



General Assembly

Distr.: General
30 August 2019

English only

Human Rights Council

Forty-second session

9–27 September 2019

Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Loreto Generalate, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[21 August 2019]

* Issued as received, in the language(s) of submission only.



Thank you for giving me an opportunity to present this statement on behalf of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary-Loreto Generalate.

We are deeply concerned by the widespread and growing violations of human rights of the vulnerable group especially the victims of human trafficking. Though the member states are trying to address this grave issue, much more needs to be done. The capacity of States to respond effectively to the comprehensive human rights abuse human trafficking represents will simply not happen unless the essential requirements are observed. This applies to adult as well as to child trafficking. One of the persistent challenges for the detection of child trafficking is that most trafficked children are unaware that they are recruited, harboured, transported or received for the purpose of exploitation.

Many trafficked persons find themselves exploited as they seek to access either a better life or move to places where they could claim asylum. They also encounter barriers to legitimate entry into a country. Some are not sufficiently informed as to how to undertake the process of asylum and find themselves embroiled with traffickers. Minors in migration, whether accompanied or unaccompanied are at high risk of Human Trafficking entrapment. Refugee and migrant children are particularly at risk to being exposed to health hazards as well as situations of violence, abuse or trafficked. 170,000 unaccompanied minors according to UNICEF sought asylum in Europe between 2015 and 2016. Many of them survived the hazardous journey across the Mediterranean into Italy, where a percentage which is yet to be fully calibrated have died.

The children and adults are also becoming victims of false promises in the name of marriage and a happy family. “Sham marriages” typically involve the scenario where two individuals give their consent and agree to marry subject to conditions that include an exchange of benefits, financial or otherwise, in order for one party to obtain permanent residency in another country. This practice is distinct from forced marriage, which is a marriage that takes place without the full and free consent of one or both people to the union. Recently experts have highlighted human trafficking in the context of “sham marriages” as an increasingly prevalent trend in Europe.

Therefore, we call upon Member States to take the following steps to “Rid the world of human trafficking by 2030”

- Measures should be taken to raise public awareness about human trafficking and address the root causes of trafficking
- Education and awareness raising can be the most economical and essential way to empower migrants who are vulnerable to trafficking and exploitation.
- Human trafficking offences are to be effectively investigated and prosecuted through developing the training and specialization of investigators, judges and prosecutors, and making full use of the measures available for protecting victims and witnesses.
- Monitor the action of recruitments at local, national and regional level
- That asylum procedures, early protection measures, health checks and the provision of immediate safety alongside enabling family reunification, are some key aspects of the process of protection which needs to be clearly in place in order to reduce the risk of those children who are ‘uprooted’ for one reason or another and placed at risk of Human Trafficking

Thank you
