

# GLOBAL EYE ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING

A Bulletin of News, Information and Analysis on Trafficking in Persons  
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## Straddling the Border: Drug Mules and Human Trafficking

### INSIDE

#### Feature

Straddling the Border:  
Drug Mules and Human  
Trafficking ..... 1

#### Perspectives

Trafficking and Sexual  
Exploitation of Boys  
and Male Adolescents in  
Central America ..... 2

#### Country Profile

Norway extends reflection period  
for victims of  
human trafficking ..... 3

#### Involvement

Finding hope in  
West Africa ..... 4

#### Initiatives

The Blue Blindfold  
Campaign ..... 4

UN Inter-Agency Project on  
Human Trafficking (UNIAP):  
Forging Interagency Cooperation  
in Combatting Trafficking in  
Persons ..... 5

Events and  
Publications ..... 6

#### On the Next Issue....

Issue 6 of *The Global Eye on Human Trafficking* will touch upon the relationship between human trafficking and human rights. Please send contributions to [globaleye@iom.int](mailto:globaleye@iom.int)

*Olga Heaven M.B.E. is the Director and Founder of Hibiscus, a charitable organization established in 1990 specifically to cater for the special needs of foreign nationals and British based Black and Minority Ethnic women in prison who have been convicted of drug smuggling. In 2008, Hibiscus worked with 380 women and over 1000 children. Olga spoke to the Global Eye team about the deception and exploitation of drug mules, and about the link between illicit drug importation and human trafficking.*

#### How are people generally recruited into being drug mules?

They are recruited in different ways depending on the country, and depending on whether they are professional couriers or simply drug mules. A typical example of a drug mule is a single woman with two children and a mother to take care of. Something may have happened within the family, or the woman may owe money or fall behind with the rent or the school fees.

A friend or family member who organises drugs transportation may identify her vulnerability and her need, and may lend her some money to pay off the bill. Then, within a couple of weeks, they will demand the money back knowing that she will not have it and will tell her she has to carry drugs for them. It's a type of coercion but the woman does not see it this way because she owes them the money and feels obliged to pay it back. In other cases, women may have seen their friends or family travel and transport drugs and make money from it, and so they themselves seek out the recruiters. However, those cases are few and far between. The majority are either coerced or tricked into it.

#### In what geographical area do drug mule recruiters thrive?

The countries of origin vary but many are countries that are having severe economic problems. Previously, mules

tended to come from countries such as Nigeria and Jamaica. More recently, however, we have seen a recent increase in drug mules from South Africa, the Caribbean islands and also from Europe.



Olga Heaven, MBE  
Director and Founder

#### Are the people recruited predominately women or are men also recruited?

We focus primarily on women because they are more vulnerable to being recruited than men since they tend to be the primary carer of their children and they are the ones that worry about food on the table, school fees, etc. Of course we do work with some men who were carers for their wives and children and who got caught up in the situation. These men seek us out because they know about our line of work. In such cases, we meet the wives and children and identify their needs and work with them.

#### In what ways do drug traffickers prey on these women's vulnerabilities?

Apart from swooping in at times of financial crisis there are other cases such as the 'boyfriend syndrome.' For example, at one point we had five very young, very attractive women in prison. We eventually found out that all of them had the same boyfriend, and three of them had been made pregnant by him. They were beautiful young girls who would never have been in this situation if the social infrastructure of the country had been better.

#### Do you see a link between drug and human trafficking?

Yes, in many cases, women are sent with the drugs and when they arrive in the UK and deliver them, the drug traffickers who sent them will put them to work as a prostitute, drugs supplier or as a maid. These women are used

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED HEREIN  
DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT  
THE VIEWS OF IOM.



for different purposes depending on their age and physical appearance. That is human trafficking. However, if the woman gets caught, the trafficking element doesn't come into play. Instead, it's the offence of drugs importation that becomes the most prevalent issue for the authorities. Hundreds of women who are drug mules have been trafficked and they don't even realise it because the word trafficking is not prevalent in the community.

