



May 6, 2020

Dear Members of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women,

On behalf of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT), we would like to thank you for the ongoing work into the elaboration of the CEDAW General Recommendation on Trafficking in Women and Girls in the Context of Global Migration.

As you know, ICAT is a policy forum mandated by the General Assembly to improve coordination among United Nations entities and other relevant international organizations to facilitate a holistic and comprehensive approach to preventing and combating trafficking in persons. ICAT was formally established in March 2007, pursuant to General Assembly Resolution 61/180. As of May, 2020, ICAT is comprised of 26 organizations and entities.

ICAT appreciates the comprehensive set of recommendations included in the draft General Recommendation and believes that their effective implementation through laws, programs and policies will significantly contribute to the reduction of trafficking in women and girls worldwide, to an increase in successful prosecutions of the traffickers and to more effective protection and assistance to victims and survivors.

We would like to reiterate our belief in the importance of ensuring coherence between laws, programs and policies addressing migration, labour and human trafficking. In this respect, we note with appreciation the recommendations detailed in paragraphs 54 to 65 of the draft recommendation.

We also agree with the Committee that strong criminal justice responses to trafficking in persons are critical, including measures that address the demand for goods or services that are produced or provided by trafficked persons. In that regard, the recommendations at paragraphs 87 to 92 are key and would, if implemented, assist in addressing the widespread impunity that traffickers around the world currently enjoy.

Finally, we acknowledge, with thanks, the attention paid in the General Recommendation to the gendered nature of trafficking and the need to have gender transformative responses that address the systemic societal barriers faced by women and girls. As we outlined in our 2019 submission to the Committee, all forms of violence against women and girls are rooted in unequal power relations that are deeply embedded in negative social norms, attitudes and behaviours that normalize and perpetuate violence against women and girls in all its forms. As such, preventing all forms of violence against women and girls, including trafficking, requires addressing the gendered norms, assumptions and stereotypes around male domination, sexual entitlement, coercion and control.

ICAT will continue to promote concerted action to address trafficking in persons, its causes and consequences. We look forward to continuing to collaborate with the Committee to advance our common objectives. In this respect, we wish to inform the Committee that ICAT is currently



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against Trafficking in Persons

developing an analytical paper on the 20th anniversary of the Trafficking in Persons, which will be released later this year. The strategies identified in the General Recommendation will be used to inform our work moving forward. Thank you again for developing the General Recommendation. We are confident that it will serve as an impetus for advancing anti-trafficking work both at the national level and within international organizations.

Yours truly,

Alethia Jiminez
UN Women
ICAT Co-Chair

Andrea Salvoni
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ICAT Co Chair