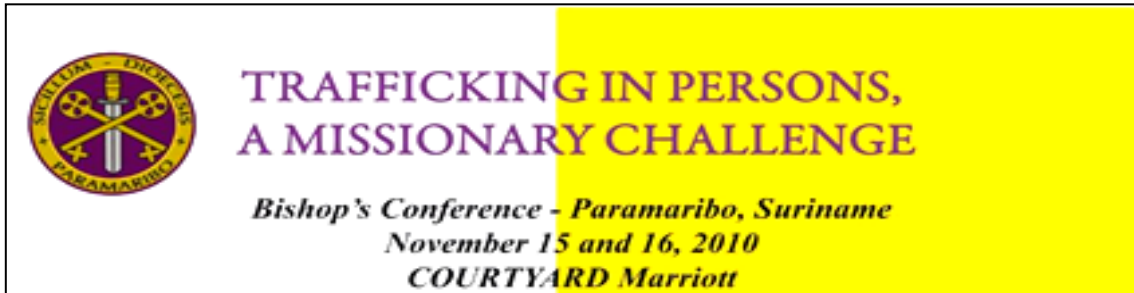


# Proceedings Report



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For

Bisdom Paramaribo

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## MONDAY 15 NOVEMBER, 2010

### 1.1 Call to order and Invocation

Chaired by Father Brendan Callanan

### 1.2 Opening of Conference by Mgr. W. de Bekker



*Excellency, other dignitaries*

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

*Am I my brothers keeper? Gen. 4-9. Perhaps we must ask ourselves the question: I am the ....of my fellow-creature? An answer to this question is to be found in Lev. 19-18: You have to love the other as you can love yourself. Also Christ teaches us that we love our fellows as we love ourselves.*

*The theme of the conference is about the Social Teaching of the Church, trafficking and prostitution. The Social Teaching of the church can be positioned in the love for your neighbor.*

*Trafficking and prostitution did exist already as from the Creation. The story of Jozef and his brother is well-known.*

*According to Lev. 21-7 it is forbidden to a priest to marry a prostitute.*

*Deuteronomium 23 18:19 is telling us: The Israelites, whether they may be men or women are not allowed to commit prostitution in the holy places. The Lord detest the acts.*

*Fact is that in these texts prostitution and trafficking are disapproved.*

*These examples show us that prostitution and trafficking are no inventions of the 21 century.*

*The question is how to deal with these concepts.*

*Also we have to disapprove prostitution and trafficking. We should agree upon that because these acts are condemnable, they never stopped. On the contrary: the reality at this moment is worse and is situated on a worldwide scale.*

*Also the United Nations has taken action in this regard. To be exactly the U.N. Assembly adopted on the 15th of November 2000 a new treaty on: transnational organized crime with two appending protocols: one about trafficking and one about smuggling. The realization of this treaty has taken two years, because it is a very complex matter.*

*Consensus had to be reached on the definition of trafficking. One concept was that prostitution and trafficking are identical, whereas in the other concept prostitution is considered to be labour and trafficking is not defined by the nature of the labour, but by the circumstances of compulsion and exploitation, apart from the kind of labor that is performed.*

*“Love your neighbor as yourself” Lev. 19:18. As a simple seed contains the core of each nourishment, without the body can not sustain, so in this very simple sentence lies the key for an sound and sustainable society.*

*I give you in consideration:*

*Take the love for your neighbor as a guide for the acting on the individual level; as the essence of the cohesion of each society; as the light for international cooperation; as the source of life for humanity.*

*The rights and liberties of the individual anchored in many national laws and international treaties are not leading automatically to justice of the one in respect to the other human being.*

*The individual who is experiencing his rights and freedoms from a strong social position, will, without the love for the neighbor as guide, decline in different forms of a-social behavior.*

*Technological development and economic growth are seen by governments as the keys for the solution of problems like poverty and underdevelopment. The history of development of a human beings teaches us, however, that technological development and economic growth as such do not lead to moral acceptable rulers or other civilians with great moral responsibilities.*

*Without the radiation of this founding principle of the social teaching material wealth will not bring us to any form or substance of peaceful existence between different religions, cultural and ethnical groups, who have to live together on this planet.*

*The success of this conference will be characterized as consensus upon the effective use of the founding principle of the social teaching of the church in order to raise the consciousness within our society about the necessity of this teaching in the solution of the problems in our present world.*

### 1.3 Welcome Remarks by U.S. Ambassador John R. Nay



*“Thank you for inviting me. I am honored that you asked me to join you.*

*It is right that you are holding this conference, and it is right that a church is supporting it. One thing that every religion should do is to uphold human dignity.*

*It is right for Christians to consider this topic. We are about to enter the Christmas season, celebrated by Christians worldwide, but we must remember for victims of trafficking there is no Christmas.*

*It also is right for Muslims to consider this topic. This week is Eid ul Adha, a feast of commemoration celebrated by Muslims worldwide, but for trafficking victims, there is no opportunity to join together in this celebration.*

*For Hindus – just over a week ago Divali was celebrated. For Jews, Yom Kippur is in September or October. But again, for victims of trafficking, there are no such celebrations.*

*Whether we are Christians or Muslims or Jews or Buddhists or Hindus – we can and should unite to help stop the exploitation of our fellow human beings.*

*As Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said recently, “human trafficking is an affront to basic human dignity, in the United States and around the world.*

*The end of slavery in the United States and Suriname was just about 140 years ago, but forced labor and trafficking in persons means this form of slavery still continues.*

*It can mean child labor. It can mean men being forced to work in fields or mines. It can mean women and children forced into sexual slavery.*

*This can and does happen in countries on every continent. We must not think it happens only in other countries. It happens in Africa, but also in Europe. In Asia, but also in Australia, and in my own country of the United States and elsewhere in North America. And it happens right here in South America.*

*Earlier this year we had a case in the United States where some 400 workers from Thailand were found to have been forced into farm labor and threatened. Six people were arrested.*

*It happens in Suriname. And it happens to Surinamers.*

*Today, police officers, activists, and governments are coordinating their efforts more effectively. Thousands of victims have been liberated around the world.*

*The police here have a hot line that we cooperated with them in setting up, whereby people can call for help or to report trafficking.*

*The modern anti-trafficking movement is not limited to the United States.*

*As was just mentioned, almost 150 countries have joined the United Nations' Trafficking Protocol to protect victims and promote cooperation among countries. More than 116 countries have outlawed human trafficking, and the number of victims identified and traffickers imprisoned is increasing each year.*

*But we still have a long way to go. Every year, the State Department produces a report on human trafficking in 177 countries, now including our own country.*

*Unfortunately, the most recent report found that 19 countries have actually reduced their anti-trafficking efforts, and 13 countries fail to meet the minimum standards for eliminating trafficking and are not trying to improve.*

*It is especially important for governments to protect the most vulnerable – women and children – who are more likely to be victims of trafficking. They are not just the targets of sex traffickers, but also labor traffickers, and they make up a majority of those trapped in forced labor: picking cotton, mining, dancing in nightclubs.*

*Many other countries can still do more to strengthen their anti-trafficking laws. And all governments can devote more resources to finding victims and punishing human traffickers.*

*Citizens can help too, by advocating for laws that ban all forms of exploitation and give victims the support they need to recover.*

*The problem of modern trafficking may be entrenched, but it is solvable. By using every available tool to put pressure on traffickers, we can set ourselves on a course to wipe out modern slavery.*

*So, thank you for holding this conference.*

*It is right that Surinamers consider this problem – as trafficking affects all of us, including Surinamers.*

*Thank you for helping with this problem.”*

## **First Plenary Session**

### **1.4 Presentation by the Brazilian Delegation**



Title: "Trafficking in Women: An Old/New Amazonian Drama"

Presented by Danielle Figueiredo.

See annex 1 for the powerpoint presentation slides and a summary of their presentation.

#### **1.4.1 Questions and answers**

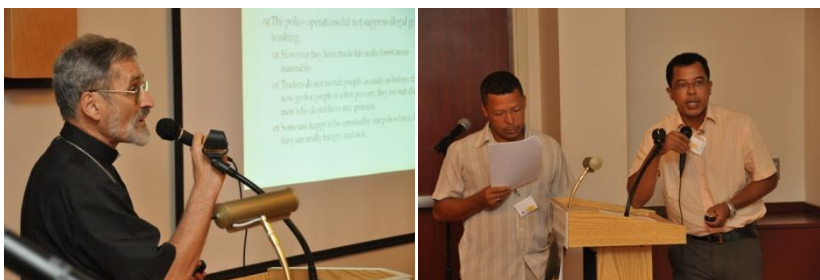
Q (Sister Judith): What role can the Brazilian Embassy play in these unfortunate situations and what measures can be taken to improve these situations?

A: The Brazilian Embassy does not guarantee that the bodies of deceased citizens are transported to their home country if these were to die abroad.

A suggestion for this situation is to create a fund for Brazilian citizens to be able to send their deceased loved ones back to their home country, because otherwise people are forced to collect money or to sell all their belongings.

Another suggestion would be to raise awareness in Suriname about Brazilian women and what their activities are in order to improve the image of these women.

### **1.5 Presentation by the French Guyana Delegation**



Title: "Human Trafficking in French Guyana"

Presented by Mgr. Lafont and Mr. Bouchet

See annex 2 for the powerpoint presentation slides and a summary of the presentation.

### 1.5.1 Questions and answers

Remark (Sister Ramdeen): As Catholics we pursue peace and justice and as we care for the victims we can act as voices for the voiceless and urge our governments to take actions and so I cannot expect that we can not do so much but that there is a lot we can do as the Church.

Q (Mr. Jacobson): Will the prostitution also come in with the Chinese, as I have seen a huge boom of Chinese here in Suriname?

A: The Chinese are on the Surinamese side and set up shops along the river.

But some Chinese come to Suriname and go illegally to French-Guyana, they do not end up in prostitution, but only work in companies and do it only for food and housing.

It is necessary for the Surinamese and French Government to work together, because the shops on the Surinamese side supply the illegal gold mining and prostitution on the French-Guyanese side.

The women with the garimpeiros that are in prostitution are all Brazilian

Q (Father Choennie): The Maroni river is not entirely of Suriname, half of it is French, thus it can be patrolled by the French Police. There is a proposal that the French police can pursue criminals up to 1 km from the French-Suriname Border.

A (Interpreter): As interpreter I have the privilege to be present at meetings between Surinamese and French officials. Out of these meetings I can assure you there are plans to have joint Patrols on the border river.

### 1.6 Presentation by the Guyana Delegation



Title: "Trafficking in Persons: Guyana"

Presented by Mgr. Alleyne

See annex 3 for the powerpoint presentation slides.

During the presentation where a map of Guyana was shown, a remark was made by Mr. E. Amanh about the incorrectly portrayed border between Guyana and Suriname.



