

Introduction

The *Golden Book: A Call to End Human Trafficking – A Collection of Voices, Vol. 1*, is a compilation of quotes from leading personalities who support the fight of the *End Human Trafficking Now!* campaign to eliminate human trafficking.

This modern-day slave trade is the responsibility of all members of our society; as not only does it victimize individuals subject to sexual and labour exploitation, it also spreads disease, violates human rights and increases societal violence affecting everyone worldwide.

The Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement believes that the business community is a critical partner in helping eliminate human trafficking. The ultimate goal of the Movement is to harness the power of public-private partnerships to raise greater awareness in putting an end to this horrendous crime.

The *End Human Trafficking Now!* campaign launched by the Movement and other partners in Athens on 23 January 2006 at the 'Roundtable of the Business Community Against the Trafficking of Human Beings', is the first worldwide initiative that places the business community in the forefront of anti-trafficking efforts.

Beyond just the moralistic stand point of protecting vulnerable people susceptible to traffickers and the victims of the trade, the campaign strongly believes that harnessing the reach and connections of the business community will help hasten the end to this trade. Importantly, joining the campaign also has significant

gains for businesses such as ensuring the irreproachable conduct of its personnel at all levels, the safe operation of the company, promoting trust and good working relationships with local communities, and guaranteeing the highest distinction of its corporate image.

The Athens Ethical Principles were adopted by business leaders participating in the Roundtable as a basic code of conduct for businesses joining the campaign. By adopting and implementing the Ethical Principles, leading businesses offer real prospects to the vulnerable victims to escape from the cycle of poverty, abuse and exploitation in businesses all over the world.

In addition to the business community, hundreds of individuals and organizations have expressed their solidarity and support for this initiative.

There is no doubt that it will take the combined energies, collective commitment and cooperation at all levels to ensure that all people are treated with the decency they deserve. It is only when the business community, governments, intergovernmental organizations and civil society all rally around shared objectives that there is a good chance of achieving a positive result.

We invite you to join us in our efforts to end human trafficking.

The Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement

Note: While the initial purpose of the Golden Book was to serve as an inspiration at the Athens Roundtable, this compilation has now grown to include contributions from other leading personalities who subsequently joined the campaign.

There are
12.3 million victims
of forced labour
in the world today, of whom some
2.45 million
are trafficked



H.E. Suzanne Mubarak

**President and Founder,
The Suzanne Mubarak Women's
International Peace Movement**

Human trafficking is the most appalling of all illegal businesses that are thriving today. Deeply interwoven in our societies, it is driven by high profits and low morals. It feeds on the despair of the hungry, the hopeless and those living in abject poverty and insecurity. It is about turning human needs into personal gains. As such, to combat human trafficking, we must strive to better understand its nature, unravel the factors that contribute to its sustenance and those that can lead to its demise. The tools we need to counter this global foe are well within our reach. Many national and international models have already been put into place, and are significantly helping to strengthen our defences. At the same time, the renewed cooperation between governments, international organizations and the civil society will hopefully turn the tide and give hope, especially where the victims are concerned. We need to build on these positive trends, raising awareness, enlisting public support and involvement, and nurturing political will to keep the lens focused on this issue. The business community is an indispensable partner in this endeavor for they are a vital link in the fight against trafficking. My thanks goes to all those, near and far, who have contributed in making the Athens Roundtable a memorable event. I would especially like to thank Marianna Vardinoyannis, our host and an esteemed board member of our Movement, for making this gathering possible.

“ Human trafficking feeds on the despair of the hungry, the hopeless and those living in abject poverty and insecurity. ”



Marianna V. Vardinoyannis

Board Member, The Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement

UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador

Two centuries after the abolition of slavery, and at a time when more human rights laws than ever are in force, the exploitation of human beings not only continues, but has taken on terrible dimensions worldwide. Slavery and slave markets – in a new form, with women and children as their principal victims – have not only returned to our “civilised” world, but our “civilization” has displayed such a degree of tolerance towards them that they have become one of the most profitable businesses in the world.

It's time to end human trafficking now! The time has come to show zero tolerance for this new and shameful form of slavery, by committing ourselves to the fight against human trafficking; for this we will make all necessary sacrifices.

The message we want to send to the world from this Roundtable, which Athens has the honour to host, is that the business community can take the lead in this fight. I am certain that the code of ethical principles, which will be signed by the successful and distinguished businessmen who have come to Athens from all over the world specifically for this purpose, can become the point of reference for a change of mentality regarding human trafficking, not only within the business community, but throughout society. I am certain that it can and will become the guiding light for societies which will respect human dignity, and will oppose any attempt to repress humanitarian values and humanity itself.



H.R.H. Queen Silvia of Sweden

Ever since 1996 when I had the opportunity to act as Patron for the first World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Stockholm, I have closely followed the international developments on this topic. The Athens Roundtable Conference on Human Trafficking provides a valuable occasion to review these developments as well as to seek new solutions.

Children's special vulnerability as well as specific rights, manifested in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, give rise to all of us assuming responsibility for coming generations.

Trafficking of children for sexual purposes has unfortunately rapidly

increased during the past few years. According to official statistics, 1.2 million children are currently victims of this human trade. Trafficking has become increasingly transnational and is highly lucrative since, unlike drugs or arms, the victims can be sold over and over again. It is therefore vitally important to create awareness of trafficking, to assist the victims, stop the demand and in all other ways to combat this contemporary form of slavery.

I would like to congratulate the organizers on the initiative to the Athens Roundtable Conference and express my support for all endeavours protecting children from the inhuman practice of trafficking.

I give my wholehearted support to this campaign to eradicate the trafficking of human beings.

I deplore this criminal trade which treats vulnerable people as commodities – to be traded globally and to be exploited and abused for the profit and pleasure of the more powerful.

Human trafficking is fundamentally a gender issue: the overwhelming majority of the millions of people who are trafficked every year are women and young girls. All women have a duty to act in solidarity with the mothers, daughters and sisters of those victims who have been traded in this degrading manner. Trafficking undermines the well-being of men as well: it deprives its victims and their loved ones of the right to a family life, in a context of safety and security.

It is essential to tackle the underlying causes of trafficking, which flourishes in contexts of extreme poverty and social and economic injustice. Recently, trafficking has increased in contexts of persistent conflict, civil wars, foreign occupation and terrorism in which the value of human life itself is debased. To reverse this situation requires that the institutions that govern our behaviour globally, regionally and nationally take action to promote a culture of non-violence and peace.

Each one of the millions of women and children who are trafficked cries out against the injustice they have suffered. I trust that this worthy initiative will ensure that their desperate voices are heard and that action is taken to eradicate this unacceptable abuse of human rights.

H.H. Princess Basma Bint Talal
Board Member, The Suzanne Mubarak Women's
International Peace Movement



H.H. Shaikha Sabeeka Bint Ibrahim Al-Khalifa

Board Member, The Suzanne Mubarak Women's
International Peace Movement



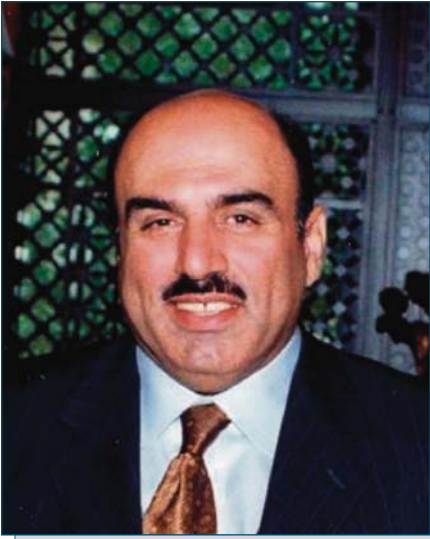
It is agonizing to witness that after centuries of efforts to combat slavery, new and harsher forms of it have emerged at a time when humanity is striving to preserve justice and equality for all human beings.

I strongly believe that human trafficking is a critical issue that threatens the basic principle of 'free will'. Each one of us deserves the right to a decent life.

With such a troublesome phenomenon and in light of its complexity, the world needs to join forces in order to implement stringent measures to prevent all forms of human trafficking. We need to work together to raise

awareness about this heinous crime. Governments must establish a strong legal framework to prosecute perpetrators. Victims must be provided with protection and assistance to live with dignity. Most importantly, we need to deal with the real issues that cause human trafficking such as poverty, instability, and injustice.

I sincerely hope that through more collaboration and determination by all concerned parties including NGOs, governments, private sector organizations and individuals, we can put an end to this tragic phenomenon and make the world a better place to live in.



Khalid Abdulla Janahi

Chief Executive, Dar Al Maal Al Islami Trust

Once we are aware of this horrendous scourge, we can no more turn a blind eye. We must act as business leaders, as citizens of the world and above all as member of human kind! We must raise awareness among all segments of society and encourage companies to take a pro active role by setting up anti-trafficking policies and work towards the introduction of best practices within our daily

work. The "End Human Trafficking Now!" campaign by the business community is a welcomed move which should gain momentum and strength day by day as more business leaders join our campaign. I am a firm believer that through a powerful community of business leaders who are motivated, we will witness a significant advancement in this global fight against human trafficking.

Two thirds of trafficking victims are women

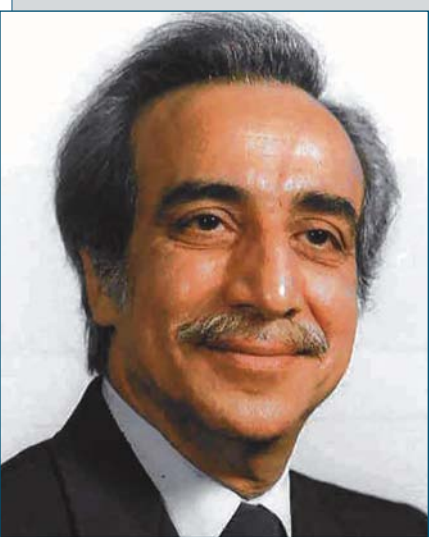


In this 21st century, while science and technology stride forward, human values remain far behind. The weak and the oppressed still need to be defended and protected. As Franklin D. Roosevelt said: "If civilisation is to survive, we must cultivate the science of human relationships..."

