

# Appreciation of the comprehensive periodic review

Iraq -2014

## Organizations of civil society

### Trafficking in Human Beings

#### **Introduction:**

Trafficking in human beings is the fastest and most increasing way, by which individuals forced to slavery. It affects every continent and most countries. To clarify how this trade is slavery and it constitutes a violation of human rights.

Known as the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, prohibit and punish those who do traffic in human beings, especially women and children (one of the "Palermo Protocols" of the three) Trafficking in human beings as: recruitment, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons by means of the threat or use of force or other means of coercion, abduction, fraud, deception and bad use of power or position of vulnerability or the giving or receiving payments or services to obtain the consent of the person that is controlled by another person for exploitation. Exploitation shall include at a minimum, the exploitation of persons to work in prostitution or other forms of sexual exploitation or forced labor or services; slavery or practices similar to slavery; forced labor, or removing organs.

Many countries misunderstand this definition, turning a blind eye on human trafficking procedure, or classification of any immigration of non-normal as trade in human beings. The law on protection of victims of trafficking in human beings goes to "severe forms of trafficking in human beings" which is defined as:

**A.** Human trafficking for commercial sexual purposes where they are forced to sex by force, deception, coercion, or in the case of a person who was forced to do such acts has not attained the age of eighteen.

**B.** Recruitment and accommodation, transport, supply or provide someone to work or to provide services through force, deception or coercion in order for the forced labor and involuntary servitude and to ensure debt or slavery.

These definitions are not required to transfer the person who is traded from one place to another. It applies in general to recruitment, accommodation, transport or the provision of persons to carry out these objectives.

#### The Problem:

Trafficking in human beings is a global problem affecting every continent and most countries. It occurs within and across national borders and is considered one of the most forms of international crime for profit. It is impossible to know that and it is difficult to obtain statistics on trafficking in human beings because the activity is in a confidential manner. In a U.S. government report published in 2003 estimated the number of people are trafficked each year in the world, from about 800 thousand to 900 thousand at least, hundreds of women and children are trafficked in each year to transfer them illegally to the United Kingdom.

There is no country free from trafficking in human beings. In each year thousands of men, women and children are traded across international borders (estimated at some international organizations and non-governmental issue that is much more) and the trade continues to grow. Add to this figure the number of non-specific, who are trafficked within countries. The victims are forced to work in prostitution or in quarries and factories, or farms, and domestic service in the ranks of child soldiers, and in many forms of hard labor in slave-like servitude. The U.S. government estimates that half of those who are trafficked internationally are to be sexually exploited.

Contemporary slavery trade is multi-dimensional threat to all nations. In addition to the human suffering caused by <sup>1</sup>the violation of human rights, its relationship to organized crime and serious security threats that are smuggling drugs and weapons, have become clearer. So is its relationship to the concerns of the dangers on health, as infectious diseases afflict the victims, whether it was because of poor living conditions, or the result of being forced to have sex, trafficking and transfer to the new communities. A state that chooses to play down the problem of trafficking in human beings in return for concentrating on other concerns, they must bear this result. There is an urgent need for immediate action.<sup>(1)</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Congress passed in 2000 the law of Trafficking Victims Protection Act 2000 and ratified by the President (22 USC 7101 et seq.) Which was amended through the restoration of a law protecting victims of trafficking in human beings for the year 2003 ( "Act" 108-193). The Act aims to protect victims of trafficking in human beings, to combat human trafficking by punishing those who made it, and the protection of victims, and mobilizing U.S. government agencies to launch a global campaign against trafficking in human beings.

In another study of the International Labor Organization that 12.3 million workers in the world suffer from exploitation and forced into work against their will, and at least 204 million of these workers who are victims of trafficking in human beings, mostly women and children.

### **The reality of Iraq:**

The reports and surveys improve that in all conflict areas the criminal gangs are exploiting the regime's collapse, the disintegration of law and misery to compel individuals to work in prostitution and other forms of trafficking in human beings, and there are many cases in which parents collude with criminals and they see it as a way to increase low-income family.