Narrative during the pictures part: The Indigenous people are very adaptable. They are mostly looked upon in the coast; they are called 'bugman or bugwoman'. Mostly live near the border with Brazil and seek medical services on the Brazilian border also for education.

(Remark made at the end of his presentation) There is a visible and growing Chinese immigrant community also in Guyana, but they are very closed and controlled. Probably, some kind of exploitation is present in this community. Guyana is also used as a stepping stone for them to go to North-America.

### **1.6.1 Questions and answers**

Q (Mgr. de Bekker): There are at present plans for a road connecting Suriname and Brazil from the North to the South. I am very against it. Amazon region is a region rich in biodiversity and communities. What is the effect of having such roads through the forest and what happens along the road? There are also plans for constructing a bridge between Guyana and Suriname.

A: In Guyana the route from North to South to Brazil is shorter than other routes and is handy for trade and import uses for Brazil. There are protected forests along the way and as the traffic grows, there is legislation that can be used to deal with it.

Q (Mr. G.van der San): Is there a formal agreement between Guyana and Brazil for unrestricted crossing of border communities?

A: There is some sort of understanding for the Amerindian communities and they cross freely over the border. But I am not actually familiar if there is a formal agreement.

Q (Mr. Mozes): What is the role of the Church in the issue of human trafficking? And what are the challenges of missionary?

A: In Guyana in many of the villages, we have Jezuit priests. The Church has seen its importance to be involved in this matter to protect the victi.

## 1.7 Presentation by the Suriname Delegation



Title: “Working Group Counter-Trafficking in Persons”

Presented by Mr. Van der San

See annex 4 for powerpoint presentation slides with speech.

### 1.7.1 Questions and answers

Q (The interpreter for Brazil): Can you provide us with the contact information of the foundation against human trafficking.

A: The chairperson of the committee was introduced and information will be exchanged.

Q (The Interpreter for Brazil): Are there channels/offices to report human trafficking? And how is it broadcasted and where are these channels?

A: There is not an actual office at the airport. Only when there are high risk flights, the personnel of the human trafficking unit are present at the airport. Furthermore, the immigration personnel were trained and should be able to identify these cases of human trafficking. In other instances you can just report to this unit at the police department.

Q (Mr. Jacobson): IN the individual cases that were cited, do you have any information how NGOs have cooperated with the government to raise awareness and about the prosecution process of human trafficking.

A: Regarding these cases I can refer to Mr. Wijngaarde for detailed information. And NGOs are also present in the intergovernmental working group.

A (Mr. Wijngaarde): There is a certain type of cooperation with the civil society and with the different institutions, but it can be intensified.

Q (Father Choennie): Some situations bring you into a moral dilemma, because victims are sometimes not sure whether to report her situation.

A: I agree and also in the training we were faced with these situations, but if you know a person who is in a certain situation, you should not push the victim to report but you are obliged to report it, even if the victim is not sure to report.

Remark (Father Brendan): Sometimes these victims are reluctant to report to the authorities because most of the time their papers are not in order and they can be arrested for this, and thus are treated as 'criminal'.



## **1.8 Presentation by Mr. Victor Scheffers, Director Justitia & Pax, The Netherlands**

See annex 5 for the powerpoint presentation slides with speech.

### **1.8.1 Questions and answers**

Q (Brazil): A lot of Dutch and German males travel to Suriname and through to Brazil to do business and most of it is shady business (pedophilia, prostitution). How can the Dutch Government/Church inform the wives of these males?

A: Only when information/data is available can measures/action be taken and the authorities can then interfere in private matters. The Church can focus on prostitution and awareness raising. The victims do not benefit from interference but of prosecution.

Q (French-Guyana): In French-Guyana there are no prisons, criminals can only be held for a maximum of 32 days and then they are extradited to their country. But most of the time no papers can be found on these persons and then they can not be extradited.

A: Inform police officers and make them aware of human trafficking. Most of the time the victims have no papers and are arrested on these grounds by police, and then they become the 'criminals'. So it is important to the victims that they are de-criminalized.

Remark (Mrs. Ramdeen): We should be aware of the changing nature of trafficking. Need an international eye on the topic and act locally.

Q (Mrs. Panday): I recently visited Holland and there I heard that Surinamese and Antillian girls are prostituting during school time, these girls are Roman Catholics. What is the role of the Church?

A: The focus should be on the role/responsibility of the school system to monitor the absence of these pupils. Also there is the 'Lover boys' phenomena. There should be awareness raising of this in the schools and also monitoring.

Remark (Stadwijk): It is also the responsibility of the parents.

Q: Are we talking about Surinamese nationality or Dutch nationality students in reference to the Q of Mrs Panday.

A: About Dutch nationality student with Surinamese and Antillian roots.

Remark (Sister Maria de Amina Christe): We should be going to the roots/cause of the issue and rebuild the good values and bring back the Christian values in our society.

A: I agree, but we should not forget the legal approach, awareness building and education. Work on Protection, prosecution and prevention.

Remark (Wijngaarde): Referring to Panday, I have a sister whose job is to inspect her assigned neighborhoods and confront kids that are on the streets during school times. Bring these back to school and contact their parents.

Remark (French-Guyana): Wants to stress the importance of bringing back the moral values. Most of the immigrants come to French Guyana with the notion that it is easy to get working papers and find work easily.

### **1.9 Remarks by Chairperson and close of First Plenary Session**

We have heard all the presentations of this morning and what is clear throughout these presentations is the unspeakable human suffering involved in human trafficking. Also women are mostly the victims of human trafficking. It was also noted that the cross border issues have complicated the issue.

It was also clear in the examples given the impact of Neo-liberalism, how humans are merchandise and traded as such in this system.

The presentations all conclude that cooperation between the different groups is needed and needs to be intensified. I further want to emphasize that human trafficking is a human

tragedy, because humans are involved. See it from a human perspective instead of only statistics in order to have a better chance in dealing with these issues.

## **Second Plenary Session**

### **1.10 Break-out session for discussions by the respective delegations/Drafting of Conclusions**

Objective of the break out session: come up with practical proposals, work in respective groups, group has its own reporter, and discussions are open ended (free to choose the topic regarding human trafficking).

### **1.11 Presentation of country delegation's conclusions**

The country delegation's conclusions are included in Annex 6.

The Brazilian delegation's conclusions were presented by the interpreter.

The French Guyanese delegation's conclusions were presented by Mgr. Mgr. Lafont.

The Guyanese delegation's conclusions, formulated with the guest from Trinidad & Tobago, were presented by Mgr. Alleyne.

The Surinamese delegation's conclusions were presented by Mr. Van der San.

### **1.12 Remarks by Chair person**

There is a certain amount of coincidence with specific issues. There are also other points of convergence and issues that need to be merged. This will be one of the objectives for the next day.



### **1.13 Prayers and close of session on Day 1**

## TUESDAY 16 NOVEMBER, 2010

### Third Plenary Session

#### 2.1 Call to order and Invocation

#### 2.2 Discussion of the Draft Final Document: country specifics

##### **Presentation of inputs from the working groups to the Draft Final Document: country specifics**

Is included in the Final Document of the Conference. Please refer to par 2.5.

#### 2.3 Discussion of the Draft Final Document: regional measures



Father Choennie: I suggest to create a focal point in all relevant institutions and these FP are organized in a network, and secondly, regular contact (through mailing and meetings) with FP from other countries

Mr. Badjnath Panday: Regarding FP to share information through establishment of memorandum; a need to create a forum (on international level) to periodically (once every year or 2 years) to discuss points and come up with recommendations in order to strengthen institutions.

Mgr. Lafont: More contact with the Brazilians on the situations of garimpeiros; also joint cooperation on the Maroni river. Also more networking on migrating women in prostitution. Information sharing.

Mr. Badjnath Panday/Mrs. Stadwijk: We should not only concentrate on prostitution but also on forced labour.

Brazilian delegation: Support network among the four countries to protect people involved (regional cooperation network) should prioritize education and information regarding their rights; widespread public campaigns provided in the different countries and in their languages.

## **2.4 Message of the Conference by Victor Scheffer**

A proposal was drafted and presented by Mr. Scheffer.

## **Fourth Plenary Session**

### **2.5 Final comments, approval of Draft Final Document and press release**

The proposal was finalized and is included in Annex 7.

### **2.6 Remarks on the outcome of the Conference/Vote of Thanks**

Mgr. Lafont: We did not know what to expect of this conference but we are grateful for the outcome of this. I do hope that when we go home, we will do our best.

Mgr. de Bekker: This conference is the result of a talk we had at the conference at Manaus a year ago and hope there came plenty of information out of this conference and that we can further work together on this issue.

Mrs. Groenveld: This conference is a good initiative, it is also important that we discovered through the presentations the horrible situations these victims must endure. For especially the government officials dealing with TIP the conference has encouraged us to put more effort into awareness raising. I would also like to thank the organizers of this conference which was organized very well. And I also want to extend my compliments to Father Brendan who has chaired this conference excellently.



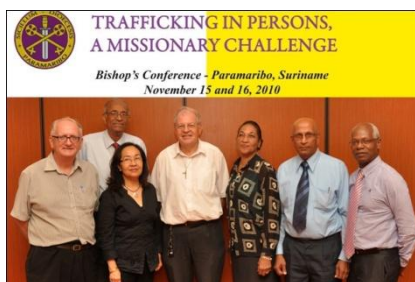
Zr. Marie Henriqueta: I want to express my gratitude to Mgr de Bekker for inviting me and also the organization for the work carried out. It is also important that we have the opportunity to participate in the conference to voice the suffering of the TIP victims. This conference has strengthened our commitment in dealing with TIP. Thank you very much.

Mr. Van der San: I agree with the previous speakers and that this conference was a big success. This conference was an opportunity for me to network and also to strengthen my commitment to go further.

Mr. Houwen: I am here as a French interpreter and mostly I just interpret, but this topic has touched me and has encouraged me to participate sometimes. I hope that this conference will be the start for a bigger conference on this topic.

Mr. Guda: compliments to the Chair of this conference and also the Secretariat and thank you for your contributions. Also special thanks to Mrs Stadwijk for her efforts in organizing this conference. And want to congratulate Mgr. de Bekker for this initiative. We should also not forget to include the remarks of the American Ambassador into the statement.

Father Brendan: Thank you everyone, all the participants and to the Secretariat and the interpreters for their contributions.




Mgr. de Bekker: Special thanks to everyone and special appreciation to the Commission of Justitia et Pax of Suriname and also special thanks to the Secretariat and Wendel Margaret.