I congratulate H.E. Mrs Suzanne Mubarak, Mrs Marianna Vardinoyannis, The Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement – Global Coalition Women Defending Peace, the Foundation for the Child and Family and all the institutions cooperating in this event, for organising the

"Business Leaderships against the Trafficking in Human Beings, especially Women and Children" Athens Roundtable, which will help developing ethical principles and strategies involving the business field and the private sector in the global action against this scourge. Zero tolerance must be the aim.

Due to prior commitments, I unfortunately will not be able to attend this Roundtable but I strongly support it, wish it all success, and look forward to the adoption of the "Athens Ethical Principles".



Osmane Aïdi

President, Osmane Mounif Aïdi Foundation for Culture, Communication and Development

We live in a complex and ever-changing world today – full of contradiction and inconsistency. On the one hand we talk in glowing terms of freedom, democracy and upholding human rights and yet we often turn a blind eye to the stark truth, that hundreds of thousands of men, women, and children are exploited, abused, and enslaved by cruel and unscrupulous human traffickers. This is akin to modern day slavery and is both inexcusable and morally unacceptable.

Human trafficking is one of the most urgent human rights issues that we need to bring out of the closet today. According to statistics compiled by non-governmental organizations, nearly 900,000

people are trafficked every year from various countries across the globe. Powerless, desperate and vulnerable people, including very young children are tricked and sold into bondage and are condemned to lead tragic and helpless lives as prostitutes, child soldiers or forced labour.

In a curious way, it is within the very global nature of this crime that we must look for solutions. It is imperative that governments, social organizations, business houses and indeed every citizen of every country join hands to strengthen international justice systems and wage war on this heinous crime on humanity.

Mohamed Ali Alabbar
**Director General, Department of Economic
 Development, Government of Dubai**
Chairman, Emaar Properties



Success in any endeavour requires creativity, perseverance and above all a well thought out strategy. I therefore commend the founders of this initiative for putting forward an action-oriented campaign against this terrible scourge and am happy to have contributed to it and be part of it.

The Athens Ethical Principles with their zero tolerance stance represents an action oriented mindset. Solutions to the plight of the victims can and will be found through the leadership of many actors including business leaders. For we are not only business leaders but we are servants to society's well being.



Khalid A. Alireza
Executive Director, Xenel Industries Limited

Denise Andrews

Global Diversity Manager, Procter & Gamble



Individuals must take a more active role to make needed change occur in our world.

There are many who cannot act to improve conditions that are inhumane and not right. There are many who can act and don't.

Human trafficking is inhumane and wrong, it is an act against humanity and must be addressed and stopped.

Creating awareness, education, prosperity, intolerance and action can and must stop human trafficking.

I want to charge myself and others to take a stand and act to improve our humanity and end human trafficking.

Together we can and must make a difference.

As a global corporation and one of the world's largest non-government employers, Manpower Inc. fully supports the declared principles against the trafficking of human beings.

Manpower's business is about helping to give every willing and able person access to, and the resultant benefit of, decent work. Our efforts toward this end include working with governments and international organizations to provide efficient and effective employment systems, and with individuals to improve their skills and access to jobs.

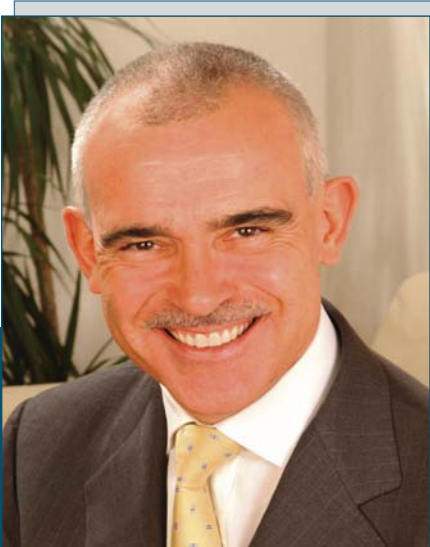
The illegal and immoral trafficking of human beings is one of the most reprehensible acts imaginable, and we stand firmly against these

practices. Our position on non-exploitation extends to every human being in our global society.

We are a people business and our value proposition to customers is deeply rooted in connecting the right people with the right jobs. We take our role in the world labor market very seriously and our ethical code of business conduct requires that we treat all people with respect and dignity, and we expect the same of all organizations with which we do business.

We will never knowingly trade with or deal with any organization that, knowingly or unknowingly, takes advantage of trafficked human beings or causes trafficking to take place, and we will rigorously enact our zero tolerance policy on this issue.

Manpower commits itself to the achievement, on a global basis, of these principles.



David Arkless

Senior Vice President Corporate Affairs, Manpower Inc.
Special Envoy, End Human Trafficking Now! campaign

Abuse of power

Slavery

Forced labour

Prostitution

Trafficking

Abduction

Exploitation



Amr Badr

Board Member, The Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement

Human trafficking is a many-headed monster: it deprives people of their most basic rights, it's a global health risk and it fuels organized crime. It's estimated that 800,000 people are smuggled against their will across borders every year. This figure does not include millions trafficked in their own countries for forced labor or sexual exploitation.

Very often, the people who fall victim to this vice are the weakest and most vulnerable in our societies – women and children.

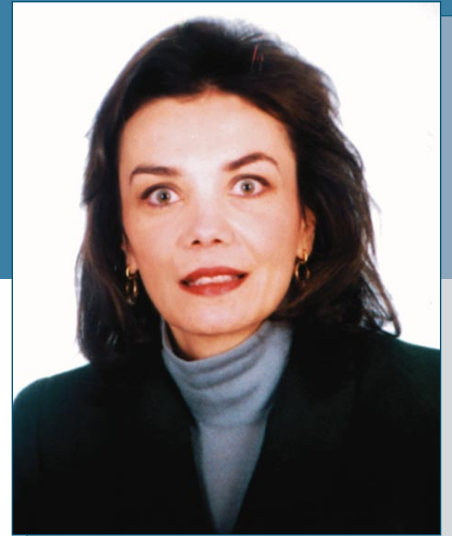
Nowhere have I seen this more clearly than during my experiences whilst traveling and working with organizations such as The Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement, and People to

People International, where the plight of women and children is brought home in a shocking and often painful light. But I have also seen that continued efforts to improve the lives of victims can and do make a difference. The time has now come for those efforts to widen, and become a global grassroots movement that will build up momentum and promise a light at the end of the tunnel for those in our societies who have despaired for a better life and the right to enjoy even the most simple of liberties – to live without fear.

The quality of life for our citizens is paramount – so let us cherish it, not squander it.

Cherine Badrawi

Member, The Suzanne Mubarak Women's
International Peace Movement



Trafficking in persons is a tragic and complex human rights abuse. No region in our global village is immune to this immoral trade, which treats victims as faceless commodities, smuggles them across borders, then sells and exploits them under the threat of brutal violence.

Whilst governments have the primary responsibility for the realisation of human rights, each of us has a role to play. We all acknowledge the opportunities provided by the tremendous advances in knowledge, information technology, communications, healthcare and

increased connectivity of the 21st century. However, two centuries after the abolition of slavery, the exploitation of human beings not only continues, but has taken on terrible dimensions worldwide.

We have to End Human Trafficking Now! The Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement, which I am proud to be member of, has taken a crucial step by engaging the business community in this endeavour. It is time to regroup collective efforts to prevent and fight human trafficking. I am fully supportive of this initiative!

Trafficking in human beings is one of the most pressing and complex issues in our world. Human trafficking has to be addressed differently within national legislations as it has taken a new meaning in the wake of globalization and free movement of persons. A comprehensive and multi-pronged approach is needed as the free movement of people is a sensitive political and social issue, as more and more countries understand the increasing need of foreign labor. Apart from the economical and social implications, human trafficking is also a serious violation of human rights and thus governments should capitalize on the experience and the capacity of both NGOs and international organizations in tackling the issue, as main advocates of vulnerable groups.



The United Nations has identified – in its General Assembly Summit in 2005 – organized crime, corruption and terrorism as key priorities in the years to come.

Closer to Europe, every year, we witness horrendous stories of thousands of women, children and men who are trafficked to or from OSCE[1] States. The actions OSCE takes include legislative reforms, training of law enforcement authorities, improving the security of travel documents and the economic impact of all forms of trafficking.

“The ultimate goal of all our anti-trafficking work, measures and activities must be a clear reduction of this horrendous crime and human rights violation. Anti-trafficking initiatives must offer real prospects of escaping the cycle of poverty, abuse and exploitation”[2].

We at CONGO are aware of the great role NGOs have played in providing vital protection and assistance, as well as practical know-how, before the UN Protocol Against Trafficking in Persons had come into effect. In our outreach programme, we have organized

– through our Vienna Office – “The Regional Crime Prevention Forum for NGOs from Central and Eastern Europe” held on 27-28 October 2005 in Vienna. Throughout the Forum, the focus was put on crime prevention with an emphasis on human trafficking. In the outcome document, participants outlined practical ways to enhance the synergies between NGOs, Governments, international and regional organizations in contributing to crime prevention.

In this respect we commend H.E. Mrs Suzanne Mubarak and The Suzanne Mubarak Women’s International Peace Movement and private sector launch campaign to end human trafficking and convey our readiness in collaborating with and supporting this laudable initiative.

