

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

**Vienna, Austria**

**AIDE MEMOIRE**

**WORKSHOP: PROACTIVE PREVENTION**

**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.

This event is part of the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT). The Global Initiative aims to mobilize state and non-state actors to eradicate human trafficking by i) reducing the vulnerability of potential victims and the demand for exploitation in all its forms; ii) ensuring adequate protection and support to those who do fall victim, and iii) supporting the efficient prosecution of the criminals involved, while respecting the fundamental human rights of all persons.

UN.GIFT is part of a wide partnership by the UN-System and other international and regional organizations (ILO, IOM, OSCE, OHCHR, UNICEF, UNODC). These organizations, which form the UN.GIFT Steering Committee, are responsible for the organization of the panels and workshops of The Vienna Forum.

This workshop, Proactive Prevention, is organized by IOM, in partnership with key stakeholders.

**CONTEXT**

Prevention ultimately attempts to address the roots of a problem. In the human trafficking context, these root causes are usually said to be poverty, economic deprivation and lack of opportunities, gender discrimination, and the like – all of which are seen to characterize countries from which trafficked persons come. The consequent response has been to focus anti-trafficking prevention efforts on source countries primarily, and many millions of dollars have been spent, often on awareness-raising campaigns, in these places. Whether by way of television advertising, radio dramas, billboards and posters, or community theatre, the media have varied greatly – as have the messages. While some information campaigns in source countries have encouraged safe and informed migration, and suggest tools which vulnerable people can use to protect themselves, other have spread messages that inherently discourage migration, fail to suggest alternatives, or use images that

portray migrants in a negative manner. Some observers have also noted that a disproportionate share of prevention efforts and resources have supported initiatives in source countries that aim to reduce the supply of potential victims, and suggest, alternatively, that a far greater proportion of these be focused on reducing and eliminating the demand for trafficked labour and services at points of destination. While measuring the true impact of anti-trafficking prevention efforts is notoriously difficult, whether in terms of basic knowledge or behavioural change, the questions that must eventually be asked are: Is the current approach working? Is it preventing trafficking in persons? Has there been a noticeable depreciation in the numbers of people being trafficked? This workshop will concern itself with these larger questions.

## **OBJECTIVES**

This workshop aims to further the dialogue among key stakeholders engaged in preventing human trafficking by examining the themes of (i) appropriate messages and innovative media; (ii) preventing demand; and (iii) measuring success.

## **EXPECTED OUTPUTS**

1. A concise statement of broad recommendations will be elaborated on appropriate messages and innovative media, preventing demand, and measuring success.
2. A summary of the working group discussions will be prepared and incorporated into the overall final report of the Vienna Forum;

## **STRUCTURE AND CONTENT**

The workshop will consist of one 3-hour session, which will take place on 13<sup>th</sup> February, from 1430 until 1700.

This workshop will be lead by five experts, one of whom will be designated as the workshop moderator, and another who will assume the role of rapporteur. Each expert will have 10-15 minutes to address the participants on one or several of the three themes. The moderator will then facilitate a 90 discussion involving panellists and participants to achieve a series of workshop recommendations that will feed into the final report to issue from the Vienna Forum.

## **THEMES**

During the workshop the following themes/questions will be addressed:

- 1. Appropriate Messages and Innovative Media** – Can and should anti-trafficking information campaigns in source countries avoid being anti-migration and otherwise discriminatory?; Is it appropriate to use shock tactics and, if so, how can 'appropriate' shock tactics be distinguished from inappropriate shock tactics?; Is it sufficient to raise awareness levels of the problem, or should a greater emphasis be placed on behavioural change?; How are so-called at-risk groups identified and reached?

- 2. Preventing Demand** – How important is it to prevent demand for trafficked labour or services?; Have prevention resources been spent disproportionately in countries of source, and if so why?; what kinds of message and media should be used to prevent demand?.
- 3. Measuring Success** – How successful have we been in preventing trafficking?; What are the success stories?; Is prevention of trafficking in persons measurable?; Which indicators can be used to measure the impact of our prevention work?.

## **PARTICIPANTS/SPEAKERS**

This workshop is expected to attract approximately 80 stakeholders, including government officials, parliamentarians, representatives of the private sector, civil society, academia and international organizations.

**Moderator:** Richard Danziger, IOM

### **Confirmed Speakers:**

- Bridget Anderson, COMPAS (UK)
- Mike Dottridge, independent expert (UK)
- Ambassador Mark Lagon, Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons (USA)
- Mariana Katzarova, OHCHR

## **WORKING LANGUAGE**

This workshop will be conducted in English. There will be no simultaneous interpretation.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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