### In what ways are drug mules deceived about the process of carrying the drugs?

There is deception about several things. Sometimes, the mules are deceived and receive no money, or as little as 100 GBP to be used as pocket money before they make the trip. Once they arrive in the country and get caught the only payment they will receive is this 100 GBP. In some cases when the mules are caught, the recruiters will tell them "you've wasted my money and my drugs and you have to carry the drugs again." There is also a lot of deception about how the mules will get across the border. Usually the recruiters tell the women that if they have children and get caught, the drugs will be taken from them and they will simply be sent back home. What they fail to mention is that they could be sent to prison for their actions.

In some countries where these women come from, they don't imprison women that much or they don't hear about it; this is why education is so important. You have to have sympathy for these women when you hear their stories. I

mean it's so complex, we have women from 18-70 that are carrying drugs. When we meet a typical woman who is in her mid to late 50s with grandchildren who is the sole provider for them and who decides to carry drugs because it's the only way she is going to survive, you have to have sympathy for her.

### Can you tell us more about the work you do in terms of reintegration in the mules' origin country?

While the women are in prison we work with their children who remain in the country of origin by delivering food parcels, ensuring they go to school, and that they remain living with their extended family. We negotiate with the schools because you also have to pay for education in these countries, and try and get the kids back into school without paying. When a woman returns to her country of origin, we will work with her for a few months and we will identify what she learnt while in prison. Sometimes if a group of them have done knitting and crocheting, we will invite buyers to come and see the things they are selling. We also use these women in our educational campaigns in schools and we pay them to tell the children about their experiences. This type of initiative really works because it's first hand information. For those that had jobs before they left, we try to find them another job. So we use different tactics depending on the situation. ■

For more information on Hibiscus visit <http://www.hibiscuslondon.org.uk/>

## Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Boys and Male Adolescents in Central America

by José Manuel Cepellín, Casa Alianza Honduras

Through its extensive presence in Central America, Casa Alianza, an international NGO dedicated to assisting abandoned children, has been able to recognize the gravity of Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and human trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation of boys, girls and adolescents in the region. Although women and girls are usually regarded as the "typical" victims of this type of abuse, research conducted by Casa Alianza in 20 Honduran cities found that, from a sample of 1,019 minors victims of sexual exploitation, 42 of them (4 per cent) were male. Amongst the victims that have been screened by Casa Alianza there are also a significant number of persons who either identify themselves as gay or transsexual.

### The business of sexual exploitation in Central America

At Casa Alianza Honduras, we have been able to document a clear link between migration of minors and trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation and CSE. Indeed, our experience shows that the majority of migrant boys and girls who travel alone are exploited sexually and many are vulnerable to becoming victims of trafficking. Young migrants

are forced into these situations not only because of economic necessity but also, because traffickers, pimps and other intermediaries also coerce them into sexually exploitative situations.

The exploiters of boys and male adolescents are most often middle-aged men. These men search for boys in lodging establishments, bus stations, and fast-food restaurants, among other places and pay anywhere from 15 to 100 USD. However, in the Central America-Mexico migration circuit Casa Alianza has documented a case where



Picture by Hilary Duffy

there was an effort to "buy" a boy for at least 3,000 USD. The most frequent type of CSE in this context is remunerated s e x u a l

relations, paid either in cash or in kind with clothes, shoes, mobile telephones, food and entertainment. Certain forms of sexual exploitation such as pornography, sexual tourism or using young males

in public/private erotic shows are not easily documented as they usually occur clandestinely. While there are some institutional responses in Central America for female victims of trafficking and CSE, the state response to sexual exploitation of boys and male adolescents is almost non-existent. We believe that in order to address the particular vulnerabilities of young male victims of trafficking and CSE, the following key elements must be taken into account when creating a strategy for protection and service provision targeted at this particular group: a) Masculinity and adolescence b) Humiliation suffered c) Drug abuse d) STDs and HIV/AIDS e) Street violence and "street" survival f) The inalienability of the human rights of the victim g) Sexuality.