[1] Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

[2] Helga Konrad, Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

Renate Bloem

President, Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CONGO)



Countess Albina du Boisrouvray

Founding President, Xavier Bagnoud Foundation

Human trafficking should be recognised as a scourge not only impacting local socio-economic systems but also our global community. It impinges on basic human rights as well as threatens the health status of individuals and contributes to the propagation of HIV/AIDS. In Thailand, I paved the way for the protection care, repatriation and reintegration of cross-border trafficking victims in the Ranong Province. As early as 1990, through FXB International, the NGO I founded and currently preside, I alerted local authorities to the plight of Burmese women and children forced into commercial sex work. This led the Thai Government to engage into a reflection on the issue of cross-border trafficking and to create and enforce a National Plan of Action, including

measures for prevention, rescue and protection, prosecution of traffickers, repatriation, recovery and reintegration. This positive outcome was the result of an effective cooperation among international organisations, NGOs, the business community, local authorities and neighbouring countries. In this context, I am convinced both as a NGO president and a business woman, that the business community can make a significant difference by joining forces with other stakeholders to ensure zero tolerance towards human trafficking. Preventing, mitigating and combating human trafficking must be the primary goal for corporate social responsibility activities of all corporations.

Eugenia Chandris

Vice President, Chandris Hotels & Resorts



All of us who are privileged enough to live safe and secure lives cannot possibly imagine the fear and vulnerability of those who are subjected to human trafficking, whatever form it may take and whether the victim is a man or a woman. The fear of physical harm, the loss of dignity and the total disruption of a human life are the issues here.

When you apply them to someone as inexperienced and unprepared as a child, then the trauma is even greater. Let us hope that our shock and indignation can produce action.

As an active member of the hotel industry, I pledge my support and vigilance to this worthwhile cause.

**One million children
are estimated to be
trafficked annually**





Antonio Maria Costa

Executive Director, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

Human trafficking is a dramatic issue that requires greater attention by the international community. Most indicators are that the problem is growing. As UNODC has learned from its work across the criminal justice sector, human trafficking is often only one of the evil activities in which sophisticated international crime networks engage. There is a need for further information-sharing if the international response is to be effective.

We should capitalize on the expertise gained in the business world to create an environment in which fewer people are at risk of being trafficked. This means ensuring that living conditions

in communities of origin are improved.

UNODC is conscious of the need for greater international cooperation and coordination. We support the Athens Roundtable organized by The Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement and Global Coalition Women Defending Peace. The involvement of the private sector in anti-human-trafficking activities is imperative in addressing this serious and growing problem.

This is an obligation which falls upon all of us. Only by working together on these challenges will we do justice to the victims of human trafficking.

Maria Damanaki

Member, Hellenic Parliament



During the last decade, trafficking, the modern form of slavery – as has been correctly characterised – has acquired explosive international dimensions, both in gravity and in size. It is like a machine that minces all: body, conscience, thought. The result of this illegal criminal ‘business’ has been estimated in world level at a height of seven billion Euros per year. During the past few years, Greece has been, not only a country of destination, but also a transit centre to Western Europe and the Middle East for the sexual exploitation of women and children. It is estimated that the turnover of trafficking through Greece exceeds 600 million Euros annually. Every year, hundreds of thousands of human beings all

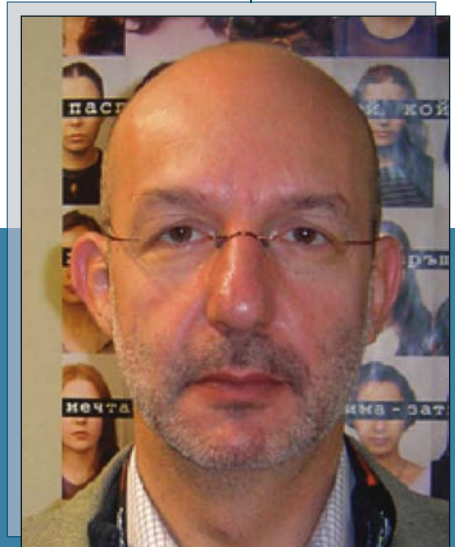
over the world, mainly women and children, are the tragic victims of these criminal networks. Trafficking is a plague, the extent of which requires action from us all. The participation of society in the fighting of trafficking and the support of victims is essential. Easy solutions do not exist. The fate of millions of women and children all over the world depends on our actions. In that sense the initiatives that the Global Coalition has undertaken, with the support of The Suzanne Mubarak Women’s International Peace Movement, have a significant contribution to the fight of the international community against organised crime and the consolidation of human dignity and human rights.

It is heartening to note the interest of business community leaders in contributing to the fight against trafficking in persons. If we are to make real inroads against this form of slavery it will need the commitment of all sections of society.

While the efforts of the major corporations represented in Athens can certainly provide concrete results in terms of prevention, there is a need to see how they can also contribute to reintegrating into society those who have already been trafficked. In India, IOM has developed such partnerships with businesses large and small in a number of States. They are providing training and employment as well as equipment at cost to

assist former trafficked individuals to start their own businesses. This has become a win-win situation with the beneficiaries regaining self-confidence along with the means of making a living, and the collaborating businesses extending their markets: it is not a matter of charity but a sound business relationship developed with the assistance of IOM and local NGOs who create the appropriate supportive environment.

The above is just one example of how the business community can contribute to combating trafficking. I look forward to seeing many more emerge in the near future.

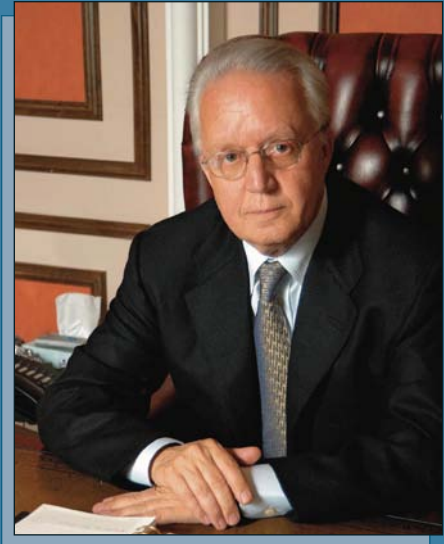


Richard Danziger

**Head, Counter Trafficking Unit, International
Organization for Migration (IOM), Geneva**

Nikos I. Daskalantonakis

Chairman, N. Daskalantonakis Group – Grecootel



I would like to congratulate the Athens Roundtable for its very important initiative in hosting this conference on “Business Community Against Trafficking of Human Beings.” I believe that businesses throughout the world have an important role as leaders in their communities – something which I have experienced first-hand as the chairman of an international company that still maintains its roots in the local community where it was founded. By providing jobs, businesses perform a vital economic role by contributing to growth and development but also have a social responsibility to see that this growth advances and safeguards

the fundamental values of our democratic societies – values like freedom, equality, and justice.

This conference serves as a timely reminder that business can make a difference to the lives of millions of people around the globe by upholding fair trading and business practices that will help raise communities from the ravages of poverty rather than by exploiting their desire for a better life. This conference is also a reminder that when we look at profits, we should not only consider the bottom line of an enterprise’s financial statements or the wealth of corporations or individuals, but the well being of our society as a whole.



Bineta Diop

Executive Director, Femmes Africa Solidarite

As a woman, an African and a mother myself, I cannot but condemn the trafficking of human beings, especially vulnerable women and children, that is happening all over the world. My continent is no exception. I feel horrified that we are allowing this inhuman practise of trafficking of human beings to occur in our own backyard.

I have visited many war-torn countries in Africa, discussing with women's groups, their stories are unbelievable. Some of these vulnerable victims are used to satisfy the demands of rebels in conflict zones. Others are increasingly being trafficked for their organs in order to meet the

demands of harmful traditional practices. Some are kidnapped and sent to neighbouring countries as cheap labour to work in the fields. They work long days under inhuman conditions and never derive any benefits of their hard work.

All these victims pay a high price – sometimes with their lives. This abominable situation must come to an end. I welcome and congratulate this Initiative that will bring on board an essential partner – the business community – to help us stem this unacceptable practise. We must all join, for we all have a role to play as individuals, as members of society and as belonging to the human family!

A woman who has been trafficked and sold into prostitution is a victim and not a criminal, and must therefore be protected by the state and not punished.

We must understand that there is a link between the prostitution industry – which in many countries is legal – and trafficking of women and children. In the Western world trafficking of women is mostly linked with forced prostitution. However, women and children are also trafficked to end up with forced labour and suffering slave-like working and living conditions. Prostitution is often also the means of rape of children. The United Nations estimates that each year two million girls aged between five and fifteen years are introduced into the commercial sex market.

by law enforcement authorities. Trapped in the sex industry, they are prone to arbitrary arrest, physical assault and sexual harassment. In some cases, the police are part of the prostitution business, being corrupt and may be complicit in trafficking. Without proper personal documentation, victims of trafficking may be imprisoned as illegal immigrants.

It is vital that there is a broad understanding in the business community as to what trafficking is, and how and why women are trafficked. Staff of airlines, trucking companies and other transport services, and those connected with the entertainment industry, in particular, need guidance as to how to identify possible victims of trafficking, and how to respond. If such people are not on guard against human trafficking, businesses may, without knowing it, assist the traffickers.

Women who have been trafficked are often maltreated



Anja Ebnöther

**Assistant Director / Head Special Programmes, Geneva
Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF)**



Aleya El-Bindari Hammad

Co-Founder and Board Member, The Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement

Today, we can pride ourselves on having the capacity,

through our impressive global systems, of getting from one place to another in record time. However, could we ever have imagined that this would facilitate enormous consignments of human beings that are being traded to meet the demands of specific customers? And, yet, this is precisely what the traffickers have accomplished. They can send any human being, responding to whatever characteristics they desire, at great speed and exorbitant profit. In fact, it seems that the very conditions which we have worked so hard to establish – free movement, fluid borders, state-of-the-art communication, fast and cheap transport – would serve to accelerate

this predicament. That the images we have created to inspire us to a better life security, stability and prosperity have actually provided traffickers with tools to lure their targets. That all these factors would have contributed in ensuring that the number of people coerced has reached proportions unprecedented in human history. What makes it more deplorable is that for the victims often it is a one way road with no way out. Some of these people are indebted for ever, while many others are re-sold as ever-increasing cheaper commodities.

