

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

Vienna, Austria

AIDE MEMOIRE

Technology and Human Trafficking

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 panel will discuss new technologies which can be used in responding to human trafficking.

The panel is organized by UNODC.

CONTEXT

At an ever-increasing rate, new forms and new uses of technology impact, both positively and negatively, on individuals and societies. This session will detail and demonstrate specific uses of technology in human trafficking situations. This includes both practices to facilitate human trafficking crimes, as well as simple and innovative methods used to assist victims as well as investigating, interrupting and prosecuting trafficking activities. Some online employment agencies, in particular bogus model or artist agencies and marriage bureaus ploy to lure potential victims. Internet chat websites can be used to befriend potential victims, increasing the risks for young people to fall into the traffickers' net.

OBJECTIVES

The objective of the panel is to identify good practises in the use of technology as a response to human trafficking.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS

Identify the possibilities in the new technology to investigate and interrupt trafficking crimes as well as support victims of human trafficking. Strengthen the partnerships between NGOs, officials and the private sector.

STRUCTURE AND CONTENT

The panel will take place on 13 February, at 14.30 17.30 in Room M in the Austria Centre. The panel will be carried out for 3 hours with two sessions of 1.30 hours each, with a break between the two sessions.

During the first session, best practices on identifying and interrupting potential trafficking cases using the internet will be presented and discussed. In addition, computer based training model will be introduced.

During the second session, best practices on immediate interventions in victim support will be discussed. In addition, innovative ways of using tools in investigating trafficking crimes will be discussed.

THEMES

During the panel a number of themes will be addressed: Challenges and possibilities of using technology in responding to human trafficking; how the modern technology can be used to assist victims and how build capacity to prosecute trafficking cases successfully.

PARTICIPANTS

Approximately 50-70 participants are expected, including government officials, parliamentarians, and representatives of the private sector, civil society, academia and international organizations. The Panel will see the participation of about 6 speakers.

WORKING LANGUAGE

English

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