



# Child trafficking: a fatality ? From field reality to better practices.

Seminar

organized by

the International Institute for the Rights of the Child (IDE)

in collaboration with

Terre des Hommes Foundation (TdH)

## Programme

- Course Director :** Mr Thierry Werts  
King's substitute prosecutor, Brussels, Belgium
- Dates :** Tuesday, October 19<sup>th</sup> to  
Saturday October 23<sup>rd</sup> 2004
- Location :** Institut Universitaire Kurt Bösch (IUKB)  
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web : [www.childsrights.org](http://www.childsrights.org)
- Languages :** French and English with simultaneous translation  
throughout the plenary sessions.

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## ARGUMENT

Trafficking in children is a major violation of the rights of the child. The number of cases show, as though that were necessary, that child trafficking is a world reality. All countries are concerned (not only those in Asia or Africa). Children are sold everywhere as cheap labour (agriculture, industry, catering). They are forced into prostitution or reduced to slavery as small domestic servants. Others again are used by various criminal networks specialised in theft, narcotics trafficking or organised begging. Certain marriages are arranged and forced and there is many a doubtful twist to international adoption.

The phenomenon is not new but it grows as the gap between North and South widens and the economic inequalities which cause very significant migratory flows increase, creating very fertile ground for trafficking in all human beings and, in particular, children. It is necessary that such intolerable situations be brought to light, the authorities are all too often unaware of this reality and the policy for receiving young people from abroad is often very restrictive. The shortcomings of certain national legal systems or the absence of bilateral conventions which would easily make it possible to stop situations which are known but hushed up must be denounced. And then? Let us stimulate reflection by concrete examples to cause States to adopt good practices. The model of the international "stop child trafficking" awareness campaign conducted by the International Federation of Terre des Hommes (FITDH) is, in this respect, particularly interesting ([www.stopchildtrafficking.org](http://www.stopchildtrafficking.org)).

The general topic underlying the seminar is that of PROTECTION: protection of children in precarious situations to avoid their being trafficked, protection of children picked up by the police, protection of children herded into institutions, protection of children repatriated, protection of child witnesses. Legal protection instruments exist, starting with the Convention on the Rights of the Child but they have yet to be used and there needs to be a real will to apply them.

The international treaties illustrate the will of States to do something and they set some minimal rules; but they just add one more rule to the many. We are aware that much remains to be done in the field. For that, it is essential to provide the various parties involved in the fight against child trafficking with operational means such as an effective system of birth registration, better training for staff working in the institutions, a proper control of international adoption, a proper status for unaccompanied foreign minors and children who have fallen victim to trading, a harmonization of police and legal legislation and practices, the co-ordination of transnational action... and so on and so forth. This list is not exhaustive, there is so much to be done!

## OBJECTIVES

The seminar, by a practical confrontation of theory and practice and of the legal framework and the reality in the field, aims to:

- *provide a clear view of the problems* (definition of the question, types of trafficking, areas concerned...)
- *identify best practices*, by sharing experiences among international organisations, NGOs, lawyers, government officers, judges, police officers, speakers from the field...
- *determine possible synergies* between all players, in particular to organise cross-border co-ordination, to find out about the effects of bilateral conventions and to identify potential partners...
- *reach conclusions which allow for strong and concerted international action.*

## TARGET AUDIENCE

Members of NGOs active in the field, people responsible for child protection and education problems, doctors, lawyers, teachers, psychologists, sociologists, judges, social workers and anyone else concerned (media, politicians); researchers and final-year students are also welcome.

## PROGRAMME

<b><i>Tuesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2004</i></b>
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- 06:00 p.m. Registration and distribution of documents at the IUKB
- 07:00 p.m. Opening Ceremony
- 07:30 p.m. Cocktail to welcome participants

**Wednesday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2004**

*Session Chairperson: Mr Jean Zermatten*

### **Part I: General Panorama**

- 09:30 a.m. Opening speeches  
**Dr Bernard Comby**, President, Institut international des Droits de l'Enfant, Sion  
**Mr Peter Brey**, General Secretary of the Terre des Hommes Foundation and vice-president of the International Federation of Terre des Hommes  
**Mrs Mara Steccazzini**, Assistant of the Special Reporter of the Human Rights High Commission on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography
- 10:00 a.m. Presentation of the program and the partners  
**Mrs Paola Riva Gapany**, Director Assistant, IDE  
**Mr Bernard Boeton**, Head of "Children Rights", Terre des Hommes Foundation, Lausanne
- 10:20 a.m. Definition of Trafficking  
**Mrs Brigitte Polonovski Vauclair**, Representative of the Coalition against the traffic on women and children
- 11:00 a.m. *Break*
- 11:20 a.m. Patterns of child trafficking around the word: challenges in distinguishing between trafficked children, child workers and child migrants  
**Mr Mike Dottridge**, Human Rights Consultant, London, UK
- 12:15 p.m. *Lunch*
- 01:45 p.m. Child trafficking: the challenges of a national and international repression  
**Mr Damien Vandermeersch**, Vice-President and Examining Magistrate, Court of first instance, Brussels Professor at the Catholic University of Louvain
- 02:15 p.m. The international campaign of Tdh: lessons learned & future challenges  
**Mr Bernard Boeton**, Head of "Children Rights", Terre des Hommes Foundation, Lausanne
- 03:00 p.m. Workshops
- 05:30 p.m. End of the day
- 08:00 p.m. *"Valaisan" Evening*

