

Adopted Recommendations

I. To the Secretary-General, for the Study on Violence against Women:

- A. The Meeting recommends that the on-line discussion on violence against women be extended and be linked to the sixteen days campaign on violence against women (25 November to 10 December, 2005) and the International Day of Violence against Women (25 November, 2005).
- B. For the Study, cite the COMMIT process and MOUs/agreements between countries of the Greater Mekong Sub-region as well as the establishment in South Asia of civil society networks and regional Action forums of concerned stakeholders, as a good example of an anti-trafficking initiative.
- C. For the chapter of the Study covering State obligations, in relation to trafficking and violence against women, include as key obligations of States parties to CEDAW:
 - Obligation to provide immediate necessary support and assistance to victims, which is not conditional on participation in legal process.
 - Obligation to provide protection, information, economic, legal, psychosocial, and other necessary support for victims participating in legal processes.
 - Obligation to investigate and prosecute perpetrators of violence against women, including trafficking, with due diligence and respecting the rights of victims.
 - Obligation to actively prevent public sector complicity in trafficking.
 - Obligation to ensure that responses to trafficking do not violate established rights including the prohibition of discrimination against women.
 - Obligation to take comprehensive measures to prevent trafficking and related exploitation of women and girls, and ensure safe migration.
 - Obligation to collect and provide access to reliable data regarding trafficking and violence against women.
 - Obligation to allocate adequate human and financial resources to combat and prevent trafficking and violence against women

II. To the CEDAW Committee:

The CEDAW Committee can strengthen its own work on VAW and trafficking to meet national needs by:

- A. Drawing on supplementary sources to identify State obligations when it comes to trafficking and VAW (e.g. UN Convention on Transnational Organized Crime and its Palermo Protocol, UN Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking, Council of Europe Cybercrime Convention, and SAARC Convention).
- B. Considering drafting a General Recommendation on trafficking, with particular regards to Article 6.
- C. Establishing a mechanism for domestic follow-up on concluding comments, for example, a country rapporteur.
- D. Linking with special procedures of the Commission on Human Rights, in particular Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, Special Rapporteur on Trafficking, and Special Rapporteur on Migrant Workers, and other relevant Rapporteurs.

III. To States Parties:

- A. Strengthen national machineries, regional mechanisms and institutions to better utilize the CEDAW Convention and the work of the Committee in relation to VAW and trafficking:
 - Improve cooperation and coordination among various national machineries (e.g. between women's machineries and human rights commissions) on the issue of trafficking and VAW.
 - National machineries should take a much more active role in disseminating and promoting implementation of CEDAW, the Optional Protocol and CEDAW Committee's concluding comments on States Parties reports.
 - Strengthen the contribution of various government ministries and agencies in both REPORTING and MONITORING under CEDAW.
 - Strengthen and increase knowledge and awareness of CEDAW, the Optional Protocol and the work of the Committee in the country.
 - Link with regional and sub-regional mechanisms and organizations, and agencies that can influence the national response and use CEDAW to this purpose: such as ESCAP and other United Nations bodies, regional organizations such as ADB, SAARC, APEC and ASEAN, and better utilize their information sharing capacities.

- Encourage donors to incorporate a focus on trafficking and VAW and a rights-based approach in their work.
- Withdraw any reservations to CEDAW and ratify the Optional Protocol.
- Develop, strengthen and support programmes addressing the demand side of trafficking including through media, school curricula, youth and men's groups.

IV. To ESCAP:

- A. Work with national women's machineries, law enforcement and social welfare agencies, judiciary, NGOs and survivors groups, to forge regional cooperation, bring about a common understanding, and build capacity to combat all aspects of trafficking and violence against women:
 - Draw on the multi-sectoral strengths of ESCAP to address the gamut of aspects of trafficking and violence against women (i.e. tourism, transportation)
 - Apply a victim-centered and human rights approach in all aspects of its work
- B. Integrate follow up to CEDAW Concluding Comments in its work.
- C. Coordinate the sharing of innovative and progressive programmes, policies and legislative approaches among sub-regions.
- D. Assist member States in building capacity to collect and interpret data to address trafficking and violence against women.
- E. Expand the pool of stakeholders and share and solicit information on the Secretary General's study on violence against women.