



**NETWORK OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE AMERICAS  
7<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING  
MEXICO CITY, FEDERAL DISTRICT, MEXICO  
SEPTEMBER 10, 2008**

**Resolution on Human Trafficking**

**Recognizing** the legitimacy and effectiveness of bilateral and multilateral treaties to combat human trafficking, in particular the *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime* and the *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children*, adopted in 2000;

**Considering** that these international instruments define trafficking in persons as “*the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs*”;

**Emphasizing** that the issues of human trafficking are also related to gender inequality, as 80 % of victims are women or girls;

**Agreeing** that trafficking is both a national and an international phenomenon that can be stopped only through concerted action on a global scale;

**Considering** that there is a direct relation between trafficking and legislation on immigration, cross-border security, the electronic exchange of information, and the registration of civil status;

**Recognizing** that victims of trafficking suffer both physical and psychological after-effects in the short and the long term and require treatment by physical and mental health professionals in order to rebuild their lives;

**Reiterating** the commitments made by the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas in the Zacatecas Declaration adopted in Mexico on September 28, 2007 and in the resolution condemning human trafficking adopted in Quito, Ecuador, on May 30, 2006;

**We, women legislators and representatives of the parliamentary assemblies in the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas meeting in Mexico City, D.F., Mexico, on September 10, 2008, as part of the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting,**

**Strongly condemn** human trafficking as a heinous, flagrantly immoral crime that violates victims' rights to personal security, physical integrity, liberty and privacy;

**Insist** that all the states of the Americas ratify or accede as soon as possible to the *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime* and the *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children*;

**Exhort** states to take all necessary measures to bring their legislation into line with the *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime* and the *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children*;

**Commit** to overseeing the implementation of these treaties by our respective governments and to holding them accountable;

**Demand** that victims of trafficking not be incriminated for lodging a complaint whatever their sex, age, sexual orientation, race or legal status in the country where the complaint is lodged and that no legal proceedings be brought against them for illegal entry or residence;

**Commit** to introducing legislative measures and seeing that our parliaments adopt penal provisions aimed specifically at traffickers or any person who contributes to or profits from the exploitation of another person, as set out in the definition of human trafficking;

**Urge** our parliaments to take the necessary legislative measures to encourage victims of human trafficking to testify at investigations and proceedings, and to protect those victims in the short and long terms;

**Support** the creation of specialized centres to assist victims, especially women and children, in overcoming the after-effects they suffer and rebuilding their lives, by providing protection, medical and psychological support and training to facilitate social reintegration;

**Invite** governments to create a victim compensation fund using property acquired by traffickers;

**Encourage** governments to sign and ratify bilateral and multilateral agreements on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters between the countries of origin, transit countries and countries of destination of trafficking victims, in particular for the purpose of obtaining evidence, in order to accelerate inquiries, proceedings and convictions;

**Recommend** the systematic registration of births, deaths and changes in civil status as a measure to combat human trafficking;

**Propose** that our governments set up training programs for police officers, attorneys, judges, immigration officers and other detection and prevention officers so they are better equipped to conduct investigations into human trafficking in order to identify trafficking victims quickly and accurately and to help them;

**Desire** to strengthen the role of civil society in combating human trafficking by encouraging the public agencies concerned, to cooperate and form partnerships with civil society organizations and enter into agreements with non-governmental organizations in order to raise public awareness, prevent the trafficking, and protect and support trafficking victims;

**Commit** to addressing the root causes of human trafficking, in particular poverty and gender inequality, and to working to develop and enhance women's autonomy, particularly through education, training and the achievement of financial independence;

**Recommend** that all parliamentarians present at the 8<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of COPA in Mexico follow up on this resolution with their respective assembly so that all the parliamentary assemblies of the Americas work together to combat human trafficking.