## 2.7 Prayers and Close of Conference




## Annex 1. Presentation of Brazilian delegation with a summary


# TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN: AN OLD/NEW AMAZONIAN DRAMA



**TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS,  
A MISSIONARY CHALLENGE**

*Bishop's Conference - Paramaribo, Suriname  
November 15 and 16, 2010  
COURTYARD Marriott*





### FIRST EXAMPLE

- A girl called DI. Now 34 she was raped at 15, had children with four different men. When 23 she was invited to work in a restaurant in Suriname but on arrival was brought to a club with seven other women. She was obliged to work as a prostitute and had to pay for her maintenance at the club and also money was discounted to pay for her airfare – and overcharged at that. Eventually she got back to Brasil where she was hospitalised. She also worked in Holland and Germany.

### INTRODUCTION

- A common image of the Amazon is that of an immense region with abundant forests, an enormous biodiversity, huge rivers. And of course a region with fantastic development potential.
- Many of the development projects undertaken down the years neglect the local population. They are geared more to big business. Projects such as Fordlândia and Jari spring to mind.
- Whatever jobs were going favoured men, for example in the mining and large scale agricultural projects. Women were very definitely in second place. Consequently women tended to migrate within the Amazonian region to be at the service of men in a whole range of ways – menial tasks and also prostitution. The system favoured the exploitation of women.

### INTRODUCTION

One must be careful not to generalize about the situation but if one were to put the question –

**“what does it mean to be a woman?”**

-the answer would have to refer to the reality of male domination and very specifically so in the context of trafficking.

For women such as DI their childhood and adolescent years are destroyed – they simply do not happen.

They are victimised from an early age and the normal human growth process is derailed.

### INTRODUCTION

- In a research study carried out regarding trafficking of women, including to Suriname the researchers got to know a number of amazonian women – wanting to know them as persons.
- They were in the 17-34 age bracket, from poor backgrounds, difficult family situations – often broken, little schooling, low paid work, unstable relationships with men.
- Not one of them was married, but most of them were mothers. In many instances they were separated from their children, who were cared for by other family members or friends.

### SECOND EXAMPLE:

- GA, 26, has three children. She came to Suriname of her own will, knowing that she would work in prostitution but did not know about the financial arrangements and the conditions of work. Her passport was held by the ‘boss’, she had to pay her airfare twice over in fact. She was the type who spoke her mind and was disliked by the club manager. Eventually she was helped by a dutchman and went to live with him. He was a married man and also had a relationship with a sister of GA.

She defines herself in function of the man.

He is the one who controls everything, though she appreciates she has a house to live in.

### THIRD EXAMPLE:

- Lu has five children, four different fathers, none of whom help in the maintenance of the children. Lu had a poor relationship with her mother, was sexually abused by her step father from the time she was 6 to the time she was 14 years of age. Three of the children live with her mother. She got involved with a frenchman living in Switzerland. She was forced to work for this man and his son. Eventually she was expelled. She wants another form of work to survive and look after the children but, effectively, she is not in control of her own destiny. She is what might be described as a non-citizen.

And so many others are in this same category.

Their efforts to resist and become in some way independent usually result in very negative experiences.

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### CONSIDERATIONS

- There is no real assistance available for these women in Brasil or in Suriname. Occasionally some may get some help. There are indications of connivance at the airports.
- Brazilian government agencies and policies which have ambitious proposals for women in general do not impact on the lives of trafficked women. And they are amongst the most vulnerable of all.
- Brasil and Suriname need to collaborate more and urgently ratify agreements – as of 2008 this was not yet the case. It would be helpful to have persons at the airports to advise people travelling to foreign countries. Joint police action to track down the trafficking networks in both countries would be helpful.
- The amazonian region is immense and plans for its development and proper care for its vulnerable people must be both concrete and practical.

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### THE 'RECRUITERS':

- These people make offers of employment with good financial prospects, either in prostitution or more likely in restaurants, shops or with families.
- Women who have no jobs, have children to rear, have been abandoned by their men are highly vulnerable and are tempted by such offers.
- Subsequently the women tend to excuse the recruiters from all blame for the misery that must be endured.

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### THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION



### THE OWNERS OF THE CLUBS:

- Initially they are very welcoming but soon it becomes clear that they control the women's lives.
- They are financially very strict, discounting money for maintenance, travel, medical appointments and so on.
- Some women rebel and just disappear.
- Some others are helped by some man, but at a price because the woman becomes his property.
- Sometimes the women are allowed a trip to Brasil but never with enough money that would enable them to help their families or become independent and of course they pay for that trip too. Usually the validity of the original return ticket has lapsed.

9

### Trafficking in women: An old/new amazonian drama

A common image of the Amazon is that of an immense region with abundant forests, an enormous biodiversity, huge rivers. And of course a region with fantastic development potential.

Many of the development projects undertaken down the years neglect the local population. They are geared more to big business. Projects such as Fordlândia and Jari spring to mind.

Whatever jobs were going favoured men, for example in the mining and large scale

agricultural projects. Women were very definitely in second place. Consequently women tended to migrate within the Amazonian region to be at the service of men in a whole range of ways – menial tasks and also prostitution. The system favoured the exploitation of women.

In a research study carried out regarding trafficking of women, including to Suriname the researchers got to know a number of amazonian women – wanting to know them as persons. They were in the 17-34 age bracket, from poor backgrounds, difficult family situations – often broken, little schooling, low paid work, unstable relationships with men. Not one of them was married, but most of them were mothers. In many instances they were separated from their children, who were cared for by other family members or friends.

First Example: A girl called DI. Now 34 she was raped at 15, had children with four different men. When 23 she was invited to work in a restaurant in Suriname but on arrival was brought to a club with seven other women. She was obliged to work as a prostitute and had to pay for her maintenance at the club and also money was discounted to pay for her airfare – and overcharged at that. Eventually she got back to Brasil where she was hospitalised. She also worked in Holland and Germany.

One must be careful not to generalize about the situation but if one were to put the question - 'what does it mean to be a woman?' the answer would have to refer to the reality of male domination and very specifically so in the context of trafficking. For women such as DI their childhood and adolescent years are destroyed – they simply do not happen. They are victimised from an early age and the normal human growth process is derailed.

Second example: GA, 26, has three children. She came to Suriname of her own will, knowing that she would work in prostitution but did not know about the financial arrangements and the conditions of work. Her passport was held by the 'boss', she had to pay her airfare twice over in fact. She was the type who spoke her mind and was disliked by the club manager. Eventually she was helped by a Dutchman and went to live with him. He was a married man and also had a relationship with a sister of GA.

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And so many others are in this same category. Their efforts to resist and become in some way independent usually result in very negative experiences.

The 'Recruiters': These people make offers of employment with good financial prospects, either in prostitution or more likely in restaurants, shops or with families. Women who have no jobs, have children to rear, have been abandoned by their men are highly vulnerable and are tempted by such offers. Subsequently the women tend to excuse the

recruiters from all blame for the misery that must be endured.

The Owners of the Clubs: Initially they are very welcoming but soon it becomes clear that they control the women's lives. They are financially very strict, discounting money for maintenance, travel, medical appointments and so on. Some women rebel and just disappear. Some others are helped by some man, but at a price because the woman becomes his property. Sometimes the women are allowed a trip to Brasil but never with enough money that would enable them to help their families or become independent and of course they pay for that trip too. Usually the validity of the original return ticket has lapsed.

There is no real assistance available for these women in Brasil or in Suriname. Occasionally some may get some help.

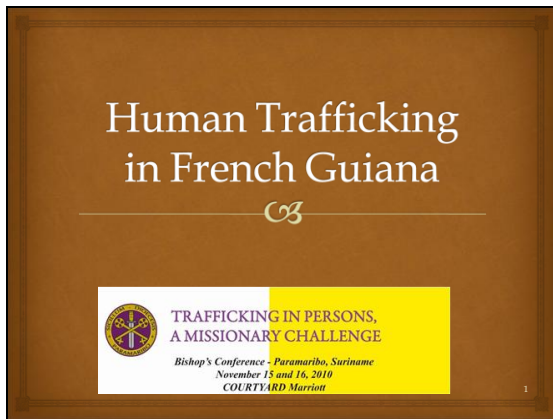
There are indications of connivance at the airports.

Brazilian government agencies and policies which have ambitious proposals for women in general do not impact on the lives of trafficked women. And they are amongst the most vulnerable of all.

Brasil and Suriname need to collaborate more and urgently ratify agreements – as of 2008 this was not yet the case. It would be helpful to have persons at the airports to advise people travelling to foreign countries. Joint police action to track down the trafficking networks in both countries would be helpful.

The Amazonian region is immense and plans for its development and proper care for its vulnerable people must be both concrete and practical.

## Annex 2. Presentation of French-Guyana delegation with summary



### Goldwashing and mining cont.

- At the present moment, many Chinese are building shops on the Surinamese bank of the Maroni River. They are just suppliers for the garimpeiros.
  - What sort of complicity do they get on that side?
  - The same applies to "villages" like Ilha bella on the Oyapock River.
- Most of the managers of gold washing sites do not live in the country. They live outside and they are managers and business people, traders.
- Our gendarmes (police) know who the sleeping partners are. They have little means to arrest them.

4

### Introduction

- The reality is not easy to define
- Human Trafficking in two directions:
  - Gold mining
  - Undeclared work for immigrants
- 240 000 people in French Guyana:
  - 80 000 are foreigners:
    - Of which above 20 000 are illegally in the country

2

### Goldwashing and mining cont.

- Life in the forest is very rough.
  - Poor living conditions, poor supply, no routes, malaria.
  - For the past three years, a police campaign has been organized against gold washing, with support from the defense forces.
- The gendarmes have blocked many rivers inside the country in order to prevent food and gasoil supply.
  - They cannot, however, man any blockage on the Maroni or the Oyapock Rivers, because these are international waters.

5

### Goldwashing and mining

- At the present: 8 to 10 000 people are illegally looking for gold in the forest. They are mostly of Brazilian origin: garimpeiros
  - Among them between 1 000 and 1 500 women and girls
- There are sleeping partners (backers) in Oyapoque, Macapá and Paramaribo according to information given by garimpeiros to the police force

3

### Goldwashing and mining cont

- The police operations did not suppress illegal gold washing.
  - However they have made life in the forest more miserable.
  - Traders do not recruit people as easily as before; they now go for people in utter poverty, they recruit old men who do not have any pension.
  - Some are happy to be arrested by our police force, for they are really hungry and sick.

6

## Goldwashing and mining cont



- ☞ These people are really exploited. They are supposed to pay for their own transport. When they have no money they are told that this is not important, but then they are not given any food.
- ☞ Women are present for cooking and the rest.
- ☞ Young girls, as young as 12 years of age, are found in the gold washing areas. They are paid, police say, 3 gold grams for sexual intercourse. Yet, they are not really free, needless to say. Some might be sent even by their needy parents.

