**Draft General Recommendation on TWGCGM**

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First let me congratulate you on drafting such comprehensive and well-written document. It is remarkable how you have managed to describe the phenomenon and its different aspects.

However, there is a feeling of caution in addressing the main root cause of trafficking, and that is the demand. The problems we have in our societies – poverty, lack of education, domestic and sexual violence etc – would not have such devastating effect on women without the fact that there are hundreds of thousands of men around the globe willing to pay for the access of women’s and girls’ bodies. Poverty itself does not lead to exploitation. Demand for cheap labour and services is the evil we must fight – people willing to pay traffickers to get access to women’s bodies, and to get cheap or free labour at homes or factories.

**Para 27**

The para is not strongly addressing the demand for paid sex that is the root cause of trafficking in women. Buyers of sex do not care whether women are trafficked or not, there is strong evidence base to prove that. Sex buyers are aware that women in prostitution or in trafficking environment are vulnerable for several reasons such as economic, emotional etc; they are aware that women usually do not want to enter the world of exploitation and even though they are mostly not physically forced into prostitution, they are forced by difficult circumstances and vulnerability[[1]](#footnote-1). Sex buyers are interested in women’s bodies and having access to those bodies at any time . They want young women, old women, children, pregnant women. Xenophobia, racism, discrimination are fully flourishing in prostitution sphere. Trafficking in persons is “the accompanying evil of prostitution” as the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others so clearly states. Trafficking and prostitution are clearly linked. There is research proving that legalised prostitution creates more trafficking, and more violence in prostitution. Demand for prostitution is met by traffickers and pimps. Without seriously addressing the demand for paid sex, trafficking in women cannot be eradicated. Therefore, the suggestion regarding paragraph 27 is following:

1. **Adopting or strengthening legislative and other measures to implement prevention techniques through educational, social or cultural measures, including in particular those targeted toward potential users of trafficked goods or services, or prostitution;**
2. **~~Where applicable~~, instituting penal legislation to sanction the users of goods and services that result from trafficking in persons, and to sanction buyers of sex;**
3. **Instituting regulations, policies and procedures for public agencies and private businesses to identify and remove goods and services that result from trafficking in persons from their supply chains;**
4. **Investigating, prosecuting and convicting all perpetrators involved in the trafficking of persons, including those on the demand side. Special attention must be given to buyers of sex.**
1. See for example Farley, M; Bindel, J. & Golding, J. M (2009). *Men who buy sex. Who the buy and what they know.* Eaves: London. Available at <https://www.prostitutionresearch.com/Men%20Who%20Buy%20Sex1-10.pdf>; Macleod, *et al* (2008). Challenging Men’s Demand for Prostitution in Scotland. A Research Report Based on Interviews with 110 Men Who Bought Women in Prostitution. Women’s Support Project: UK. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)