

Vulnerability to Trafficking in mixed migration contexts

Community Perspectives and current approaches

Virtual Side Event

May 20, 2022

08:30-10:00 EDT/New York Time

14:30-16:00 CET/Geneva Time

The Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons

Background

The Inter Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons ('ICAT') is a policy forum mandated by the UN General Assembly to improve coordination among UN agencies and other relevant international organizations to facilitate a holistic and comprehensive approach to preventing and combating trafficking in persons (TIP), including protection and support for victims of trafficking. ICAT counts, as of May 2021, 31 members and partners.

In 2022, ICAT is underlining the importance of addressing vulnerability to trafficking in persons by unpacking the different dimensions and factors contributing to, and exacerbating, relevant vulnerabilities.

Vulnerabilities fuelling trafficking in persons affect migrants at all stages of migration. Erosion of the rule of law, widespread criminality, poverty, unemployment, systemic inequality, gender inequality, discrimination, marginalization, corruption, as well as climate induced natural disasters, may all be factors contributing to someone's decision to migrate. Because of a lack of regular and safe migration pathways, migrants often seek the services of smugglers making them more vulnerable to abuse and exploitation, blurring any easy distinction between migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons.

In transit and upon arrival, migrants are in particularly vulnerable situations. This is especially so for migrants with an irregular status and/or who are undocumented, as well as separated or unaccompanied children. Such persons are, resultingly, targeted by traffickers, particularly when adequate support is lacking or cannot be accessed.

Understanding the factors that contribute to the vulnerability of migrants to human trafficking is of utmost importance to the design and implementation of effective operational responses aiming to not only prevent the crime of trafficking in persons but also to identify and protect its victims.

The virtual event, in the margins of the International Migration Review Forum, will present the work carried out by ICAT on the question of vulnerability to TIP in general, and provide a platform for practitioners and community-based organisations to discuss the impact of current approaches to determining and addressing migrants' vulnerability to TIP and identify best practices and innovative solutions for enhanced impact.

Description of the Side-event

An underlying objective of the international community when it adopted the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) was to mitigate the adverse drivers and structural factors that hinder people from building and maintaining sustainable livelihoods in their countries of origin, and so compel them to seek a future elsewhere (see Objective 2 of the GCM).

The GCM also seeks to reduce the risks and vulnerabilities that migrants face at different stages of migration by respecting, protecting and fulfilling their human rights and providing them with care and assistance (see Objective 7 of the GCM).

A set of actions to realize States' related commitments was identified, including the *"review [of] relevant policies and practices to ensure that they do not create, exacerbate or unintentionally increase vulnerabilities of migrants, including by applying a human rights-based, gender- and disability-responsive, as well as age- and child-sensitive approach"* as well as to *"establish comprehensive policies and develop partnerships that provide migrants in a situation of vulnerability, regardless of their migration status, with necessary support at all stages of migration, through identification and assistance, as well as protection of their human rights, in particular in cases related to [...] victims of trafficking in persons, and migrants subject to exploitation and abuse in the context of smuggling of migrants"*.

Moreover, GCM Objective 10 aims to prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international migration. State parties accordingly committed to *"take legislative or other measures to prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international migration by strengthening capacities and international cooperation to investigate, prosecute and penalize trafficking in persons, discouraging demand that fosters exploitation leading to trafficking, and ending impunity of trafficking networks. We further commit to enhance the identification and protection of, and assistance to, migrants who have become victims of trafficking, paying particular attention to women and children"*.

A detailed list of actions are included in the Objective to realise the commitments it enshrines. Yet the specific issue of migrants' vulnerability to trafficking in persons has not been adequately addressed in platforms and spaces leading to this first International Migration Review Forum. Additionally, States' GCM implementation, to date, has rarely reflected a strategic recognition of the interlinkages between trafficking in persons and other migration-related issues.

Objectives:

- To take stock of current practices that seek to identify and address vulnerability of migrants to trafficking in persons;
- To foster a critical reflection on the impact of current approaches and practices towards addressing vulnerabilities;
- To propose innovative solutions to address vulnerability of migrants to trafficking in persons;
- To launch ICAT's latest Issue Brief entitled *"Addressing vulnerability to Trafficking in Human Beings"*

Expected Outcomes:

- Theoretical models (including ICAT's Issue Brief) aiming at understanding and addressing vulnerability to TIP are discussed by frontline workers and disseminated to a wide audience including Member States.
- Challenges and obstacles to adequately understand and address vulnerability of migrants to trafficking in persons are identified and community-informed solutions proposed.