7

## Dominican and young Haitian women in Cayenne



- ☞ Many Dominican and Haitian women, some of them very young, are coming to French Guyana with false promises about an easy job. They are not told that it is about prostitution.
- ☞ When they arrive in Cayenne, they are put in rooms of three to four beds and they are put in the streets for prostitution. Some of them go to the Custom police force, crying and asking to be sent back to their home country.
- ☞ One had to pay a large sum to come here, leaving her children behind. She went to the PAF in order to go back home.

10

## Drug trafficking



- ☞ Presently, many people originally from Surinam living in or around Saint-Laurent du Maroni accept to swallow cocaine eggs. They cannot eat for almost two to three days, depending on air transport. They are only paid when the stuff has arrived at destination. They travel almost unnoticed, under very difficult conditions. Their life is permanently in danger, in case one egg breaks in their stomach.
- ☞ One calculates that a third of them are arrested at the Cayenne airport. About two are taken into custody every week, which means that an average of six people flies every week from Cayenne to Amsterdam through Paris. People prefer try their chance in Cayenne rather than in Paramaribo, where control, prison set up and sentences in court are much heavier.

8

## Undeclared work (« travail au noir »)



- ☞ Work is scarce, in French Guyana !
- ☞ 26% of the adult population is jobless
- ☞ 50% among the youth (18 - 25 years) are jobless
- ☞ We are having more than 25 000 Haitians and as many Brazilians in the country. At least a third of them are here illegally.
- ☞ Many of them work without a work permit.

11

## Drug trafficking



- ☞ These people, if arrested, say almost nothing about the people above them. They know that otherwise they would not be able to return home, for fear of retaliation.
- ☞ The stronger carriers can swallow 70 to a 100 eggs. A kilo is about 70 eggs.
- ☞ A kilo of cocaine is worth 60 to 70 000 euros. The carrying person is paid about 6 to 7 000 euros, sometimes less, + the air ticket.

9

## Undeclared work (« travail au noir »)



- ☞ Many Brazilians are employed in building work
- ☞ Many Haitians are employed in private home, gardening, cooking, maintenance...
- ☞ Many employers are not aware of the offence they are making. They do, sometimes, offer a casual job to someone who is desperate.

12

## Logding in appaling conditions

- ☞ There is not sufficient housing in French Guyana
- ☞ We ought to build 3 000 houses a year in order to meet the needs. Yet we build just half of this number. So housing is an increasing problem.
- ☞ Finally we have here people we call « marchands de sommeil » « sleep traders » otherwise slumlords.
- ☞ Sometimes it is Guyanese people who rent unhealthy flats or houses.
- ☞ Sometimes it is immigrants themselves.

13

At the present moment, 8 to 10 000 people are illegally looking for gold in the forest. They are mostly of Brazilian origin: garimpeiros  
Among them between 1 000 and 1 500 women and girls

There is quite complicity network within and outside our country.

There are sleeping partners (backers) in Oyapoque, Macapá and Paramaribo according to information given by garimpeiros to the police force

At the present moment, many Chinese are building shops on the Surinamese bank of the Maroni River. They are just suppliers for the garimpeiros. What sort of complicity do they get on that side? The same applies to “villages” like Ilha bella on the Oyapock River.

Most or the managers of gold washing sites do not live in the country. They live outside and they are managers and business people, traders.

Our gendarmes know who the sleeping partners are. They have little means to arrest them.

Life in the forest is very rough. Poor living conditions, poor supply, no routes, malaria. For the past three years, a police campaign has been organized against gold washing, with support from the defense forces.

The gendarmes have blocked many rivers inside the country in order to prevent food and gasoil supply. They cannot, however, man any blockage on the Maroni or the Oyapock Rivers, because these are international waters.

The police operations did not suppress illegal gold washing. However they have made life in the forest more miserable. Traders do not recruit people as easily as before; they now go for people in utter poverty, they recruit old men who do not have any pension. Some are happy to be arrested by our police force, for they are really hungry and sick.



## Human trafficking in French Guyana

### Introduction

The reality is not easy to define.

However, we can speak about human trafficking in two directions

- Gold mining
- Undeclared work for immigrants

Today, there are about 240 000 people in French Guyana. 80 000 are foreigners. Of which above 20 000 are illegally in the country

90% of the country is equatorial forest, rich in gold, both in the rivers and in the rock.

### 1. Gold washing and mining

These people are really exploited. They are supposed to pay for their own transport. When they have no money they are told that this is not important, but then they are not given any food.

Women are present for cooking and the rest. Young girls, as young as 12 years of age, are found in the gold washing areas. They are paid, police say, 3 gold grams for sexual intercourse. Yet, they are not really free, needless to say. Some might be sent even by their needy parents.

## **2. Migrants. Undeclared work, appalling living conditions (« travail au noir »)**

Work is scarce, in French Guyana!  
26% of the adult population is jobless  
50% among the youth (18 – 25 years) are jobless

We are having more than 25 000 Haitians and as many Brazilians in the country. At least a third of them are here illegally.

Many of them work without a work permit.

Many Brazilians are employed in building work  
Many Haitians are employed in private home, gardening, cooking, maintenance...

Many employers are not aware of the offence they are making. They do, sometimes, offer a casual job to someone who is desperate.

There is in Cayenne a home for handicapped people. But recently, migrant people with handicap do not get their residence permit renewed. The administration says that handicap is not sickness. If they are not in need of nursing, they can go home.

In the Chinese community, many people are employed in their shops without any residence permit. They are not paid except for board and lodging. They cannot protest since they do not have any paper. Their objective is to remain in Guyana, incognito, as long as possible so that at a later stage their situation may be regularized.

## **3. Dominican and young Haitian women in Cayenne**

Many Dominican and Haitian women, some of them very young, are coming to French Guyana with false promises about an easy job. They are not told that it is about prostitution.

When they arrive in Cayenne, they are put in rooms of three to four beds and they are put in the streets for prostitution. Some of them go to the Custom police force, crying and asking to be sent back to their home country.

One had to pay a large sum to come here, leaving her children behind. She went to the PAF in order to go back home

## **4. Drug trafficking**

Presently, many people originally from Surinam living in or around Saint-Laurent du Maroni accept to swallow cocaine eggs. They cannot eat for almost two to three days, depending on air transport. They are only paid when the stuff has arrived at destination. They travel almost unnoticed, under very difficult conditions. Their life is permanently in danger, in case one egg breaks in their stomach

One calculates that a third of them are arrested at the Cayenne airport. About two are taken into custody every week, which means that an average of six people flies every week from Cayenne to Amsterdam through Paris. People prefer try their chance in Cayenne rather than in Paramaribo, where control, prison set up and sentences in court are much heavier.

These people, if arrested, say almost nothing about the people above them. They know that otherwise they would not be able to return home, for fear of retaliation.

The stronger carriers can swallow 70 to a 100 eggs. A kilo is about 70 eggs.



A kilo of cocaine is worth 60 to 70 000 euros.  
The carrying person is paid about 6 to 7 000 euros, sometimes less, + the air ticket.

## **5. Lodging in appalling conditions**

There is no sufficient housing in French Guyana

We ought to build 3 000 houses a year in order to meet the needs. Yet we build just half of this number. So housing is an increasing problem.

Finally we have here people we call « marchands de sommeil » « sleep traders » otherwise slumlords.

Sometimes it is Guyanese people who rent unhealthy flats or houses.  
Sometimes immigrants themselves abuse one another in terms of heavy rental fees etc.

## Annex 3. Presentation of Guyana delegation

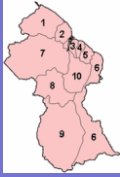

TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

GUYANA

1

**Guyana - Great Britain**

Area: 83,000 sq ml	Area: 84,600 sq ml
215,000 sq km	219,113 sq km
Pop: 750,000	Pop: 61,700,000





4



2


Idaho, USA Area: 83,642 Population: 1,500,000



5

*Guyana*  
*Land of many waters*

- North-east coast of South America
- Bordered by Venezuela, Brazil and Suriname



3

American State Department report:

Guyana is a source country for men, women, and children subjected to trafficking in persons, specifically conditions of forced prostitution and forced labour.

6

Guyanese trafficking victim cases have been identified in the country, as well as in other countries in the region. Identified foreign victims have come from Venezuela and Brazil.

7

Trafficking victims in Guyana may not self-identify to authorities due to:

- fear of retribution from trafficking offenders
- fear of resettlement to abusive home situations
- lack of awareness that human trafficking is a crime.

10

Forced prostitution occurs in brothels on the coast and around mining camps as well as in rum shops and Chinese restaurants.

8

Groups particularly vulnerable to human trafficking in Guyana include:

- Amerindian females
- foreign women (such as Brazilians) in prostitution
- children.

11

The common Guyanese practice of poor, rural families sending children to live with higher income family members or acquaintances in more populated areas has the potential to evolve into forced domestic servitude.

9

During the reporting period the U.S. Department of Labour reported results of a project that withdrew 984 children from exploitive child labour in logging and saw-milling, fishing, hazardous farming, factory work, mining, and freight handling from 2005 to 2009.

12



NGOs in partnership observe that TIP victims are primarily Amerindian youth that live in remote communities scattered throughout Guyana's vast interior.

17



- Persistent poverty
- the lack of educational and employment opportunities
- the degradation of traditional values
- weakening community ties

contribute to these youths' heightened vulnerability to human trafficking.

18

These youth are easily lured by false expectations of easy money to be made along the Coast, Brazil, and in timber and mining camps in the interior.

19

Young Amerindian men are also exploited under forced labor conditions in the many small-scale, unregulated timber and mining camps in the interior.

22

Lack of marketable skills and low awareness of worker rights and social services make these youth easy prey for unscrupulous employers.

20

**Strategic Objective 1:**  
People in vulnerable communities are able to protect themselves and their communities from TIP

*Amerindian communities are mobilized to address TIP*

*Frontline workers in the targeted regions identify and address potential TIP cases*

*Amerindian youth in Aishalton are more resilient in migration*

23

Young Amerindian women are particularly vulnerable, as they are often trafficked to coastal areas and mining camps, frequently becoming victims of sexual exploitation.

21

## Annex 4. Presentation of Suriname delegation with speech



### Conference of Latin American Roman Catholic Bishops 2010

#### Working Group Counter-Trafficking in Persons

Marriot Hotel  
Paramaribo, 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> November 2010  
Speaker Mr. G. van der San

1

### Prevention

- Organized information and sensitization meetings
- Counter-TIP activities in outer districts
- Information sharing with young people
- Counter-TIP Units inspect several places

4

### Introduction

- Trafficking in persons = human trafficking = modern day slavery = a crime against humanity
- Suriname respects all human rights = we condemn all sorts of slavery including human trafficking = we combat trafficking with all available means
- Start real progress Suriname = ± 2000 = training from IOM and US Government
- Comprehensive approach Suriname = prevention trafficking + protection victims + prosecution traffickers = on national, regional and international level

2

### Protection

- Drafted guidelines for granting temporary residence permit to the victims
- Adopted guidelines for sheltering and support of trafficking victims
- 2007: initiated establishment of Foundation Against Trafficking in Persons
  - Cooperates closely with the working group
  - Aim = to shelter and assist victims of trafficking + set up regional and international network of governmental and nongovernmental organizations with same or similar goals
  - 2009: assisted a local embassy in the return of a couple of foreigners who had to work under poor conditions.

