



High-Level Event at the 14th UN Crime Congress, Kyoto, Japan

**The UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons (UNVTF)
10 Years Since Inception: Achievements and Best Practices**

MONDAY, 8 March 2021, 11:30 to 1:00 p.m

Background

The United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (UNVTF) was established as an important component of the UN Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons. Through a victim-centred approach, UNVTF's mandate is to provide humanitarian, legal and financial aid to human trafficking victims through its NGO partners and is supported by a five-member Board of Trustees appointed by the Secretary-General.

Summary

This High-Level virtual event commemorates the 10-year anniversary of UNVTF which supports over 3,500 trafficking victims every year. The event will highlight the cooperation between UNODC and Member States, the private sector and individuals in the provision of direct assistance to victims, with special focus on women and girls trafficked for sexual exploitation. The Trust Fund will showcase its substantial achievements and lessons learned from previous grant cycles over the last decade. Experiences from Ghana and India will showcase good practices in providing direct assistance to survivors, with the aim of helping them rebuild their lives. This event will also mark the 10-year anniversary of UNODC's flagship Blue Heart Campaign (BHC), a global awareness raising initiative aimed at fighting human trafficking and its impact on society. The event will conclude with a call to action.

Participants

- **Ms. Ghada Fathi Waly, UNODC Executive Director (TBC)**
- **Dame Julie Okah-Donli, Chairperson, Board of Trustees of the UNVTF**
- **Ms. Nadia Murad Basse Taha, UNODC Goodwill Ambassador for the Dignity of Survivors of Human Trafficking and the Nobel Peace Prize laureate**
- **High Level Representative (Belgium) (TBC)**
- **Ambassador at Large for Combating Trafficking in Persons (Sweden) (TBC)**
- **Mr. Jean-Claude Brunet, Ambassador-at-large on transnational criminal threats and the fight against the illicit trafficking of SALW (France)**
- **Mr. Benson Osei-Savio Boateng, Executive Director, BOK AFRICA CONCERN (implementing UNVTF-supported project in Ghana)**
- **Ms. Heather Ferreira, Evaluation Research & Grants Advisor Rescue Foundation (implementing UNVTF-supported project in India)**

Format

The event will take place in a virtual format. Participants will deliver statements via pre-recorded video-link. The high-level side event will also feature a short video on the 10-year anniversary of the Trust Fund and a video message from Human Rights Activist, UNODC Goodwill Ambassador for the Dignity of Survivors of Human Trafficking and the Nobel Peace Prize laureate, Ms. Nadia Murad Bassee Taha with a call to action.