When dealing with gay and transsexual boys and male adolescents victims of trafficking and CSE, it is important to respect the sexual identity of minors, and we would advise that assistance targeting this particularly vulnerable group must not try to repress the sexuality of the victim. Indeed, individuality must be at the core of any intervention strategy. Service

providers must also remember that adolescents have the same inalienable rights as adults. Homosexuality and transgender are not illnesses or pathologies; therefore, their presence does not in and of itself require psychological, much less psychiatric, intervention. In this context, all victims of trafficking and of CSE, including boys and male adolescent victims, must be given information related to their sexual rights.

The provision of services for boys and male adolescents do not vary greatly from the attention that should be given to all minors who have been victims

of trafficking and CSE. Psychological assistance, for example should be used to minimize the consequences sexual victimization can have on boys, girls and adolescents. The reconstruction of emotional family links must also be taken into consideration in order to guarantee full reintegration of the victims into their communities, while taking into consideration that in many instances the family can play role in the exploitation process of the minor.

However, there are specific aspects and conditions that are unique to boys and male adolescents. For Casa Alianza, it remains a formidable challenge to

communicate the particular conditions and vulnerabilities of this population to the authorities and society at large. Until these issues are understood, a comprehensive social protection scheme which aims to restore this population with their fundamental rights is not feasible. In the meantime Casa Alianza will continue fighting to integrate the particular needs of this population into the implementation and development of its service programmes.■

For more information on the work of Casa Alianza please contact the author at honduras@casa-alianza.org.hn

## COUNTRY PROFILE

### Norway Extends Reflection Period for Victims of Human Trafficking

by Jan Austad, THB Coordinator Ministry of Justice Norway

In 2005, Norway signed the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. Article 13 in the Convention states that countries shall provide a recovery and reflection period of at least 30 days, when there are reasonable grounds to believe that the person concerned is a victim of trafficking. Prior to signing the convention, Norway had already introduced a reflection period of 45 days and thus the obligations set forth in the aforementioned legal instrument were already fulfilled. However, research reports in conjunction with practical experience, point to the fact that most victims need a considerably longer amount of time for physical and psychological recovery, before being able to make sound choices about their future. Lawyers and NGOs who deemed the 45-day period reflection period as inadequate often advised victims to apply for asylum.

These protection gaps were taken into consideration by all relevant stakeholders in the 2006 Action Plan against Trafficking. As a result,



trafficked persons were granted temporary residence and work permits for 6 months. The Norwegian government hopes that this new initiative will not only increase the likelihood for perpetrators to be prosecuted, but also allow the

presumed victims to have more time to break away from the traffickers.

In order to access this reflection period, trafficked persons must have the intention to break away from the trafficking situation, and while victims are strongly encouraged to place a formal complaint against the perpetrators, they are not required to do so. In addition, if a presumed victim has already given a statement to the police and an investigation has been initiated, the government can grant a reflection period and a temporary work permit of up to one year provided that the victims' ongoing presence is required in connection with the investigation and court proceedings. If a victim finally gives evidence in a court case concerning trafficking in human beings, permanent residence in Norway can be granted. Amendments to the Plan of Action, introduced in May 2008, grant EU citizens the right to apply for a reflection period, in light of the fact that many of the victims being identified in Norway are nationals of Bulgaria and Romania, two countries which acceded to the European Union in 2007.

A first look at the numbers of applicants reflects an increasing demand for a reflection period by trafficking victims: In 2008, the Norwegian government received a total of 51 applications and granted a reflection period to 42 of the applicants while rejecting the remaining 9. In 2007, the first year that a victim could access the extended reflection period, the government ruled in favour

of 35 applications. Despite these apparently low figures, it is important to note that prior to the implementation of the Plan of Action, only 10 reflection periods were granted annually.