5

### Introduction2

- International level
  - 2007: Suriname accedes to:
    - UN Convention on Transnational Organized Crime
    - Trafficking Protocol
  - Suriname cooperates with international organizations
- National level
  - 2003: establishment Working Group Counter-TIP
    - Working group = interdepartmental
    - Coordinates measures on national level
    - Resulted in a nationally unified response

3

### Legislation

- Before 2006: TIP = women + girls + boys
  - Max. punishment = 5yrs
- From 2006:
  - TIP = women + men + girls + boys
  - Heavier punishment:
    - Lowest max. = 8 yrs + 500.000,- SR \$ (± 180.000.00 US \$)
    - Highest max. = 20 yrs + 1000.000,- SR \$ (± 360.000.00 US \$)
- Traffickers can also be prosecuted and convicted for:
  - Penal Code: Embezzlement, fraud, larceny, forgery etc.
  - Labour Code: Child labour, forced labour etc.

6

## Inspection & Prosecution

- Initiated establishment of counter-trafficking units in Police Department and Labour Inspectorate
- Operational manual for Counter-TIP Unit of Police Department and for Immigration Service
- Inspection visits by Counter-TIP Units in outer districts
- 2010: 24 hour hotline for receiving (anonymous) TIP information was set up with assistance of US gov.
- 2010: Counter-TIP seminar organized by OAS in collaboration with Ministry of Justice and Police
- Several people have been prosecuted and convicted

7

## Conclusion

- Suriname: very committed + has taken lot of action
- No government or org. should underestimate TIP
- UNODC: TIP = 1 of 3 most profitable transnational crimes for criminal syndicates
- TIP = global problem
- Solution ≠ governments alone
- Solution = governments + NGOs + religious and faith-based organizations etc.

8

Thank You

9

## Conference of Latin American Roman Catholic Bishops 2010 Marriot Hotel, Paramaribo, 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> November 2010 Presentation Working Group Counter-Trafficking in Persons Speaker Mr. G. van der San

Messeigneurs,  
Priests,  
Reverend Brothers and Sisters,  
Excellencies,  
Management of the different Ministries,  
Fellow members of the Working Group  
Counter-Trafficking in Persons,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

First of all we, the Working Group Counter-Trafficking in Persons, on behalf of the Government of Suriname, would like to congratulate the Roman Catholic Church for successfully organizing this conference in Suriname.

### Introduction

Trafficking in persons or human trafficking, commonly described as modern day slavery, affects almost every country in the world by undermining the integrity of countries and communities among others. It also causes aggravating circumstances that endanger lives of innocent persons, who have become victims. This is why it is widely recognized as a crime against humanity. Suriname is a country that respects all human rights and as such condemns all sorts of slavery including human trafficking. As a result, we combat this global cancer with all the available legal means and tools. And as with any other cancer our goal is to eradicate it from our territory and with our regional and global partners, from this region and the world as a whole.

Suriname started making real progress towards the combating of human trafficking around the turn of the century. It started with the sensitization and training of government officials among others. In this respect the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the US Government have played a very important role. In the years that followed we

undertook several activities and had significant results. Our comprehensive approach was aimed at the prevention of trafficking in persons, the protection of victims and the prosecution of traffickers on a national, regional and international level.

In 2007 Suriname acceded to the UN Convention on Transnational Organized Crime and the accompanying Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in persons, also referred to as the Trafficking Protocol. So internationally Suriname has taken on commitments. On the international level, we also cooperate with international organizations such as the Organization of American States and the IOM to fulfill our obligations under the Trafficking Protocol.

On the national level, the Working Group Counter-Trafficking in Persons, an interdepartmental working group, was established in 2003 by the Minister of Justice and Police. The working group coordinates measures on the national level to combat human trafficking and its establishment resulted in a nationally unified response to trafficking in persons.

What I'm going to do now is take you through the developments in Suriname regarding the combating of trafficking in persons in more detail. I am going to give you this summary on the basis of the developments in the fields of prevention of trafficking, protection of victims and prosecution of traffickers.

In the field of **prevention** of trafficking, the following can be mentioned.

The working group organized a number of information and sensitization meetings over the past years for the National Youth Parliament and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry among others.

Meetings with and sessions for various stakeholders were also held in different outer districts. Presentations concerning human trafficking were held in the district of Nickerie at the border with Guyana and the district of Marowijne at the border with French Guyana

for the media, trade unions, the business community, several government agencies, religious organizations and NGOs. We also held an information session in Benzdorp, a mining community near the border with French Guyana. The information session was held there because of the large number of commercial sex workers, mainly Brazilian women, active in that area.

We also made a start with the secondary schools in Lelydorp in the district of Wanica. The former chairwoman of the working group also taught students from the *Anton de Kom Universiteit van Suriname*, our university, in the context of the international criminal law course.

Following information received from the community, the working group published a press report first in 2007 and then again in 2008 entitled "Warning to Potential Migrants" to warn the public against trafficking in persons and containing red flags for trafficking in persons.

The Counter-Trafficking in Persons Unit of the Labour Inspectorate that falls under the Ministry of Labour, Technological Development and Environment has inspected several places. The Unit also conducted sensitization activities, such as the one in the area called "Little Belem" in our capital Paramaribo, with a large concentration of small gold miners. The information gathered by the Counter-Trafficking in Persons Unit of the Labour Inspectorate was shared with the Counter-TIP Unit of the police department and the working group.

In the field of **protection** of victims, the following can be mentioned.

For criminal proceedings it is necessary that trafficking victims remain at the disposal of law enforcement. In order for the trafficking victims to obtain a legal status to stay in Suriname during the trial, the working group drafted guidelines for the adoption of rules on the granting of a temporary residence permit to the victims. These draft guidelines were presented and will be incorporated in the new



foreigners legislation. The working group also adopted guidelines with regard to the sheltering and support of trafficking victims from the moment the crime is reported until they return to their country of origin.

The working group initiated the establishment of the Foundation Against Trafficking in Persons in 2007. This foundation that cooperates closely with the working group, aims to shelter and assist victims of trafficking - in the widest sense of the word - and set up a regional and international network of governmental and nongovernmental organizations with the same or similar goals. Currently the foundation coordinates the sheltering of and assistance to trafficking victims since they don't have their own shelter. In many cases the victims or possible victims have friends or relatives who they stay with. As a result, few cases arised where victims had to be given shelter. In this respect two NGOs, Victory Outreach and *Stichting voor het Kind* (Foundation for the Child), played a very important role. In 2009 the foundation in collaboration with the Counter-TIP Unit of the Labour Inspectorate and with financial help from IOM assisted a local embassy in the return of a couple of foreigners who had to work under poor conditions. The foundation also participated in the sensitization activities of the working group.

Before I speak about the developments in the field of prosecution, I first want to take you through the development of our penal code regarding human trafficking. Because as you know one can't be prosecuted and convicted if there is not a criminal offence.

In the field of **legislation** the following can be mentioned.

The working group in cooperation with the Legislation Department of the Ministry of Justice and Police saw to it that provisions of the Trafficking Protocol were implemented through our penal code. As a result, among other things, the trafficking of men, women or children is a criminal offence.

According to our Penal Code before the amendment, human traffickers were mostly charged with and convicted for the following criminal offences formulated in our Penal Code (*S.B.<sup>1</sup> 1911 No. 1, as last amended by S.B. 2004 No. 105*):

- article 188 regarding the taking part in criminal organizations;
- article 306 regarding the promotion of lechery and;
- article 307 regarding trafficking in women and under aged males.

The aforementioned old article regarding trafficking read as follows.

*Trafficking in women and under aged males is punishable by a maximum prison sentence of five years.*

In april 2006 Suriname's latest amendment to the Penal Code regarding human trafficking, came into force.

The amendment of our Penal Code was carried out by the *Act of the 6<sup>th</sup> april 2006, regarding some amendments to the Penal Code* and this act was published in *S.B. 2006 No. 42*. The amendment included the following:

- the amendment of the article (284 paragraph 1) regarding the production and use of false documents and;
- the replacement of the article (307) regarding human trafficking.

Regarding the article with respect to the production and use of false documents

It came to light that in case of human trafficking often false documents were used. According to the old article 284 a maximum prison sentence of two years could be given. This maximum prison sentence didn't make it possible to hold the suspect in custody. This was a problem because if you charge a person with the production and use of false documents the suspect could vanish since were talking about organized crime. In order to make custody possible the maximum prison

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<sup>1</sup> S.B. is the acronym for *Staatsbesluit*, the Dutch term for Government Gazette.

sentence attached to this criminal offence was increased from two years to four years.

Regarding the article with respect to trafficking.

As I said before, the old article read as follows. *Trafficking in women and under aged males is punishable by a maximum prison sentence of five years.*

As you can see this article was formulated very vague. It didn't give a definition of trafficking which made it possible for everybody to define the term in his or her own way. The article was also very limited. It only talked about trafficking in women and under aged males although we all know that adult males are also being trafficked.

This all led to the decision to bring our definition of trafficking in persons in accordance with the international definition as laid down in the Trafficking Protocol.

According to the new article 307 paragraph... (1)

*Trafficking in persons is punishable by a maximum prison sentence of eight years and a maximum fine of 500.000,- Surinamese Dollars, this is about 180,000.00 US Dollars.*

Now this is just a summary of the authentic paragraph. In this paragraph there is a definition of trafficking in persons. There is also a distinction made between adult and under aged victims. In case the victim is a minor the activity doesn't have to be achieved by certain means.

Also according to this paragraph the exploitation includes not only sexual exploitation but also forced labour or services.

In the other paragraphs of the new article a couple of aggravating circumstances are mentioned with each their own heavier punishment.

For instance, according to the last paragraph ...

*The culprit is punishable by a maximum prison sentence of twenty years and a maximum fine*

*of 1000.000,- Surinamese Dollars, about 360,000.00 US Dollars if:*

- a. *the criminal offence is committed jointly by more than one person and;*
- b. *the victim is under the age of sixteen years and;*
- c. *the violence or other form of force used results in the death of the victim.*

According to our Penal Code the human trafficker can also be prosecuted and convicted for other criminal offences such as embezzlement (article 381), fraud (article 386), larceny (370) and forgery (articles 278 and 284).

All the above-mentioned criminal offences are laid down in our Penal Code. We also have other legislation that because of its content could be used in a trafficking case. For example if there would not be enough evidence to convict the suspect for human trafficking.

