

Human Rights Council, 44th Session

Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children

2 July 2020

Presenters	Statements
Special Rapporteur	<p>The Special Rapporteur stated that increasing criminalization of regular migration is a driving factor of trafficking today. Restrictive migration policies and racist and xenophobic approaches exacerbate and create vulnerabilities to trafficking as undocumented migrants including trafficked persons are often forced to accept exploitative conditions. Lack of dedicated procedures to promptly protect victims and potential victims in mixed migration flows leads to further exposure to different forms of exploitation. The Special Rapporteur recommended a shift from criminal law to an approach in which trafficking is considered primarily a human rights and social justice issue.</p>
Greece	<p>Greece reported that they have been implementing the National Program on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women since 2010, in addressing all forms of gender-based violence- domestic violence, rape, sexual harassment, trafficking of women etc. The program includes the operation of a 24-hour multilingual SOS telephone and e-mail helpline which operates the whole year. This nationwide low-cost and confidential helpline is staffed by gender-trained counselors and services are currently provided in English, Arabic and Farsi, thus being more accessible to migrants.</p>
Ecuador	<p>Ecuador noted the importance of States identifying, assisting and protecting victims of trafficking and those who are at risk of trafficking, through measures that allow the detection of the particular vulnerabilities of migrants in order to offer them effective protection, in accordance with the provisions of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, among other instruments. Ecuador efforts to combat trafficking includes collaboration with the "TRACK4TIP" initiative, which aims to transform alerts into criminal justice responses to combat trafficking in persons within migratory flows, with a</p>

multidisciplinary and victim-centered approach. Ecuador has institutional regulatory frameworks and public policies for the prevention, investigation and prosecution of human trafficking and comprehensive protection for its victims.

Nepal

Nepal noted its efforts, through various legislative and policy measures, to combat trafficking in persons including enacting Human Trafficking and Transportation (Control) Act, Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, as well as the Foreign Employment Act, which aim to combat trafficking and extend legal and social assistance to victims of trafficking, especially women, children and vulnerable migrants.

Iraq

Iraq shared deep concern about how migrants are subjected to trafficking, especially women and children, requesting the Special Rapporteur for further clarifications on the ways in which States should follow to ensure protection of migrant women and their children from trafficking in them.

Philippines

Philippines notes the serious anti-trafficking challenges in the context of mixed migration, resulting in the heightened vulnerability of migrants and their lack of access to protective measures. Philippines fully agrees with the Special Rapporteur that the protection of migrants' rights is directly linked with ensuring the full protection of the rights of trafficked persons. Philippines calls on all States to ensure that migration policies are reviewed and that perspective of victims of trafficking is mainstreamed to ensure a human rights-based and holistic approach.

Associazione
Comunita Papa
Giovanni XXIII

Associazione Comunita Papa Giovanni XXIII (APG23) stated that policies put into action to prosecute migration unfortunately receive more attention and momentum than policies that aim to prevent, contrast and condemn human trafficking. APG23 noted that migrants who move to new places in order to achieve their right to development, are far more criminalised than human traffickers. APG23 called for change in the narrative on migration overcoming the security perspective that criminalises migrants and trafficked persons with the claim to protect the citizens of rich countries who feel threatened by the new arrivals. The real victims are those vulnerable people that put their life and liberty at risk to pursue their wellbeing. The victims should not be

prosecuted for their need and search for a better life. There is need to address the pull factors that create the demand for human trafficking. APG23 stated support for the “Nordic Model” that reduces the demand for sexual exploitation by fining the clients and believes that it is crucial to guarantee social protection, empowerment and social inclusion of women trafficked for sexual exploitation.