

PRESS RELEASE

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AT THE CROSSROADS
Private-Public Partnership to Fight Human Trafficking

2 – 3 March 2009
Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain

Human trafficking has become a growing concern throughout the world today, from which no country is exempt. In view of its prime location between the east and the west, the Middle East has an important role to play in tackling human trafficking. Ever more aware of the risk posed by this global scourge, governments are stepping up their efforts to address the root causes of human trafficking and develop counter measures. The private sector is recognizing the magnitude of the problem and its share of responsibility in tackling this issue in its own sphere of influence. The involvement of civil society and non-governmental organisations in highlighting the problem and calling for action has also increased.

The launch of the “End Human Trafficking Now” campaign in January 2006, has become synonymous with the business community's struggle against human trafficking. It has brought together business leaders, committed personalities, NGOs, governments, experts and international organizations to work together on the matter of human trafficking.

The conference “Human Trafficking at the Crossroads” is held under the auspices of Her Highness Sheikha Sabeeka Bint Ibrahim Al-Khalifa, Wife of the His Majesty the King of Bahrain and Chairwoman of the Supreme Council for Women. It is co-organized by the Suzanne Mubarak Women’s International Peace Movement in partnership with End Human Trafficking Now, the United Nations Global Initiative against Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the International Labor Organisation (ILO), the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), and Vital Voice Global Partnership.

This conference will function as a focal point regarding public-private partnerships, pushing both towards taking a leadership role in tackling human trafficking, and therefore continuing on prior initiatives regarding this topic both in the region and beyond

It is hoped that this conference will lead to more support for the Athens Ethical Principles from a variety of global players, who are essential in assuring that all the correct measure and steps are taken to prevent human trafficking in all its possible forms. By doing this the conference would reach a key objective on the global agenda.

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