So I would like to mention that we have in our Labour Act (S.B. 1963 No. 163, as last amended by S.B. 1983 No. 91) among other things:

- an article (17 paragraph 1) regarding child labour and;
- an article (20a paragraph 1) regarding forced labour.

In the field of **inspection** and **prosecution** of traffickers the following can be mentioned.

The working group initiated the establishment of counter-trafficking units in both the police department and the Labour Inspectorate. The (Counter-)TIP Unit of the police department is responsible for investigating human trafficking and related offenses. In this respect the unit also visits places most likely to be used for trafficking and does inspections on our international airport when a so-called "risk flight" arrives. The working group also made an operational manual for the Counter-TIP Unit of the police department as well as one for the Immigration Service.

The sensitization activities of the working group in the outer districts are always coupled

with inspection visits by the counter-trafficking units of both the police department and the Labour Inspectorate to places most likely to be used for trafficking in persons.

In June 2010 a 24 hour hotline for receiving (anonymous) information regarding human trafficking was set up with the assistance of the US government.

With regard to prosecution we can also mention the seminar organized by the Organization of American States in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice and Police in April of this year, titled *“Strengthening Capacity of Law Enforcement Officials, Judges and Prosecutors in the Caribbean to identify and Combat Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children”*.

The prosecution of traffickers has been very successful. Several trafficking cases have been brought before the criminal court. This has been on the basis of the old as well as the new trafficking legislation. Suspects have been sentenced to prison terms and fines.

From 2005 up till now 40 cases have been investigated as possible trafficking cases. Most of the cases concerned sexual exploitation and the rest concerned forced labour. Most of the cases concerning forced labor regarded Chinese nationals.

Of the 40 cases:

- 27 suspects have been arrested for trafficking (December 2005 – October 2010);
- 25 suspects have been charged for trafficking;
- 18 suspects have been convicted for trafficking and
- 2 cases are still pending in court.

I can give you the following summary of the convictions we have had under the old legislation.

- In 2005 a brothel owner, was convicted and sentenced to two and a half years imprisonment, for trafficking Guyanese

women and a girl for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

- In December 2006 a brothel owner was convicted and sentenced to six months imprisonment for the trafficking of Brazilian women for the purpose of sexual exploitation.
- In December 2006 a female brothel owner was convicted and sentenced to three months imprisonment for the trafficking of women from the Dominican Republic for the purpose of sexual exploitation.
- In march 2007 a brothel owner was convicted and sentenced to eighteen months imprisonment for the trafficking of Brazilian women for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

The following people were convicted under the new legislation.

- In may 2008 a brothel owner and his girlfriend were convicted for the trafficking of Brazilian women for the purpose of sexual exploitation. The brothel owner was sentenced to one year imprisonment and an additional fine of 50.000,- Surinamese Dollars, about 18,000.00 US Dollars. His girlfriend was sentenced to four months imprisonment and an additional fine of 10.000.- Surinamese Dollars, about 3,600.00 US Dollars.
- In august 2008 a Korean was convicted and sentenced to six years imprisonment and an additional fine of 50.000.- Surinamese Dollars, about 18,000.00 US Dollars, for the trafficking of four Vietnamese men for the purpose of forced labor in a fishing company he owned. Sadly, one of the victims hanged himself because he hadn't been paid for one year.
- In june 2009 two Guyanese females and one Dutch male were convicted for the trafficking of a Guyanese girl of 15 years for the purpose of sexual exploitation. One of the Guyanese females was sentenced to nine months imprisonment and an additional fine of 3000.- Surinamese Dollars, about 1,100.00 US Dollars, the other Guyanese female was sentenced to eighteen months

imprisonment and an additional fine of 10.000.- Surinamese dollars, about 3,600.00 US Dollars, and the Dutch male was sentenced to two years imprisonment.

- In July 2009 two males and a female were convicted and sentenced for respectively three years imprisonment; two years imprisonment and three years imprisonment. They were convicted for the recruitment of young Surinamese nationals to travel to Trinidad and Tobago. These victims were told that they would participate in a cook course and after completing the course successfully, would travel to the Netherlands to work as cooks or waiters in a restaurant. Instead of the cook course, the participants were forced to hard labor and also forced to perform sexual services. They were frequently beaten by the main trafficker and his associates during their stay in Trinidad and Tobago. The main trafficker and his associates are Surinamese nationals just like the victims.
- In July 2009 four suspects (two males and two females) who had been arrested in Curacao, these were the main trafficker and three of his associates in the case regarding the cook course, were extradited to Suriname. In may 2010 they were convicted and sentenced to respectively ten years and eight years imprisonment for the two males and six years imprisonment for the two females.
- In august 2010 a female was convicted and sentenced to two years imprisonment for trafficking a local minor to work in her erotic massage salon. The minor was 16 years of age.

## **Conclusion**

As you have heard, Suriname is very committed and does a lot on the national level. However, trafficking in persons is a form of organized crime that should not be underestimated by any government, organization or person. According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, human trafficking is one of the three most profitable transnational crimes for criminal

syndicates along with drugs and arms trafficking. Trafficking in persons is a global problem and can't be solved by governments alone. All governments, NGOs, religious and faith-based organizations among others should contribute. In this respect we welcome this initiative by the Roman Catholic Church aimed at combating trafficking in persons.


We are confident that the conference will be a success and that the shared information and the outcome of the conference will not only be useful to the Roman Catholic Church but also to the Government of Suriname and the other stakeholders present.

Thank you.

The Working Group Counter-Trafficking in Persons,  
Paramaribo, November 15, 2010

## Annex 5. Presentation by Mr Scheffers with speech

Human trafficking:  
a crime that shames us all



Speech by Victor Scheffers, Secretary  
General of Justitia et Pax Netherlands, at  
the Conference on Human Trafficking,  
Paramaribo, 15 – 16 november 2010

1

Talking trafficking in 2010

It means:

- 1) unraveling what is up in the international agenda
- 2) discussing what trafficking means for human rights and for human rights organisations
- 3) combating trafficking as an instrument for re-stating the moral dignity of peoples – task for the states and for the church

4

Trafficking is better described as  
enslavement. Exploitation of people,  
day after day. For years on end. [...] it  
is a crime that shames us all

A. Costa  
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime  
February 2009

2

JeP NL: a research on human  
trafficking

- Netherlands major country of destination (mostly from Nigeria and Romania, Bulgaria)
- Many positive developments (National Rapporteur 2000, Special Task Force 2008, successful police operations) but number of victims are very high

5

Human trafficking

Human trafficking is the acquisition of  
people by improper means such as force,  
fraude or deception, with the aim of  
exploiting them.

The challenge for all countries, rich and  
poor, is

- 1) to target the criminals who exploit  
desperate people and
- 2) to protect and assist victims of trafficking  
and smuggled migrants.

3

JeP NL: a research on human  
trafficking

- Important findings: migration policies adopted (open vs. closed) do not seem to affect much the numbers of reports (EU and Bulgaria/Romania).
- Spill-over effects of restrictive migration policies (example of Nigeria, Dutch cooperation policy)

6

### JeP NL: a research on human trafficking

#### Important findings:

- Insufficient shelters, inability of the police to help, no communication between social workers and migrant communities
- Migrant churches can play a role: shelter and connections

7

### Trafficking from a human rights perspective

- Arises from a lack of human rights care and produces more violations
- Increase of international connectedness makes it clear that new international regulatory as well as human rights systems need to emerge in order to address the phenomenon

10

### Human Trafficking: definition

- Not a new phenomenon, long rooted in human history
- Yet increase in numbers after 2000 onwards according to UN sources
- Trafficking is different from other migratory phenomena, such as smuggling or asylum seeking, but boundaries are often very blurred.

8

### What instruments do we have to fight trafficking?

- International legal instruments (to prevent and suppress)
- National legal instruments (to prevent, suppress and provide care to victims)

11

### Human Trafficking: definition

- Murky definitions but the burden of human suffering that trafficking entails is evident, regardless of the type of exploitation victims are exposed to
- To think of “human rights of migrants” can help us to move further

9

### International Legal Instrument

- 2000 UN Convention against Organised Crime - (good definition as it underlined its entrenchment in transborder profit-making criminal groups) and in particular its protocol to Prevent Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons (Palermo Protocol)

12

### Definition of the Palermo Protocol 2000

- Trafficked is someone who has been subjected *“to the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person for the purpose of exploitation”* –free will/lack thereof is no longer fundamental in the definition of trafficking

13

### What way ahead?

- Increasing movements of people and increasing forms thereof testify for the need of a new international system, where the rights of migrants are part of a new moral discourse
- Better learning systems- need for international discussion over what goes well and what wrong and consequences of policies
- Entitlement to civil rights as a human right: decriminalisation of the foreigner, right to due process representation and independent counsel.

16

### National Ratification of International Instruments

- Some European countries (i.e. the Netherlands, Italy) have established temporary residence permits for the victims who intend to collaborate with justice
- Different countries have established different types of sheltering facilities
- Many African countries have not ratified UN Convention

14

### Catholic Social Doctrine

- Threefold cornerstone of human rights, solidarity and subsidiarity
- Principles of social justice, preferential option for the poor, requirement of common good
- Respects for rights of migrants and their human dignity

17

### Achievements and limitations

- UN system has adopted far-reaching definitions, signalling the emergence of a new discourse that does not penalise victims
- Care facilities are present and become more professionalised
- Yet more needs to be done: a new human rights discourse must be thought and codified that puts the migrant at the centre of attention.

15

### Poverty

- One of the root causes for migration and for human trafficking
- Promotion of a culture of solidarity and peace with a view of achieving real justice for all

18

## Mission of the Church

- Commitment to human rights and dignity of the person is essential characteristic of Church's mission today, through:
  - Education and formation
  - Concrete gestures of solidarity with vulnerable people
  - Promotion of social and economic rights

19

participants from Suriname and its neighbouring countries.

First of all I would like to thank the Bishop of Paramaribo and his Commission for Justice and Peace, who thought it would be a good idea to invite me to travel from The Netherlands for participating in this conference.



20

I have been invited to contribute to this conference and to bring a human rights perspective to this important topic of human trafficking. They have asked me to stress the aspects of human rights and social teaching of the Catholic Church. And that is precisely the mandate of Justitia et Pax (Justice and Peace). Justitia et Pax, the worldwide catholic human rights organisation, was established in 1967 to promote social justice and human rights, and to build awareness among the people about their responsibility to contribute to a just and peaceful society in which human rights and the dignity of the person are respected and promoted.

