

Short WORKSHOP REPORT FORM

Number and title of workshop: WS 1.2 Corruption and Human Trafficking: unraveling the undistinguishable for a better fight

Coordinator: Mr. Camille Karbassi

Date and time of workshop: 11 November 2010, 9.00am

Moderator: Dr. Alessandro Calvani

Rapporteur: Mrs Maryse Tremblay, ÉNAP

Panellists:

1. Prof. Leslie Holmes, University of Melbourne, Australia
2. Anne Brandt Christensen, HopeNow, Denmark
3. Michelle Mildwater, HopeNow, Denmark
4. Ricardo Valdes, Capital Humao y Social Alternativo, Peru
5. Nicole Barrett, International Center for Criminal Law Reform, Canada

Main Issues Covered

1. The link between human trafficking and corruption is conspicuous;
2. Definition of human trafficking and emphasis on the differentiation between the smuggling of migrants and human trafficking. *Smuggling can turn into trafficking at any point of the process;*
3. The quadruple victimization: victimization by private individuals and groups; victimization by corrupted people; victimization by the states, victimization by the media.
4. One of the root factors of trafficking in human beings is corruption, and it is what keeps the machine running during the process of trafficking. It is now evident that there is no human trafficking without corruption. Corruption can be found in the entire trafficking cycle. It can occur at any stage of the process i.e. the recruitment, the transportation level or the exploitation level;
5. The aim of corruption in the human trafficking cycle has four main goals: to allow the crime to be invisible, to facilitate the impunity once a case of human trafficking is detected, to facilitate the different circuits in the country, and to assure the re-victimization of the victims;
6. Corruption within the police forces, the municipal level, the media, judiciary, health system, frontier police and route patrol, prosecutor's and judicial bureau which profit to the human trafficking cycle;
7. Human trafficking is a very profitable business that attracts wrongdoers and triggers

corruption;

8. Human trafficking cases are generally prosecuted according to what is familiar to the prosecutor.

Main Outcomes

- We need leadership and vision. We also need to raise the capacity and the will of government officials that are involved all along in the process;
- The linkage between organized crime and human trafficking should also be addressed. Without that consideration, we are not really addressing the problem at the level it should be;
- We should be talking about cooperation between the different sectors of society and better participatory governance;
- Cultural issues are also a very important aspect in the fight against human trafficking. There are quick, cheap and easy methods to provoke cultural change in a society and its institutions, for example, the introduction of seminars for police officers. Some development programs (TIP) are now punishing countries and this might be backfiring. It is not going to affect the elites, but mainly the victims. We need a closer look at the notion of the leverage.

Main Outputs

- Listen more to the victims and put them at the centre of the action;
- Think about creating a national independent reporter; national referral mechanism to link traffic victims;
- What is really important is the level of awareness. In your specific area, you need to be engaged, to put it into practice, think about the individual, be pragmatic and work on a higher level of organizations.
- The problem should be considered in its context: it should be observed from the political and economic angle particular to the country. That is at the essence of corruption. You have to look at the history of your country, and look at the factors that contributed to trafficking.

Recommendations, Follow-up Actions

- Examine more closely the link between corruption and human trafficking i.e. official agencies that are likely to interact with victims. Most trafficked victims in Canada entered the country without any problems, therefore it is both immigration agents and labour recruiters that are guilty and that need to be looked at;
- Build a state system that prevents corruption from proliferating;
- Get involved at the local, national and international level and raise awareness;
- There should be an obligatory international endorsement and there should be support from international society, perhaps in the form of a network.
- Involve the business sector and the government as an imperative, as a commitment and allocate a fund for the purpose.

- Organize a workshop on corruption and migration: the majority of victims are migrant workers and the problem is therefore an imbalance of power. There is a need for a joint effort.
- We should request for better international governance, since it is a phenomenon that is beyond borders. Waiting for the operationalization of international police to work on the issue might happen in the long term, but meanwhile, we should push our governments to act right now. Doing more bilateral, trilateral cooperation. International cooperation could be strengthened.
- Creation of an observatory by the civil society, which would observe and monitor the situation. The involvement of the parliamentary and ombudsman is then important to pass legislations. Each ministry's activities should also be monitored and the government should then assess which aspects of the law are not respected by the ministries. They should then have the duty to inform their citizens and raise awareness.

Workshop Highlights (including interesting quotes)

“Put the people at the centre whatever you do. It's not about conventions and protocol, it's about people and respecting their dignity”, Alessandro Calvani.

“There needs to be a change of culture not only in developing countries but also in developed countries”, Leslie Holmes.