

# UN.GIFT

United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking





## Victim girl found

...A, NEPAL - OCTOBER 21: A Maiti Ne  
...pped that was carrying a suspect truck d  
...October 21, 2005 in Kakarbhitta, Nepal  
...s asking her to descend from the truck.

### Photos:

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# Content

Introduction .....	2
UN.GIFT .....	3
Going forward: The Vienna Forum .....	7
The three themes of the Vienna Forum .....	8
Steering Committee .....	10

**Case example from UNODC**  
*UNODC has been involved in an award winning and innovative awareness raising campaign on human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation in Columbia.*

*"Everyone wants to be with Marilyn", a soap opera produced and broadcast in Colombia, realistically describes the adventures of a group of prostitutes. It illustrates the lives and travails of these often socially stigmatized women.*

*This soap opera, produced by UNODC Colombia in cooperation with the RCN television channel, offers an extraordinary opportunity to carry out prevention work through a popular media. In 25 widely-watched episodes, the soap opera informed the public on how the trafficking business works, what anti-trafficking activities are being carried out by UNODC and the Colombian Government, and how to avoid becoming a victim. This proved to be a successful way of sensitizing a mass audience to the dangers of human trafficking.*

# Human Trafficking: We are All Guilty

## Case example from IOM

*IOM has since 2003 provided social and economic rehabilitation and reintegration to some 500 Indian women and girls trafficked for sexual exploitation through a consortium of private-sector, government and NGO actors.*

*Managed out of a modest office in Hyderabad, the project has expanded to seven states and counts 47 businesses and 15 NGOs, along with training institutes and state government departments, all working together to contribute to the social reintegration and economic empowerment of trafficked women. This network provides psycho-social and medical care, a wide variety of training based on the beneficiaries' wishes and capacities, resource mobilization, employment opportunities, franchise options and marketing support.*

*Businesses that beneficiaries have established, either as franchises of retail chains or as independent start-ups, include laundries, bakeries, dairy parlours, book-binding shops and taxi services. Others have been trained and assisted in obtaining employment as nurses, hotel staff, saleswomen, beauticians and security guards.*

*Some 80 percent of the participating women and girls have achieved the goal of full social and economic reintegration.*

From impoverished rural villages to mega-cities, from wealthy suburban paradises to inner city ghettos, hundreds of thousands of people become victims of human trafficking every year, through force or deception. Their lives are for sale, auctioned off to the highest bidder for sexual and commercial exploitation. More often than not, the victims are children and young women.

It is a shameful stain on our consciences that, in this modern day, such an ancient form of exploitation of humans by humans still exists.

Girls sold by families to satisfy the sexual appetites of foreign tourists, boys forced to fight adult wars with weapons too heavy for childish arms, men stripped of dignity and worked like cattle, women bone-weary from hard labour even unsuitable to animals—these are the victims of an abominable trade that persists in every country around the world.

It is shocking that so many people are still unaware of all this.

Slavery is not history: it is a reality today, all around us. If we do not see it, it is because we do not look for it. If we deny it, it is because we feel more comfortable to blame others. If we do not act, it is because we do not recognize that crime shames us all.

The United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT) was conceived to join forces and coordinate the global fight on human trafficking, on the basis of foremost international agreement reached at the United Nations. To date over 110 countries have signed the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children that supplements the Palermo Convention against trans-national organized crime.

UN.GIFT was launched in March 2007 by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) with a grant made on behalf of the United Arab Emirates. It is managed in cooperation with the International Labour Organization (ILO); the International Organization for Migration (IOM); the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR); the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

UN.GIFT provides a framework for, and action by, all stakeholders—governments, business, academia, civil society and the media—so that they can support each other, work in partnership, and create effective tools to fight human trafficking.

## *UN.GIFT MISSION STATEMENT*

*The United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT) aims to mobilize state and non-state actors to eradicate human trafficking by (i) reducing both 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.*

*In carrying out its mission UN.GIFT will increase knowledge and awareness on human trafficking; promote effective rights-based responses; build capacity of state and non-state actors; and foster partnerships for joint action against human trafficking.*

A global conference, the Vienna Forum, will be held on 13-15 February 2008 in the Austrian capital to address key issues and develop partnerships.

# UN.GIFT

The Global Initiative is based on a simple principle: human trafficking is a crime of such magnitude and atrocity that it cannot be dealt with successfully by any government alone. This global problem requires a global, multi-stakeholder strategy that builds on national efforts throughout the world.

To pave the way for this global strategy we must coordinate efforts already underway, increase knowledge, raise awareness and provide technical assistance; promote effective rights-based responses; utilize available resources and build capacity of state and non-state stakeholders; foster partnerships for joint action; and, above all, ensure everybody takes responsibility for this fight.

