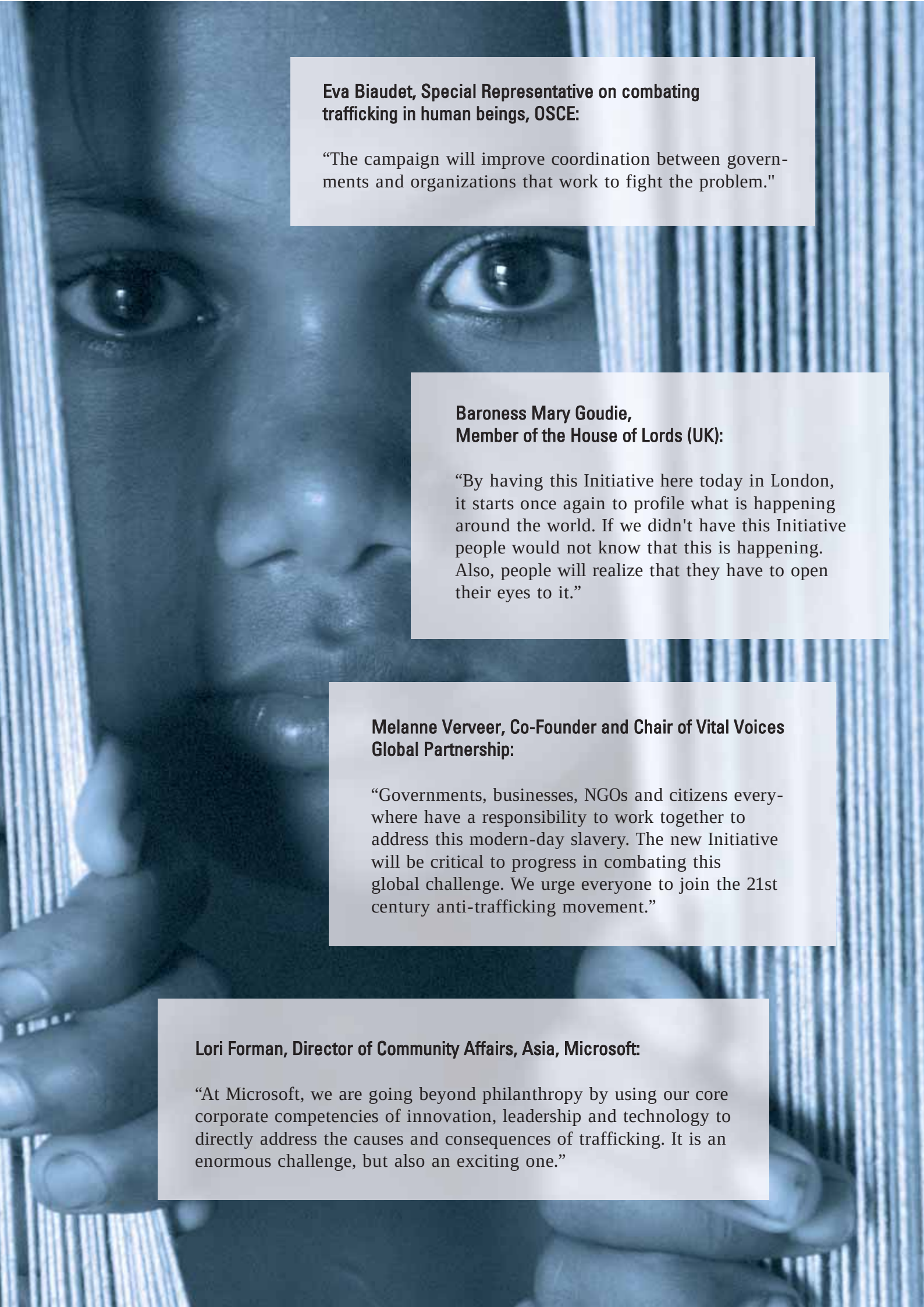




UNITED NATIONS
Office on Drugs and Crime

THE GLOBAL INITIATIVE TO FIGHT HUMAN TRAFFICKING





Eva Biaudet, Special Representative on combating trafficking in human beings, OSCE:

“The campaign will improve coordination between governments and organizations that work to fight the problem.”

