



4<sup>th</sup> October, 2023

UNODC Constructive Dialogue on Trafficking in Persons

**Written Contribution from the Centre for Human Rights (CFHR), Pakistan**

Thank you to the UNODC for arranging the Constructive Dialogue on Trafficking in Persons, and for providing the opportunity for civil society organisations such as our own to participate in the review process of the UNTOC. We deeply appreciate the presence of the Chairs and also commend our fellow participants who engaged in meaningful dialogue regarding the issue of trafficking in persons in transnational organised crime.

The Centre for Human Rights (CFHR) recognises the importance of the role of civil society in combatting organised crime. Our focus in the future will be to work with partner organisations on identifying and mapping key factors that contribute to the creation of hotspots for organised crime in Pakistan. This work will be done not only to help strengthen prevention and control interventions by Criminal Justice Institutions (CJIs), but also to reduce vulnerabilities of populations at risk of trafficking.

Despite commendable efforts, such as the UNODC Pilot Initiative on the UNTOC review process, as well as many internal efforts, Pakistan remains to be a major hub for transnational organised crime.

We believe that a major role of civil society in the process of implementing the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, includes the development of a contextualized threat assessment tool that will review the performance of the interventions of law enforcement agencies in trafficking in persons in their respective countries. Due to the lack of understanding with regards to criminal activity, and the mismanagement of information, civil society organisations can use this evidence-based tool to fill gaps that can improve the knowledge of state entities. This will allow member states to align priorities and allocate state resources in order to effectively respond to and prevent trafficking in persons, particularly for women and children. This tool can also specifically use a gendered lens to monitor that the systems in place contain measures that recognises the communities at risk and provides support to victims of trafficking in persons.

Further, efforts at civil society organisations such as our own, to introduce community-based information sharing and work on the capacity-building of law enforcement agencies, are integral to maintain and mainstream the focus on human rights compliance and use of victim-centered approaches in advocacy efforts and responses by member states. Capacity building and funding

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for victim-specific approaches in collaboration with civil society organisations should be further prioritised and outlined within state initiatives and the UNTOC.

Overall, we deeply appreciate the excellent work of the UNODC Civil Society Unit (CSU) and the UNTOC Secretariat in assisting the UNTOC Review Mechanism. We would like to thank the Centre for Governance Research (CGR) for spearheading Pakistan's civil society efforts in tackling organised crime and implementing the UNTOC, and also appreciate the National Focal Person from the Government of Pakistan for taking on the role and relevant initiatives regarding the UNTOC review process in Pakistan. We look forward to being a part of the future discussions and plans aimed at combating transnational organised crime as representatives of civil society.

Thank you!