By encouraging and facilitating cooperation and coordination, UN.GIFT aims to create synergies among the anti-trafficking activities of UN agencies, international organizations and other stakeholders to develop the most efficient and cost-effective tools and best practices with which to combat human trafficking.

## The Goals

The UN.GIFT strategy has three goals.

First, we must **build awareness**. Second, we need to **broaden the knowledge** base of data, facts and statistics on global trafficking. Third, we need to **step up technical assistance**.

### AWARENESS

Global awareness of human trafficking is growing, but the level of knowledge remains very low and this increases the vulnerability of potential victims.

The Vienna Forum provides a unique opportunity to share knowledge, best-practises and partnerships with all stakeholders as well as with the media.

UN.GIFT goes beyond the basic awareness-raising campaigns, securing a more innovative approach by strengthening partnerships and enlarging the role played by civil society and the private sector. Strong and novel public-private partnerships and regional and topical networks can help to raise public awareness.

### KNOWLEDGE BASE

The most significant challenge facing UN.GIFT is the creation of a comprehensive knowledge base. Many governments, organizations and individuals around the world are committed to fighting human trafficking, but the absence of reliable data cripples their efforts.

The very clandestine nature of human trafficking makes the gathering of relevant and useful information difficult. We need far more data on the extent of this crime, its geographical spread and the many forms it takes. Lacking primary data makes it difficult to identify



**Trafficker captured**  
CHINA - APRIL 27: (CHINA OUT) P...  
being involved in the abduction and sale...  
Railway Station on April 27, 2007 in Na...  
China. Eight suspects were escorted to...  
The trafficking of women and children h...  
ver the past years, from southwestern pr...  
ince. China has established a series of st...  
protect women and children's rights an...  
on the protection of the rights and inter...  
ction of minors.



the factors that cause trafficking, to establish best practices to prevent it and to assess its impact. This needs to be rectified.

The knowledge gap needs to be filled if we are to formulate an effective strategy. The research component of UN.GIFT aims to deepen understanding of human trafficking by better data collection, analysis and sharing, as well as joint research initiatives.

#### TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

States need better national capacity to fight human trafficking. Drawing on an expanded knowledge base, stakeholders are able to create and develop practical tools to prevent human trafficking, protect victims, and bring criminals to justice. These include manuals for law enforcement agencies, judges, prosecutors, and victim support groups, as well as draft legislation to assist national programmes and fact-sheets for use in raising awareness.

A Global Human Trafficking Assessment Tool will standardize methodology to collect and analyze national data on human trafficking. A Legislative Assessment Tool is assisting the collection and analysis of best practices in anti-trafficking legislation.

## Going Forward: The Vienna Forum

Three battlegrounds have been identified and are being addressed in this fight against human trafficking. People must be made less vulnerable to human trafficking; the victims of the crime must be protected and supported; and criminals must be apprehended and prosecuted if we are to make any headway in preventing this crime.

Crucial in this process is the Vienna Forum, which will be held on 13-15 February 2008. The aim of the Forum is to raise awareness, facilitate cooperation and partnerships among the various stakeholders and avoid duplication of efforts in the fight against human trafficking, working to ensure compliance with the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children.

Participants at the Forum will look at ways to make the public more alert to human trafficking; evaluate existing data and research; identify common goals; share information and experience; and foster partnerships among member states, UN agencies, the business community, academia and NGOs.

The Vienna Forum will structure its events around the three key elements of human trafficking:

- the root causes of trafficking,
- the social and economic impact,
- the actions necessary to eradicate it.

The Forum aims to foster debate and action to fight human trafficking. Furthermore, discussions will lead to the early development of best practice guidelines and tools for assessment, capacity building and victim support. Experts will be on hand to share experiences and train participants in the use of these tools and the implementation of guidelines.

The outcomes of regional events in Uganda, Thailand, India, South Africa, Ivory Coast and Brazil serve as material for presentation and debate at the Vienna Forum. Other such initiatives are under considerations, elsewhere.

The Forum will take place in Vienna's Austria Center and includes workshops, panel discussions and technical meetings, providing its over 1,000 delegates with the background and context necessary for triggering action.

The findings and discussions at the Vienna Forum will provide necessary input for UN.GIFT. It entails carrying out research; making capacity-building tools for policy development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation; and increasing efforts in priority areas and raising awareness.

