



**OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR  
HUMAN RIGHTS**



**Traffic in women and girls**

**Commission on Human Rights resolution 2001/48**

*The Commission on Human Rights,*

*Taking note* of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, particularly the resolve expressed by heads of State and Government to intensify efforts to fight transnational organized crime in all its dimensions, including trafficking in human beings,

*Recalling* all previous resolutions on the problem of the traffic in women and girls adopted by the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights, as well as the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others,

*Reaffirming* the provisions pertaining to the traffic in women and children adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Ninth and Tenth United Nations Congresses on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century” and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly entitled “World Summit on Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world”,

*Stressing once again* the urgent need to eliminate all forms of sexual violence and trafficking, including for prostitution, which both violate and impair or nullify the enjoyment by women and girls of their human rights and fundamental freedoms and are incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person, through the adoption of effective measures nationally, regionally and internationally,

*Welcoming* the adoption by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/25 of 15 November 2000 of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the Convention,

*Welcoming also* the adoption by the Assembly of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography,

*Recognizing* the importance of bilateral, subregional and regional cooperation mechanisms and initiatives to address the problem of trafficking in women and children, in particular girls, and taking note of the recently established Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings of the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe, as well as the draft convention for preventing and combating trafficking in women and children for purposes of prostitution of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and the Action Plan for the Asia-Pacific region of the Asian Regional Initiative against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children,

*Recognizing also* that global efforts, including international cooperation and technical assistance programmes, to eradicate trafficking in persons, particularly women and children, demand strong political commitment by and the active cooperation of all Governments of countries of origin, transit and destination,

*Stressing* the need for a global approach to eradicate trafficking in women and children and the importance, in this regard, of systematic data collection and comprehensive studies, including on the *modus operandi* of trafficking syndicates,

*Acknowledging* the work done by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in compiling information on the scale and complexity of the problem of trafficking, in providing shelter for trafficked women and children, and in effecting their voluntary repatriation to their countries of origin,

*Recognizing* the need to address the impact of globalization on the problem of trafficking in women and children, in particular girls,

*Seriously concerned* at the increasing number of women and girl children from developing countries and from some economies in transition who are being trafficked to developed countries, as well as within and between regions and States, and acknowledging that the problem of trafficking also includes the victimizing of boys,

*Gravely concerned* at the increasing activities of transnational criminal organizations and others that profit from international trafficking in women and children without regard to dangerous and inhumane conditions and in flagrant violation of domestic laws and international standards,

*Deeply concerned* about the unabated use of new information technologies, including the Internet, for purposes of prostitution, child pornography, paedophilia and any other forms of sexual exploitation of children, trafficking in women as brides and sex tourism,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/2001/72) on activities of United Nations bodies and other international organizations pertaining to the problem of trafficking in women and girls;

2. *Takes note* of the report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, notably on the issue of trafficking in women and girls (E/CN.4/2001/73/Add.2), and acknowledges the full cooperation and assistance extended to the Special Rapporteur by the Governments of countries visited, the actions being taken by these countries to address the problem as well as the political commitment expressed to eradicate trafficking;

3. *Invites* Governments as well as donor countries, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and international, regional and non-governmental organizations to consider the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on the issue of trafficking, in particular on the need for greater allocation of resources and better coordination of programmes and activities in tackling this problem;

4. *Takes note* of the report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (E/CN.4/2001/78 and Add.1-2);

5. *Invites* human rights treaty bodies, the special rapporteurs and subsidiary bodies of the Commission, the Office of the High Commissioner, other United Nations bodies and international organizations to continue to address within their mandates the problem of trafficking in women and girls, and to share their knowledge and best practices as widely as possible;

6. *Urges* Governments to take appropriate measures to address the root factors, including external factors, that encourage trafficking in women and children, in particular girls, for prostitution and other forms of commercialized sex, forced marriages and forced labour, so as to eliminate trafficking in women, including by strengthening existing legislation with a view to providing better protection of the rights of women and girls and to punishing perpetrators, through both criminal and civil measures;

7. *Invites* Governments to take steps to ensure for victims of trafficking the respect of all their human rights and fundamental freedoms, including taking steps to ensure all legislation related to combating trafficking is gender-sensitive and provides protection for the human rights of women and girls and against violations committed against women and girls;

8. *Calls upon* Governments to criminalize trafficking in women and children in all its forms and to condemn and penalize traffickers and intermediaries, while ensuring protection and assistance to the victims of trafficking with full respect for their human rights;

9. *Encourages* Governments to conclude bilateral, subregional, regional and international agreements to address the problem of trafficking in women and children, in particular girls;

10. *Urges* Governments to consider signing and ratifying the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the protocols supplementing the Convention, particularly the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children;

11. *Also urges* Governments to consider signing and ratifying the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Optional Protocol thereto on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the 1999 Convention concerning the prohibition and immediate action for the elimination of the worst forms of child labour (No. 182) of the International Labour Organization;

12. *Invites* Governments to encourage Internet service providers to adopt or strengthen self-regulatory measures to promote the responsible use of the Internet with a view to eliminating trafficking in women and children, in particular girls;

13. *Encourages* Governments, in cooperation with non-governmental organizations, to undertake campaigns aimed at clarifying opportunities, limitations and rights in the event of migration so as to enable women to make informed decisions and to prevent them from becoming victims of trafficking;

14. *Calls upon* concerned Governments to allocate resources, as appropriate, to provide comprehensive programmes designed to heal and rehabilitate into society victims of trafficking, including through job training, legal assistance and health care and by taking measures to cooperate with non-governmental organizations to provide for the social, medical and psychological care of the victims;

15. *Encourages* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, the human rights treaty bodies, the special rapporteurs, especially the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children and the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, and subsidiary bodies of the Commission to participate in and contribute to the work of the twenty-sixth session of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery in 2001 that will focus on the issue of trafficking;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Commission, at its fifty-eighth session, with an update on the report on activities of United Nations bodies and other international organizations pertaining to the problem of trafficking in women and girls;

17. *Decides* to continue its consideration of this question at its fifty-eighth session under the appropriate agenda item.

*75th meeting  
24 April 2001*

[Adopted without a vote.]