raised

- How can we ensure prioritisation of anti-trafficking within OSCE field missions?
- Could a common voice enhance visibility and recognition of the OSCE's anti-trafficking work?
- How can all levels of the OSCE better co-ordinate and co-operate with other international organisations?
- How can the relationship between the OSCE and the Stability Pact Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings (SPTF) develop most effectively?
- According to the UNICEF/UNOHCHR/ODIHR report on trafficking in Southeastern Europe, at least 60% of trafficked persons are not identified or do not receive assistance. How can the OSCE work with relevant agencies to address this serious gap in the identification and referral system?
- Which challenges does the OSCE face when working to secure political will and to build institutional capacity on a national level?

Recommendations

- Continue to support research and information exchange efforts such as the UNICEF/UNOHCHR/ODIHR report
- Explore ways that OSCE field missions could increase their monitoring role and advocate for a sustainable co-ordinating mechanism to be established to update the UNICEF/UNOHCHR/ODIHR report
- Elaborate an evaluative survey and assessment of the situation in each host country/OSCE internal and overall policy (to be coordinated through the ODIHR)
- ODIHR should develop its capacity to function as a clearing house within OSCE
- Establish a position in each mission, which focuses solely on anti-trafficking issues
- Further develop and implement routine trainings for all OSCE staff on human rights issues including trafficking
- OSCE field missions and the ODIHR should provide feedback to the OSCE SG's office on existing training and reference materials such as *Gender Aspects in Post Conflict Situations, A Guide for OSCE Staff*
- ODIHR and OSCE field missions should continue to promote and to prioritise a human rights based approach to preventing and addressing trafficking in human beings
- In addition to monitoring the situation in countries of transit and destination, the OSCE should do more to monitor the situation of repatriated victims and to raise awareness about the difficulties victims face upon return to their home countries
- A representative of an OSCE field mission should become an active member of the SPTF Expert Coordination Team
- Set priorities for future work with host governments with the aim of establishing a consistent OSCE approach/policy which could be promoted at the national as well as the regional levels through fora such as the SPTF
- Deepen already existing OSCE commitments according to these agreed upon priorities
- Draft guidelines and standards for the work of OSCE missions according to the identified set of priorities
- Enhance visibility of OSCE's anti-trafficking work (in cooperation with Public Affairs)

Identified priorities

- Establishment of effective and inclusive national referral mechanisms (including identification, referral and assistance) addressing all target groups as defined in the UN Protocol, which the OSCE participating States have committed themselves to ratify
- Measures to develop, implement and monitor national referral mechanisms should include capacity building of all relevant agencies and strengthening of the legal framework
- Ending impunity for those involved in trafficking in human beings
- Further development and monitoring of coherent and integrated national anti-trafficking strategies in line with the Stability Pact Task Force Guidelines for National Plans of Action