

The observance of the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons in Central Asia



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International Organization for Migration: Combating Human Trafficking is Not a Mission of One Entity

BY ZEYNAL HAJIEV in OP-ED on 30 JULY 2021

World Day Against Trafficking in Persons is celebrated annually on July 30. Alas, it will be utopic to commemorate the Day of Ending Human Trafficking one day.



Zeynal Hajiev

Human trafficking is a crime that should cease to exist. Nobody deserves to be a victim of human trafficking. But we also understand that this is a business-based crime. According to the UN Secretary General's report of 7 September 2020, human trafficking generates approximately \$150 billion in global profits for traffickers a year, \$99 billion of which comes from commercial sexual exploitation.

To commemorate the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, IOM in Kazakhstan office organized a media campaign that reached about 7 500 people.

As part of the campaign, the Sub-Regional Coordinator for Central Asia, Chief of Mission in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, Zeinal Hajiev, wrote an Op-Ed and was highlighted in the Forbes Kazakhstan news site. Mr. Hajiev talked about the human trafficking situation in Kazakhstan and what IOM is partnering with the national government and non-government bodies to support victims of human trafficking and improve the system.

Additionally, a victim of human trafficking talked about what she went through and how IOM's NGO partner is supporting till today to mitigate the consequences of sexual exploitation she was in more than ten years.

IOM has been working with national partners on the draft of Law on combatting human trafficking in Kazakhstan. To highlight the importance of the adoption of the Law, IOM's national consultant talked about the work on the draft and its impact on the lives of victims and the Kazakhstani system.

Overall, as part of the media campaign, 6 PR articles were published.

Please press the photo for reading article

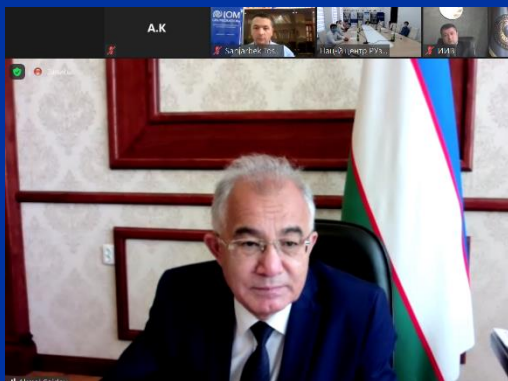


IOM CENTRAL ASIA REGIONAL RESPONSE REPORT, ISSUE 7, 01/08/2021 ● ● ●

"THE PALERMO PROTOCOL: NATIONAL EXPERIENCE AND FOREIGN PRACTICE"



On July 27, 2021, the Mission of the International Organization for Migration in Uzbekistan, together with the National Center for Human Rights and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, organized an international forum. The topic of the event was "The Palermo Protocol: national experience and foreign practice." The meeting is dedicated to implementing the 16 "Action Plan for expanding cooperation between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) for 2021-2023". This forum was held on World Day against Human Trafficking, which is celebrated annually on July 30.



The forum widely noted the role and importance of the IOM in combatting human trafficking, the close cooperation of the IOM with non-governmental, non-profit organizations in providing the first necessary assistance to victims of human trafficking upon their return to their homeland. Moreover, participants shared national experiences as topical issues of combating human trafficking and discussed cross-border cooperation between the Central Asian countries on cooperation in this area. Various measures were proposed for the development of partnership between the IOM and government structures in achieving common goals.



The event was attended by representatives of relevant ministries and departments, educational and academic institutions, civil society institutions from Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan.

Due to the quarantine requirements, the forum was held online via the Zoom platform.



Ashgabat, July 30, 2021

YOUTH FORUM DEDICATED TO WORLD DAY AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

International Organization for Migration in Turkmenistan and the USAID Social Innovation in Central Asia program launched a Youth Forum dedicated to World Day against Trafficking in Persons. Sixty young leaders from different regions of Turkmenistan, and representatives from the Ministry of Sport and Youth Policy of Turkmenistan, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection, the State Migration Services, Public Organizations, and international agencies attended the event.

The participants shared the best practices and innovative approaches in the implementation of youth activities. Youth Forum became a platform for discussion of youth entrepreneurship, ecology, healthy lifestyle, gender equality, safe migration, education, employment, and career, volunteering, and sharing opinions on youth initiatives. Young leaders shared their experiences and discussed youth projects and ideas for development and self-realization. Networking between young leaders, public organizations, representatives of state agencies, and international communities stimulated innovative ideas and new connections.



Dushanbe, July 30, 2021

The U.S. Embassy's International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL) office supported the "Victims' Voices Lead the Way" roundtable, dedicated to the "World Day Against Trafficking in Persons." The International Organization for Migration (IOM), INL's implementing partner, conducted the roundtable to emphasize the necessity of a victims-centered approach in combating human trafficking (TIP). The roundtable highlighted the importance of listening to and learning from survivors of human trafficking.

INL Director Sita Farrell noted that many victims of human trafficking had experienced ignorance or misunderstandings in their attempts to obtain help. Some have also faced traumatic post-rescue experiences during identification interviews and legal proceedings, revictimization, or punishment for crimes that their traffickers forced them to commit. Others have been stigmatized or have not been adequately supported.

In 2021, INL financially supported IOM's counter-trafficking project to bolster Tajik authorities' skills and resources further to prevent, identify, and prosecute this crime, allowing survivors of TIP to be key actors in the fight against human trafficking. This project will strengthen coordination and provide training and materials to vulnerable groups such as migrants, victims of domestic violence, unemployed persons, young girls, and uneducated women. They will learn about the risks of TIP, methods of recruitment and coercion, preventative measures, and where to refer cases.



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The video was also shown on a local TV channel AlmatyTV six times throughout the day

Please click on the photo to see full video which IOM of Kazakhstan has created an informative video on the eve of the World Day against Trafficking in Persons

[ON CENTRAL ASIA FACEBOOKS" PAGE](#) IOM held an information marathon under the motto "Victims' voices lead the way!" during the week from 26 to July 30, 2021.



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