**Baroness Mary Goudie,
Member of the House of Lords (UK):**

“By having this Initiative here today in London, it starts once again to profile what is happening around the world. If we didn't have this Initiative people would not know that this is happening. Also, people will realize that they have to open their eyes to it.”

Melanne Verveer, Co-Founder and Chair of Vital Voices Global Partnership:

“Governments, businesses, NGOs and citizens everywhere have a responsibility to work together to address this modern-day slavery. The new Initiative will be critical to progress in combating this global challenge. We urge everyone to join the 21st century anti-trafficking movement.”

Lori Forman, Director of Community Affairs, Asia, Microsoft:

“At Microsoft, we are going beyond philanthropy by using our core corporate competencies of innovation, leadership and technology to directly address the causes and consequences of trafficking. It is an enormous challenge, but also an exciting one.”

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A Crime That Shames Us All

Human trafficking is a booming international trade, making billions of dollars at the expense of millions of victims, many of them children, who are robbed of their dignity and freedom. Although most of us have never witnessed this crime, it happens every day all around the world.

Criminals profit while satisfying consumer demand. In the middle are the victims, made vulnerable by poverty and exploited by traffickers who use force and deception to trap their prey. Victims include: young girls sold by their families; children drugged and forced to fight as soldiers; men bonded/chained in labour on mines and farms; women enslaved in quarries and households; women and girls trapped in the sex trade; boys forced to fish in dangerous waters—all of them people, human beings, coerced to do what others would never freely do, paid virtually nothing for their pains. In a perverse commercialization of humanity, they are used like products and then thrown away.

More and more people are becoming aware of the horrors of human trafficking. Yet the crime persists. In many countries, international laws to stop human trafficking are still not adhered to and implementation remains inadequate. Few criminals are convicted and the majority of victims never receive help.

The true extent of this crime is unknown. That in itself is a problem that deserves further attention. The criminal nature of the phenomenon, the lack of legislation, benign neglect in some quarters and denial in others make information collection a challenge. The tip of the iceberg is in front of our eyes: how much of it is submerged? Evidence suggests that the problem is global, significant and growing.

It is too easy to blind ourselves to the suffering of fellow creatures, so long as our own comfort and security are not threatened. Let us not close our eyes to crimes that shame us all. We have a moral duty and a legal obligation to fight human trafficking. It is time to unite and to act. This is a global problem that requires a global solution.



“Human trafficking affects us all, whether we live in countries of origin, transit or destination. Preventing and combating it requires a comprehensive international approach. We must act together to stop a crime in our midst that deprives countless victims of their liberty, dignity and human rights.”

Ms. Asha-Rose Migiro
Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations

A Global Commitment



International laws are in place to fight this crime. Governments have agreed to a UN Protocol against trafficking in persons which provides a working definition of human trafficking and a common basis for criminalizing the trafficking of persons, especially women and children.

By May 2007, 111 states had ratified this Trafficking Protocol, committing themselves to incorporate its provisions in their domestic laws and to fully implement its measures.

"Trafficking in persons" shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, 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 having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs;"

Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

The Protocol provides for specific measures to prevent trafficking, protect the victims, and prosecute the criminals.

We have the tools. Let's use them.

Taking the Initiative

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), with financial support from the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, has therefore set in motion a Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT). The process, formally launched in London on 26 March 2007, is designed to have a long-term impact—to create a turning point in the world-wide fight against human trafficking.

Throughout 2007 and 2008, events will take place across the globe to raise awareness, reduce the vulnerability of potential victims, examine the human impact of this crime and take action to stop it.

The ultimate goal must be to prevent potential victims from falling prey to traffickers, protecting those who do, and punishing the criminals involved.