#### Challenges

In addition to allowing victims a temporary stay in Norway, there is a need for comprehensive measures to assist victims in their physical, psychological and social recovery. Indeed, creating predictable and safe services for a relatively small group of presumed victims of trafficking remains a daunting challenge in Norway.

Moreover, certain problems arise from the fact that, currently, there is no convergence between the benefits granted to asylum seekers and those granted to trafficking victims. However, evidence shows that many victims of trafficking eventually apply for asylum after their reflection period has terminated. The Norwegian government is looking at ways to harmonize the systems in order to prevent duplication of efforts and provide those in need with appropriate protection mechanisms.

Finally, there is an urgent need for precise information explaining the consequences of receiving a reflection period. The Ministry of Justice has now developed an information brochure with details on the benefits and obligations. The brochure, which will be translated into the most relevant languages, aims to be a useful tool for victims as well as those organisations providing assistance.■

## Finding Hope in West Africa

*Confiage*, widespread throughout West Africa, was originally a system of mutual assistance based on principles of solidarity and affection. As tradition has it, a relative or friend of the family fosters the child and supports him or her during their formative years, providing room, board, and education. However, this traditional practice can result in child exploitation, as is the case for many children sent to what parents think are Qur'anic schools but where they are in fact forced to beg, often far from their community of origin.

According to UNICEF, only 8% of the talibés (students at Qur'anic schools) who beg in the street are natives of their city of residence. Eight years ago, when Aliou was only six, an old friend of the family offered to take him to Dakar, where he would teach him the Qur'an and life in a big city. His parents accepted. "He showed us a picture of himself surrounded by children in brightly coloured, expensive clothes."

"I thought I would learn, play and be taken good care of," Aliou says. But he was wrong: after a long journey with five other boys, he was given an empty can of tomato sauce and sent off to beg in the streets of Dakar. It was a shock for Aliou who had never begged for anything before. For seven years his days remained the same: wake-up call is at 5 am. The children copy the Qur'an for an hour, and then are sent to beg until the afternoon. At 2 pm, they put away the few coins they have been given and go door to door to pick up the neighbours' leftovers. The person posing as their *marabout* (Qur'anic teacher) does not provide any food or clothing, and often no medicine when they need it. In the evening they read the Qur'an for another hour and then go out begging again to complete their daily *versement* (payment). The schedule does not leave much time for studying. "It should take two years to learn the Qur'an from top to bottom," Aliou says, "But I've been a talibé in Dakar for seven years, and I haven't had time to finish reading it once."

*"...this traditional practice can result in child exploitation, as is the case for many children sent to what parents think are Qur'anic schools but where they are in fact forced to beg, often far from their community of origin."*

When their *versement* does not reach the amount set by the *marabout*, the children are severely beaten, often by the older boys as well. Most of the children who flee are trying to escape these punishments. Aliou explains that it is difficult to break your links with this life, "but sometimes you've had enough." The night of his escape, a neighbor saw Aliou alone in the street and took him to GINDDI, a government-run shelter in Dakar for children managed by the Senegalese Ministry of Family, Social Development and National Solidarity.

NGOs and government centers in Dakar and throughout Senegal strive to take care of hundreds of children like Aliou who come from all regions of Senegal as well as from Guinea Bissau, Guinea and Mali. Shelters in Dakar, Bamako, Conakry and Ouagadougou try to take care of them and make the best of scarce resources.

### What's next for Aliou?

Home, he says. He wants to return to Guinea Bissau and finish reading the Qur'an at the local Qur'anic school or, *daara*. He also wants to go to elementary school and learn Creole. Adeline, the social worker responsible for him at the Dakar shelter, has been teaching him how to read and write. She says that "Most of these children are very quick, very bright. They jump at any opportunity to learn something, and we should encourage them to continue with their education once they return home." In the framework of a programme that has assisted over 200 West African children in similar situations, The Association of the Friends of Children (AMIC), a local NGO, has located Aliou's family and is drawing up a reintegration programme in preparation for the boy's return. The plan is to enrol him in primary school so he can continue his education while in the evenings Aliou would like to attend a *daara* which is close to his village. ■

