



Organization of American States | More rights for more people



HUMAN TRAFFICKING

WHAT IS TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS? According to the Palermo Protocol,¹ it is 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.

OF THE 19 STATES

THAT PARTICIPATED IN THE SECOND FOLLOW-UP REPORT:

17 criminalize human trafficking:

Argentina, Guatemala, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Grenada, Panama, Mexico, Uruguay, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Suriname, and Venezuela

2 do not criminalize it: El Salvador and Ecuador



The UNODC² calculates that women and girls account for about

80%
of the victims of human trafficking.

Challenges: To criminalize trafficking in persons in accordance with the Palermo Protocol, reduce impunity, increase the number of court decisions that effectively punish traffickers and guarantee effective care for the victims.

WHAT DOES THE BELÉM DO PARÁ CONVENTION SAY?

Article 2b: Violence against women shall be understood to include physical, sexual, and psychological violence (...) that occurs in the community and is perpetrated by any person, including, among others, rape, sexual abuse, torture, trafficking in persons, forced prostitution, kidnapping, and sexual harassment in the workplace, as well as in educational institutions, health facilities, or any other place.

Additional source and resources: Second Follow-Up Report on the Recommendations of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI, available at <http://www.oas.org/en/mese cvi/docs/MESECVI-SegundoInformeSeguimiento-EN.pdf>

¹ Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, supplementing the

United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/ProtocolTraffickingInPersons.aspx>

² United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC): https://www.unodc.org/documents/blueheart/Fact_sheet_english.pdf