But, despite all these hardships, there is still room to look towards the future with optimism. First, we have witnessed breakthroughs that are significantly helping to quell the growth of this global trend. The world community's attention is persistently being drawn to this problem through

the media, books and solid information. More importantly, collective action is being taken by groups of countries that work together in tackling this common foe – from the legal, security and humanitarian perspective. New actors are taking center stage, in addition to governments and the security sectors, artists, journalists and increasingly the business community who are working on ways and means of making this sordid trade a less attractive, less profitable and an increasingly riskier venture which the public at large is ready to fight against. The Athens Ethical Principles are a testimony to this new anti-trafficking climate that is emerging. I am forever grateful to the amazing Marianna Vardinoyannis and her great team for working tirelessly in ensuring the success of the Athens Roundtable.

Poor families may agree to sell their children or may be deceived into believing their child will have better educational or employment opportunities at their destination



Winning the fight against human trafficking will require immense effort, unwavering dedication and unflinching support. The Roundtable on the Business Community against the Trafficking of Human Beings will certainly contribute significantly to the issue by raising awareness, introducing sound ethical principles, and devising viable strategies to overcome this tragic practice. Fostering a private and public sector partnership to explore ethical and policy

issues is a truly worthwhile endeavor and crucial to combating one of the most tragic human rights issues worldwide. I am honored to be a part of such a noble cause and among such influential members of the international community. Undoubtedly, this event will provide a forum where we can search for ways to combine our strengths and pass it on to those who need it most – the victims of human trafficking.



Yasser El-Mallawany
Chairman, EFG-Hermes

Most people think that slavery was abolished over a hundred years ago. Not true. Human Rights Watch has exposed consistent patterns in the trafficking of women in the 21st century. In all cases, coercive tactics, including deception, fraud, intimidation, isolation, threat and use of physical force, or debt bondage, are used to control women. In many cases corrupt officials facilitate the

trafficking, accepting bribes to falsify documents and provide protection. Many governments treat trafficked persons as illegal aliens, criminals, or both, exposing them to further abuse. This initiative, to engage the energy and drive of the corporate world in designing methods to stop the trafficking of human beings, could prove to be decisive and is very welcome.



Priscilla Elworthy

Board Member, The Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement

Chair of the Oxford Research Group



Leila Emara

Board Member, The Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement

Ambassador

Annals of human history are replete with manifestations of social evils and nefarious exploitations of the poor and subdued by the rapacious, oppressive and manipulative. Our era – being no exception – is witnessing the distressing phenomenon of Human Trafficking, which has attained such dismaying international magnitude as to warrant the convening of the Athens Roundtable.

My hopes are limitless that the ideas, imaginative approaches and effective mechanisms which will emerge out of this conference, will go down on record as a defining landmark – a testimonial to our collective determination to rid world communities from the abhorring stigma of human

trafficking. My optimism emanates from a two-fold perception: the genuine commitment of all those who took the pertinent and timely initiative of arranging the Athens meeting, on one hand, and its venue, on the other.

Holding a meeting to devise ways and means of combating and grappling with human trafficking in Athens is – I trust all will concur – most befitting. For it was out of Athens that most lofty values consecrating human dignity and emancipation, denouncements of coercion and exhortations of equality among people, have transpired. That was the case ever since the dawn of human conscience. It remains true and valid today.

It was very heartbreaking to learn that human trafficking is the fastest growing criminal industry and even more so that the main victims are women and girls as usual. Of all the business opportunities that the modern world presents, do we really have to stoop so low as to traffic in a fellow human being? No amount of financial or material gain justifies this despicable activity and it is about time we all got involved in eradicating this global menace.

The reality is chilling and horrific! Girl children as young as five years are sold into sexual slavery. Many victims are enslaved by their traffickers to work in

the underground economy for a lifetime. Imagine being locked up in a room with the only key available thrown into the midst of the sea, while passers-by look on unconcerned. That is what happens to the freedom of many unfortunate people enticed by these criminals. They risk losing their right to be free forever unless chance washes the key ashore. It is no use crying over how we failed to stop the practice in the past. There is a lot more to be done. Let us get to work!

We must grow our consciousness and awareness so that in our daily decision making work to defend sane and healthy values and fight those that are destructive.



Kristin Engvig

Founder & President, Women International Networking

The advent of the 21st century has brought with it new opportunities and new challenges for the world community.

We all acknowledge the opportunities provided by the tremendous advances in knowledge, information technology, communications, healthcare and increased connectivity.

Yet we also acknowledge the huge challenges we face in contending with growing poverty and inequality, wars, terrorism and insecurity in many parts of the world.

A most distressing phenomenon has been the increase in human trafficking globally. It is estimated that more than one million people are trafficked annually around the world, some experts believe it could be double that. Between 80% and 90% of victims trafficked across international borders are women

and the majority of them are trafficked for sexual exploitation. Trafficking in people has been facilitated by porous borders and advanced communication technologies and has become increasingly transnational in scope.

Trafficking in persons is a tragic and complex human rights abuse. Whilst governments have the primary responsibility for the realisation of human rights, each of us has a role to play.

Concerted action by governments and international organisations in combating trafficking must be enhanced.

Emanating from the Middle East and working globally, The Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement is to be applauded for endorsing women's role as peace builders and working to eradicate violence against women. This helps women achieve lives of equality and above all human dignity.



Haifa Fahoum Al Kaylani

Board Member, The Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement

Chairman, Arab International Women's Forum

Non, le sourire gêné et la condescendance larmoyante ne sont pas de mise.

Non, il n'y a pas de tabou.

Nous devons parler : les victimes de la traite des êtres humains, des femmes surtout, sont plus nombreuses encore que les victimes des guerres qui secouent notre planète.

Parmi les causes les plus connues de cette grave violation des droits humains on retrouve la pauvreté

et le chômage du côté des victimes, la perte de valeurs du côté des « demandeurs » toujours plus nombreux et l'appât du gain des trafiquants.

Les avocats ont eux aussi à s'émouvoir de cette violation intolérable. Il est urgent qu'ils dénoncent ce crime qualifié de crime contre l'humanité par le Statut de Rome et qu'ils cherchent à œuvrer pour la prévention et la lutte contre la traite des êtres humains.



Evelyne Fiechter-Widemann

Evelyne Fiechter-Widemann Law Firm

Aldo Fozzati

Member, Advisory Board,
Citigroup Venture Capital



The international trafficking of human beings is an insult to the ideals and principles put forth by the members of the United Nations. It is for this very reason that we, as the emblems of equality and democracy, must feel obligated to thwart this "underground economy" of human trade. While the goal of the developed world is to spread economic stability and growth, it should take a more profound interest in the society wherein that growth is occurring. Hence, I propose that we adhere

to the rights awarded to us by our governments, and spread them, as we do our desire to improve quality of life through economic promise. I wholeheartedly support the initiative of The Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement and firmly believe that the key to universal equality and the elimination of human trafficking is dependant upon the cooperation of the private sector working in tandem with the legislation put forth by its respective governments.

**Most trafficking victims
are forced into commercial
sexual exploitation**



As Head of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and as a person sensitive to the distress of other human beings, children, men and women alike, wherever they live, I have always been convinced that human trafficking is among the worst and saddest activities against mankind men have ever undertaken. It brings the world back to dark times of slavery and transforms the victims into commodities, negating them any identity and destroying their lives far beyond the years of captivity and permanent threat.

Women and children are alas even more exposed than others to such a drama, as human trafficking is closely linked to illegal sex trade. War is also an aggravating factor as many children are forced to become soldiers; for young women, often still adolescent, the nightmare is complete when on top of having to fight by day, they must endure sexual slavery at night.

Women and children are the present and the future of the world. We should all therefore do our utmost to ensure that they may live in dignity, free from want and free from fear, enjoying a peaceful environment, where their rights are respected.

States and non governmental actors ought to join hands to protect human rights and fight by all means any kind of activity linked to human trafficking, bringing to justice those involved in organizing this ugly trade. In my own duties, I will remain committed to supporting initiatives aimed at combating human trafficking, with the conviction that only societies able to respect deep rooted values will contribute to making the world safer and better for everybody.

Walter Fust
**Director General, Swiss Agency for
Development and Cooperation**
Ambassador



Shafik Gabr

Chairman & Managing Director, Artoc Group
For Investment & Development



Trafficking in humans – and especially among women and children – is a drastic violation of Human Rights. It is incumbent upon the business community to engage forcefully to implement anti-trafficking practices and to support all efforts geared toward the elimination of this disease.



Thérèse Gastaut

Board Member, The Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement

At the international and national levels, the normative instruments to fight human trafficking do exist. However the phenomenon continues to grow.

Globalisation is with us to stay, but along with its benefits, come

its draw-backs. Human trafficking is one of the ugliest of them. Our Movement is on the side of the victims and also will continue to be actively involved in all activities to end this criminal practice.