### Human trafficking: a crime that shames us all

#### **Speech by Victor Scheffers, Secretary General of Justitia et Pax Netherlands, at the conference on Human Trafficking of the Justice and Peace Commission in Suriname, Paramaribo, 15 - 16 November 2010**

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, dear friends,

I am very pleased to be here with you in this conference on Human Trafficking. I greet all

1. In Europe, human trafficking is widely spread. Two years ago I participated in a meeting organized by the Justice and Peace Commission in Romania on human trafficking. Romania has been a centre for the trade in young girls for decades. Too often, I was told, Romanians see the young women as nothing more than prostitutes or cheap labour forces. Almost always from poor, abusive families, these girls are sold into the trade by their own parents. Some are lured to foreign countries with promises of jobs or marriage. But once out of the country, they are sold to gangs and locked up in brothels or forced to work the streets. A young women advocate in the meeting



did little to disguise her disgust with legal systems around the world that fail to take trafficking serious enough. “When these guys get caught, they get what? Six years maybe. They destroy 300 lives and they get six years. You traffic drugs, you get 20 years. There is something not right”.

Indeed, there is something not right. “Trafficking is better described as enslavement. Exploitation of people, day after day. For years on end. [...] it is a crime that shames us all.”

2. I am invited today to comment on international developments against human trafficking, on the relationships between trafficking and human rights and trafficking and migration, as well as on the role the Church can play. Of course human trafficking is not a new phenomenon. Yet its increase and the discovery of the enormous human plight suffered by the victims, make it urgent and necessary to discuss it. These will be the components of my speech:
  - Firstly I will talk about our own research project in The Netherlands.
  - I will refer to the most important legal instruments available at the international level.
  - Then I will make a point on the need to understand what trafficking means from a human rights point of view.
  - And I will close with a paragraph on the social doctrine of the Church: what role for the Church to reaffirm the dignity of the victims.
3. Justice and Peace Netherlands is gaining some experience on the issue of human trafficking as it is in the process of conducting a research on the situation of trafficking women into The Netherlands. Although the situation of The Netherlands is relatively very advanced as far as the fight against human trafficking is

concerned (with a National Rapporteur, a Special Task Force, successful police operations and various shelter initiatives), the number of women who report having been trafficked has been growing every year since 2000. There is also anecdotal evidence that the number of unreported cases is a substantial part of those victimised. Most of the victims come from African countries such as Nigeria and from Eastern European countries such as Romania and Bulgaria.

4. The research has focused on two main points: the possible effects of different Dutch migration policies on flows of trafficked people as well as on the care facilities provided to the victims at the domestic level. Firstly, there is a big debate as to how restrictive migration policies can actually make trafficking more profitable for the traffickers. If that was true, open borders should make trafficking decline. Yet the experience of the Eastern opening of the European Union shows the contrary, with many Eastern European women trafficked as the borders became more porous. Furthermore, in the case of Nigeria, where the Dutch government implemented border control in the country of departure rather than upon arrival (through training Nigerian police to prevent women from travelling in case of *suspected* travelling) has not prevented travelling but rather increased the number of Nigerian women trafficked to other European countries.
5. On the domestic side of the fight against trafficking, some problems have been encountered which signal areas for improvement. For example, it has been reported that there is at times insufficient cooperation among different actors engaging with victims. The local police is at times unable to help women who seek to report but often dispose of no documents. Social workers struggle sometimes with the scarcity of places available to shelter victims and to debate whether division across age and

nationality would help or not to support women through trial and trough recovery. It appears that local migrant churches may have a role to play as they represent places where people connect with others from the same countries. These may help not only to provide shelter but also to get information on how and where to seek for help.

6. Now the point is: what can we learn from the current situation and what can we improve? Do we need better international instruments? And what can we do at the international level? Of course, human trafficking is not a modern, recent phenomenon. Rather it is well rooted in human history: the long history of enslavement purposes demonstrates that. Two things need to be noted however: that nowadays trafficking is definitely a gendered phenomenon, meaning that it concerns women disproportionately more than men. This holds true also when trafficking occurs outside the commercial sex industry. Secondly, it has been argued that trafficking has increased the last decade, as a result of the increasing flows of cross-border human movements. Forces of globalisation have unleashed both push and pull factors determining large movements particularly of women, and predominantly from poorer to richer lands. This means that a new focus on trafficking is needed. New shapes of globalised migration movements also call for a redefinition of what trafficking is: it often escapes the boundaries between willing and forced migration. It is also a different phenomenon compared to smuggling and asylum, though trafficked people might have been smuggled. The difficulty of defining borders has implications for policy making, as prescribing different rights for victims of different phenomena may not yield positive results in practice.
7. As I said, it is often impossible to distinguish on the ground what different

forms of migratory phenomena, involving different law-breaking practices, affect different migrants. Thinking of the human rights of them all, as human rights of migrant people, can help us to move forward.

8. What is important for us working to uphold human dignity and protect human rights, is to address trafficking as a violation of human rights. And it makes us note that the human rights system may be changed and improved to incorporate new human rights in the wake of increasing cross-border interconnections. Trafficking is both a human rights and a migration issue: this relationship goes both ways. On the one hand, migration arises because human rights are not upheld in all countries. Particularly the last wave of globalisation has jeopardised the socio-economic and political rights of many, who had to resort to migration as livelihood alternative. On the other hand, migration itself often produces human rights violations: the current international system only partially protects the migrant. Foreigners end up being criminalised and their entitlement to civil rights is not always guaranteed. Of course borders cannot be eliminated as they represent the bulk of state sovereignty; yet procedures for incorporation are more and more needed in an increasingly inter-connected world.
9. At the moment some instruments are available that address trafficking from a human rights perspective. These include both international agreements as well as their national counterparts, in countries where international conventions have been ratified. This of course generates a variety of approaches in different countries, both with regard to prevention and oppression, as well as with regard to care for the victims.
10. To give an overview of the main international instruments in the fight against trafficking, one must state the 2000 UN Convention on Organised Crime.

Please note that definition, as it reinforces the fact that trafficking is a phenomenon that creates illegal profit for some at the expense of others. Trafficked is someone who has been subjected “to the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, or abduction, of fraud, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person for the purpose of exploitation”. Its Palermo Protocol of 2000 thus defines trafficking regardless of the consent of the victims, in case this was obtained through means of coercion.

The international discourse is actually good, although it has its limitations. One is obvious: that it leaves a margin of discretion for countries to implement it. This is within the nature of international law but causes problems of heterogeneity, which are particularly important as we face a truly trans-national phenomenon. Secondly, the degree of gender sensitivity of such norms is debatable: it is not clear to what extent they make justice to the fact that trafficking concerns massively women.

11. As it is always the case with international law, different countries having ratified the UN Convention have implemented different measures. Within Europe the scenario is diverse: some countries have gone a bit further than others, for example by allowing temporary residence permits for the victims who decide to report and collaborate. As sheltering has been not homogeneously developed. Some countries have also developed new border control procedure, such as Dutch cooperation with the Naptip - the Nigerian agency against trafficking. In Latin America, many countries have ratified the UN Convention.
12. All the merits and demerits, possibilities and achievements of such measures cannot be discussed now. What however needs to be noted is that despite some positive achievements such as the far-reaching definitions adopted by the UN

and the growth of care facilities, we need to do more in order to promote the dignity of the human person and combat the increasing tendency to criminalise victims. The migrant has to be put at the centre of attention.

13. Catholics know that they can find in the Church’s social doctrine an answer which serves as a starting point in the search for practical solutions. By her social doctrine the Church makes an effective contribution to the issues presented by the current globalised economy. Her moral vision in this area rests on the threefold cornerstone of *human dignity, solidarity and subsidiarity*. Developments in the society must be analysed in the light of the *principles of social justice, respecting the preferential option for the poor who must allowed to take their place in our society, and the requirement of the (international) common good*. I take this from the Post-Synodal Exhortatio “Ecclesia in America”, January 1999. Although the Exhortatio doesn’t talk about the phenomenon of human trafficking in particular, par. 65 on the question of migration calls attention to the rights of the migrants and their families and to respect for the human dignity, even in cases of non-legal migration. The Exhortatio encourages cooperation between the dioceses from which they come and those in which they settle, to ensure the most adequate and complete pastoral care.
14. Poverty is one of the root causes for migration and for human trafficking. In the actual social climate a system known as ‘neo-liberalism’ prevails. Based on a purely economic conception of man, this system considers profit and the law of the market as its only parameters, to the detriment of the dignity and the respect due to individuals and peoples. This system leads to the neglect of the weaker members of the society. The best response to this tragic situation is the promotion of solidarity and peace, with a

view of achieving real justice for all. There is a need to support the process of democratisation, since a democratic system provides greater control over potential abuses. The Church needs to pay greater attention to the formation of consciences, which will prepare the leaders of society for public life at all levels, promote civic education, respect for law and human rights, and inspire greater efforts in the ethical training of political leaders.

15. The Church's commitment to human rights is not something ancillary or secondary; rather, the promotion of the dignity of the person and of his and her human rights is an essential characteristic of the Church's mission today. It is in harmony with the Christian vision of men and women, of their transcendent dignity and their inalienable rights together with their duties. And this commitment is found, in fact and above all, in the considerable efforts she makes in the fields of education and formation. This particular emphasis on awareness raising does not mean that other practical expressions of its activity in the field of human rights be neglected. The Church has a prophetic duty to denounce human rights violations, to make concrete gestures of solidarity with people in situations of oppression; to the point of offering juridical assistance to victims whose human rights have been violated. She also promotes in particular social and economic rights.

And when I speak about responsibility of the Church, I refer to all its members: bishops, priests, religious, as well as lay people, women and men. They all should be united, relying on their own experiences and through fulfilling their particular tasks within their communities and societies.

## **Annex 6. Country delegation's conclusions**

### **Trafficking in Persons - A Missionary Challenge**

#### **Towards a Final Statement**

The urgent need to address this issue was underlined yesterday in the various presentations and also in the question and answer sessions. There is an enormous human tragedy to be addressed. Basic human solidarity requires all right thinking persons to express their horror and indignation in the face of so much human suffering and exploitation. Furthermore, religious conviction both inspires and urges us to develop strategies to counteract and impede the organized crime which is the driving force behind so much of this suffering.

The efforts to combat and overcome trafficking in human persons are grounded in religious belief and also in protocols/agreements ratified by several countries.

In terms of processing our reflections the reports of the discussions yesterday afternoon point to some general areas as well as to some specific points. Today we will fine tune our thinking, i.e. try to be as specific and as practical as we can in outlining what we plan to do.

1. Each group, in its own circumstances, is challenged to intensify its efforts to impede trafficking in human persons. What happens in each participant country is of interest to all the participants. Thus -

**What are the two most urgent practical issues that need to be addressed in your own country? Do you have the resources to meet these challenges?**

2. The desire to work together became very apparent yesterday. More than a desire it is a necessity. The nature of the challenge is such that we need one another to be effective in overcoming trafficking of human persons. The proponents of human trafficking work through cross border networks. Similarly the proponents of a more human society must network with one another.

