

We require...

- The definition of trafficking adopted by domestic legislation shall comply with the definition contained in the UN Protocol on Trafficking;
- Domestic policies shall give consideration to the fact that women and children are forced not only into prostitution when being trafficked;
- States shall recognise that the lack of regular migration opportunities and labour standards creates a fertile ground for human trafficking;
- Domestic policies shall be formulated as to contain a clear distinction between movements and migrations that are legitimate and consensual and those that are coerced;
- The legal regime surrounding trafficked women and children shall be based on a framework of human rights;
- States shall ensure that victims have access to justice and redress, where confidentiality, protection and support are guaranteed and trials are expeditious and fair and do not represent a re-victimization;
- Women's economic, social and cultural rights shall be guaranteed and improved at all times.



The *SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution* will have important implications for the entire South Asian region, as it will constitute the basis for the formulation of domestic policies and legislation concerning trafficking.

This gives us cause for deep concern, since **the SAARC Convention fails to comply with the UN Protocol on Trafficking and other international instruments!**

The SAARC Convention extensively ignores the fundamental human rights of women and children who have been victims of the crime of trafficking!

Therefore consider this...

The SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution:

- Promotes a narrow definition of trafficking, limiting it to the purpose of prostitution; women and children are also forced into other exploitative forms of labour, such as domestic work, garment labour, organ transplantation, etc.;
 - Fails to draw a distinction between trafficking and smuggling;
 - Regards mobility for the purpose of prostitution as illegal, ignoring thus the rights of women to freedom of movement and freedom of choice;
 - Reinforces the stigmatisation and discrimination against women and girls involved in prostitution;
 - Creates ambiguity around the issue of consent, thus representing a serious threat to the rights of persons who are willing to be transported and pay for such assistance;
 - Infantilises women, as no distinction is made between women and children;
- Emphasises the use of criminal laws exclusively, treating trafficking as a crime against the State and a law and order problem rather than treating it as one of the worst violations of Human Rights;
 - Recognises that victims of trafficking need protection but fails to provide the freedom of choice to decide whether to stay in protective shelters and does not grant any financial support to them;
 - Leaves completely unexplored the vulnerability of adult women and children to becoming victims of trafficking.

Contact us!

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