Tsega Gebreyes

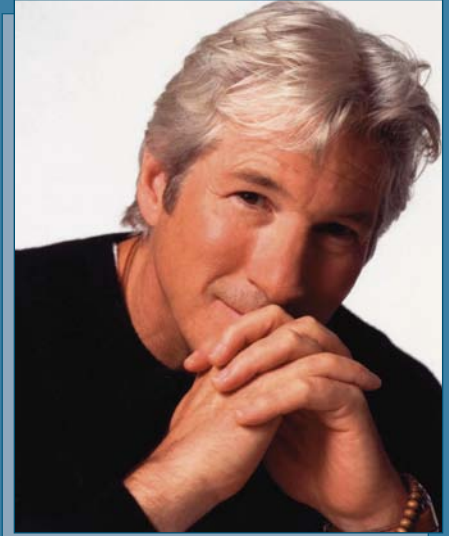
Chief Strategy and Development Officer,
Celtel International B.V.



It is encouraging to see responsible people and The Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement taking the issue of human trafficking seriously and galvanizing support to attack the problem in a meaningful way. We are acutely aware of the havoc it reaps on families and communities in developing countries. It is going

to take education, economic development and cooperation at all levels of government and the private sector to take away the causes that underpin these horrific practices. International institutions and wealthier nations should take an increasing interest in deterring demand. We look forward to working with you to eradicate the curse of human trafficking.

Richard Gere Healing the Divide



Congratulations to
H. E. Mrs. Suzanne
Mubarak and Mrs.
Marianna Vardinoyannis
for organizing the
January 2006 Athens
Trafficking Roundtable.

I am pleased to join in
this important initiative
to end the nightmare for
millions of vulnerable
women and children.
Together, we will succeed.

Everyone of us can do something to end human trafficking, as an individual, but also as CEO or a top manager in the administration, or owner of a company. We should actively support the implementation of simple and clear policies against human trafficking in our sector of activities. What a great feeling to improve living conditions on our planet thanks to a responsible economy!



Paola Ghillani

CEO, Paola Ghillani & Friends

It was an honour to be invited to the Athens conference in January. This event helped to illustrate the gravity and scale of human trafficking. The key challenges will be to drive awareness and sensitise people about how serious the issue really is. I do not think that people today grasp the extent of the problem. In the same way that people have been aware of other global problems such as famine, AIDS and Bird Flu – we need to find a way to bring this painful topic to the forefront. Some inroads have

been made, and this conference is a step forward - but the road is still very long before we can significantly wipe away what is today modern slavery. As business people, we need to implement policies that ensure that at no point our businesses promote, condone or perpetuate this global scorn. Today we have “dolphin friendly tuna”, “free trade coffee”; tomorrow we need to ensure that all businesses are “human friendly businesses”.



Youssef Hammad

Managing Director, Inventa Productions Ltd
and Partner

**Profits made from
trafficking
amount to
32 billion dollars**



Taher Helmy

Board Member, The Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement

Trafficking in human beings is a global issue that has captured the world's attention in recent years. Victims of human trafficking are largely destitute women and children who are being exploited into forced labor or commercial sexual prostitution. The most alarming development is the rapid increase in numbers; there are now an estimated 12 million victims worldwide.

It is the responsibility of the business community to join

hands with NGO's to halt human trafficking. Business leaders, especially of multi-nationals, must be vigilant in their continuous investigation of their business throughout the world in order to ensure their workforce conforms to international standards and does not fall victim to the abuses that threaten the lives of so many impoverished women and children. Maximizing corporate profit should never be an excuse to justify exploitation.

Both as a member of the cabinet in the past two decades, and as a member of the Greek Parliament to date, I am in a position to say that fighting human trafficking at the level of national authorities, police, central and local government today cannot stop this scourge.

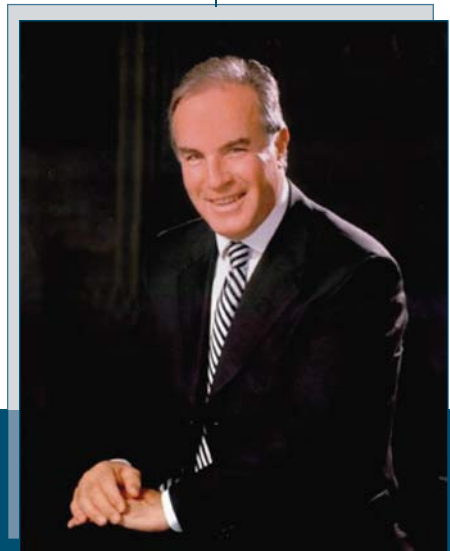
This happens mainly because nowadays, traffickers are linked with unscrupulous recruiting or contracting agencies on the one hand, while on the other hand hotels and entertainment enterprises are a starting place for sexual exploitation. And also most of this exploitation takes place in the underground economy.

Despite the fact that every effort of the international community to stop the treatment of people

as commodities and slaves – especially women and children – is undoubtedly welcome, it has to be said that the contribution of the business sector to the eradication of the modern channels of sexual and labor exploitation is needed more than ever.

Therefore, I do believe that the initiative “Athens Roundtable of Business Community against trafficking in human beings” is a very challenging one.

Hoping that this initiative will draw a “road map” for successful outcomes, by proposing methods for consolidated action between public and private sector against trafficking, please do accept my congratulations.



Kimon Koulouris
Member, Hellenic Parliament



Anne-Marie Lizin

Board Member, The Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement

La traite et le trafic des êtres humains sont des phénomènes transnationaux et intéressent de ce fait tous les Etats. Il est utile de réprimer ces phénomènes et de protéger, dans la mesure du possible, les victimes. La Belgique s'y intéresse tout particulièrement. Ainsi, récemment, le Parlement

belge a adopté une loi établissant la traite des êtres humains comme infraction autonome dans le Code pénal et introduisant de nouvelles incriminations, notamment celles de l'incrimination de l'exploitation de la mendicité et de la poursuite des marchands de sommeil.



Danielle Maillefer

Representative to the United Nations and International Organisations, Initiatives of Change International, Geneva

As I stepped out of the hotel where I had given a press conference, a journalist from radio AFRICA 1 came to me and said: "Are you serious when you announced that UNICEF is going to organise a regional conference on Child Trafficking?" With a tremble in his voice he added: "Don't, don't do it, you do not know where you're putting your feet, it is most dangerous, dangerous for your life". The stage was set. I was informed.

While preparing for the conference in Libreville (Gabon), I helped the local TV to produce a documentary on the issue. The day after it was shown, the producer's house was looted and the familiar sight of little "vidomegon" girls (victims of child traffickers), going around with baskets full of goods to sell, disappeared from the street.

We got to know then that the trade had gone underground, and girls were suffering even harsher conditions of detention. I remember vividly the day when the Minister of Family Affairs called me urgently. She had just that morning released a few girls who were chained in a cellar when they were not working. And I recall also a story told to me by the Ambassador from Togo. He had heard that a high-ranking personality had two Togo girl servants. He went to visit the family, the wife said: "Here are the girls, take them," and when asked how she had got them she replied, "I went to the market, was taken in a room and there were a dozen of girls I could choose from and buy."

A year later, I was posted in Abidjan, holding a regional post still with UNICEF. The world got to know about a boat the MV Etireno wandering at sea, not being allowed into port as it was suspected of carrying "slave children" on board. The international media got hold of that story with vigour and I spent days on the phone to describe UNICEF's and ILO's findings on these dramatic issues. SKY TV and BBC organised each a conference

call between their editorial staff and us where we were able to explain what was going on. The world media had great difficulty in believing that those children were being trafficked.

Finally the boat returned to Benin. And we found the children waiting on the harbour side. Alone.

At that time also, a survey had just come out describing how children from Burkina Faso were exploited in the cocoa plantations in Côte d'Ivoire. This prompted a British journalist to ask me: "How can a mother explain to her child that the chocolate he loves to eat is made from cocoa picked by "slave" children?"

These are few stories of many I came across. Stories of how mafia organisations and individuals have perverted the traditions of poor families who, when they cannot afford even the basic education for their kids, trust their "brothers and sisters" to take care of sons and daughters.

What to say? How to conclude? I am still puzzled by the different values that we give to people. Why? After all, none of us have chosen the bed we were born in!

In this paradoxical world of contradictions, of promises and perils, the painful reality of human trafficking, particularly of women and children, continues to loom ahead; challenging humanity's conscience on an almost daily basis. No region in our global village is immune to this immoral trade, which recruits victims like faceless commodities, smuggles them across borders, then sells and exploits them under the threat of brutal violence. All too often, defenseless women and children are ruthlessly forced into labor, marriages and adoptions, for the easy – albeit lucrative – profit that is associated with this dreadful trade, defying the very essence of the rule of law.

Amidst this senseless chaos, it is immensely gratifying for me to be part of The Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement. In cooperation with a multitude of other partners, this dynamic movement is truly committed to, inter alia addressing the brunts and bruises of this endless suffering. The determined efforts that continue to be made by a growing number of organizations and entities worldwide are truly inspiring. These collective efforts will ultimately ensure that universal ethics rooted – as they are – in human rights, gender equality, social justice and dignity, are more than an empty recycled promise.

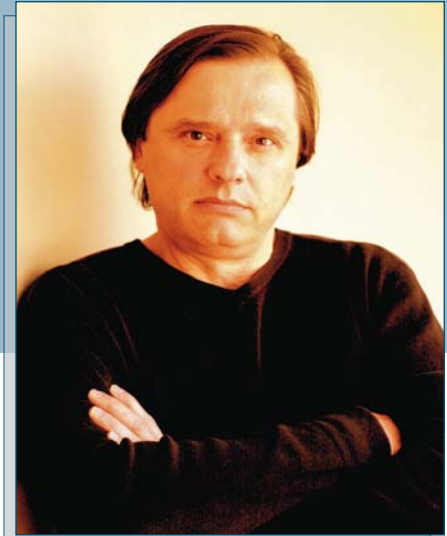


Nadia Makram Ebeid

**Board Member, The Suzanne Mubarak Women's
International Peace Movement**

Victor Malarek

Author, "The Natashas: Inside the Global Sex Trade"



As unbelievable as it seems, the entire world must face up to a very disturbing reality: In this 21st century, we are witnessing a modern-day slave trade of epic proportions. What I am saying is not an over-dramatization. It is a fact. This slave trade is pervasive. It touches almost every nation on the planet in some way, either as a country of origin, transit or destination.

