



Convention on the Rights of the Child

Each State Party shall ensure that, as a minimum, the following acts and activities are fully covered under its criminal or penal law . . .

Offering, delivering or accepting . . . a child for the purpose of:

- a. Sexual exploitation*
 - b. Transfer of organs of the child for profit;*
 - c. Engagement of the child in forced labour;*
- (Optional Protocol, Article 3)*

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to suppress all forms of traffic in women and exploitation of prostitution of women.

(Article 6)

Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

Sexual violence and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, have a devastating effect on children's health, and girls are more vulnerable than boys to the consequences . . .

(Section L, 269)

A World Fit for Children

Children have the right to be protected from all forms of abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence. Societies must eliminate all forms of violence against children. Accordingly, we resolve to: Protect children from all forms of sexual exploitation including pedophilia; trafficking, and abduction (43c)

The Right to Protection Trafficking and the Girl Child

Trafficking in human beings is a modern form of slavery and a serious human rights violation. Indeed, it has become one of the most lucrative illicit businesses in the global economy. This new slave trade has a variety of causes including, extreme poverty, lack of access to resources, unemployment, poor education, and dysfunctional families. It is also fuelled by the clear demand for the services provided by trafficked persons.

Facts to Consider

- The United Nations estimates that every year, approximately 1.2 million children are trafficked, both internally and across international borders. Girls under the age of 18 trafficked for prostitution constitute 10-30% of the total number of the trafficked women.
- Girls are particularly vulnerable because of their marginalization in society. They may be abducted by traffickers, sold by parents unable to feed them, or given to a relative or person who promises employment. In some cases, the girls may have already been sexually abused within the family or neighbourhood.
- Organized prostitution is the social structure through which millions of men solicit and buy sex acts. Additionally, because many of those who demand sex are afraid of contracting AIDS and some exhibit aberrant sexual behavior, the victims seem to be getting younger and younger.
- Trafficking is damaging to personal development. It affects a girl's sense of dignity, self-worth, ability to trust, and capacity for developing relationships. A girl's neurological system is shaped by these terrifying experiences that, for the remainder of her life, directly affect her way of thinking, feeling, and acting.

Actions to Eliminate Trafficking of Girls

- Condemn trafficking in minors and make it a crime against humanity. Provisions on combating trafficking should be incorporated in relevant law of national governments and the resolutions and reports of UN bodies and the topic of trafficking in human beings should be included on the agenda of the UN General Assembly.
- Eliminate the root causes of girls' vulnerability to trafficking such as poverty, gender inequality, unemployment, social exclusion, lack of educational opportunities, and dysfunctional families.
- Build a global partnership against slavery and trafficking in human beings that includes governments, civil society, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the private sector.
 - Establish of an inter-agency working group, to coordinate the planning and implementation of pragmatic means of combating this form of modern slavery.

Convention against Transnational Organized Crime—Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons

Trafficking includes: the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.
(Articles 1-3)

MDGS

Goal 1: *Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger*

Goal 3: *Promote gender equality and empower women*

WGG Trafficking Group

Eileen Gannon,
Dominican Leadership Conf
Susan Greenburg,
Religious Orders Partnership
Muriel Hertan,
Women's American ORT
Yvonne E. Keairns,
Friends World Committee for Consultation
Julie Harrison Kleszczewsk,
Altrusa International
Ana Martinez de Luco,
UNANIMA Internacional
Janet Nixon,
PPSAWA
Jean Reilly,
Int'l Org for Adolescents
Florence von Erb,
Movement for Mothers

More Information

Working Group on Girls
NGO Committee on UNICEF
UNICEF House, Room 1142
New York, New York 10017
wggs@girlsrights.org
www.girlsrights.org

- Develop and deliver programmes which help to reintegrate trafficking victims into their homes and societies.
- Provide training for law enforcement personnel and child protection workers that ensures an adequate understanding of the special needs of girls who have been victims of trafficking.
- Launch a global campaign to eradicate the harmful cultural practice of prostitution, in all its forms—pornography, sex tourism, internet and phone sex and put an end to the lucrative sex industry that fuels the demand for trafficked girls. Such a campaign would:
 - Call upon the media, especially internet media, to craft a code of ethics in order to prevent the growth of the global sex industry and to eliminate advertising which stereotypes girls and treats them as mere commodities.
 - Propose and support legislative measures criminalizing the buying of sexual acts and participating in the sex industry in all its forms and at all levels.
 - Demand equal and fair enforcement of the law ensuring that those law enforcement and government officials who are directly participating in the trafficking of girls are held accountable for their actions.
 - Ensure that men are included in all efforts to abolish prostitution and trafficking. Male-oriented NGOs must play a more visible and pro-active role in changing the concept of masculinity and the patriarchy, fostering new models of male/female relationships built on mutual respect and understanding.

Source and Resources

- The United States Department of State,
<http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2005/46606.htm>
- United Nations, Special Session for Children, experts share strategies to stop child trafficking, New York, 2002, available at <http://unicef.org/specialsession/activities/child-trafficking.htm>.
- Scarpa S., *Child Trafficking: The Worst Face of the World*, Global Migration Perspectives, September 2005, available at: <http://www.gcim.org/attachements/GMP%20No%2040.pdf>
- United Nations, Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/platform/girl.htm>

May 2006