

STATEMENT OF THE PARTICIPANTS TO THE GAATW GLOBAL CONSULTATION ON PREVENTION OF TRAFFICKING

Bangkok, Thailand
Wednesday, 15 November 2006

We, representatives of 19 organizations from 18 countries that work to prevent trafficking in persons and/or promote the rights of migrant workers, agree on the following:

1. Trafficking and migration are linked. Anti-trafficking organizations and organizations working on all aspects of migration can collaborate in designing programs, researching and strategising to achieve safer migration.
2. Initiatives aimed at preventing trafficking must be holistic. They must be made at all levels and address all stages of the trafficking cycle: before a person leaves; at the time of recruitment and travel; at the point of exploitation; and after return.
3. Prevention of trafficking requires cooperation and support between governments, inter-governmental organisations, NGOs, local communities and migrants themselves, and between countries of origin, transit and destination.
4. Origin country governments must take responsibility for their citizens, both at home and abroad. We urge them to ensure that no policies harm the human rights of migrants. For example, recruitment practices such as compulsory training, detaining potential migrants in holding centres, and charging extortionate fees, should be abolished.
5. Prevention programmes must address factors that increase the vulnerability of migrants or potential migrants, such as poverty, and discrimination on the basis of class, ethnicity and gender.
6. Awareness-raising programmes should empower migrants and potential migrants to make informed choices and to migrate safely, rather than discourage migration.
7. All governments should ensure safe migration pathways that centre the human rights of the migrant worker. Restricting the movement of individuals who seek to move for work will not prevent trafficking, rather it will only increase their vulnerability.
8. It is invidious for governments to instruct law enforcement agencies to systematically prioritise detecting and punishing undocumented migrants, rather than defend migrants' human right not to be subjected to forced labour or related abuse.
9. Destination country governments should promote just and decent working conditions for all workers, including migrant workers whether documented or undocumented. Employers must be prosecuted for labour exploitation.
10. Migrants in destination countries should have a role in formulating and implementing prevention programmes, for example through mobilisation, peer support and community outreach.
11. The impact of a programme on all affected groups should be assessed before, during and at the completion of a project. Evaluation should be based on the principle of "do no harm" and on both empirical and qualitative data. Goals and assumptions should be constantly revised.

12. We urge all governments to sign and ratify the 1990 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, and the 2000 UN Protocol to Suppress, Prevent and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the UN Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime.

Signed by representatives of the following organisations, or the individuals:

1. Association of Indonesian Workers in Hong Kong (ATKIHK), Indonesia
2. Ban-Ying, Germany
3. Bonded Labour in the Netherlands (BlinN), the Netherlands
4. Castan Centre for Human Rights Law, Australia
5. Centre for Human Rights and Development, Mongolia
6. Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee (DMSC), India
7. Espacios de Mujer, Colombia
8. Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW) International Secretariat, Thailand
9. Hope Workers' Centre, Taiwan
10. La Strada Poland, Poland
11. Migrant Assistance Project (MAP), Thailand
12. MODEMU, Dominican Republic
13. Open Gate - La Strada Macedonia, Macedonia
14. Sodireitos/Jepiara, Brazil
15. Unlad Kabayan, Philippines
16. Welfare Association of Repatriated Bangladesh Employees (WARBE), Bangladesh
17. Women's Consortium of Nigeria (WOCON), Nigeria
18. Women's Rehabilitation Centre (WOREC), Nepal
19. Mike Dottridge, independent international consultant