

End Human Trafficking Now

Enforcing the
UN Protocol

Luxor
International
Forum
10-12 Dec. 2010
Luxor, Egypt

Curiously made of ivory in shape of
human arms, possibly trafficked,
from the Central Empires
of Trans-Himalaya into Europe,
18th Century from Western Provinces,
Italy of the Kings.



UN.GIFT

Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking

CONCEPT PAPER

I. BACKGROUND

Some 200 years have passed since the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade, yet slavery as we know it has still not ended. It has, instead, evolved and exists today under a different guise – that of human trafficking, one of the most horrendous crimes against humanity. The victims of this new form of slavery are often kidnapped or enticed under false pretences, then held against their will. Many of them are forced to work long hours, under terrible conditions and without pay. Others are beaten, sexually abused, locked away or starved into submission.

In December 2000, the international community took the bold step of crafting the Palermo Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. It provided a powerful legal tool that has generated the adoption of legislation and institutional frameworks at international and national levels. Despite all these efforts, human trafficking remains a tragic reality with wide-ranging social, economic and legal implications that affect all segments of society.

The lack of understanding, indeed the denial of the scope and nature of the crime, is persistent. This is due to continued challenges such as the definition of what human trafficking is, lack of data, failure to consider the labour-exploitative aspect of trafficking, poor understanding of the manifestation of the crime at the local level, and a lack of capacity to address the issue at all levels. Consequently, human trafficking has become the second largest industry in the criminal world of today with more slaves at work than there has ever been at any point in history. Thousands of persons are trafficked each year falling victim to sexual exploitation, forced labour including child labour and other forms of exploitation. This modern form of slavery is a covert activity involving hidden populations and manifests itself in various forms in different parts of the world.

In January 2006, in Athens, committed personalities, business leaders, governments, NGOs, experts and international organisations, adopted the “Athens Ethical Principles” which outlined a zero tolerance approach to human trafficking by the business community. The campaign “End Human Trafficking Now” was launched and became synonymous with the business community’s fight against human trafficking. The visual stamp that was created for this event is widely used as a sign of engagement.

The campaign “End Human Trafficking Now”, in partnership with the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking, Orascom Telecom Holding, Manpower, The GAP, Microsoft, the World Bank, and Vital Voices Global Partnership, will hold an international forum against human trafficking from 10–12 December 2010, in Luxor, Egypt.

The forum will focus on key issues relating to human trafficking, identify best practices and positive experiences and carve out a set of challenges to pursue with various partners – governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations, and business and youth leaders. A special element will be the world preview of a feature length documentary on human trafficking, directed and produced by Academy Award nominee Robert Bilheimer (www.notmylife.org). The forum will also showcase photography and painting exhibitions, and will culminate in the announcement of the winner of the *first-ever* Business Leader’s Award to fight human trafficking.

The City of Luxor, often referred to as the world's greatest open air museum, will serve as a powerful symbolic backdrop against human trafficking and mark a milestone in international efforts to combat the crime, ten years after the Palermo Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons opened for signature.

II. OBJECTIVES

The Luxor Forum will aim to achieve the following:

1. Fully capture the various dimensions of human trafficking as a modern form of slavery and the heavy toll it poses to human dignity and security;
2. Engage moral figures, business leaders, artists and academics to assume the role of champions of this worthy cause;
3. Build on the dynamism and power of youth to jointly develop tangible solutions to combat human trafficking.

A special effort will be made to link with other campaigns such as human rights protection, violence against women and children, HIV/AIDS, and the campaign against missing children.

III. STRUCTURE AND CONTENT

The format of the Luxor Forum will cover:

1. **Discussion by eminent personalities: "What next after Palermo?"**
The eminent personalities will address key challenges of the Protocol and its implementation, including the diversity of interpretations and approaches to the Protocol, different definitions of trafficking and the lack of understanding of the scope and nature of this crime.
2. **Four thematic sessions**
Designed to promote dialogue, highlight priority issues and mobilize the highest level of political support to the cause. Each session will start with a documentary to introduce the theme of the session.

Session 1: Law and Corporate Practice

Corporations may be knowingly or unknowingly be involved in human trafficking by employing trafficked persons, allowing the use of their premises for exploitation of victims of trafficking, or purchasing goods from suppliers that are either complicit in human trafficking or that utilise trafficked labour. This panel will consider anti-human trafficking legislation as it applies to corporate practice, as well as voluntary corporate practices that go above and beyond the legal requirements, and assess trends at both national and international levels, towards corporate responsibility and efforts to tackle human trafficking.

