

FAWCO UN Report

Date: 19 November 2013

Location: UN HQ NY

Program: Preventing Child Trafficking and Exploitation: Strategies and Programmes that Work

Format: Panel Discussion

Organization: Canada's and the Philippines' Permanent Missions and WGG

Speakers:

HE Guillermo Rishchynski, Ambassador, Mission of Canada to UN

Marta Santos Pais, SRSG on Violence against Children

Ellen Maduhu, Permanent Mission of the United Republic of Tanzania

Lizzy, WGG Girl Advocate and member Girls against Violence Taskforce

David Arkless, ArkLight Consulting and the Future Work Consortium

HE Guillermo Rishchynski

- Trafficking deprives children of their most basic human rights. Canada has identified this as a crucial issue and has developed the 'I am not for sale' national awareness campaign.
- Canada is tabling the Child, Early and Forced Marriage Resolution in the Third Committee this week.
- 5.6 million children (3.6 girls) are trafficked each year in this \$32 billion industry.
- Unfortunately demand is not being addressed, particularly in the US and Europe.
- All companies should be signed on to the Palermo Protocol and governments/businesses/people who want to make a difference should only be doing business with those companies that have.
- ECPAT member hotels agree to fight trafficking

Marta Santos Pais

- 60% of trafficking victims are under 18 and are primarily trafficked for sexual exploitation or forced labor.
- Many of these children are being forced into organized crime – drugs, theft etc.
- The key to overcoming trafficking is political will. In 2010 the Secretary General launched an campaign to universally ratify of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. 166 countries have signed, 27 have not. But it takes more than signing. 60% of the countries that have signed the Palermo Protocol have never convicted anyone of trafficking.
- Many trafficking victims are treating like criminals. Millions of children have no identification, not even birth registration, which makes it even more difficult to prosecute perpetrators.

- Success stories include
 1. In West Africa, kids were given cameras so that they could take pictures of where they thought children were most vulnerable to traffickers. This help authorities identify central markets and bus stations as targets
 2. Child friendly material initiative by the UN
 3. Paralegal committees in Nepal that act as a surveillance system for kids at risk. If they see a child not at school, they go to their family and discuss the dangers of trafficking, importance of education, etc.

Ellen Maduhu

- Poverty and ignorance are the leading causes of trafficking in Tanzania.
- There are now criminal penalties for anyone using forced child labor or exploiting children.
- Law enforcement training is underway: police prosecutors, judges.
- There is a kids in school initiative.
- Government is also working with NGOs to improve the situation.

David Arkless

- Working to get corporations to advocate against human trafficking. Getting them to check their own supply chains, and to change their own policies to reflect ethical behavior.
- There is now an industry stamp of approval for recruitment agencies (some of the worst offenders) that have been vetted and are not involved in trafficking.
- It was recently determined that forced labor was being used to build the stadiums for the next World Cup in Qatar – in favor of a boycott if it continues.
- 50,000 women and children are trafficked through London alone every year.
- The global business community must get behind stopping trafficking in order for it to succeed.