Kofi Annan, former Secretary-General, UN:

"I [...] applaud the UN-led Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking—also known as UN.GIFT—that was launched in the House of Lords at the end of March, and the steps that are being taken in the United Kingdom to stop this crime. Let us take action to prevent any more victims from having their dreams of a better future turn into nightmares of exploitation and servitude."

(Address Houses of Parliament, The Royal Gallery, Palace of Westminster, May 2007)

UN.GIFT aims to fight human trafficking by building support for the following goals:

- **Raise awareness**—inform the world of this crime and mobilize people to stop it
- **Strengthen prevention**—warn vulnerable groups and alleviate the factors that make people vulnerable to trafficking, such as poverty, underdevelopment and lack of opportunity
- **Reduce demand**—attack the problem at its source by lowering incentives to trade and decreasing demand for the products and services of exploited people
- **Support and protect victims**—ensure housing, counselling, medical, psychological and material assistance, keeping in mind the special needs of women and children and people at risk, such as those in refugee camps and conflict zones
- **Improve law enforcement**—strengthen information exchange between law enforcement agencies on international trafficking routes and traffickers' profiles in order to dismantle criminal groups, leading to the conviction of traffickers

- **Implement international commitments**—ensure that international agreements are turned into national laws and practice by assisting countries in need and improving the monitoring of compliance
- **Enrich knowledge**—deepen world understanding of the scope and nature of human trafficking through more data collection and analysis, joint research initiatives and the creation of an evidence-based report on global trafficking trends
- **Strengthen partnerships**—build up regional and thematic networks involving civil society, inter-governmental organizations and the private sector
- **Create a special purpose fund**—to attract and leverage resources into funding projects around the world committed to ending human trafficking
- **Create an informal contact group**—to give like-minded Member States ownership of the process and create long-term momentum.

The objectives set for the Global Initiative will contribute to achieving the UN Millennium Development Goals of empowering women, improving maternal health, combating HIV/AIDS, eradicating poverty, improving education and developing a global partnership for development.



A Team Effort

Teamwork is vital if we want to take the fight against human trafficking to new levels.

Dedicated individuals and groups around the world are already doing what they can. UN.GIFT aims to harness and combine this enormous goodwill, providing a framework for coherent action.

At the international level, a number of UN agencies and regional programs already deal with many aspects of human trafficking. These institutions have been working together in the Initiative's preparatory phase through a steering committee.

They are:

- ▶ UNODC as the guardian of the UN Protocol against trafficking in persons
- ▶ UNICEF, promoting the protection of children from violence, abuse and exploitation
- ▶ ILO, promoting protection against forced labour and preventing child labour
- ▶ IOM, promoting the protection of migrant workers
- ▶ OHCHR as the custodian of the anti-slavery legal instruments
- ▶ OSCE, fighting human trafficking in its region.

Furthermore, since 2006 a broad range of activities and partners has been coordinated through the Inter-Agency Cooperation Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT).

Governments must be involved, both to steer the process and to strengthen their capacity to fight human trafficking.

At the grass roots level where the problem is most acute, non-governmental organizations and other civil society groups protect victims and raise awareness among vulnerable groups. These groups are the eyes and ears of the global community, the front line of the anti-trafficking movement.

A number of private individuals—either through foundations, the media or on their own initiative—are champions of the anti-trafficking cause. Their work, either to raise global awareness or to tackle local problems, is an inspiration to us all.



"As UNODC Goodwill Ambassador, I have witnessed phenomenal work by countless NGOs who support the UN. This is transnational organised crime and needs a transnational organised response. This initiative is a rallying cry to a cohesive strategy."

British actress Julia Ormond

More needs to be done. Member States can help each other in the fight against human trafficking. Civil society should continue to advocate and galvanize a global, broad-based movement into action. Private companies should be active participants within their own communities and spheres of influence. The chance of success is greater if we work together.

Think Globally, Act Locally

Human trafficking is a worldwide phenomenon and manifests itself in many ways. The Global Initiative will analyze the problem from a wide range of geographical and thematic perspectives.

