



## STATEMENT FOR THE INFORMAL DIALOGUE WITH THE CO-FACILITATORS DURING THE FIFTH THEMATIC CONSULTATION ON THE GLOBAL COMPACT ON MIGRATION

### SMUGGLING OF MIGRANTS, TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS AND CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY, INCLUDING APPROPRIATE IDENTIFICATION, PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE TO MIGRANTS AND TRAFFICKING VICTIMS

A person migrating is vulnerable! This vulnerability can be heightened depending on the reasons for migrating, the challenges along the journey, and the lack of integration into new environments. A migrant may be deceived, tricked or coerced by traffickers offering an escape route from misery, poverty, and violence and end up in an exploitative situation for sexual purposes, labour, or the removal of organs. Human rights-based policies for safe, orderly and regular migration are an antidote to victimization at the hands of smugglers and traffickers.

Good Shepherd programs around the world respond to girls and women who have been trafficked. Every day we encounter the trauma, pain and disappointment of those who are promised work abroad only to find themselves sold, into prostitution, domestic work or other under-regulated sectors, trapped by recruitment fees, or bound to a single employer, with their passports taken, and without access to justice. Reforms are needed to remove institutionalized risks in temporary, guest-worker or circular migration programs, including worker-paid recruitment fees, lack of portability of documents, and sponsorship schemes that tie visas to a particular employer, as these create vulnerability to trafficking.

Migration policies based on deterrence, criminalization or increased securitization do not prevent migration. It is the opinion of our organization that anti-trafficking policy must not be co-opted and used as a justification for increased border security, enforcement, or other anti-migrant policies that violate the rights and dignity of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. Rather, enforcement must shift focus towards the criminals - **the traffickers and smugglers** - who prey on migrants who are vulnerable in countries of origin and transit, and the **'users'** who create demand for sexual services, cheap labour and human organs in countries of destination.

Already, some good normative frameworks are in place at the global and national level,<sup>1</sup> but they are not adequately implemented and monitored for effectiveness.

We heard references yesterday to the activities of Alliance 8.7. In a time when we see the interconnections of various phenomena and have been advocating for integrated approaches why

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols Thereto: Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, Protocol against the Smuggling of The General Assembly Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons and the draft Resolution for adoption on September 27, 2017 in NY during the appraisal  
The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development especially SDG's 5.2; 8.7 and 16.2  
National legislation – Sweden, Norway, Iceland, Northern Ireland, France, Republic of Ireland, Israel and Canada – adopting the Nordic model to prosecute anyone who purchases sex and decriminalize the person who is selling.

separate 8.7 from 5.2 and 16.2, all of which relate to human trafficking. The issues of gender based violence and sexually exploited girls and women cannot be relativized to other forms of trafficking. Lack of political will and the complicity of governments, societies and indeed all of us that turn a blind eye to the links between human trafficking, the sex trade, gender-based violence, and cheap labor, in favor of profit, sex, a good bargain, or a human organ facilitate this exploitation.

If the global compact on migration is not gender sensitive and does not address gender based violence in all its aspect it is merely another policy document that fails women and girls, in that it permits traffickers, smugglers and pimps to become legitimate business people and sexually exploited girls and women to become 'official migrant workers'. Trafficking into prostitution and prostitution as a root cause of trafficking, and vulnerability in smuggling must be squarely addressed. An exploitive, consumerist economy is the antithesis of human rights and human dignity.

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