

**THE VIENNA FORUM TO FIGHT HUMAN TRAFFICKING
13-15 February 2008**

Vienna, Austria

AIDE MEMOIRE

TITLE OF THE PANEL

*Health and Human Trafficking: Working Together for Responses to the
Survivor's Health Care Needs*

BACKGROUND

The Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking to be held at United Nations Headquarters in Vienna from 13 to 15 February 2008 will focus on the three overriding themes of vulnerability, impact and action. It will offer plenary sessions and a series of panels and workshops on different aspects of the three themes.

The panel on health and human trafficking will examine the health risks associated with trafficking as well as existing evidence and approaches to improve access to services and, moreover, the health of trafficked persons. Trafficked persons, regardless of whether they were trafficked for purposes of forced labour, sexual exploitation or other forms of exploitation, are exposed to a range of health risks. Throughout the trafficking process, they may experience physical, sexual and /or psychological abuse while having limited or no access to health and social services.

The panel will address these issues and provide a platform for future concerned action.

The panel on Health and Human Trafficking is organized by the International Organization for Migration, in partnership with the Gender Violence & Health Centre of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine.

CONTEXT

Trafficked persons, regardless of the form of exploitation, are exposed to a range of health risks. Throughout the trafficking process, they may experience:

- *physical, sexual, psychological abuse*
- *poor living and working conditions*
- *exposure to a wide range of diseases*
- *social isolation and captivity*
- *forced use of drugs and alcohol*
- *limited or no access to health and social services*
- *destitution*

The exploitative and abusive trafficking context deprives these persons of any empowerment that would help them realize their basic health needs and rights. Health related consequences of trafficking include, for example, sexual and reproductive health problems, psychological and psychosomatic reactions, psychoactive substance abuse, infectious conditions, occupational health problems and violence induced physical trauma.

To improve the lives of trafficked persons that have already been annihilated by abuse and exploitation, it is crucial that local, national, and international authorities recognize the health care needs of trafficked survivors as serious issue, and build together a multi-pronged approach to combating trafficking able to address the emergency health needs of the survivors in a comprehensive, gender-sensitive, culturally and language appropriate manner.

OBJECTIVES

- *To provide an overview of the known main health outcomes and health profiles of trafficked persons*
- *To discuss and define standards for management of the health consequences of human trafficking*
- *To overview and map current health services and health systems responses at national and regional level*
- *To share bests practices and lessons learned from health assistance to victims*

EXPECTED OUTPUTS

- *Epidemiological and health data available*
- *Increased awareness of the health consequences associated with trafficking, including regional characteristics*
 - *Strengthened cooperation between various relevant sectors such as police, law enforcement, and the health sector*
 - *Minimal standards for care reviewed with emphasis on particular vulnerable groups.*
 - *Key approaches for the integration of health within counter trafficking programmes identified*

A summary of the panel discussions will be prepared by the organizers and be incorporated into the overall final report of the Vienna Forum.

STRUCTURE AND CONTENT

The panel will take place on 14th February, for 1:30 hours with four sections (10 minutes, followed by a 50 minutes debate):

- *Health consequences and of trafficked persons – what does the existing data say?*

Speaker: Cathy Zimmerman, Gender Violence & Health Centre of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine

- *Addressing Health Needs of Trafficked Persons*

Speakers: Maria Tchomarova, Animus Association Foundation
Elizabeth Miller, UC Davis School of Medicine

- *Integration of Health into Counter Trafficking Responses: Country Experiences on Bringing Together Clinical Practice and Victims Protection and Support*

Speaker: Andrew Ayim, District Director of Health Services, Ghana

- *Managing the Health Consequences of Trafficking in Human Beings - Health Care Provider Perspective on Minimal Standards*

Speaker: Jacqueline Weekers, International Organization for Migration

Moderator: Jay G. Silverman, Harvard School of Public Health

Invited experts will introduce the key topics of discussion. In order to allow for a highly participatory and dynamic session in order to add value to the anti-human trafficking efforts, ample time will be devoted to discussions.

THEMES

During the panel a number of themes/questions will be addressed:

- *What are the main health consequences that require concerned action? What is the epidemiological data available?*
- *What are the current approaches on integrating health within existing policies, prevention, and protection responses to human trafficking? What needs to be done to bring policy, clinical practice and victim support together?*
- *What are the experts' perspectives regarding minimal standards for managing the health consequences on trafficking of human beings*
- *What should be covered within technical and normative guidance for optimal care and earlier treatment*
- *Patients' perspectives and programme managers experiences on survivors unmet health care needs*
- *Ethical and legal issues on researching, , documenting and assisting victims of trafficking*

PARTICIPANTS

Approximately 100 participants are expected, including government officials, parliamentarians, representatives of the private sector, civil society, health professionals, academia and international organizations.

WORKING LANGUAGE

English

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