

**Zonta International United Nations Committee
Individual Committee Member Report Form**

Anhang 1

Relating to:

- Prevention of violence (including trafficking)
- Improving women's health and maternal health (fistula, FGM, information/education)
- Women's rights/human rights/CEDAW/Beijing +20
- Economic equity (WEPs, women's employment, ILO)
- Delay of early marriage
- Education

Name of Committee Member

Meeting and Location

BARBARA DEVIN

VIENNA INTERNATIONAL CENTER

SIDE EVENT at the occasion of the
Seventh Session of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational
Organized Crime UNODC

Lessons learned by Evaluating Anti-human Trafficking Measures

Date of Meeting

Date of Submitted Report

October 8, 2014

October 15, 2014

1. CONTENT OF MEETING

Introduction

Zonta International initiated together with Business Professional Women International BPWI and NGO Committee on the Status of Women Vienna this side event.

Discussion of different conceptualization of the trafficking phenomenon, address the lack of common understanding about trafficking, the strong stereotype of the phenomenon and its victims and the negative aspects and results by the standardization of the services, provided by states. An expert of the Grass root organization LEFÖ will present examples. The presentation will focus on how cooperation and coordination among all relevant stakeholders including government authorities, international and non-governmental organizations could be achieved by taking existing good practices and lessons learned into account.

Opening

Dr. Gertraud Ribitsch, Director of Zonta International 2014-2016

Welcome to the numerous participants. Brief presentation of Zonta International that invited together with BPW and CSW to this side event. Zonta International mission is advocacy for women – providing support that women worldwide be granted and guaranteed their human rights.

Welcome

Marlene Parenzan MA, UN-Representative of Business Professional women

After presenting BPW Mrs. Parenzan introduced the speakers.

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Keynote

Helga Konrad, Ph.D.

Executive Director Anti-Trafficking - Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe – IDM, Head of the ‘Regional Implementation Initiative on Preventing & Combating Human Trafficking in Human Beings’, former first OSCE Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

To prevent and to combat trafficking in human beings requires knowledge of patterns and circumstances that allow trafficking happened. There are no purely technical solutions; anti-trafficking efforts are political in nature. The experience from the last 15-230 years brought the realization that trafficking in human beings seem to be almost an intractable problem. Furthermore, governments are getting weary of criticism and complaints why they politicians do not succeed to solve the problem! The anti-trafficking work – if not to say anti-trafficking industry – proclaims the importance of prosecution, protection prevention AND partnership – with those persons and institutions – NGOs! – at mutual trust and same eye level to focus on human survival, wellbeing and freedom – in short human security. Anti-trafficking programs should be seen as long-term sustainable development, anti-discrimination and anti-violence programs. The “rhetoric” covers protection of victims and addressing root cause, but in practice governments focus on anti-migration measure according to the interest of countries of destination. The involvement in anti-trafficking funding depends on circumstances in those countries “of demand”. Evaluation of anti-trafficking measures is mostly not more than an “after-thought”! Therefore the focus on implementation of anti-trafficking actions, coherent policies internal as well as with neighbor countries is desperately needed. It is also here that support and advice of NGO’s should be sought and accepted. *See attachment “Complete Presentation”.*

Legal and Practical Aspects

Evelyn Probst Mag.a, Head LEFÖ/IBF Interventions Center for Trafficked Women

Trafficking in persons is a phenomenon of today. Trafficking in human beings is an illegal criminal “business”. In this business women’s rights – which are human rights! - and migrants’ rights are not considered as equal! In order to reintegrate trafficking victims and to secure their life afterwards it is important “to find victims” in the first place, then that they openly talk about their needs as well as about the “trafficking gang”. Because of the extremely closed, powerful and “clever” trafficking business it is extremely difficult to learn as much from the victims in order to provide help and support, in particular when it comes to jurisdiction and compensation. Money plays a decisive role – for the victim – afterwards – and for the perpetrator in the first place. Another critical aspect is the fact that the victim fears legal consequences for herself on the one hand, non-punishment for the perpetrators on the other hand and subsequently the fallback into the trafficking cycle! If LEFÖ does not succeed to gain a title against the people in the trafficking business, the long-term effectiveness to provide security and wellbeing for the victim stays low.

Moderator of the Discussion

Dkfm. Ilona Graenitz Chairmen of NGO Committee on the Status of Women Vienna

It does not suffice to help the victims. Instead, the circumstances why trafficking represents a “trap” for women: violence at home and poverty drive women to “seek” a better life- also across the border. In case they return, they meet at home the same conditions as before – and the vicious circle continues. (Nigerian Women) Any support of trafficked victims does not help as

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long as the surrounding conditions do not change. Long-term perspectives require actions to the better at the roots of the problems

2. CONTACTS AND CONTACT INFORMATION FROM MEETING

The side event attracted over 40 attendants. Among them the delegates of permanent missions of Norway (Ministry of Justice), Austria, Australia, Thailand (Institute of Justice), Slovenia, France and a representative of the US – Department of Justice as well as of the US Department of State. In addition several NGOs were represented (among others GAATW, Soroptimist, BPW, Zonta, ACUNS, IOM), also three representatives from UNODC. The names of all delegates are known to us. All attendants received the Zonta International Flyer.

Later, I talked to the Nigerian women from Benin City, Nigeria, representing Girls Power Initiative GPI, a Nigerian NGO, exchanging business cards and flyer and mentioning the existence of several ZCs in her country (Ibadan, Lagos). May be worth to support contacts between her and die Nigerian ZCs – via the D18 Governor?

The large number of participants and the quality of their functions reflect the success of the side event – Mission accomplished: ZI Visibility and Advocacy!

3. CRITICAL INFORMATION FOR OTHER UN TEAMS, ZI BOARD OR COMMITTEES:

ZI UN Committee goals and strategies as well as our concrete work in the UN comply in essence with the Advocacy Committee work. It goes without saying that this report and all following provide valuable and indispensable information for the ZI Advocacy Committee. In addition the ZI PR&Communication Committee could profit from this report, in particular with respect to the “Zonta says no” campaign.

4. FOLLOW UP REQUIRED BY

- UN Committee Chairman
- President of Board Liaison
- Other UN committee (please specify) -> ZI UN Geneva?
- Advocacy Committee
- Communications Committee
- Other (please specify)

Barbara Devin, best available: hbdevin@t-online.de or cellphone. 0049 174 3114027.