Each year, hundreds of thousands of desperate human beings are bought, sold or forced across the world's borders. The vast majority are young women and girls who fall prey to the sex trade – most forced into prostitution.

What we must keep foremost in mind is that the overwhelming majority of these women do not experience prostitution as a job opportunity or a profession but a cold hard prison sentence. The bars

and brothels where they work are their torture chambers. Their bedrooms are their prison cells.

All they cry out for is a real job – a chance at a real life. That is their only avenue of escape, and the well-heeled nations of the West must contribute meaningfully to the solution. They must find ways of helping these women, not only with skills training but with offers of employment that don't require them to take off their clothes.

The trafficking of women and girls is truly one of the greatest human rights abuses of our time. It is an affront to the dignity of women. It is an affront to the universality of human rights, and it shames us all. Breaking this repugnant form of sexual exploitation must be a moral, legal and political imperative for us all.

Drugs, arms and now human beings! How can we tolerate the fact that one of the most globalised and profitable businesses in the world today is the degrading criminal business of buying and selling human beings? How can we sit still when we know that women and little children, already traumatised by war, are moved across the world like pawns, used and reused as objects, then disposed off on the rubbish heap of history? The campaign launched by The Suzanne Mubarak Women's

International Peace Movement has determined to engage all stakeholders, especially business leaders and political decision makers, to act NOW. This campaign has resolved to leave no stone unturned until this dreadful business is ended. Each of us must join forces to support the campaign and ensure that in this day and age a human being simply cannot be treated as a commodity. This is our human responsibility, for which we will be held accountable by posterity if we fail to act now.



Rama Mani

Director, New Issues in Security Course
'Global Peace and Security: Challenges and Responses'
Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP)

Ricky Martin

President & Founder of The Ricky Martin Foundation
Goodwill Ambassador to UNICEF

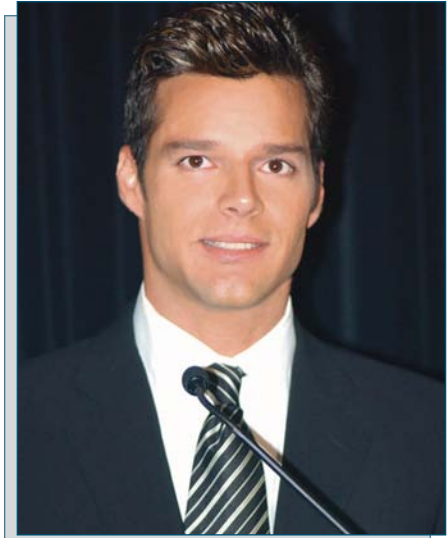
In spite of the challenges we face with human trafficking today, I believe the global community is on the brink of new possibilities... This international event attests that there is a common will and commitment among various sectors of society towards eliminating such an atrocious modern day form of slavery.

At the Ricky Martin Foundation, we advocate for the well-being of children globally, a tantamount task only achievable through alliances. Partnerships between and among international and local non-for profit organizations, corporations, government, and individuals are vital to effectively combat this unscrupulous criminal market that generates billions of dollars annually.

I sincerely thank the Committee for inviting us to help shape the

global agenda against human trafficking since millions of children, women, and men become commodities and prey of organized crime rinks that feed on social despair.

Our time is now. Together we can put an end to this outrageous cycle by investing in the wellbeing and safety of children, women, and men by providing them with the possibility of a future where they can become pioneers to economic, social, and political change in their respective countries. It is our duty to standup on behalf of them, and achieve non rhetorical justice.





Koïchiro Matsuura

Director-General, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

The protection of the rights of all human beings is at the very heart of UNESCO's

concerns. It is in this spirit that, on behalf of UNESCO, I hereby add my support to the "End Human Trafficking Now!" campaign and its worthy goals.

As the United Nations specialized agency with a mandate to promote peace and security through education, the sciences, culture and communication, UNESCO welcomes the Athens Roundtable organized by The Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement and the Global Coalition Women Defending Peace. By bringing together representatives of the business community, the public sector, international organizations and civil society, the Roundtable provides an opportunity to join

forces through a shared adherence to ethical principles to combat the scourge of human trafficking. In UNESCO's view, the adoption of the "Athens Ethical Principles" and their wider acceptance by the business community will provide a valuable stimulus to efforts to eradicate human trafficking throughout the world.

It is intolerable that, two centuries after the abolition of the slave trade, millions of people – mostly women and children – are still subject to this extreme form of human rights violation. Human trafficking is a form of slavery because the traffickers exert powers that amount to rights of ownership over the people they traffic, exploiting them in enslavement and denying their human dignity and, indeed, their very humanity.

UNESCO is particularly concerned with the increase in trafficking for purposes of forced labour and sexual exploitation, which is part

of the dark side of globalization and development. We must work together to ensure that tourism, for example, is an engine for development, not for the cultural and physical destruction of vulnerable populations.

I therefore urge all business leaders, government officials and public figures to use their influence to rally support for the international community's fight to end human trafficking.

For its part, UNESCO is making its contribution by conducting and promoting research into and analysis of human trafficking. Through such efforts as the Trafficking Statistics Project, GIS-based social sentinel surveillance mapping, and structural vulnerability analysis, UNESCO uses its expertise in socio-cultural research to investigate a problem too often clouded by myth and emotion. The struggle to end the scourge of human trafficking needs to be grounded upon accurate information and cogent analysis. UNESCO's work

in this area, therefore, focuses on harnessing research findings, raising awareness, promoting best practices and developing appropriate policy tools.

We are convinced that prevention through education and information is the best way to tackle human trafficking at its roots. At the same time, we recognize that the situation facing the victims of human trafficking requires urgent remedy. In this regard, UNESCO believes that the business community and its leaders have a vital role to play in ensuring that the iniquity of human trafficking has no place in the 21st century.

It remains for me to wish the organizers of and participants in the Athens Roundtable every success in your deliberations. Be assured that UNESCO shares your commitment to eradicating all contemporary forms of slavery and human trafficking, which are an affront to human dignity and human rights.

Simone Monasebian

Chief, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), New York office



The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the custodian and guardian of the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, is honoured to offer our congratulations and support to The Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement, and the Global Coalition Women Defending Peace, for organizing the Athens Roundtable of the Business Community Against the Trafficking of Human Beings.

Over the past decade, human trafficking has reached epidemic proportions. No country is immune from this "execrable sum of all villainies." Traffickers face few risks and have earned huge profits by taking advantage of large numbers of potential immigrants. In many

cases, trafficking patterns are also related to conflict situations as combatants (or even peacekeepers) create a market for the services of victims and the effects of conflict erode the capacity of law enforcement and other authorities to combat the problem. As a form of organized crime, trafficking also threatens sustainable development and the rule of law, as illicit profits are used for corruption, other criminal activities and, in some cases, terrorism. We applaud the Roundtable's call for a zero tolerance policy for this modern form of slavery and look forward to working with the Roundtable's business partners to end this global scourge once and for all.

Despite the large number of victims, trafficking is rarely punished: 7000 people were prosecuted and 3000 convicted worldwide in 2004



Human trafficking affects women, men, boys and girls. Human beings are being forced into slave-like conditions throughout all regions of the world. Where there is conflict the phenomenon is exacerbated; where there is poverty it hinders social and economic development. We were once told that slavery no longer exists but sadly we now know this is not true. It is the duty of all of us to participate in the combat against

the scourge of human trafficking.

IOM has been fighting human trafficking for the past 12 years and is gratified to see the business community increasingly taking up the challenge to contribute to this cause. I pledge IOM's support to work with partners in the private sector on prevention through awareness raising and education; to assist and protect victims; and to support governments in prosecuting and convicting the perpetrators of this horrendous crime.



Ndioro Ndiaye

Deputy Director General, International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Catherine Nickbarte

President, Buakhao White Lotus Foundation

President, Hotel Beau Rivage, Geneva



The situation of our planet is becoming so worrying that some women have decided that time has come for action. For the future of humanity.

H. E. Mrs Suzanne Mubarak gathered around her women who care. Women who want this suffering to stop. Women who want real values to replace the race for money and power which is destroying our planet.

Human rights. Children's rights. It is all on paper. But when it comes to making profit people don't care. Human beings are treated like merchandise, like sex toys, enslaved, and this generates an immense suffering. We have been

worshipping the god "Profit" for so many years that suffering is increasing everywhere.

Abusing people, abusing nature, we are destroying our future. What kind of world are we going to leave to our children?

We must realize that if we banish respect from our lives we are going to have to live in a terrifying world. Women have a real power, because they raise and educate their children. They can teach them to respect themselves, to respect others in order to have a better world. The Global Coalition Women Defending Peace wants to make the difference.

Ronald Noble

Secretary General, Interpol



I would like to congratulate the Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement and the Global Coalition Women Defending Peace for organizing this timely, relevant and very important initiative. The Athens Roundtable Conference on Human Trafficking, which is enlisting the support of the business community in the fight against the trafficking of human beings, is a critical step forward in addressing this serious transnational crime.

The trafficking of human beings by criminal organizations constitutes a grave threat to human dignity and the safety of citizens in all countries and regions of the world.

There are few countries unaffected by this phenomenon and I believe it is our collective duty to combat this challenge. To do so effectively, we must establish and organize relationships with all stakeholders including the police, governments, non-governmental organizations, private industries, international organizations and society at large to devise and implement effective strategies to minimize or eradicate all forms of trafficking and exploitation of human beings.

Please be assured that Interpol fully supports this endeavour and I am confident that this Roundtable Conference will bring us closer to that goal.



