

**HUMAN RIGHTS  
STANDARDS FOR  
THE TREATMENT OF  
TRAFFICKED  
PERSONS**

1999

The **Human Rights Standards for the Treatment of Trafficked Persons (HRS)** aims to promote respect for the human rights of individuals who have been victims of trafficking, including those who have been subjected to involuntary labour and/or slavery-like practices. The HRS can be used as a guide in providing assistance to women and taking legal action against traffickers.

Foundation Against Trafficking in Women  
International Human Rights Law Group  
Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

Also available in French, German, Spanish, and Thai

Human Rights Standards for the Treatment of Trafficked Persons (HRS)

Jointly developed by

**Foundation Against Trafficking in Women**

P.O.Box 1455, 3500 BL Utrecht, The Netherlands

Phone: 31-30-271-6044, Fax: 31-30-271-6084

E-mail: stv@STV.nl

**International Human Rights Law Group**

1200-18<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Washington DC 20038, USA

Phone: (202) 822-4600, Fax: (202) 822-4606

E-mail: Annj@HRLawgroup.org

**Global Alliance Against Traffic in women**

P.O.Box 36, Bangkoknoi Post Office, Bangkok 10700, Thailand

Phone: (662) 864-1427/8, Fax: (662) 864-1637

E-mail: GAATW@mozart.inet.co.th

With generous support from HIVOS and Heinrich Boll Foundation

Published by: Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

ISBN: 974-87025-6-1

© 1999

Third edition 2001

**HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARDS  
FOR  
THE TREATMENT  
OF  
TRAFFICKED PERSONS**

## FOREWARD

For some years now, one of the concerted efforts of GAATW has been to put together a document that will clearly spell out the human rights of trafficked persons. The idea for such a document arose out of a discussion during the International Workshop on Migration and Traffic in Women in October 1994, organised by the Foundation for Women (FFW) in Thailand.

NGOs and activists from different parts of the world present at the workshop felt that if a comprehensive document can be prepared it will be easier for its inclusion into the legal procedure. Subsequently a number of people contributed their expertise and time for the production of Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Trafficked Persons (SMR). Last November we revised the document and called it the Human Rights Standards for the Treatment of Trafficked Persons (HRS).

The HRS includes an all-encompassing definition of trafficking, and a set of state responsibilities which ensures that trafficked persons are protected and their rights are promoted under human rights law. These responsibilities contain measures to provide trafficked persons with access to justice, private actions and reparations, access to the right to seek asylum, access to health and other services, and help with repatriation and reintegration in their home countries. This comprehensive document aims to promote respect for the human rights of individuals who have been victims of trafficking, including those who have been subjected to involuntary labour and/or slavery-like practices. The Human Rights Standards for the Treatment of Trafficked Persons (HRS) can be used as a guide in providing assistance to women and taking legal action against traffickers.

Foundation Against Trafficking (STV)  
International Human Rights Law Group  
Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW)

## The Human Rights Caucus

The Human Rights Caucus was formed in January 1999 to coordinate campaign and lobbying work for the Human Rights Standards for the Treatment of Trafficked Persons (HRS). If you believe that any trafficked person is entitled to the basic rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, please join hands with us. Let us raise our voices against human rights violations and let us work together to protect and promote the basic rights of trafficked persons.

JOIN THE HUMAN RIGHTS CAUCUS TO  
CAMPAIGN AND LOBBY FOR THE HUMAN  
RIGHTS STANDARDS FOR THE TREATMENT  
OF TRAFFICKED PERSONS (HRS)

### Current Members of the Caucus

Asian Women's Human Rights Council - Philippines, India  
Ban Ying - Germany  
Foundation Against Trafficking in Women (STV) - Netherlands  
Foundation for Women - Thailand  
Fundacion Esperanza - Colombia, Spain  
International Human Rights Law Group - United States  
KOK - German NGO Network Against Trafficking in Women (Germany)  
La Strada - Poland  
Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights - Austria  
Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW)  
Solomon Foundation - Hungary  
Women, Law and Development - Nigeria  
Women's Consortium of Nigeria (WOCON) - Nigeria

# CONTENTS

	Pages
Summary	1
Introduction	3
I. Definitions	5
Trafficking	5
Trafficked Person	7
Trafficker	8
II. State Responsibilities	9
Principle of Non-Discrimination	9
Safety and Fair Treatment	10
Access to Justice	13
Access to private action and reparations	16
Resident Status	17
Health and Other Services	19
Repatriation and Reintegration	20
State Cooperation	21
Endnote	23