

Note on the address by the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, to the Arria Formula Meeting on Trafficking and the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda

On 25 October 2019, the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, Maria Grazia Giammarinano, participated in an Arria Formula meeting entitled “Trafficking in persons for sexual exploitation in (post-) conflict situations: integrating a comprehensive approach to trafficking in persons into the Women, Peace and Security agenda of the Security Council”. Convened by the Belgian mission and co-sponsored by the missions of the United Kingdom, Viet Nam, Peru and Niger and by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the main speakers of the event were the Special Rapporteur, Ms. Simone Monasebian (Director of the UNODC New York Office), Ms. Christine Chinkin (Professor at the London School of Economics), and Ms. Cheryl Perera (Founder of One Child, a civil society organization working on combatting trafficking).

During the meeting, the Special Rapporteur presented some of the findings and recommendations of her last report to the 73rd session of General Assembly in 2018, which focuses on the gender dimension of trafficking in persons in conflict and post-conflict settings as it relates to the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda of the Security Council ([A/73/171](#)). She underscored the links between conflict and trafficking, which are consistent and not incidental, and highlighted that, due to past and present discrimination, women and girls are disproportionately affected by trafficking, particularly for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

The Special Rapporteur also mentioned that Security Council resolutions demonstrate that trafficking is part of the Council’s Women, Peace, and Security Agenda (Agenda). The Special Rapporteur also echoed criticism raised by various stakeholders on the Agenda having a limited scope, considering that it addresses trafficking mainly as a security issue without much attention on the rights of trafficking victims. The Special Rapporteur made a call to address the phenomenon of trafficking through all the pillars of the Agenda: participation, conflict prevention, protection and relief and recovery. To this end, she suggested that a human rights-based approach to the issue provides a number of entry points. In particular, she recalled that trafficking is a form of conflict-related sexual violence and a violation of women and girls’ human rights. Thus, the Special Rapporteur noted that there is a need to enlarge the area of intervention in terms of victims’ protection to address, for instance, the use of trafficking as a means to finance conflict as well as trafficking committed not only by armed groups but also by criminal gangs profiting from vulnerable migrants attempting to flee conflict and post-conflict settings.

The Special Rapporteur also highlighted the importance of focusing on reparations, underscoring, in particular, their transformative nature. She also noted that women and girls are sometimes depicted only as passive victims of trafficking, but that it is also important to view them as rights-holders who have an active role as agents of peacebuilding.

Other recommendations include filling gaps in international and national legislation on trafficking and adopting a human rights-based and gender-sensitive approach. Further efforts should also

be made to operationalize and create interlinkages between anti-trafficking efforts, the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, and human rights recommendations to ensure they are mutually reinforcing. Early warning on trafficking should also be enhanced and peace agreements should systematically include clauses on trafficking monitoring. As guidance on these issues is needed from the Security Council, the Special Rapporteur mentioned that it would be helpful to have a Council resolution on the interlinkages between the Agenda and anti-trafficking actions and on the implications of the recognition of trafficking as a form of conflict-related sexual violence.

Many of the speakers that took the floor later referred to the Special Rapporteur's framing of the issue, underscoring as well the need to bring together the trafficking and the Women, Peace and Security Agenda through a human rights lens.

At the end of the meeting, the Special Rapporteur thanked member States for their active participation and summarized the discussion in three points:

- Human rights violations are drivers of conflict and are exacerbated during conflict and in the aftermath. Trafficking is a violation of human rights, but it is often overlooked.
- References to trafficking in the Women, Peace and Security Agenda and of conflict in the anti-trafficking agenda are random and not systematic. Therefore, it is important to adopt an approach that systematically integrates both agendas, and ensuring the participation of women, particularly in anti-trafficking efforts, is a main entry point for this.
- There is a need to rethink reparations in this context because women and girls in conflict situations are the least likely to receive reparations and criminal proceedings are rarely effective during conflict and post-conflict periods.

To learn more, please visit:

Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council:

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/sp/pages/welcomepage.aspx>

Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and girls:

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/issues/trafficking/pages/traffickingindex.aspx>

Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, Keynote Speech at the Security Council Arria meeting formula (2019):

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=25278&LangID=E>

Report of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and girls, on the gender dimension of trafficking in persons in conflict and post-conflict settings and its nexus with conflict-related sexual violence (A/73/171, 2018):

<https://undocs.org/A/73/171>

Security Council resolutions on the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda:

[S/RES/1325](#) (2000); [S/RES/1820](#) (2008); [S/RES/1888](#) (2009); [S/RES/1889](#) (2009);
[S/RES/1960](#) (2010); [S/RES/2106](#) (2013); [S/RES/2122](#) (2013); [S/RES/2242](#) (2015);
[S/RES/2242](#) (2015)

Security Council resolutions on trafficking in persons:

[S/RES/2331](#) (2016); [S/RES/2388](#) (2017)

UNODC 2018 Global Report on Trafficking in Persons:

https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/2018/GLOTiP_2018_BOOK_web_small.pdf

Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children (2000):

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/ProtocolTraffickingInPersons.aspx>

Recommend Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking (E/2002/68/Add.1, 2002):

<https://undocs.org/E/2002/68/Add.1>