Michel Orloff

Chairman, Black Earth Farming Limited

Over thousands of years, humanity has made enormous and constant technological progress, but the most

important achievement of the human race, sadly not yet uniformly, has been regulating our animal instincts to make the earth a better and safer place to live. The first steps were directed at tolerance and social protection. Some countries went through substantial changes and pioneered the changes, while others paid (and are still paying) a very high price for not addressing on time the urgent need for more equality and social security.

Strong networking and financial resources, powerful telecommunications and technologies allow groups of ruthless people to use the distress of weaker population groups to trade humans, to trade their bodies or pieces of them and throw their soul to the bin of humanity. This is not acceptable, and it is our duty to put an end to these horrors. It is an international war, with no rules, which needs to be won. It does require enormous resources, but first and foremost a total and coordinated commitment by governments, the media, and each of us personally.

For the ones who don't really care about other people's lives, it is also important to note that it is in their own interest to address this horrible issue with determination.

A century ago, many privileged classes in different countries lost everything as a result of bloody revolutions, because they had not addressed the issues of human dignity, social balance and social security. Many paid a high price for this lack of responsibility! Today, the happy few countries who live comfortably must understand that telecommunications and media have placed countries, where human dignity is considered as irrelevant and utopist, at their doorsteps. If worldwide human dignity does not occupy today the first place on the list of priorities of countries, who think that it is not their problem, the price to pay tomorrow could well be their own social welfare, social stability and security.

So whatever their personal and collective motivations are, altruistic and/or egoistic, we need to urgently put an end to human trafficking as the worst form of human degradation. It is an appeal to global war against satanic forces, which are extremely powerful and well organized. It is a horror which must be ended. And don't forget, your kid could become one of their victims...!

Warmly welcome the initiative of The Suzanne Mubarak's International Peace Movement and the Global Coalition Women Defending Peace to organize the Athens Roundtable of the "Business community against the Trafficking of Human Beings".

As the recently appointed United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Goodwill Ambassador on Slavery and Trafficking, I welcome this opportunity to meaningfully interact with business community leaders on the issue of modern day slavery. The business community has a vital role to play in the fight against trafficking in human beings, and I look forward to learning from the experiences from the business sector, as there are various initiatives being taken that have proven to be successful.

To counter the scourge of human trafficking, the United Nations uses the "three P's" approach; prevention, protection and prosecution. I have added another "P" of my own – priority. Governments and civil society need to make this issue a priority in order to achieve any meaningful results.

Trafficking is everywhere and it affects all of us.

I am delighted to offer my support to the 2006 Athens Roundtable of "Business community against Trafficking of Human Beings" conference programme and wish the organizers and co-sponsors continued success in 2006.



Julia Ormond

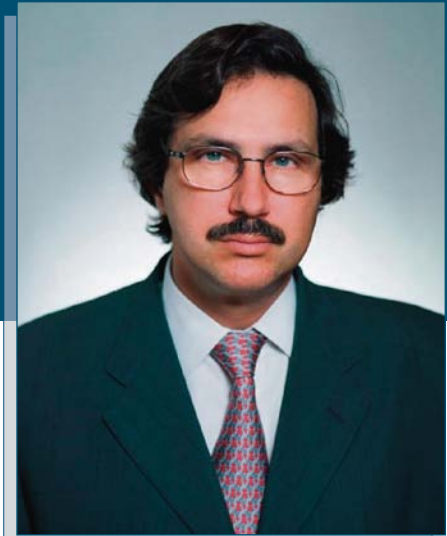
UNODC Goodwill Ambassador For Human Trafficking

**We consider it unacceptable that
millions of people are treated as
commodities and slaves**

Athens Ethical Principles
adopted 23 January 2006

Anthony Papadimitriou

President, Alexander S. Onassis
Public Benefit Foundation



On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Onassis Foundation, I would like to express our support towards the very important initiative of the Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement against human trafficking, a very serious problem that relates to a rapidly increasing part of the world population. According to recent global reports, the victims of human trafficking are overwhelmingly women and children as well as migrants away from their countries. Most of them are subject to forced labour or sexual exploitation and are denied their basic human rights and dignity.

As the President of the Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation and as a deeply concerned

citizen of the world, I would like to welcome the efforts of the international business community to eliminate human trafficking. Since its establishment in 1975 and through the continuous support of various public benefit projects in Greece and abroad, the Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation has been actively demonstrating its concern and respect towards the needs of the international community.

Given this opportunity, I would like to thank you for inviting me to this Roundtable and emphasize the fact that the Foundation, through its activities as well as its business and social partnerships always protects and promotes the unquestioning ethical principles concerning human rights.



Roger Plant

Head, Special Action Program to Combat Forced Labor,
International Labor Office (ILO), Geneva

The issue of trafficking needs to be addressed in hard economic terms if we are going to make practical headway in stamping out this unacceptable scourge. The International Labour Organization (ILO) is working together with different sectors of society to make our contribution to the millennium development goals of eradicating extreme poverty and forced labour including trafficking over the next decade by 2015. This is a huge challenge, we know it is absolutely key to involve the private sector in all these activities on trafficking whether the prevention, law enforcement, or the rehabilitation of victims.

So far, concerns about the scale and extent of this problem have insufficiently caught the attention of business leaders. ILO's action plan envisages a very significant role for the private sector together with government worker organizations and other civil society partners. The Athens Roundtable is a vital important step to get the initial business commitment and to take this further forward in high profile international forums. We thank the business community for their attention and in advance for their commitment to this difficult but necessary task.

The trafficking in human beings particularly women and children has increased dramatically in recent years. It has become a global issue which attracts considerable attention from governments, governmental organizations as well as companies from the private sector. However, despite the efforts that countries are making to combat severe forms of trafficking, the lack of systematic measures, the lack of national and international cooperation and the fact that the private sector along with the public are not fully aware, has led to the rapid expansion of the problem.

Human trafficking has penetrated many business sectors and has turned into a serious threat which deeply affects the economic system. Therefore, anti-trafficking measures need to be employed and a common strategy to be applied. An extensive collaboration between private and public sector

will give us the opportunity to draw new policies and take actions to minimise the magnitude of this phenomenon.

The Roundtable organised by The Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement and Global Coalition Women Defending Peace is a great opportunity to raise awareness with the private sector towards the campaign against trafficking of women and children for sexual exploitation. It is my belief that the outcomes of the Roundtable in Athens will raise global awareness and stimulate companies to take effective actions in the fight against this problem. Embracing your efforts to eradicate human trafficking I strongly support this initiative and I hope for the achievement of its goals. Besides, it is our responsibility to take actions to end this modern-day slavery.



Christos Protopapas
Member, Hellenic Parliament



Marjatta Rasi

**Under-Secretary of State for Development Policy,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland**

Over the last decade, trafficking in human beings has become a

major international concern across the world. Due to its transnational nature, at some level trafficking impacts virtually every country. The rise in trafficking in women is closely related to the deterioration of women's economic situation. Feminization of poverty and labor migration have increased the vulnerability of women to becoming victims of trafficking as a strong outflow of women tends to occur with limited employment opportunities and increased economic marginalization.

As such, legal anti-trafficking measures are not enough to improve the situation. More focus should be put on development and

implementation of macro-economic policies that pay adequate attention to female poverty, income generation and employment creation. More attention should also be paid to the macro-economic policies, which can indirectly contribute to the growth of the sex sector.

Economic policies that are based on the promotion of tourism, rural-urban migration and export-oriented industrialization should be assessed from the human rights perspective and from their impact on health and general well-being. In this context, the business community can play a significant role in confronting the problem of trafficking in women and children by demonstrating the position of zero tolerance towards their sexual exploitation and following ethical business principles.

Naguib Sawiris

Chairman, Orascom Telecom



More than 55 years ago, the World came together at the United Nations General Assembly and created what we now know as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. When viewed at first glance, it seems only natural; what can make more sense than “Everyone has a right to liberty”, “No one shall be held in slavery or servitude”, or even “Human beings shall act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood”. Are these simple words new to us? Simple answer: these words have been taught to us since the beginning of time, all heavenly religions teach the basic principle of “All men are created equal”.

It is very sad that in this age of technology and modern industrialization, these fundamental rights awarded to a human being are now lost, lost in the hustle and bustle of the every

day growth and development of the human race. The problem that is most forgotten: whether we call it “Slavery”, “Human Trafficking”, or “Forced Labor”, it all stands in the way of creating a strong and civilized world, a world that can face the challenges that lie ahead.

We come together as a business community in this historical place to unite in our quest for justice for mankind. For it is up to us, we have the influence and the power to make a difference, let us put a stop to forced labor and exploitation of those less privileged, let us abolish trafficking and slavery for they are both two faces of the same evil coin. And it is up to you all to point the way to us.

Let us join together to make a difference.

To recognize and respect the inherent dignity of every human being is the proudest achievement of the human race. We have fought long and hard to establish the inalienable rights to freedom and dignity. Yet in these troubled times, criminals prey on the weak and the destitute, women and children, especially in war-torn areas, and strip them of their dignity and humanity, treating them like chattel and enforcing slavery by other names.

Whether they are indentured for sex or for labour, the existence of such illicit trafficking of humans is an insult to our collective humanity. It is a state of affairs beneath any definition of human decency.

We must join action to the word, denouncing such practices. They cannot be tolerated and must be

abolished. We must unleash the moral outrage that such activities deserve, and demand that an informed public take on the task of rooting out those in its midst who would turn a blind eye to such practices. It is not just the dignity and humanity of the victims that is being destroyed, it is the very fabric of civilized society, whose lofty declaration of principle are being mocked by this obscene reality.

