INVITATION

Final Ministerial Conference
Guidelines for the Collection of Data on Trafficking in Human Beings, Including Comparable Indicators

Vienna 23-24 February 2009

Dear Madam/Sir,

It is our pleasure to invite you to the “Final Ministerial Conference on Guidelines for the Collection of Data on Trafficking in Human Beings, Including Comparable Indicators” taking place in Vienna, Austria, on 23-24 February 2009.

The conference will gather representatives from EU and IOM Member States, international agencies, national parliaments, NGOs, researchers and media in order to present, disseminate and discuss the Guidelines. The program will start with a ceremonial launch of the publication at ministerial level and will then continue for one and a half days at senior expert level to analyze the Guidelines and their envisaged implementation. Please find enclosed the draft agenda.

The conference concludes the project “Development of Guidelines for the Collection of Data on Trafficking in Human Beings, Including Comparable Indicators” which has been implemented by the Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration in Vienna since 2007. The European Commission (Directorate-General Justice, Freedom and Security) is generously funding this project under the “Prevention of and Fight against Crime Programme 2007”. The partners of this project are the Belgian Federal Police, the Ministry of Justice and Law Enforcement of Hungary, the Ministry of the Interior of Italy, the Police of Luxembourg, the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic, the Ministry of Justice of Sweden, Europol and ICMPD.

The project has addressed the current lack of data on trafficking in human beings by aiming at the development of a standardized set of guidelines for the collection of data, including comparable indicators ideally to be implemented in all EU Member States one day. An expert team, including representatives from governments, EU institutions, International Organizations, NGOs, research institutes as well as many others have majorly contributed to the elaboration of the Guidelines and approaches to its implementation on national and European level. The preliminary findings of this project have been discussed at a conference held at the European Parliament 18-19 September 2008 (“European Approaches Towards Data Collection on Trafficking in Human Beings”).

We would very much welcome your participation and are looking forward to engaged and fruitful discussions during this conference. Kindly register by 13 February 2009 using the attached registration form. Further information as well as the finalized agenda will be communicated in due time. Ms. Barbara Albrecht, Counter-Trafficking Focal Point of IOM Vienna (balbrecht@iom.int), is at your disposal for any questions you may have.

Brigadier General Kurt Hager
Federal Ministry of the Interior, Austria

Pier Rossi-Longhi, Officer in Charge
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