

In the presence of Her Royal Highness Princess Mathilde of Belgium

« The New York Convention 65 years later : observations and new perspectives »

Update on politics regarding the fight against human trafficking
and the exploitation of the prostitution of others



Inter-Ministerial Conference
on the 30th of September 2013
Palais d'Egmont - Brussels



Joëlle Milquet, Belgian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Equal Opportunities and Najat Vallaud-Belkacem, spokesperson for the French Government and Minister of Women's Rights, have committed themselves to promote women's rights on various topics. As a first topic, they have chosen to look at human trafficking from a very objective point of view and in particular the exploitation of the prostitution of others, because it questions these rights.

The "International Convention for the suppression of the traffic in persons and the exploitation of the prostitution of others" of December 2nd 1949 is, until today, the only international text that refers to this specific topic and it has been interpreted quite differently from country to country.

Considering the extent of the phenomenon of human trafficking and the exploitation of the prostitution of others, Ministers Milquet and Vallaud-Belkacem have decided to look at this issue from a gender perspective. This is not only one of the priorities of the European Strategy to fight Human Trafficking, but also considered just as important as the legal proceedings against offenders and the protection of victims.

On the eve of the 65th anniversary of the promulgation by the General Assembly of the United Nations of this important Convention, an inter-ministerial conference will be held in Brussels. The objective is to get an overview of its application by the European Member States that have ratified it, to identify prospects for action and suggest common objectives for more harmonious policies in the fight against human trafficking and the exploitation of the prostitution of others.

Her Royal Highness Princess Mathilde of Belgium will enhance, by her presence, the Round Table gathering European Ministers of Gender Equality during the second half of the conference. Prior to the Round Table, the morning will be dedicated to an overview of the application of the New York Convention as well as to the new challenges that this text is meeting today.

Sophie Jekeler, lawyer and *Sylvie Bianchi*, Project Manager for Samilia Foundation will present a short overview of the application of the Convention by the European Member States that have ratified it. They will underline the different ways countries have implemented the text in their legislation, the consequences of the various approaches and their impact in the field.

Myria Vassiliadou, the EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator will present some concrete measures concerning reducing demand, which should be implemented in the course of the next 4 years following the adoption in 2012 of the European Union Strategy towards the eradication of trafficking in human beings.

Mark Capaldi, Head of Research & Policy for ECPAT International (End Child Prostitution, Pornography and Trafficking of children for sexual exploitation) will present his research on the link between legalisation of prostitution and the increase of human trafficking for sexual exploitation. His presentation will shed light on this link and its consequences for the exploitation of women as well as violence against women and children.



Evelyne Josse, psychologist (ULB) and psychotherapist will talk about the evolution of social norms in terms of hypersexualisation of society and its consequences for children and adolescents.

Michael Moran, Interpol Assistant Director for Trafficking in Human Beings will present the impact of new technologies on the development of human trafficking and the exploitation of the prostitution of others. He will also explain how the divergent laws regarding prostitution make the fight against those crimes more difficult.

Inter-Ministerial conference of the 30.09.2013

Palais d'Egmont - Brussels

Programme

8:00 - 8:45	Registration	
9:00 - 9:15	Introduction by Mrs Joelle Milquet, Belgian Minister of Equal Opportunities and Mrs Najat Vallaud-Belkacem, French Minister of Women's Rights	
9:15 - 9:35	Mapping of the application of the NY Convention in European Member states	Ms Sophie Jekeler & Ms Sylvie Bianchi Samilia Fondation
9:35 - 10:00	EU Strategy for the eradication of trafficking in human beings (2012-2016)	Mrs Myria Vassiliadou EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator
10:00 - 10:30	Does the legalisation of prostitution increase the sex trafficking of women and children?	M. Mark Capaldi Head of Research & Policy ECPAT
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee Break	
11:00 - 11:30	Consequences of the hypersexualisation of society on children and adolescents	Ms Evelyne Josse Psychologist
11:30 - 12:00	The increase of human trafficking through new technologies	M. Michael Moran Assistant Director THB- Interpol
12:00 - 12:30	Interaction with speakers answering the questions posted on the conference website	
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch Break	
13:30 - 15:00	Introductory remarks by HRH Princess Mathilde of Belgium Ministerial Round Table gathering European Ministers of Equal Opportunities and Women's Rights	
15:00 - 15:15	Conclusions by Najat Vallaud-Belkacem, French Minister of Women's Rights and Joelle Milquet, Belgian Minister of Equal Opportunities	

Conference organised
By Samilia Foundation



Simultaneous translation in FR-EN
Registration before the 10th of September via
the website www.ny65yearslater.eu
Informations & contact : info@ny65yearslater.eu



Convention
65 years later