

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

Vienna, Austria

AIDE MEMOIRE

Profiling the Traffickers

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 part of UN.GIFT Steering Committee, are responsible for the organization of the panels and workshops of The Vienna Forum.

The workshop is organized by the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) of UNODC.

CONTEXT

Consistent with a human rights perspective, criminal justice theory and basic instinct, calls for greater efforts in response to human trafficking rightly begin with demanding increased action to identify, assist and support the individuals victimised. When faced with the brutality and exploitation suffered by trafficking victims, many of us struggle, and commonly fail, to comprehend who could commit such a crime. Given the low number of convictions globally, this is probably of little surprise. Indications, however, of the depth, breadth and scope of trafficking in persons suggest that human traffickers are in most countries of the world, that they are of different nationalities, ages and sex. As countries seek to actively improve their anti-trafficking efforts, the disparate information gathered regarding traffickers remains a hinderance to the international community's response to trafficking in persons.

At any level, from community to global, an ongoing, detailed and analytical exploration of traffickers might contribute to:

- **prevent** trafficking from occurring through proactive efforts to stop individuals from becoming perpetrators or facilitators of human trafficking;
- **protect** victims and vulnerable persons by identifying and targeting direct responses at those who might attempt to traffic such individuals; and
- enhance the ability of criminal justice actors to investigate and **prosecute** offenders through the accumulation of international knowledge on traffickers

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the workshop are: to identify and highlight what is known about those who instigate, undertake and seek to benefit from human trafficking; to emphasise the need to deepen and broaden our knowledge of traffickers; and, to recommend related and practical points of action to States. The workshop speakers will introduce information pertaining to traffickers from the perspective and experience of different nationalities and disciplines, and frame key issues for discussion with the workshop participants.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS

A collection of available information on traffickers, a list of recommendations and a summary of the workshop presentations and discussions will be prepared by the organisers and be incorporated into the final report of the Vienna Forum.

STRUCTURE AND CONTENT

The workshop will take place on Thursday 14 February, at 14.30pm in Room M in the Austria Centre. The workshop will be conducted over two sessions of 90 minutes each. The workshop will conclude at 17.30pm.

Each presentation, including the introduction by the moderator, will be limited to a maximum of 10 minutes.

During the first session, the moderator and four panelists will present. The floor will be opened for discussion and comments for a minimum of 30 minutes.

During the second session, three panelists will present. The floor will be opened for discussion and comments for a minimum of 30 minutes. The final 30 minutes of the workshop will be dedicated to the formulation of recommendations.

THEMES

During the workshop, the discussion will address four key areas:

- Identifying contributing factors in becoming a trafficker, with a particular focus on former victims becoming traffickers;
- Characteristics and traits of trafficking offenders;
- Distinguishing between traffickers, their roles and level of culpability; and
- Female traffickers.

PARTICIPANTS

Approximately 50-70 participants are expected, including criminal justice practitioners, government officials, parliamentarians, and representatives of the private sector, civil society, academia and international organizations. The workshop panel for the two sessions will consist of a moderator and 7 speakers.

WORKING LANGUAGE

English

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