

**World Vision International, ECPAT International, International Catholic Child Bureau, and Plan International [co-sponsors] thank the Special Rapporteur on trafficking for this, her first report.**

Madame Special Rapporteur,

You note in your report that reliable data and figures on human trafficking are difficult to find and we especially wish to highlight the need for greater effort to be taken to address and document domestic trafficking, identifying victims with the same care as internationally trafficked persons. We welcome your intention to act as a focal point to track and provide feedback on innovative and promising approaches to combating trafficking. We would like to suggest that in your efforts to collect and coordinate data mapping and dissemination, you very explicitly focus your efforts towards *effective and appropriate* prevention methods. Methods for data gathering should emphasize opportunities for survivors, including children, to share their own suggestions on ways to prevent the trafficking of others and always ensure their protection as witnesses.

Other than through country visits, how do you intend to collect this information? How will you cooperate with the regional human rights mechanisms and regional special procedures?

### ***Prioritize Children's Rights***

You have listed 9 critical issues related to trafficking, which you plan to consider when setting the agenda for your work. We would like to suggest that you also consider the unique demand for child victims of human trafficking and their special needs. We would particularly highlight the fact that children have additional rights, *as outlined in the CRC*, that need to be taken into consideration when dealing with the trafficking of children. These include among others, the right to life, survival and development, the right to be registered immediately after birth, the right to a name and the right to know and be cared for by his or her parents (*article 6*), the right not to be separated from his or her parents' care and protection unless it is in the child's best interest (*article 9*) and the right to education.

We suggest that you also give attention to the fact that many societies' disregard for children as active rights bearers is also a root cause of trafficking. We ask you to consider a focus on the unique rights of children and the necessary support for parents as primary protectors of children. When the primary caregiver is complicit in the trafficking of the child, we ask you to give attention to appropriate alternative care and protection options for children.

### ***Prevention***

We welcome your decision to address the root causes of trafficking within the context of the MDGs. In particular, MDG 2 for the achievement of universal primary education has an important role in preventing trafficking since literate, educated children and adults with decent local employment options are less exposed to the risk of trafficking.

Madam Special Rapporteur, your focus on demand and root causes is critical; we also call upon States to reduce vulnerabilities to trafficking (including lack of birth registration, poverty, gender inequality, discrimination, lack of education, inadequate child protection systems to prevent abuse, lack of economic opportunity, etc.) This requires the broad view of "demand" as described in your report and an understanding of the vulnerability factors for all populations including men, women, boys and girls, for all forms of trafficking (*labour and sexual exploitation, forced begging, forced criminal activity, removal of organs, etc.*)

***Criminal procedures related to trafficking***

We agree with your conclusion that merely amending existing laws to include and criminalize human trafficking per the Palermo Protocol is not sufficient without additional provisions for prevention and victim identification, assistance, rehabilitation, and reintegration. This is particularly lacking with regard to specific child-focused provisions, policies, and frameworks in domestic legal frameworks. We urge you to promote child-focused measures to be developed simultaneously with National Action Plans and national agency development, or to be specifically developed as supplementary where States already have existing protection/assistance framework.

We also recommend, that in addition to your recommendation to focus on capacity building and awareness-raising among judiciary, law enforcement, and immigration officials, you also encourage these efforts for social assistance actors (social workers, medical personnel, etc.) as the rights of victims are also often violated by those assigned to assist victims out of ignorance to victim-centered and rights-based approaches.

***Methodology***

We welcome your decision to adopt a participatory approach and consult with civil society and NGOs working to combat trafficking. We appreciate the meetings the SR has already held with NGOs including consultation with child advocates at the World Congress III against Sexual Exploitation of Children. We encourage and commit to supporting you to ensure that your country visits always include consultations with children and young people who are knowledgeable about and/or affected by trafficking.

Thank you Madam Special Rapporteur and Mr. President