

Friday February 15, 2008

021: Consequences of Sexual Exploitation, Especially on Women and Children

Time:	09:30 – 11:00
Venue:	Room F1, Austria Center Vienna (ACV) *
Language(s):	Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish
Lead:	UNICEF

The proposed panel will offer contributions from key organizations actively addressing trafficking and the sexual exploitation of women and children. Contributors will present key aspects of comprehensive approaches. They will consider various aspects of prevention, protection of children and women who have been trafficked and exploited, and the guiding principles of a strong child rights approach, including the best interests of the child, the child's right to non-discrimination, the right to participation, and the accountability of governments and other duty bearers. Expertise will be drawn from researchers and practitioners on the issue of trafficking globally.

CONTEXT

Trafficking of women and children is a rights violation which is inherently hidden, underground and a dynamic phenomenon. Most responses to trafficking tend to focus on the criminal aspects and less on prevention and on the rights of victims.

Trafficked children may be hesitant to be identified as victims of trafficking, or they may find that identification will not serve their best interests. They may fear threats from traffickers against themselves or their family members, stigmatization, or legal consequences. They are also often under pressure to earn money to pay back debts or to meet financial expectations at home. Children may also assume that their own views will not be given sufficient recognition once they have been identified by law enforcement or service providers.

Lack of information as well as stigmatized perception of sex workers contribute to shame and exclusion of women and children who have been trafficked for sexual exploitation. Sexual exploitation of boys is often ignored due to perceptions of males as perpetrators and not as victims.

Many anti-trafficking interventions address "women and children" without adequately recognizing their different rights, needs and capacities. Although both women and children are particularly vulnerable to being trafficked, the reasons for their vulnerability differ and anti-trafficking strategies must be adjusted accordingly.

OBJECTIVES

The panel aims at raising awareness of the need for developing a comprehensive child rights based approach to prevent and combat child trafficking. It will examine the

consequences for children, women and the society at large of trafficking for sexual exploitation. It will also provide guidance on the key elements in a child rights based approach, including child participation, non-discrimination, the best interest of the child, and the accountability of duty bearers to prevent and respond to trafficking.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS

A concise statement of key policy messages will be elaborated and 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 15 February from 9.30 to 11.00.

The panel will be opened with a presentation of the consequences of sexual exploitation, especially on women and children. Following this, key components of a child rights approach, illustrated by good practices, will be presented and discussed.

The panel session will be structured into four presentations (no more than 15 minutes each):

Impact of sexual exploitation

Daniele Hurley

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Rights based approach

Professor Nevena Vuckovic Sahovic, Member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child

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The role of the private sector to prevent sexual exploitation of children

Camelia Tepelus, The Code Secretariat

camelia.tepelus@thecode.org

The right to participation

Gabriela Alexandrescu, Secretary General, Save the Children Romania

gabriela_alexandrescu@salvaticopiii.ro

Moderator: Susan Bissell, Chief, Implementation of International Standards Unit, UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre

sbissell@unicef.org

Discussion among panelists and questions from the audience (30 minutes)

PARTICIPANTS

Approximately 100 participants are expected.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name:

Division:

Organization:

E-mail: