

My name is Rosi Orozco, and I represent Comisión Unidos Vs Trata. Over the past 11 years, our organization has been dedicated to prevention and victim care, working alongside civil society organizations and stakeholders to achieve significant progress. We acknowledge that the risks and consequences of being victims of human trafficking have deeply affected society.

In the book by Patricia Prado Hernandez titled "Stories and Research on a Model to Recover and Empower Lives," we present a model of care for victims of human trafficking, specifically in the form of commercial sexual exploitation. This model showcases the first specialized shelter in our country and is a collaborative project between the Inter-American Development Bank, Fundación Camino a Casa, and the National Institute of Psychiatry "Ramón Fuente Múñiz"

During this chapter, we address the horrific violence endured by victims of human trafficking. This crime involves the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of individuals for the purpose of exploitation, whether sexual, labor-related, or otherwise.

Victims of human trafficking suffer various forms of physical, psychological, and sexual violence. They are stripped of their freedom and treated as commodities, enduring inhumane and degrading conditions. Many experience sexual abuse, physical mistreatment, threats, and coercion.

In addition to physical violence, victims also endure constant psychological abuse. They are manipulated, threatened, and controlled by their captors, resulting in deep emotional trauma. Their basic rights are denied, and they are exploited for labor, often forced to work in deplorable conditions with little or no fair compensation.

I want to emphasize that this document was created based on the incredible work carried out with over 200 victims in the first shelter in Mexico. Thanks to our laws, 92% of the traffickers identified by the victims in this shelter are now in jail. Our legal framework does not place the burden of proof solely on the victims but includes aggravating factors. **WE RECOMMEND NOT TO INCLUDE THE MEANS IN THE LAWS BUT AS AGGRAVATING ONLY.**

We are all aware that human trafficking is a global problem that affects millions of people, particularly women and children. It is crucial to take measures to prevent this crime, protect the victims, and hold the perpetrators accountable under the law.

RECOMENDATION

We have observed that the most effective way to prevent this crime, along with other related crimes such as money laundering, weapons sales, drug trafficking, femicide, and the disappearance of girls and women, is to dismantle the places where human beings are being sold as commodities (Brothels, stripe clubs, etc) These places often become breeding grounds for corruption, involving law enforcement, mayors, congressmen, prosecutors, and judges, who may engage in blackmail through the use of photos or videos.

"The System of Prostitution is fed by the trafficking of women and girls, and it is neither sex nor work but a system based on gender-based violence and socioeconomic inequalities related to sex, gender, race, and poverty that preys on the most marginalized among us for the profitable commercial sex industry." Recently, members of the European Parliament adopted a report on prostitution that identifies demand as the root cause of prostitution and sex trafficking. It highlights the importance of reducing demand to prevent and combat trafficking while ensuring the well-being of those involved in prostitution.

This is a significant step forward for survivors in Europe, and we hope to see similar initiatives adopted in the Americas.

The UNODC Blue Heart Campaign declares that "Human beings are not for sale." Through this campaign, we aim to educate and raise awareness, creating a better world where human dignity is protected.

United, we can make a difference!