



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE HOLY SEE  
TO THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY  
AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

**STATEMENT BY MONSIGNOR JANUSZ S. URBAŃCZYK  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE HOLY SEE,  
AT THE 1083<sup>rd</sup> MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

**17 DECEMBER 2015**

**RE: REPORT BY THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE AND CO-  
ORDINATOR FOR COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS**

Mister Chairman,

The Delegation of the Holy See joins the previous speakers in warmly welcoming the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Ambassador Madina Jarbussynova, and thanks her for the presentation of the detailed report of the activities and priorities of her Office.

The Holy See appreciated that the meeting and the results of the conversation with the Secretary of State of the Holy See, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, were mentioned in the Report.

As noted in the presentation of Ambassador Jarbussynova, the phenomenon of “mixed migration flows” and the “scale of exodus from areas of political instability, armed conflict, natural disasters and other problems makes it a cause of significant concern at the OSCE”. The issue of migration is intertwined with human trafficking, since the “progressive tightening of states’ immigration policies has contributed to boost the vulnerability of both migrants and refugees to exploitative practices”.

On this occasion, I would also like to reaffirm that the Catholic Church has long condemned the scourge of trafficking in human persons. The Church is deeply concerned for these vulnerable and innocent victims of this example of man's inhumanity to man. In fact, many religious congregations, Catholic organisations and volunteer groups, in particular those with a humanitarian scope, are strongly committed to the fight against this scourge, and to address its human, cultural, social and economic implications.

With this in mind, my Delegation welcomes the activities undertaken by the Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings during 2015, in relation to all three priority areas, namely: Enhancing prevention of human trafficking, Strengthening the criminal justice response, and Improving victim identification and assistance.

In the field of prevention, I would like to recall that the Holy See is of the opinion that the *demand side* of the problem of trafficking in persons needs to be squarely faced by all.

Finally, I wish to conclude my remarks by recognizing the strong conviction and admirable energy that Ambassador Jarbussynova brings to her work. I can only express my sincere gratitude and wish her all the best as she continues to carry out the activities of her Office.

Thank you, Mister Chairman!