**Thursday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2004**

*Session Chairperson: Mr Bernard Boeton*

### **Part II: Issues**

- 09:00 a.m. Unaccompanied Minors Trafficking in Europe  
**Mrs Heidi De Pauw**, Manager Research & Prevention, Child Focus, Belgium
- 09:40 a.m. The issue of repatriation  
**Mr Elkane Mooh**, Regional Advisor, Save the Children Sweden, Dakar (*sollicitated*)
- 10:20 a.m. Young women exported to receiving countries  
**Mrs Najla Tabet Chahda**, CARITAS Beyrouth, Lebanon
- 11:00 a.m. *Break*
- 11:40 a.m. Civil State, Commercial Adoption, Maternity, Orphanages, Institutions  
**Mrs Marlene Hoffstetter**, in charge of adoption, Terre des Hommes Foundation, Lausanne

12:20 a.m.	Organ trafficking	<b>Mme Emma Nicholson</b> , European Parliamentary
13:00 p.m.	<i>Lunch</i>	
02:00 p.m.	Difficulties in tracing the traffickers	<b>Mrs Lieve Pellens</b> , Federal Magistrate, In charge of the traffic of Human Beings, Belgium ( <i>solicited</i> )
02:45 p.m.	Tourism	
05:30 p.m.	End of the day	

### **Friday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2004**

*Session Chairperson: Mrs Paola Riva Gapany*

#### **Part III: The solutions ?**

09:00 a.m.	Bilateral Conventions related to Child trafficking	<b>Mrs Muireann O Briain</b> , Representative of ECPAT Europe, Law Enforcement Group, Dublin, Ireland
09:45 a.m.	Child, actor of his/her repatriation: psychosocial aspects of exploitation and repatriation	<b>Mrs Galit Wolfensohn</b> , Regional Programme Coordinator, Child-Trafficking Response, Southeast Europe, Save the Children, Albania
10:30 a.m.	<i>Break</i>	
11:00 to 12:30 p.m.	<b>Implementation of good practices related to child trafficking tracking (panel)</b>	
11:00 a.m.	Trafficking prevention: The Example of Albania	<b>Mr Vincent Tournecueillert</b> , Delegate in Albania, Terre des Hommes Foundation
.	The legal Aid Office in Guatemala	<b>Mr Arturo Echeverria</b> , Director, Casa Alianza Guatemala
.	The NGO Cooperation in Child trafficking	<b>Mrs Holta Kotherja</b> , Attorney at Law, Director of the Legal Clinic for Minors, BKTF President, Albania
12:30 p.m.	<i>Lunch</i>	
01:45 p.m.	The role of mass media in the fight against child trafficking	<b>Mr William Heinzer</b> , Journalist, Swiss Television (TSR)
02:30 p.m.	Workshops	
05:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.	NGO Debates including the Lausanne Appeal	<b>Mr Bernard Boeton</b> , Head of "Children Rights", Terre des hommes Foundation, Lausanne

### **Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2004**

*Session Chairperson: Mr Vincent Tournecueillert*

09:00 a.m.	Workshop Reports	Reporters
10:00 a.m.	Conclusion	<b>Mr Thierry Werts</b> , Course Director
10:30 a.m.	<i>Break</i>	
11:00 a.m.	Questions of ethics and anthropology around the notions of human person and human community in the fight against child trafficking.	<b>Mr Bruno-Marie Duffé</b> , Doctor in philosophy, Chairman in philosophy politic and social ethics, Institute of Human Rights, Lyon, France
11:45 a.m.	End of the seminar and announcement of the 2005 seminar	
12:00 noon	<i>Lunch</i>	

# Workshops

**Wednesday, October 20th, 2004 – 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.**

**and**

**Friday, October 22th, 2004 – 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.**

## **Workshop 1: Legal Aspect (national and international instruments, bilateral or multilateral conventions)**

### **Towards a legal status of children victims of trafficking**

- **Mrs Renate Winter**, Justice at the Special Court of Sierra Leone
- **Mrs Lieve Pellens**, Federal Magistrate, In charge of the traffic of Human Beings, Belgium  
(*solicited*)

## **Workshop 2: Migration : the issue of unaccompanied minors**

(prevention, asylum policy, supporting the return, micro credits...)

- **RAFY network** : **Mrs Paola Riva Gapany**, IDE and **Mr Rolf Widmer**, SSI
- **Mrs Heidi De Pauw**, Manager Research & Prevention, Child Focus, Belgium

## **Workshop 3: Prevention : which lines, which practices?**

- **Mrs Muireann O Briain**, Representative of ECPAT Europe, Law Enforcement Group, Dublin, Ireland
- **Mrs Najla Tabet Chahda**, CARITAS Beyrouth, Lebanon

## **Workshop 4: Children's Participation to proceedings affecting them**

- **Mrs Galit Wolfensohn**, Regional Programme Coordinator, Child-Trafficking Response, Southeast Europe, Save the Children, Albania
- **Mr Pierre Philippe**, Terre des Hommes Foundation, Lausanne

## **Workshop 5: Child Protection Procedures**

- **Mr Vincent Tournecueillert**, Delegate in Albania, Terre des Hommes Foundation
- **Mr Mike Dottridge**, Human Rights Consultant, London, UK