



MANIFESTO

#breakwithtrafficking

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS AN UNACCEPTABLE FORM OF SLAVERY.

IF YOU WANT TO BREAK TRAFFICKING, YOUR SIGNATURE IS THE FIRST STEP.

Trafficking in persons is the act of recruiting, transferring, harbouring or receiving persons for the purpose of exploitation, by means of deception, threat, use of force or coercion, abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability.

Human trafficking is a crime and a violation that should not take place in the 21st century. It is estimated that more than 500,000 people are trafficked into the world every year. One every minute. Most of them are recruited for sexual exploitation.

Nearly three quarters of trafficked persons detected globally are women. Thirty-one per cent are children. Among sexually exploited women, those who have also been trafficked suffer the worst conditions. They are the most vulnerable to being trafficked, the ones who suffer the most abuse and violence during the time they are subjected, and the ones who have the hardest time recovering and rebuilding their lives after an eventual escape from the networks that subjugate them.

Human trafficking occurs in all countries. But it has more impact in environments where the rule of law and welfare is weak and people lack opportunities. Humanitarian crises, extreme poverty and conflict create an environment in which traffickers easily prey on the most vulnerable people.

The numbers are growing every year. Every year more and more cases of human trafficking are detected and reported around the world, with an increasing proportion of children being trafficked. In 2018, 31% of children are already trafficked for sexual purposes. Of these, 23% are girls and 8% are boys.

Combating human trafficking brings us closer to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, which call for eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls, combating organised crime and eradicating forced labour, abuse, exploitation and violence against children.

From Mumbai Smiles we want to say loud and clear that human trafficking cannot happen in the 21st century, that we are on the side of the victims and that it is necessary to give answers from all levels: political, social and international with the aim of generating social awareness, imparting the justice that the victims deserve, offering them the necessary resources to recover their lives and stopping those who commit these crimes.

IT IS A PRIORITY TO

CARE FOR THE VICTIMS. Rescue victims of trafficking from their exploiters, offer them safe spaces of refuge and provide them with support and tools to rebuild their lives or return home, if they so wish, in dignified conditions. Victim care, including rescue, rehabilitation and repatriation for women and their children, is a priority.

INCREASED AWARENESS AND COMMITMENT. Trafficking persists because of the demand of clients, the extreme need of the victims and the lucrative nature of an activity in conditions of slavery. The implementation of legal protocols and mechanisms in most countries, the coordination of authorities and law enforcement have had positive effects in dismantling illegal trafficking networks. But much remains to be done. Awareness needs to be raised at all levels and levels of society. Working with families on prevention, to avoid their daughters from being trafficked into the communities where the victims are recruited. And also in institutions, to detect situations of trafficking, denounce the exploitation networks and dismantle them.

SUPPORT ACCESS TO AND PERMANENCE IN EDUCATIONAL CYCLES. It is necessary to support education as a way to prevent situations that lead to trafficking. The positive effect of supporting families without resources so that they can facilitate their children's education through, for example, scholarship programmes, especially in rural areas or disadvantaged neighbourhoods in large cities, has been demonstrated. It is also important to promote initiatives to generate alternative futures for girls and women, as a prevention of trafficking or rehabilitation for the victims.

THEREFORE

We demand more attention to the victims, as well as more means for their rescue and rehabilitation.

We call for an effort by the institutions to understand the problem and act to tackle it.

We support initiatives to keep girls in education.

TAKE ACTION AND SIGN THIS MANIFESTO

DENOUNCING THIS SITUATION IS THE FIRST STEP TO FIGHT AGAINST THIS INJUSTICE.

I BREAK WITH TRAFFICKING



At Mumbai Smiles we fight peacefully against poverty and for Human Rights, with special emphasis on human trafficking in different areas of Asia. We take a holistic approach to human trafficking, from the rescue of victims, prevention in communities, care and rehabilitation of survivors and their reintegration into society.