### **Case example from OSCE**

*The Alliance Against Trafficking in Persons is a broad international forum set up by OSCE to combine the prevention and anti-trafficking efforts of all relevant actors. The spirit of the Alliance is to develop effective joint strategies, combine efforts of relevant stakeholders in setting a common agenda, and to provide the OSCE participating States as well as other partners with common approaches and decision-making aids.*

*Participants in the Alliance include national authorities as well as inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations. They contribute expertise and specialized knowledge to develop effective anti-trafficking legal, social and economic strategies.*

*The high-level conferences and expert meetings held since 2004 under the auspices of the Alliance have contributed to a greater understanding of issues related to human trafficking.*

*As an advocacy tool, the Alliance Expert Coordination Team in 2005 provided concrete recommendations prior to the elaboration of the EU Plan on Best Practices, Standards and Procedures for Combating and Preventing Trafficking in Human Beings.*

# The Themes of the Vienna Forum

## Case example OHCHR

*The establishment of a new mandate for the OHCHR Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings guides the agency's anti-trafficking activities.*

*Since 1999, OHCHR has been carrying out an anti-trafficking program entitled Eliminating Trafficking and Protecting the Rights of Trafficked Persons under the agency's Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation and in the Field of Human Rights. Through bi-annual resolutions on trafficking by the Commission on Human Rights, OHCHR is mandated to address human trafficking at the international, regional and national levels.*

*In developing detailed human rights-based responses to each stage of the trafficking cycle, OHCHR's Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking issued in July 2002, serves as a framework document.*

## Theme I:

### Root Causes: What Makes People Vulnerable?

Human traffickers prey on people who are poor, isolated and weak. These victims include a vast number of children and women. Generally speaking, individuals who are disempowered economically, socially or politically are vulnerable to trafficking. More often than not, a desire for a better life for themselves or their children leads people to fall victim to criminals who lie, cheat and force them into submission and exploitation.

The Vienna Forum will focus on the push and pull factors which make people vulnerable to human trafficking. It will address the role that poverty plays in trafficking and examine ways in which countries can economically empower their citizens. The fact that poverty lies at the root of trafficking has placed the responsibility on origin countries to fight the crime. While the awareness campaigns and development programs like job training and financing micro-businesses play a significant role, they are however insufficient.

Other issues that will be dealt with include how individuals are made vulnerable by post-conflict situations, natural disasters, corruption, weak rule of law and lack of social protection measures for marginalized populations.

The need to raise awareness will form an integral part of any discussions on this theme.

## Theme II:

### Impact: the Human and Social Consequences of Human Trafficking

Whether it is the highly-visible and shocking phenomena of child soldiers and prostitutes or the all-too-common tragedy of imprisoned domestic workers, the human and social consequences of trafficking are compelling. From the physical torture and abuse of victims to the psychological and emotional trauma, the impact on society is clearly destructive and unacceptable.

The Vienna Forum will explore the impact of human trafficking on the lives of individuals and their communities. Participants will share experiences and focus on the consequences of human trafficking to victims—including the violence they are likely subjected to; adverse health effects like HIV/AIDS; psychological and emotional trauma; social stigmatization excluding them from their communities; and risk of re-victimization if those responsible for their liberation fail to support them properly.

Organized crime is making huge profits from human trafficking and the crime is spreading. The Forum will also examine what impact this has on the economies of the origin and destination countries. Talks on this topic will include research and information resulting from the regional events.

Another key issue under discussion will be the political implications of trafficking since it shapes migration movements.

**Theme III:**

**Action: Implementing the Protocol on Human Trafficking**

The Vienna Forum will encourage stakeholders to adopt UN.GIFT's strategy and use the international instruments and tools available to them at a national level to protect vulnerable people, prosecute criminals and ultimately prevent human trafficking.

Stakeholders will be encouraged to examine ways of improving prosecution methods and assisting each other through partnership and by providing technical input. Protection and assistance policies for victims and the need for a better understanding of the problem will also be discussed. Particular stress will be put on how to formulate guidelines of best practice.

The significance of expanding the awareness and understanding of the issue will also be emphasized and UNODC's research unit intends to present an initial collection of data on national responses to human trafficking. An inter-agency report on the research done thus far on human trafficking will also be made available, identifying gaps in knowledge that new the research aims to close.



**and child reunited**  
HENGZHOU, CHINA: A woman cries a  
n, one of the children rescued from a gro  
hengzhou, central China's Henan provin  
police rescued some 9,000 kidnapped wom  
human trafficking gangs become more vi  
as more than 5,400 kidnapped women we  
cases, while 3,500 children were rescued  
cases.

**Case example from UNICEF**  
*UNICEF believes that the best way to protect children from trafficking is to create a protective environment for all children—one which safeguards them from exploitation and abuse before it happens. Such a "protective environment" requires commitments by all stakeholders, and includes government commitment, legislation and enforcement, attitudes, open discussion, children's life skills, capacity of families and communities, essential services for prevention, recovery and reintegration, and monitoring and reporting.*

*Demand, both for commercial sex and for cheap labor, plays a fundamental role; without demand there is no supply. In the fight against trafficking, efforts must be made to address demand for trafficked children, in addition to breaking the supply chain. UNICEF works with many partners in all areas—from the grassroots to the highest political levels—to create an environment in which children can grow up in safety and in dignity.*

## Steering Committee

To assist UN.GIFT, a Steering Committee was set up with representatives from the six founding members and the main donor.

