



GWI United Nations Representative Advocacy Report Vienna 2023

GWI advocacy goals

1. 100% of United Nations Member States commit to policy, legislation, budget, and infrastructure to facilitate transition of girls from primary to secondary school and ensure gender parity and gender equality throughout secondary education by 2030.
2. By 2030 100% of United Nations low-income Member States have increased access to tertiary education for girls and women by 50%.
3. 100% of United Nations Member States commit to and implement policies for continuing education to empower women throughout the life course, within the formal and informal economies.
4. Influence the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4.
5. All 17 SDGs will include girls' education targets.

Meeting attended:

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice – Special Event Launch of the 2022 UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons

24/1/2023

Vienna International Centre

Subject of meeting: The UN Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons mandates that every two years UNODC should produce a Global Report to inform international efforts to fight human trafficking. The Report draws upon the largest existing global dataset on trafficking in persons, with information from 141 countries on more than 450,000 victims and 300,000 suspected offenders detected worldwide.

The 2022 Global Report was launched at a Special Event, chaired by CCPCJ Chair Ambassador Mary Mugwanja from Kenya, and Ghada Waly, UNODC Executive Director and Director General of the UN Office at Vienna. Panel speakers included Angela Me, the Chair of the Research and Trend Analysis Branch, UNODC; Ilias Chatzis, Chief of the Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Section, UNODC; Marcelo Colombo, Chief of the Special Prosecutor's Office against Human Trafficking, Argentina; and Malaika Oringo, Trafficking Survivor and CEO/Founder of Footprint to Freedom. After the panel presentation, delegates from many countries made statements. One NGO statement was allowed.

The Report highlights the following **key findings**:

- **Number of detected victims** falls for the first time in 20 years, as the pandemic limits trafficking opportunities and potentially pushes it further underground, while **constraining law enforcement capacities** to target the crime.

- **Trafficking for sexual exploitation** was less detected during the pandemic.
- Victims rely on **“self-rescue”** – escaping and reaching out to the authorities on their own initiative - as anti-trafficking responses fall short. In 41% of cases, initial action came from the victims; in 28% from law enforcement.
- Global **slowdown in convictions** continued during the Covid-19 pandemic. In 2020 there was a 27% reduction in the number of convictions globally compared to the year before – including a 56% reduction in South Asia.
- **Increased impunity** in home countries results in more victims trafficked to more destinations.
- **War and conflict** offer hunting grounds for traffickers.
- **Climate change** is multiplying trafficking risks. It increases vulnerability to trafficking in persons by acting as a stress multiplier.
- Boys and men account for a greater share of detected victims as **new forms of exploitation** – normally forced criminality - emerge.
- Women and children suffer **greater violence** at the hands of traffickers. Female victims are subjected to violence at a rate three times higher than males.
- More **highly organized traffickers** exploit more victims, with more violence and for longer periods of time.

In her preface to the Report, Ms Waly writes, ‘We cannot allow this immoral crime to be met with indifference and impunity. Let us take this opportunity to redouble our commitment and bring together concerned communities with governments, law enforcement, health and social services, schools, civil society, academia, the UN and all partners to strengthen resilience against exploitation and end trafficking in persons once and for all.’



L - The Chair of CCPCJ, Amb. Mary Mugwanja speaking at the Special Event; C - a presentation slide showing that female victims and children suffer more violent forms of trafficking; R – The Special Event ‘flyer’.

Refers to SDG no #: particular reference to 5, 8, and 16

Relevant treaties/conventions/resolutions: UN Global Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons; UNTOC; CEDAW, etc

What GWI resolution(s) does your attendance relate to? (i.e. Tolerance of Minority Groups (5), FGM (6), Human Trafficking (7), Child Marriage (8), etc.) - 7

Personal observations: There has clearly been significant progress in enhancing global awareness, helping to build national frameworks for identifying and protecting victims, encouragement of international co-operation / sharing of intelligence, training of specialist law enforcement - but human trafficking continues as a vile scourge. Trafficking for forced labour, sexual exploitation, forced criminal activity, forced marriage, exploitative begging, illegal adoption, removal of body organs continues

in all global regions. Disappointingly, there is increasing impunity in certain key countries and regions. In many countries, the root causes of trafficking - including the lack of education and training – are still not being addressed.

The reduction in the detection of victims trafficked for sexual exploitation is obviously encouraging, but, as the speakers commented, this may be because pandemic-related restrictions have pushed this into more concealed and less safe locations, making it harder to identify victims.

It is clear, that war and conflict offer opportunities for traffickers to exploit. The Global Report shows that the war in Ukraine is elevating trafficking risks for the displaced population. Most victims resulting from conflicts originate in and are trafficked to countries in Africa and the Middle East. Sadly, many victims, once ‘freed’, do not have the resources to repatriate themselves and to go home.

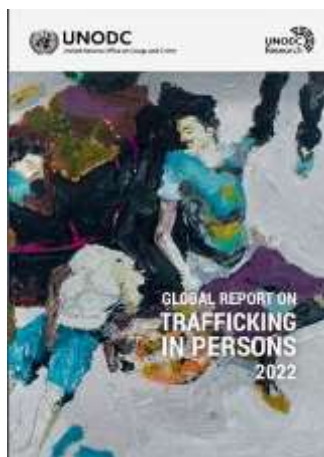
It is alarming and a continuing indictment of law enforcement systems worldwide that victims of trafficking have principally to rely on ‘self rescue’. Once in the grip of the trafficking gangs, they are unlikely to be rescued by law enforcement.

Although the news on global progress is mixed, the Global Report is very well done and an essential source of reference for all who are interested in Human Trafficking and working to combat and reduce it. NFAs and Individual Members may like to access it directly: -

https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/2022/GLOTiP_2022_web.pdf

There is an excellent summary of special points / key findings: -

https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/2022/GLOTiP_22_Special_points_of_interest.pdf



L - The cover of the Report. R – Elisabeth Francis (l) next to Ingeborg Geyer, the Vienna UN Rep for Zonta International, while Ms Geyer delivers the verbal statement.

How this serves GWI members: Human Trafficking is a crime that impacts many women worldwide. Combatting it is a key GWI Advocacy objective.

Next steps: The Report contains many excellent recommendations. NFAs can follow up with national or regional authorities to see whether these are being adopted and effectively implemented in their home countries.

There will be a follow up meeting with NGO representatives by the experts who wrote the Global Report.

Did you take any photographs? If yes, please include captions - Included

Elisabeth Francis
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