Hence, we can move on to talking about the situation in Iraq, which is a complicated issue for lack of information and the security situation in Iraq and contribute significantly in the absence of monitoring over the violations against humanity.

In Iraq, human trafficking is linked with money and drug trafficking, document forgery, and forcing to work with terrorist networks and networks of prostitution and foreign labor and forced labor; Hence criminals exploit economic conditions and the security situation in the country, in the absence of a government capability of protecting the people and protecting itself, and these gangs make trade deals that take the lives of thousands of Iraqi women and children.

Now and in the light of worsening sectarian conflicts and lack of security, women are considered a cheap commodity trafficked inside Iraq and outside it. And it is not less than those cases which were forcibly abandoned outside Iraq, a lot of Iraqis are working in neighboring countries in harsh conditions and exercised on them serious violations like violent mentally and physically in many cases, women are also exploited in the sex trade and are living in harsh conditions like being threatened and humiliated, and it reaches in some cases to murder.

### **Recommendations:**

1 – Passing a law against trafficking in human beings and spread of regulations and laws that prevent the exploitation of children and women in the sex trade, taking into account international agreements and conventions on human rights.

2 - Review laws and regulations , programs and practices that help to facilitate the exploitation and forced women and children and adopt effective reforms to reduce this phenomenon .

3 - Non- governmental organizations were involved in the higher committee to combat human trafficking .

4 - Focus on the education of children as a means to improve their situation and make primary education compulsory and available free of charge to all.

5 - Provide health care and improving health services and strengthening the existing family environment for children which the most vulnerable to enter the sex trade, including displaced persons, refugees and members of the underclass and non-registered in the official and detainees in the centers and prisons.

6 - Increase education and awareness of child rights and the integration of treaties and conventions on child rights education, in formal and informal sectors where appropriate.

7 - Spread of call centers to provide information on the subjects of gender sensitivity and stimulate and increase media campaigns to raise awareness and educate concerned

government officials as well as the general public about child rights and the adverse consequences of the exploitation of children in the sex trade and a lack of legitimacy, and strengthen attitudes and positive trends in society towards sex to maintain the growth of children that makes them feel the dignity and self-esteem.

8 - Establishing a special educational program to increase adolescent ability to confront and resist the networks that exploit children in the sex trade.

9 – Creating or strengthening social and economic programs of national interest-sensitive issues related to sex to help children who are most vulnerable to enter the sex trade and their families to resist the actions that belong to the exploitation of children in the sex trade with a particular focus on the themes of maltreatment within the family and traditional harmful practices and their effects on girls and to develop and foster a sense of the importance of the child as a human being and not as a commodity offered for others, and overcoming poverty through the promotion of increased income through honest work.

10 - Mobilizing the business sector including the tourism industry against allowing the use of their networks and institutions in the sex trade with children and women.

11 - Targeting individuals and institutions involved in the trade of children through information, educational programs and organized campaigns to bring about changes in their behavior and practices that are not acceptable in this area.

12 - Training for the police and judiciary, and media cadres and activists in the field of media to identify the victims and support them.

13 - Providing shelters for harboring the victims of trafficking in human beings within Iraq and abroad and provide legal and social aid for them.

14- to amend the law even include government departments and government departments involved in human trafficking crimes while Article 80 of the Penal Code has excluded the interests of government and official circles of criminal responsibility.

15- Focus on foreign workers ranging groomed more than (100,000 to 150,000 thousand ) and Ajian factor ( especially Syrians - ranging groomed between 250,000 to 300,000 thousand ) refugees who are more vulnerable to abuse and trafficking .

**Organizations that contributed to writing the report by ( I A H T ) :**

1 – **Public Aid Organization.**

2- Center for studies and gender information.

3- Al-Rafeedain Coalition of Women .