

**Stop Sex Trafficking of Children and Young People in the OSCE****MONITORING PROGRESS OF STATES' EFFORTS**

ENGLISH only

Review Conference 2010, Warsaw, 30 September - 08 October 2010

Working Session 3: Combating trafficking in human beings, with a particular focus on trafficking in children

The Stop Sex Trafficking of Children and Young People Campaign of ECPAT International in partnership with The Body Shop started in July 2009 and was followed by 25 national launches worldwide in which 2600 individual Body Shop stores and youth directly participated. A key advocacy tool in the ECPAT-The Body Shop campaign is the Country Progress Card System, which was created to assess the progress of State action on specific commitments to stop child sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation around the world. In July 2010 a total of 43 Country Progress Cards reports have been published including 26 countries in the OSCE¹.

The research looked at three specific areas where governments can make a difference:

1. To implement community-based prevention programmes to stop child trafficking from reaching at-risk populations.

Preventing children from becoming victims of trafficking for sexual purposes is the first step that must be taken in the range of comprehensive measures needed to guarantee the protection of children. The research shows the following findings:

- 19% of countries reviewed do not have any current policy/National Plan of Action on preventing trafficking;
- 27% of countries do not conduct any awareness-raising campaigns on child trafficking, being most campaigns focused on human trafficking in general;
- None of the countries have taken adequate measures to include child trafficking in teachers' training curriculum.

2. To adhere to international legal standards for protecting children from trafficking and incorporate these in the national legal framework.

The area of legal framework is where most of progress has been achieved. However, while advances are evident in the adoption of international instruments and the enactment of anti-trafficking laws by OSCE states, the research shows that insufficient resources are allocated for their implementation and for necessary follow-up and support initiatives. More specifically:

- 15% of the OSCE countries reviewed have only signed but not ratified the OPSC
- Almost all OSCE states have ratified the Trafficking Protocol, only Czech Republic and Greece still need to ratify it;
- 61% of OSCE states reviewed have adopted legislations that only partially protect children in line with the Trafficking Protocol

¹ 1. USA, Russian Federation, Greece, Cyprus, Turkey -2. Austria, Canada, Estonia, Norway, Spain, Czech Republic, Finland, Sweden, France, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Poland, Portugal, Netherlands, Ireland, Luxembourg - 3. Denmark, Romania, UK

- Only 8% of countries reviewed have properly trained specialised police units across the country to investigate child trafficking cases

3. To establish specialised services with government support for child victims of trafficking which are integrated into national policies.

Child victims assistance has shown limited progress and remains one of the main areas of concern. With regard to this aspect, the research has in fact shown that:

- 71% of the assistance and care services offered to children in countries reviewed are not comprehensive nor specialised for child victims of trafficking
- Nearly one in four countries do not have help lines to provide specialised assistance to vulnerable children or child victims of trafficking
- None of the countries reviewed have specialised shelters to accommodate child victims of trafficking
- Only 4% of states are reported to offer comprehensive and specialised counselling services to specifically address the particular needs of child victims of trafficking for sexual purposes, while 11% do not offer any type of services to accompany the psychological healing of child victims

In summary the challenges and weaknesses that require action are:

- To address the limited knowledge and understanding of the issue in professionals and the general public
- To develop National Plans of Action and structural policies
- To make sure that prevention is reaching at-risk children, such as children on the move, undocumented children, asylum seeking minors, children suffering from abuse and neglect
- To provide adequate means of protection for children victims
- To provide specialized care services and include children's participation in its development

There is an urgent need to take action and advocate for strengthening children's protection. The ECPAT-The Body Shop campaign is working to mobilize the public through country petitions—currently there are over three million signatures to the online petition which calls on governments across different countries to take specific actions. Campaign petitions will be presented to governments towards the end of 2011 and all country petitions will be collated and a global petition will be presented to the United Nations and regional intergovernmental organisations such as the OSCE.

Theo Noten, ECPAT International executive board representative

Warsaw, 8 October 2010.