In 2007, the preparatory, first phase will:

- identify the causes of vulnerability to trafficking
- determine the range and magnitude of the impact of this crime
- increase awareness and knowledge about human trafficking
- identify partners in the fight against it
- mobilize financial resources to support action.

Regional events (in Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe and Central Asia) will lead to action plans to deal with the causes of vulnerability and the impact of human trafficking. The action plans should be in line with international standards and sensitive to local needs.

There will also be thematic discussions on issues including:

- trafficking of women and children reinforcing regional networks
- reinforcing regional networks
- children in armed conflict
- bonded and forced labour
- the role of religious communities in combating human trafficking
- depiction of human trafficking in the media and film industry
- the role of the private sector in ending this crime.

Some events are initiated by UNODC. Others are led by non-governmental organizations, other international groups and visionary individuals. All the events are of great importance in the fight against human trafficking.

A full list of UN.GIFT events is available on the UNODC web site: <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/index.html>



"The Global Initiative is a welcome, and important, development in the fight against this evil trade. We welcome the efforts of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to build upon the platform provided by the Palermo Protocol to push for further action in this area"

UK Minister Vernon Coaker

This work will build towards a Forum organized in Vienna on 13-15 February, 2008. The purpose of the Forum is to take stock of progress made under the Initiative in 2007 and set the direction for follow-up measures to prevent and counter human trafficking. It will also assess the lessons learned regarding the dimensions of the issue and the current plan of action.

The Vienna Forum will focus on three themes:

- 1. Vulnerability: what factors put people at risk to human trafficking?**
- 2. Impact: human faces and humanitarian costs.**
- 3. Initiatives: to be generated and implemented globally.**

The second phase, which will follow the Forum, is the operational phase. Based on the knowledge, networks and resources acquired through the Global Initiative in 2007, projects will be initiated to prevent and fight human trafficking. The main implementers will be governments and civil society, with technical assistance provided by the international community, and financial support from the private sector and donors. Resources will be channelled through a special purpose fund, disbursed under the guidance of a representative co-ordinating group of stakeholders. Projects will be chosen and evaluated on their ability to make a real difference in the lives of those most vulnerable to, and affected by, human trafficking.



Are We Making a Difference?

UN.GIFT will be judged on the basis of its impact on the lives of those most concerned. The test of success will be: are potential victims being alerted, are victims being freed and are criminals being brought to justice? To measure progress we should constantly ask:

Have comprehensive national policies and programs to prevent and combat human trafficking and to protect the victims been established?

Are there campaigns to warn potential victims of the dangers of trafficking, raise awareness and discourage demand?

Have measures to alleviate the vulnerability of people (women and children in particular) to trafficking, such as poverty, ignorance and lack of equal opportunity been undertaken?

The UN Protocol obliges parties to make human trafficking a criminal offence by enacting domestic laws. Has this been achieved? Is the system of penalties adequate given the severity of the crime?

Have networks to exchange information on trafficking routes, traffickers' profiles and victims' identification been developed?

Do laws distinguish victims from criminals? Are victims being held liable for the offences they may have been forced to commit as a direct result of being trafficked?

Are there measures to provide for the physical, psychological and social recovery of victims, such as housing and counselling, in a language victims understand?

Are police, prosecutors and judges trained in fighting trafficking? Can they identify victims? How many investigations carried out have led to prosecutions and convictions?

Are systems and staff able to deal with the special needs of victims, especially women and children? Are they safe following rescue and is there the possibility of compensation?

UN.GIFT aims to set in motion a broad-based, global movement that will attract the political will and resources needed to stop human trafficking. UNODC will facilitate this process and support everyone involved in creating a cohesive framework.

It is time to join forces to prevent human trafficking. Give this global problem a global solution. Rally under the banner of the Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking. Get involved! Together we can save people and put traffickers behind bars.



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Updates on the Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking are available on-line via the
UNODC website www.unodc.org

Photos: Mattia Insolera; Kay Chernush for the U.S. State Department