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**UNODC input to the micro hearing on 24 March 2006 of the Joint Monitoring  
Committee on the Improvement of Quality of Life and Status of Women  
regarding Enhanced Communication Strategies in South Africa**

UNODC's work in the area of trafficking in persons

The work of UNODC with regard to trafficking in persons is guided by the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and in particular, its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. UNODC has been mandated to assist all UN Member States to become parties to and to implement the Convention and the Protocol.

The UNODC Global Programme against Trafficking in Human Beings (GPAT), launched in 1999 and implemented by the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit of UNODC Headquarters in Vienna, assists Member States in their efforts to combat trafficking in human beings. The Global Programme has a key role in offering a device for exchange of information and expertise. This is done through the analysis of global trends and patterns, the promotion of public information and best practices as well as a series of technical assistance projects.

The Global programme promotes a comprehensive and multi-disciplinary approach in preventing and combating human trafficking. UNODC has developed training material and provides a range of training modules within the framework of its technical assistance projects. A global database on trafficking in persons patterns and routes, as well as information about victims and traffickers has been established at UNODC Headquarters. A worldwide report presenting the findings of this database will be published in the course of 2006. Examples of "good practices" used in combating trafficking and organized crime are also being collected.

Awareness-raising

Awareness raising campaigns are extremely important in the prevention of trafficking in human beings. Potential victims are not only vulnerable to trafficking because of the lack of opportunity, but also due to a lack of information. Persons in countries of origin need to be better informed about the potential risks of becoming victims of trafficking and the rights they have in foreign countries. In this context, awareness raising campaigns aim to empower people to make informed choices about working opportunities abroad.

UNODC launched a public service announcement (PSA) campaign through 2001, 2002 and 2003, with a first video spot focusing on trafficking in persons for sexual exploitation. Subsequently, a second video featuring trafficking in men, women and children, for bonded and forced labour was released in February 2002 and broadcast in several countries. One of the UNODC anti-human trafficking video spots won the short



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film category at the First United Nations Documentary Film Festival in May 2005. To this date, the PSAs have been requested for use by more than 55 Member States. Two of the PSAs are attached here. UNODC wishes that these ads could be used also in South Africa in order to promote the issue of trafficking in persons

Together with the PSA campaign, GPAT has produced posters and other printed items, in coordination with selected local NGOs, with the aim of promoting qualified assistance and advice through a hotline. The campaign was directed at the regions of Central and South Eastern Europe, which have been highly affected by trafficking in persons.

UNODC activities in Southern Africa

UNODC, the Regional Office for Southern Africa currently has three on-going anti-trafficking in persons projects.

UNODC is currently implementing a regional project in collaboration with the Southern African Development Community (SADC). This ongoing project addresses the problems related to the lack of proper national anti-trafficking legislation, regional cooperation, high level political commitment and a regional strategy. It involves both a situational and legal assessment, a workshop for legal experts regarding the drafting of special anti-trafficking legislation, and the adoption of a Political Declaration and Plan of Action as well as facilitation of the development of a regional anti-trafficking network. The FS/RAF/R49 project is therefore aiming at assisting in the adoption of a regional strategy against trafficking in persons.

The second regional project focuses on increasing the technical capacity of police and prosecution agencies of the Southern African Police Chief's Cooperation Organization (SARPPCO) Member States in the implementation of the Protocol through regional training course for police officers and prosecutors focusing on identifying, investigating and prosecuting cases of trafficking in persons, in light of the existing current legal provisions.

The third project is carried out in collaboration with the NGO Molo Songololo, in the Western Cape province of South Africa. The project's objective is to strengthen the capacity of Western Cape province to prevent trafficking in human beings, especially children, raise awareness, and provide support to victims of trafficking and those at risk. A specific focus is put on the development of information and awareness-raising materials and enhancing cooperation and awareness-raising in the community and among practitioners (police, social services, health etc).

UNODC: Enhanced communication strategies

UNODC works in close collaboration with a variety of stakeholders, including government departments, NGOs and other UN agencies. Working with a number of partners requires effective and open sharing of information in order to build successful projects.



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UNODC has several partners, both national and international, assisting in the planning and implementation of current programmes against trafficking in persons. UNODC's aim with its projects is always to promote cooperation between UNODC and other stakeholders, but also between the different stakeholders themselves.

Working against trafficking in persons requires not only communication between national stakeholders, but also facilitating communication systems between different countries. UNODC's current anti-trafficking programmes include close cooperation with regional bodies, mainly SADC and SARPCCO. Cooperating with transnational partners offers a platform for these countries to start sharing information between each other.

For further information on UNODC and the programme against trafficking in human beings, please contact:

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**Some resources on the cost of domestic violence and gender based violence**

The direct and indirect economic consequences of violence against women are causing high expenses, both on an individual as well as societal level. The costs are related e.g. to social and health-related treatment and support, to the involvement of the criminal justice system, and to the emotional distress and incapacity of victims as a result of the violence

The cost of violence against women has been calculated in several countries around the world. Various data sources have to be used, including official criminal justice statistics, health-care and social services data, shelter data, NGO data, as well as research data and data from statistical studies.

*Ministry of Social Affairs and Health:*

<http://www.victimology.nl/onlpub/national/fi-costs.pdf>