What is the responsibility of the corporate world? Can companies and/or their executives be liable as direct perpetrators or complicit in human trafficking? What examples exist in national legislation, case-law and practice in countries? Should corporate law encourage companies to take proactive steps such as tightening corporate governance controls and adopting internal rules, to make sure that they are not implicated in human trafficking? Can examples from other areas such as corruption or child labour, be used as models for corporations? What legal

implications, such as fines or obligation to provide remedy to victims of abuse, can arise for corporations? Can responsibility be invoked directly from international law in cases where national legislation on the issue is lacking?

Session 2: Youth Speak Out

In many countries, children and young people account for a substantial portion of trafficked victims. Certain occupations, such as domestic help, baby-sitting or modelling, represent a particularly high risk for young people. In its search for more customers, the sex market is resorting to younger and younger persons to exploit. Youth and children must be sensitized to the dangers of human trafficking and the risks they may encounter so that they may assume an active role in fending for themselves. They must also be encouraged to use creative ways to inform and protect their peers and parents. This session will provide a platform to showcase projects undertaken by youth for youth, with examples from plays, modelling, cyberspace, to telecommunications, for use as role models in spreading the message against trafficking of children and youth.

Session 3: No to Exploitative Tourism!

Tourism is usually associated with holidays, pleasure and relaxation. However, tourist resorts and hotels have been notorious in hiding the worst forms of exploitation, violence and abuse, including numerous situations of sexual exploitation of children.

This session will discuss the role of the travel industry in ensuring that its premises and services are not misused for trafficking and exploitation. It will illustrate practical steps taken to alert both employees and customers not only to discourage them to from taking part in such practices, but also, to actively involve them in preventing and disclosing abuses, and in providing appropriate assistance to victims. It will showcase successful initiatives and good practices such as awareness-raising projects in the Philippines and India, which support and train station workers to recognize child victims of trafficking; or the Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism. The session will cover the challenges that remain in making trafficking-free tourism a reality.

Session 4: Impact of the Media and the Entertainment Industry

Media have seized human trafficking as a hot issue that ensures audience numbers and commercial revenue. But are they taking their advocacy roles seriously and are their messages on target? Are they reaching the audience that needs them or are they catering to the audience they want? What role do social media have in the fight against human trafficking? Can social networks reach more of the vulnerable than traditional media through text messaging and the internet? Do celebrity advocates think they are reaching the right people and making a difference? While laws and regulations are necessary tools to bring an end to impunity, a parallel strategy is needed which is particularly tuned to media to uncover and combat this crime.

Representatives of the media, art, entertainment industry and the larger cultural community will explore these issues and share their experience in an open panel.

3. A BBC World Debate

Produced by the BBC World Television will feature leading international figures who will explore the challenges and necessary actions to having a world free from human trafficking. The debate will address the shortcomings in understanding the extent of human trafficking in today's world, the role of various players and institutions, and the next generation of actions that need to be taken.

4. Announcement of the winner of the Business Leader's Award to Fight Human Trafficking

Business leaders are uniquely placed to combat exploitative labour practices and to raise awareness of human trafficking among workforces, peers and even consumers. In order to recognize business leaders who take an active stand against human trafficking, End Human Trafficking Now, UN.GIFT and the United Nations Global Compact have established this new international award (www.businessleaderaward.org).

The award will acknowledge business leaders who place their commitment to combat human trafficking at the heart of their business strategy and their efforts to promote corporate social responsibility through rewarding creativity in identifying, preventing and combating human trafficking. It will serve to stimulate businesses around the world to address the scourge of human trafficking and challenge them to adopt ethical business standards.

The winner of the award will be determined by a jury composed of individuals of high moral stature with demonstrated commitment to the ideals of the United Nations.

IV. WHO SHOULD ATTEND THE FORUM?

Participants will include eminent personalities, policy makers, business leaders, the media, government representatives, international and grassroots NGOs, international organisations, and academicians; and artistic and cultural representatives, including filmmakers, actors, painters, and photographers. The participation of youth is particularly encouraged.

V. CONTACTS

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