We need to discover how we can work together in a practical and effective way. Thus

**'Identify two issues which need to be addressed together by the participating delegations'. Why these two?**

## **Brazil**

1-School Programs for Prevention of Sexual Abuse, Exploitation and Human Trafficking;

2- Actions for migration and to fight human trafficking between countries (Surinam, Guyana, French Guyana and Brazil) by the government and NGO's

Funds, Human Resources and Facilities

The Brazilian Government is developing policies for migration and to fight human trafficking. (National Plan Against Human Trafficking ). The migration policies need to be formulated in order to create funds.

The NGO's don't have sufficient funds to fight human trafficking in joint cooperation

There are facilities and Human Resources in Brazil.

*Additions:*

- 1. Create opportunities/ options for these women*

## **French-Guyana**

1. Prostitution in towns and in the forest (gold mining sites)

2. Immigrants' status: regularization of immigrants who have been in the country for a long time – working right for asylum seekers and for ill immigrants – suppression of black work

Do we have the means to do that?

No, but we are realistic we demand the impossible

## Guyana

### GUYANA URGENT NEEDS:

1. Address on all fronts the situation of internal trafficking i.e. movement of Amerindian women from villages in the interior to the coast. (Practical collaborative proposal already in place).
2. Advocacy for the Implementation of Laws.

### TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

1. Raising awareness of existing realities – flyers, articles, seminars etc that could lead to formulation of laws and public intervention.

## Suriname

### 1. What are the two most urgent practical issues that need to be addressed in your own country? Do you have the resources to meet these challenges?

- Focal Points both in the government and civil society (also religious and faith-based organizations)

Their work relates to prevention, protection and prosecution.

They must be responsible for:

- a. Information gathering
- b. Victim assistance
- c. Financial support

They have to be able to network, both nationally and internationally.

There are resources because in specific cases we do manage to assist victims, among other things. However, the government does not have all the resources. We have to approach civil society and the international community, among others. Good planning and networking can help to gather the necessary resources.

Investigation is part of efforts in the field of investigation/prosecution.

We need a more pro-active, more progressive approach from law enforcement. This would lead to more information from so-called closed communities and with respect to the situation in our interior. Law enforcement would also have to work towards improvement of our border control mechanism.

## Annex 7. Final Statement of the Conference

### MESSAGE OF THE CONFERENCE: TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS: A MISSIONARY CHALLENGE

PARAMARIBO, SURINAME,

15-16 November, 2010

#### 1. Introduction

On the invitation of Mgr Wilhelmus de Bekker, Bishop of Paramaribo, Suriname, representatives of the Roman Catholic Church from Brazil, French Guyana, Guyana and Suriname and special guests from the Netherlands, Trinidad and Tobago as well as from the USA, Dutch, French and Brazilian embassies, and from the Government of Suriname, met in Paramaribo for an international conference on trafficking in human persons. The objective of this conference was “to reach consensus in respect of activities, which are guided by a greater awareness of the Social Teaching of the Church regarding Human Rights and also the way to deal with the problems of trafficking in human persons and prostitution, and in this perspective, elaborate proposals to address these issues in an effective way.”

In his opening remarks Bishop De Bekker asked the question “Am I my brother’s keeper?” (Gen 4: 9). This was to underline the responsibility we have for one another. We have a special responsibility for the weak in our society. And this has been stressed by the Church throughout history. The Social teaching of the Church can be situated in the context of the love for our neighbors.

During the conference representatives of the four above mentioned countries made their presentations. We discussed the most urgent practical issues that need to be addressed in our own countries, and also issues which need to be addressed jointly.

It must first be acknowledged that human trafficking is a complex, world-wide phenomenon that encompasses a vast range of violations of the rights of the individual, including sexual exploitation, forced labor or forms of slavery such as exploitation in begging and domestic servitude. There is an enormous human tragedy to be addressed. In many cases the human suffering of the victims exists even before she or he becomes a victim of trafficking. As we have learned from the country reports, many of the victims come from poor background and broken families; they have been neglected and even sexually abused; they have a low self esteem, are vulnerable and can easily be exploited by traffickers and recruiters. The challenge for all countries is to prosecute the criminals who exploit these desperate people, and to protect and assist victims of trafficking and smuggled migrants. The response should also include preventive measures, such as on the one hand awareness and consciousness raising, and on the other, measures that tackle the root causes of the phenomenon, foremost among which is the macro-economic system and its resulting inequalities. While poverty alone cannot explain this tragedy, which is driven by fraudulent recruiters and employers who seek to reap profits from others’ desperation, we cannot avoid an analysis of the factors that produce this desperation. In the actual social climate a system known as ‘neo-liberalism’ prevails. Based on a purely economic conception of persons, this system considers profit and the law of the market as its only parameters, to the detriment of the dignity and the respect due to individuals and peoples.

The consequences of human trafficking are not only devastating for the victims themselves, but are also damaging for society as a whole. According to pope John Paul II this trade in human persons constitutes *a shocking offence against human dignity and a grave violation of fundamental human rights*. He goes on to say, that already the Second Vatican Council pointed to *slavery, prostitution, the selling of women and children, and disgraceful working conditions where people are treated as instruments of gain rather than free and responsible persons*. (Letter to Archbishop Jean-Louis Tauran, on the occasion of the international conference “ 21<sup>st</sup> Century Slavery – The human Rights Dimension to Trafficking in Human Beings”, 15 May 2002)



Our efforts to combat and overcome trafficking in human persons are grounded in religious belief, personal convictions and also in international conventions and protocols ratified by our respective countries, and in national legislation. The Church has a prophetic duty to denounce trafficking in people as a violation of basic human rights and of the dignity of the person. We need to pay greater attention to the formation of consciences, to promote awareness of the issues involved in relation to trafficking in human persons, respect for law and human rights through civic education, and to make concrete gestures of solidarity with people in situations of oppression and despair, to the point of offering various forms of assistance to victims whose human rights have been violated. There is an urgent need for us to work together to stop human trafficking.

**2. Each of the four delegations has made commitments to be implemented in their respective countries.**

**FRENCH GUYANA:**

1. Prostitution in towns and in the forest (gold mining sites)
2. Immigrants' status: regularization of immigrants who have been in the country for a long time – working rights for asylum seekers and for ill immigrants – suppression of illegal labor

**GUYANA:**

1. Address on all fronts the situation of internal trafficking i.e. movement of Amerindian women from villages in the interior to the coast. (Practical collaborative proposal already in place).
2. Advocacy for the Implementation of Laws.

**TRINIDAD & TOBAGO**

1. Raising awareness of existing realities – flyers, articles, seminars etc.
2. Lobbying for the formulation of laws and public intervention.

**BRAZIL**

1. School Programs for Prevention of Sexual Abuse, Exploitation and Human Trafficking;
2. Actions for migration and to fight human trafficking among countries (Suriname, Guyana, French Guiana and Brazil) by the government and NGO's
3. Create opportunities/ options for these women

**SURINAME**

1. Focal Points both in the government and civil society (also religious and faith-based organizations)  
Their work relates to prevention, protection and prosecution.  
They must be responsible for:
  - d. Information gathering
  - e. Victim assistance
  - f. Financial supportThey have to be able to network, both nationally and internationally.
2. Investigation  
Investigation is part of efforts in the field of investigation/prosecution.  
We need a more pro-active, more progressive approach from law enforcement. This would lead to more information from so-called closed communities and with respect to the situation in our interior. Law enforcement would also have to work towards improvement of our border control mechanism.

**3. Common statements**

- The conference is mindful that TIP is a multifaceted phenomenon as mentioned in our introduction.

- The conference recognizes that the participating countries may enter into bilateral arrangements.

**4. Common commitments:**

- The conference is committed to the principle of networking. Each country will have a focal point (prime contact). These persons will be in contact with one another and articulate the issues surrounding trafficking in persons. They will identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats in their annual reports
- The conference is committed to create an international forum on an (bi-) annual basis of the interested parties with the objective to exchange information, to learn from best practices, to strengthen their organisational capacities, to formulate recommendations and to develop concerted actions.
- The conference is committed to the principle of partnership between faith based communities and churches, civil society and the respective governments.
- The conference is committed to the need to raise awareness levels with regard to TIP in the various segments of society through formal and informal education and other means.



## **Annex 8. Agenda**

### **MONDAY NOVEMBER 15:**

8.00 - 8.40 Registration of participants and distribution of documents.

8.40-8.55 Seating of participants and arrival of special guests.

8.55 Call to order.

8.55.-9.10 Invocation, Welcome remarks and Opening of Conference by Mgr. W. de Bekker.

#### ***First Plenary Session***

9.10-9.20 Presentation by H.E. J. Nay, Ambassador of the USA

9.20- 9.45 Presentation by the Brazilian Delegation.

9.45- 10.00 Questions and answers.

10.00- 10.25 Presentation by the French Guiana Delegation.

10.25- 10.40 Questions and answers.

10.40-11.05 Presentation by the Guyana Delegation,

11.05-11.20 Questions and answers.

11.20-11.35 Refreshments, departure of Special Guests.

11.35- 12.00 Presentation by the Suriname Delegation

12.00- 12.15 Questions and answers.

12.15-12.40 Presentation by Mr. Victor Scheffers, Director Justitia & Pax, The Netherlands.

12.40- 12.55 Questions and answers.

12.55- 13.00 Remarks by Chairperson and close of session

13.00- 13.45 Lunch.

#### ***Second Plenary Session***

14.00- 15.15 Break-out session for discussions by the respective delegations [ open - ended].

15.15- 16.00 Drafting of Conclusions

16.00- 16.55 Presentation of country delegation's Conclusions.

16.55-17.00 Remarks by Chairperson .

17.00- 17.05 Prayers and Close of session

**TUESDAY 16 NOVEMBER**

***Third Plenary Session***

- 8.00-8.40 Registration, distribution of documents and seating of delegates.
- 8.40-8.55 Seating of participants and Special Guests.
- 8.55 Call to order
- 8.56- 9.00 Invocation.
- 9.00-10.15 Discussion of the Draft Final Document.
- 10.15- 11.00 Finalization of the Draft Final Document by The Drafting Committee.
- 11.00- 11.20 Refreshments.
- 11.20- 12.15 Discussion of the Draft Final Document submitted by The Drafting Committee.
- 12.15- 13.00 Incorporation into the Final Draft of approved suggestions.
- 13.00- 14.00 Lunch

***Fourth Plenary Session***

- 14.00- 15.15. Final comments ,approval of Draft Final Document and press release.
- 15.15- 16.00 Remarks on the outcome of the Conference and vote of thanks.
- 16.00- 16.10 Prayers and Close of Conference.
- 16.10- 17.30 Buffet

## Annex 9. List of Participants

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