Speakers and Discussants:

Moderator:

- **Professor Felipe Gonzalez Morales** is the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants. He is Professor of International Law at the Diego Portales University, in Santiago, Chile, where he is also the Director of a Masters programme in International Human Rights Law. He was a Commissioner and the Rapporteur on Migrants between 2008 and 2015 at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, where he was President between 2010-2011. He is the founder and was the first Director of the Center for Human Rights at the Diego Portales University. He is also the founder and was the first Director of a Latin American Network of Human Rights Legal Clinics

Discussants:

- **Zita Cabais** is an activist for the defence of domestic workers' rights in France. She arrived in France from the Philippines in 1994, and took up the struggle to empower foreign domestic workers in France after having escaped from trafficking in persons, of which she is a survivor. Zita is an active member of the International Survivors of Trafficking Advisory Council (ISTAC) which celebrated its first anniversary after being set up with the assistance of OSCE-ODIHR.
- **Heather Komenda** is the Migrant Protection and Assistance Specialist based in IOM Headquarters in Geneva. She has been working on trafficking in persons and migrant protection for 15 years, and has worked in emergency, post-conflict, and development contexts across Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East.
- **Maria Todorovska** is a social worker and the Programme Manager of the NGO Open Gate La Strada in North Macedonia. She has over 15 years of experience in the provision of direct services to women and child victims of trafficking within the shelter operated by her NGO. She played an instrumental role during the 2015-16 migration crisis in setting up anti trafficking responses in mixed migration flows on the Western Balkans Route.
- **Vincent Cochetel** has been UNHCR's Special Envoy for the Central Mediterranean Situation since 2017. In 2013, he was appointed UNHCR Director of the Bureau for Europe, and from 2015 to 2017, Mr. Cochetel was UNHCR's Regional Refugee Coordinator for the refugee crisis in Europe. He served as UNHCR Regional Representative for the United States and the Caribbean, based in Washington, D.C., from 2010 to 2013.
- **Moussa Harouna** is the former coordinator of the Mouvement Africain des Enfants et Jeunes Travailleurs, a children and youth-led pan African organisation that defends the right of working children and youth. Since 2010, Moussa Harouna has been instrumental in developing key policy guidance and ensuring the views of children and youth are taken into account in international fora and policy initiatives related to children on the move. He now acts as an expert facilitator for MAEJT

Speakers:

- **Delphine Shantz** is UNODC's representative at the United Nations in New York. Ms Shantz worked for 9 years in the Counter Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) as Chief of the Africa Section and before that, as Senior Legal Officer and Coordinator for Countering Financing Terrorism.
- **Kalliope Mingeirou** is currently the acting Chief of the Ending Violence against Women Section at UN-Women in New York and leads its work in the area of prevention. She is a lawyer by training, holding an LL.M. on public international law. Before joining UN-Women, Kalliope worked as a practicing lawyer in Greece, and, at the international level, for UN agencies as well as international NGOs in the areas of human rights, women's human rights and refugee protection in several countries, including post-genocide Rwanda, Sweden, Burundi, Morocco, Bosnia Herzegovina, Liberia, Guinea and Ivory Coast.
- **Martijn Pluim** is ICMPD's Director of Migration Dialogues and Cooperation. He spearheads ICMPD's work across all regions where ICMPD operates (West Africa, Central and Eastern Europe, Silk Route Region, Turkey and the Western Balkans) as well as the two flagship programmes of ICMPD (Border Management and Trafficking in Human Beings). In his more than 30 years of experience, in a variety of capacities for different international organisations as well as the European Commission, Martijn contributed to advancing effective migration governance and management systems and practice.
- **Pierre Cazenave** is a senior specialist working within the Anti-Trafficking Programme of ICMPD. Pierre worked for more than a decade on the fight against child trafficking and the protection of children on the move with the NGO Terre des hommes. Prior to that, Pierre was teaching EU Law and IHR Law for the University of Paris Pantheon-Sorbonne. Pierre currently manages ICMPD's co-chairing of ICAT.

Format

Online event, via Zoom.

The event will provide simultaneous interpretation in English and French.

To register: <https://icmpd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUqcuiozpkrG9C2ltnj-EdyhHx12K8rW6ch>

AGENDA May 20, 2022 08:30-10:00 (New York) / 14:30-16:00 (Geneva) Online	
08:30-08:35 EDT	Welcoming Words by moderator Felipe Gonzalez Morales - UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, moderator of the event
08:35-08:40 EDT	Opening Remarks Delphine Schantz, UNODC Representative, New York Liaison Office
08:40-08:55 EDT	Presentation of ICAT Issue Brief “Addressing vulnerability to Trafficking in Persons” Kalliope Mingeirou, Chief of the Ending Violence against Women Section, UN Women Pierre Cazenave, ICAT co-chair, Senior Anti-Trafficking Specialist, ICMPD
08:55-09:30 EDT	Panel Discussion <i>Determining the vulnerability of migrants to Trafficking in Persons</i> Heather Komenda, Migrant Protection and Assistance Specialist, IOM <i>Vulnerability of migrants to Trafficking in Persons – Field perspective on the Eastern Mediterranean Route</i> Marija Todorovska, Social Worker and Programme Manager, Open Gate La Strada (North Macedonia) <i>Vulnerability in the context of mixed migration flows on the Central Mediterranean Route</i> Vincent Cochetel, Special Envoy for the Central Mediterranean Situation, UNHCR <i>Vulnerability of children and youth on the move– a field perspective from West Africa</i> Moussa Harouna, Animator and Former Coordinator of the Mouvement Africain des Enfants et Jeunes Travailleurs (MAEJT), Senegal
09:30-09:50 EDT	Discussion / Q&A All participants
09:50-09:55 EDT	Reflective summary Martin Pluijm, Director of Migration Dialogues and Cooperation, ICMPD
09:55-10:00 EDT	Closing Remarks Zita Cabais, Member of the International Survivors of Trafficking Advisory Council Felipe Gonzalez Morales - UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, moderator of the event