### The Association of the Friends of Children (AMIC)

AMIC, a Bissau Guinean NGO created in October 1984, aims to assist children in situations of socio-economical vulnerability: orphans, abandoned children, street children, working children, children with disabilities, war victims, as well as children and women in conflict with the law. AMIC works closely with the Programme for West Africa (PAO) and the International Social Service (ISS), two organizations that aim to contribute to the capacity building of West African countries in order to support vulnerable children in difficult circumstances and provide for their social or professional reintegration across borders.

# INITIATIVES

## The Blue Blindfold Campaign by Glynn Rankin Director of Legal Services UKHTC

The Blue Blindfold campaign aims to raise awareness among key groups about the nature and extent of human trafficking in the United Kingdom. This initiative was launched in February 2008 at the House of Lords of the UK Parliament, with the support of the "All Party Parliamentary Group on Trafficking".

Since symbols, such as the Olympic rings and the letters "UN" are very powerful and immediately recognised worldwide without the need for words, the main goal of the Blue Blindfold Campaign is to establish an internationally recognizable



symbol for human trafficking. The blindfold is blue to represent both the EU and UN and endorsement from both will be sought in due course. The blindfold indicates that we are blind to trafficking that is all around us, and that trafficking is not a "remote" issue, but rather something that is local to us and impacts on our communities.

The blindfold is also a symbol of our own ignorance, the need to keep our eyes open to what is going on around us, and if we see something, not to close our eyes to it but take some positive action by reporting the matter to the local police. Hence the messages of the campaign: “Don’t close your eyes to human trafficking”, and “Could be in your town, your community, your workplace”. Given the nature of the crime, victims understandably can be reluctant and frightened to come forward; as such, both the public and the authorities need to be vigilant and aware in order to combat this modern form of slavery. The campaign is designed to encourage the public to share any suspicions or information with the police who will investigate with the specialist resources of the United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC). Established to lead the fight against human trafficking, the Centre brings together a number of agencies – from law enforcement and government to non-governmental agencies (NGOs) and charities – to create a specialised expert team. The Blue Blindfold prevention and awareness raising campaign has been developed on advice from multiple agencies that many past campaigns have been short lived, seldom evaluated, and have only short term impact. The Blue Blindfold Prevention campaign will be evaluated by an independent agency and this evaluation is being funded by the Home Office.

The UKHTC has, through working with its partners, identified four key audiences, to raise awareness of human trafficking; these being:

1. Victims themselves. How do we safely get messages to victims?
2. Law enforcement. “Up-skilling” and raising the awareness of law enforcement agency staff at all levels.
3. The general public, including specific groups, such as men who purchase sex and employers of undocumented workers.
4. Other key professions such as the Health Service and Social Services - to raise awareness and help identify victims at an earlier stage.

The strength of the campaign has been the use of a symbol for trafficking that is easily recognizable to both those being trafficked and society at large. The Blue Blindfold symbol reinforces the message to the four key audiences and other professionals. The symbol is accompanied by the number of the Crimestoppers Helpline, the only hotline in the UK which has staff trained to address issues related to human

trafficking. The number, 0800 555 111 is readily identifiable in source, transit and destination countries. The International Organization for Migration (IOM), among others, supports the Blue Blindfold Campaign and is currently in discussion with the UKHTC on ways to extend the campaign to other countries. The Blue Blindfold campaign has been supported by the following countries: Poland, UK, the Netherlands and Ireland. These countries, as well as Europol and Interpol, are also integrating the campaign into wider counter-trafficking efforts. The registered charity Crimestoppers International has endorsed the Blue Blindfold as their global brand on human trafficking. Other partners are The Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre, Crimestoppers UK, Eaves (the POPPY Project), MTV EXIT and STOP THE TRAFFIK.



