



Hope for Justice
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Statement UNTOC on Human Trafficking: 1st July 2022

Hope for Justice

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Hope for Justice are an International Anti-Slavery Organization working across five continents with a vision to end slavery and change lives by preventing exploitation, rescuing victims, restoring lives and reforming society.

We wish to thank the UNODC Civil Society Unit for this opportunity to input on the Constructive Dialogue on UNTOC and its protocols. Hope for Justice wish to make the following proposals:-

1. Whilst in many countries criminal legislation does exist on human trafficking, both the International legal framework and domestic law must reflect the shifting landscape of human trafficking. This includes referencing forms of exploitation such as exploitation of criminal activities and human trafficking for territorial control in armed conflict or fragile states. Legislation should reflect advancements in technology including online exploitation. In addition, often little is understood about the meaning of practices similar to slavery such as trafficking for the purposes of forced marriage. Greater understanding and clarity at an international level invariably improves domestic law ensuring all victims are identified and human trafficking crimes are captured.
2. International and domestic law must have clear provisions to ensure survivors are not punished for crimes committed as a result of their exploitation. This is vital in empowering them to come forward without fear, be safeguarded and supported and make decisions such as whether to engage with justice processes as victims of serious crimes.
3. Legislation is a framework, it must be accompanied by clear trauma-informed, human rights based, holistic, survivor-centred and survivor informed approaches. This includes long-term independent advocacy, support and protection for survivors. In addition, it is vital to ensure adequate training and resourcing of enforcement agencies to identify and respond appropriately to survivors, investigate and prosecute these often-complex crimes. This includes the resourcing of financial investigations given that human trafficking is a crime of profit.

End Slavery, Change Lives.

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4. It is important to recognise that criminal justice is one aspect of perpetrator accountability. There are multiple ways that human traffickers can be held accountable. Legislation, must reflect this, including, accountability through financial institution responses, business compliance and business remediation; civil justice; labour enforcement mechanisms and restorative justice approaches. All of these examples can play a crucial role in ending the activities of exploiters and holding them to account.

Finally, I will conclude that human traffickers are entrepreneurial, innovative, collaborative and work in partnership. If we are to end human trafficking, we must be entrepreneurial, innovative, collaborative and work in partnership at an international, national and local level.

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