Do we have the courage of our convictions? I believe we do. Will we have the means to achieve our ends? Yes, if we can mobilize the steely determination to reject evil and do good. Changing the world is within our grasp. Ridding the planet of this scourge is not beyond our ken. It can be done, it must be done, it will be done.



Ismail Serageldin

**Board Member, The Suzanne Mubarak Women's
International Peace Movement**

Director of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina



Walid Shash

Board Member, The Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement

Human trafficking, in economic terms, is a business where buyers and sellers trade the freedom of human lives in an underground market infrastructure. Any public or private entity that supports human rights and freedom, has the duty not only to condemn this activity, but also the obligation to mobilize its

resources to dismantle this infrastructure and bring its traders to justice. Establishing universal rules and principles against human trafficking similar to those related to money laundering could be the start of such a coordinated effort.

Human trafficking is the fastest growing form of transnational crime because of its low risk and high profits. No region is exempt from the problem of trafficking.

Trafficking victimizes more than just the individuals subject to sexual and labor exploitation. As in the drug trade, there are terrible consequences for the larger society.

Human trafficking spreads disease, violates human rights and increases societal violence. The profits of trafficking prolong conflict, enrich organized crime and increase governmental corruption. Greater public awareness, more effective law enforcement and public-private partnerships are needed to stem the growth of trafficking.



Louise Shelley

Professor, School of International Service

**Founder and Director, Transnational Crime and
Corruption Center, American University, Washington, D.C.**

Trafficking in human beings is a complex crime, rooted in poverty, marginalization and ideas about the subordination of primarily women and children. Ultimately, it is a crime that stems from an inadequate protection of human rights. To combat human trafficking, a wide range of action is needed, involving several policy areas and sectors of society. The problem extends across national borders and must be addressed by international and regional cooperation.

The Nordic Baltic countries have since several years made common efforts to eradicate human trafficking. The Nordic and Baltic Ministers of Foreign Affairs appointed in August 2002 a Nordic Baltic Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings. The main purpose of the Task Force is to enhance the commitment to the issue on a political level in all participating countries. The Task Force reinforces already existing networks against

trafficking, identifies and facilitates coordination between agencies working against trafficking and assures that effective measures are carried out to combat trafficking throughout the Nordic-Baltic region, i.e. through benchmarking and peer pressure. The Task Force has initiated a multilateral cooperative pilot project for the safe return and reintegration of victims of trafficking.

The project is focusing on the development and implementation of sustainable structures for the protection and safe return of victims. The Athens Roundtable of 2006 is an important step towards closer cooperation between various actors to find international and regional solutions to prevent human trafficking and support victims of this modern slavery. I hope that the regional cooperation of the Nordic-Baltic region will serve as inspiration to other regions in Europe and elsewhere.



Annika Söder

State Secretary, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Sweden

Zohreh Tabatabai

Director, Department of Communication and Public Information, International Labour Organisation (ILO)



An estimated 2.4 million people around the world are victims of human trafficking. Most are women and girls. Some have been kidnapped by traffickers, others have been duped into sexual slavery by promises of jobs that don't exist. They are trapped in lives of poverty and humiliation.

Equally shameful, trafficking gangs reap massive profits from these ruined lives. The ILO estimates annual profits generated by human trafficking at \$32 billion, or an average of \$13,000 from each trafficked labourer.

While the victims are poor and powerless, trafficking cuts across economic sectors, both formal and informal. It can even penetrate the

supply chains of major companies without board members being aware, as ILO research has shown. Trafficking is everybody's problem.

This is why I believe private sector involvement is crucial in order to address the issue effectively. Companies can do a great deal to help, both by preventing trafficking within their own enterprises and by working together towards a more global solution.

I fully support this initiative toward a greater role for business in action against human trafficking. I hope the next few days will lead to fruitful partnerships, based on our common commitment to end this abhorrent practice wherever it exists.

Trafficking of women and children is a global crime that calls for global action. The input of international instruments should be mobilized.

A UN Task Force should be established to monitor, and ensure, that national measures are taken to implement the 1949 "Trafficking Convention."

The Interpol should be called upon, and more involved, in tracking down trafficking.

The statute of "The International Criminal Court" added Human

Trafficking to acts that constitute "Crimes Against Humanity," yet I could not find verdicts of convictions, or even cases of trial, against those who commit these heinous crimes.

Legal action, monitoring and punishment are not the only cure, but they are an effective deterrent, they generate awareness and are an expression of seriousness, determination, a political will and international commitment.



Leila Takla

Board Member, The Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement

President, UN Board of Trustees, Human Rights Programmes

Former President, Foreign Relations Committee, Egyptian Parliament

**Behind the victims of trafficking,
there are young faces of children and
women expecting a better world.**

H.E. Suzanne Mubarak
*Founder and President, The Suzanne Mubarak Women's
International Peace Movement*



Melanne Verveer

Co-founder and Chairman,
Vital Voices Global Partnership



The Athens Roundtable of the Business Community to combat the trafficking of persons is an initiative long overdue. The Vital Voices Global Partnership applauds the organization of this critical response to an urgent global challenge.

The trafficking of human beings is one of the most profound violations of human rights.

It is also a very serious transnational organized crime, a growing health crisis with the HIV/AIDS pandemic and a problem that can have serious national security and economic implications. A flourishing criminal industry using deceptive offers and coercion is generating billions of dollars by engaging in modern-day slavery. No country is immune from this problem and no country can eradicate trafficking by itself.

Governments need to intensify their own efforts, as well as their collaboration with NGOs to combat human trafficking. Business too needs to be at the table. Traffickers prey on people who are desperate

for economic opportunity and force their victims into virtual captivity as exploited laborers. Companies should adopt codes of conduct and ethical norms towards preventing trafficking, especially in industries like tourism, transportation, information technology, agriculture and manufacturing, particularly in apparels. For example, business can support efforts to enable partnerships between governments and NGOs to work together more effectively, as Honda did in Japan and Liz Claiborne in Hungary. Media and entertainment industries can undertake public awareness campaigns like Lifetime Television and MTV. There are many ways that business can lead the way in contributing to the fight against human trafficking.

It is our hope that the Athens business initiative will enhance public-private partnerships to end 21st century modern-day slavery.

Trafficking women and children is a crime against humanity. Women and children are trafficked for prostitution, for forced labour, even for the removal of their organs. Trafficking is the modern-day slave trade.

The number of women forced or sold into prostitution is estimated at anywhere between 700,000 and 4 million per year. Between 120,000 and 500,000 of them are sold to pimps and brothels in Europe alone. Profits from the sex slavery market are estimated at US\$7-12 billion per year. In some countries (such as Moldova) sex trafficking has reached proportions that threaten to destabilise the equilibrium of the population – with potentially devastating long-term consequences.

In Switzerland, the Federal Office of Police estimates that every year between 1,500 and 3,000

women are victims of trafficking. But, there are only one to seven criminal convictions each year. We need better data on trafficking. There should be more convictions of traffickers. Much more must be done to prevent trafficking, to protect the victims and to find and punish traffickers.

Combating trafficking requires strong efforts on many levels: from governments, from police, from border guards, in local communities, and also from the private sector. DCAF fully supports the efforts of the Athens Roundtable to engage the business community in the fight against human trafficking. Trafficking is a business – and a highly profitable business. Thus, the global business community has a particular responsibility to take action against trafficking.



Theodor Winkler

Director, Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF)

Ambassador

Wenchi Yu Perkins

Director, Anti-Trafficking and Human Rights
Vital Voices Global Partnership



Vital Voices Global Partnership is honored to take part in the Athens Roundtable of the Business Community Against the Trafficking of Human Beings. Having been at the forefront of anti-trafficking efforts worldwide for over a decade, Vital Voices is pleased to see this initiative by The Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement and the Global Coalition Women Defending Peace.

Human trafficking, also known as modern-day slavery, is one of the most challenging issues in the 21st century. Rooted in gender inequality, civil unrests, and lack of economic opportunity, countering human trafficking requires a comprehensive strategy that

involves both public and private sectors in society.

By signing on to the Athens Ethical Principles, the international business community shows your commitment to addressing the issue of exploitation of women and children within an internationally agreed framework for the responsible and sustainable development of business.

Vital Voices congratulates you on your efforts. We look forward to working with everyone to establish a set of ethical standards to end the exploitation of women and children worldwide.

For centuries, businessmen strived to increase profit from the exploitation of labor costs. It is a never ending rivalry between employer and employee, which has violently marked the history of all nations.

Notably, slavery is the most profitable form of labor exploitation and also happens to be the most inhuman. Even though it is considered to be abolished in the 21st century, it remains well alive in the hidden practices of powerful entrepreneurs.

Fighting to eliminate human trafficking, we wish to increase public awareness through organizations such as The Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement.

Uniting our global efforts against such crimes, we can effectively ensure safe and equitable conditions to individuals struggling to earn their honest living.

Georges Zard Abou Jaoudé

Chairman – General Manager,
Lebanese Canadian Bank



Everyone has heard about sexual exploitation. Isolated cases are written about it in the media, and we have probably all tended to regard these news items as rare phenomena. I personally have always been profoundly struck by such cases; indignant, distraught, and terribly sad for the victims, I nonetheless was unable to come to their aid. It was most likely in response to this feeling of powerlessness that I accepted to join the End Human Trafficking Now! campaign.

The private economic community, of which I am a part, possesses the resources, techniques, and capacity to counterattack, by enforcing

respect for an ethical code of conduct within its own businesses. We can influence the behaviour of our partners, suppliers and clients exponentially, making them more attentive to what is happening around them by encouraging social responsibility and denouncing anyone connected directly or indirectly with this odious trade. Our mission is to distribute information by any means available, to make known our commitment and to contribute to preventive projects. I invite all the business leaders to take a strong stance and declare a zero tolerance front against human trafficking.



Graziella Zanoletti
President, Elite Rent-A-Car