A number of MEPs have also initiated a formal EU Parliamentary Declaration to press all EU states to adopt the campaign in the framework of their national counter-trafficking efforts. Over 100 MEPs signed the written declaration sponsored by Liz Lynne, a British Liberal MEP; however, the declaration had to obtain 405 signatures within a defined time period to succeed. Although the declaration did not receive enough support another declaration will

eventually be put forth, hopefully this year. The framers of this initiative hope to generate greater publicity around the initiative in order to guarantee wider support within the European Union.

Prevention campaigns have been at the core of counter-trafficking efforts at a national, regional and international level. The results of these campaigns, however, have seldom been measured leading many experts to question their effectiveness. A report which analyzed the prevention campaigns during the 2006 World Cup in Germany concluded that one large campaign for various target groups may have been more effective than the implementation of several small campaigns. The Blue Blindfold Campaign could be one such campaign as it addresses various target groups within one overarching symbol. ■

For more information on the Blue Blindfold Campaign please visit <http://www.blueblindfold.co.uk/>

## UN Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking (UNIAP): Forging interagency Cooperation in Combating Trafficking in Persons by Lance Bonneau, IOM Bangkok

Counter-trafficking efforts are usually characterised by a multitude of agencies working alongside one another, often in an uncoordinated manner, to implement programs in line with their respective area of expertise. However, not all agencies share the same perspectives on the issue, nor coordinate effectively when implementing similar activities leading to project overlap, lack of standardisation and, at worst, division of purpose.

Having recognised the negative effects loose coordination can have on counter-trafficking activities, agencies working in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (Cambodia, PR China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam) coalesced around UNIAP in 2000 to strengthen coordination efforts and build upon the respective strengths of well established UN, IO and NGO anti-trafficking programmes in the region. This initiative is underpinned by a sub-regional plan of action (SPA) that draws together the respective counter-trafficking activi-

ties of all the UNIAP partner agencies across the GMS, which are largely funded and implemented independently, into a common strategic approach. UNIAP, serving as secretariat, is guided by a project management board composed of the UNDP Resident Coordinator, ILO, IOM, UNICEF, UNODC and, on a rotational basis, members from other UN agencies, donor representatives and a government representative.

UNIAP has positively contributed to promoting broad cooperation and coordination among the range of anti-trafficking stakeholders, but the project itself is not an implementing entity; rather it is a facilitator of coordination and consistency in approach- its strength comes from the collective efforts of participating partners. Challenges remain and true impact will only be achieved if donors and host governments similarly coordinate their inputs toward building the momentum that is necessary to have a sustained impact on the issue. ■

**Sex, Slaves and Citizens: the Politics of Anti-Trafficking**  
**Bridget Anderson and Rutvica Andrijasevic**

In this paper published in the winter issue of *Soundings*, Anderson and Andrijasevic criticize the current approach to counter-trafficking anchored in the UN Trafficking Protocol. The authors mention that to this day, the fight against trafficking in persons has centred around stereotyped images of innocent victim/evil trafficker while ignoring the role structural factors can play, not only in trafficking but in migrant exploitation in general. The general consensus that has been built around the need to combat what is largely considered a transnational crime, does not mean that the fight against trafficking in persons is de-politicised; indeed, state efforts to combat trafficking are very much linked to the politics of labour, sex and citizenship. This paper also argues for the need to detach trafficking in persons from the debate surrounding irregular migration as trafficking can also occur within legal migration channels.

<http://www.lwbooks.co.uk/journals/soundings/archive/soundings40.html>

**IOM Handbook on Direct Assistance for Victims of Trafficking (Arabic)**

In 2007, IOM published the IOM Handbook on Direct Assistance to Victims of Trafficking in order to provide guidance and advice to a growing number of organizations, especially local NGOs, who provide direct assistance to victims of trafficking. The



Arabic version of the handbook, which was launched in December 2008 is now available at <http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/cache/offonce/pid/1674?entryId=20924>

As part of IOM's efforts disseminate and promote its use, the Direct Assistance Handbook will also be available in Russian and Portuguese by the end of the year.