- International Labour Organization (ILO)
- International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- A representative of HRH the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi.

### Tasks of the Steering Committee

The Steering Committee coordinates the human trafficking efforts of its members and their respective networks and alliances. It aims to create synergies and avoid duplication to ensure the most efficient and effective delivery of activities combating human trafficking. The Committee is coordinating knowledge base development and the promotion of UN.GIFT as well as providing advice on a global advocacy strategy. The Committee assesses gaps and needs to ensure that all UN.GIFT activities are relevant. In addition it plans to develop a monitoring mechanism for UN.GIFT, including developing a set of standards and indicators.

### Steering Committee Members:

**ILO - International Labour Organization, Geneva**



The mandate of ILO is to protect the interests of workers when employed in countries other than their own, noting that labour is not a commodity. The Conventions adopted by ILO that are of most relevance to human trafficking are those on forced labour, child labour and migrant workers. Other relevant ILO Conventions include those on gender equality and discrimination, employment policy, employment agencies, labour inspection, safety and health at work.

**IOM - International Organization for Migration, Geneva**



IOM has a comprehensive approach to counter-trafficking, providing an integrated response to prevent human trafficking, protect the victims through targeted assistance and empower governments and other agencies to combat the crime more effectively. IOM has implemented almost 500 counter-trafficking projects in 85 countries since 1994, and has provided assistance to over 15,000 trafficked persons. IOM's primary aims are to prevent human trafficking and protect victims of the trade through offering them options of safe and sustainable reintegration and/or return. IOM has developed over 400 partnerships with both state actors and civil society in the course of this work.

**OHCHR - Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Geneva**



OHCHR's trafficking program focuses on the integration of human rights into anti-trafficking initiatives at the legal, political and program levels. Its anti-trafficking work is based on a dual strategy that addresses prevention through focusing on root economic and social causes creating vulnerability and reinforcing victim assistance and protection.

OHCHR is guided in anti-trafficking work by two fundamental considerations: human rights must be at the core of any credible anti-trafficking strategy; and anti-trafficking initiatives must not in any way adversely affect the rights of trafficked persons or those vulnerable to trafficking.

**OSCE - Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Vienna**



OSCE has played an active role in combating trafficking in human beings since the 1990s based on a three-pronged approach to include prevention, prosecution, and protection of victims.

The Organization works closely with its 56 participating States to ensure co-ordination across all three dimensions, as well as to stress the importance of combating all forms of trafficking in human beings—in countries of origin, transit and destination—at the highest political levels.

**UNICEF - The United Nations Children's Fund, New York**



UNICEF's mandate relates to protection of children from all forms of violence, abuse and exploitation and is based on the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Trafficked children are sexually exploited, forced into marriage or illegally adopted, they provide cheap or unpaid labour, work as house servants or beggars, are recruited into armed groups and are used for sports. Trafficking exposes children to violence, sexual abuse and HIV infection and violates their rights to be protected, grow up in a family environment and have access to education.

**UNODC - United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Vienna**



UNODC has a general mandate to address transnational organized crime. The Protocol on Human Trafficking, supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC), provides the legal and conceptual framework for UNODC's work in the area of human trafficking. It focuses on the criminal justice system response to human trafficking, but includes provisions on victim protection and preventive measures. UNODC, as the secretariat of the Conference of the Parties to UNTOC and its protocols, is required to ensure the necessary coordination with the secretariats of relevant international and regional organizations.

**Case example from ILO**

*Panlop recounts her painful ordeal of being tricked into slave-like work abroad after dropping out of school in a remote village in northern Thailand. Now that she has returned home, she is determined to help other girls and young women avoid making the same terrible mistake. By speaking out publicly and discussing her experience with at-risk youth, she helps them to stand up for themselves and make their needs known to local government administrators.*

*Improving the understanding and awareness of the mechanisms behind trafficking that ensnare girls like Panlop empowers and mobilizes young people and their communities and helps to better target preventive efforts: Children at high risk take up scholarships, enroll in school, undergo training, and benefit from job counseling and placement when they reach the minimum working age.*

*Some young people participate in peer education programs or mobile theatre groups, others volunteer to campaign door to door against human trafficking. In conjunction with outreach efforts through local partners, ILO assists governments to improve enforcement of laws and monitoring recruitment practices, ensuring that services benefit poor families at risk.*

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Updates on the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking are available  
on-line via the UNODC website [www.unodc.org](http://www.unodc.org)