**Guidelines for the Collection of Data on Trafficking in Human Beings, Including Comparable Indicators**

IOM and the Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior recently published *The Guidelines for the Collection of Data of Trafficking in Human Beings, Including Comparable Indicators* developed to create the necessary basis for an improved collection and comparison (as well as sharing) of data on trafficking in human beings. They also seek to enhance the capacity of the relevant national authorities to collect and share data as well as to contribute to EU wide efforts to enhance data collection and to foster cooperation among EU Member States in the field of trafficking. The guidelines provide information on how to collect,

store and exchange data on trafficking in human beings, and include indicators and recommendations on procedural, data protection and victim identification mechanisms with a view to enhance the cooperation between all stakeholders.

[http://www.iomvienna.at/files/Upload/IOM\\_Vienna\\_AT\\_Mol\\_Guidelines\\_Collection\\_Data\\_THB.pdf](http://www.iomvienna.at/files/Upload/IOM_Vienna_AT_Mol_Guidelines_Collection_Data_THB.pdf)

**Refugee Protection and Human Trafficking: Selected Legal Reference Materials, UNHCR**

With this publication, UNHCR intends to bring clarity to the intersection between the different law regimes that govern human trafficking. The compilation is not comprehensive, but rather compiles the relevant provisions of each document. An introductory "note on methodology" defines some key terms as well as clarifying the difference between trafficking, migrant smuggling, slavery and forced labour. Available at <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/498705862.html>



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**Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) meeting**  
**24-27 February, Strasbourg France**

This body was established to effectively and independently monitor the implementation of the obligations contained in the Council of Europe Convention against Trafficking in Human Beings Convention.

GRETA met for the first time on 24-27 February at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. The members adopted its internal rules of procedure and elected a President, Vice-President second Vice-President. GRETA members will meet again on 16-19 June in order to continue the preparations for the first monitoring cycle of the Convention.

For more information: [http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/trafficking/default\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/trafficking/default_en.asp)

**IGO Contact Group on Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Meeting**  
**11 March 2009, Geneva Switzerland**

Inter-governmental organizations and NGOs came together to meet the new UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, Ms Joy Ezeilo, and discuss ways in which they could support her mandate. Ms. Ezeilo highlighted the importance of international cooperation when combating trafficking in persons and stressed the significance of data collection. Participants also discussed how the Contact Group could be of better use for the IGOs working on trafficking.

**International Dialogue on Migration**  
**25-26 March 2009, Geneva Switzerland**

The workshop "Effective Respect for the Human Rights of Migrants: A Shared Responsibility" was held in the framework of IOM's International Dialogue on Migration (IDM). Speakers included representatives from the governments, civil society and international organizations. On 9-10 July the workshop "Trafficking and Exploitation of Migrants: Ensuring Protection of Human Rights" will take place in Geneva. This workshop will offer policy solutions by placing human trafficking and migrant exploitation in context of human rights and international migration.

**Durban Review Conference**  
**20-24 April 2009, Geneva Switzerland**

The Durban Review conference evaluated progress towards the goals set by the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance in Durban, South Africa, in 2001. The Outcome Document of the conference makes strong reference to the need to respect the rights of immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers and makes specific reference to migrant domestic workers. For more information visit <http://www.un.org/durbanreview2009/>

**General Assembly Thematic Debate on Human Trafficking**  
**13 May 2009, New York**

The second thematic debate of the UN General Assembly on human trafficking will take place on 13 May at the UN Secretariat in New York. Discussions will focus on ways countries and international organizations can achieve fuller and more effective coordination against trafficking in persons. The meeting will consist of three panel discussions, and include a working lunch chaired by the President of the UN General Assembly, H.E. Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann. It is expected that this meeting, requested by five concerned Member states, will result in a Presidential summary that would provide support and momentum for the Global Action Plan on Trafficking. For more information visit <http://www.un.org/ga/>

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