



Un altro punto di vista.

# Appeal to local powers to prevent and combat human trafficking

promoted by:

**CEMR** (Council of European Municipalities and Regions)

**AICCRE** (Italian Association of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions), as a body that is institutionally committed to defend human rights

Equal **"Tratta NO!"** DP, as a social information project on the phenomenon of trafficking included in the European programme Equal (Id. Code IT-S2-MDL-210, mainstreaming action 5.2.)

Considering:

- the **recognition of human trafficking as a violation of human rights** in international and EU<sup>1</sup> protocols/conventions/declarations and the considering of it as one of the "border" problems to be tackled on a priority basis in order to build a frontier-free Europe;
- the **Council of Europe Convention** on the respect of human rights and fundamental liberties and, in particular, article 3, which recognizes the right of all persons not to be subjected to any "inhuman or humiliating treatment" and article 4, which prohibits slavery;
- the **role of Local Powers** in two specific fields of action, i.e. positive actions and fight against trafficking, and in particular their role of responsible bodies for law and order and security in the respective territories; the role assigned to the Local Powers by the laws in force in Italy for preventing and combating the phenomenon and coordinating and managing social policies what relates to trafficking in the declaration by the Local Powers of the Council of Europe on the "Fight against Human Trafficking"/June 06 (.. It should be remembered that the trafficking final phase emerges at a local level and that local authorities play a crucial role in guaranteeing the social cohesion, welfare and safety of their citizens ....);
- the **law good practices** of some EU countries (Italy, Belgium and the Netherlands) that enhance intervention good practices.

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<sup>1</sup> UN/2000 Protocol; EU/2002 Framework Decision; Action Convention of Council of Europe against trafficking in human beings - CETS no. 197 – open for signature on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2005; Report on trafficking by EU experts appointed by the EU Commission/Oct. 2005; Prets' Report, EU Committee on civil liberties and internal affairs/Dec. 2005; Lambert's Draft Opinion, EU Committee on Social Affairs, trafficking and work exploitation/Feb. 2006; Declaration by the Council of Europe Local Bodies on the "Fight against human trafficking"/June 06 subscribed by 46 Member States of the Council of Europe.

With this document

**CEMR and AICCRE**

**Equal Tratta NO! DP**

in order to enhance the “declaration on the fight against human trafficking” open for signature on occasion of 13<sup>th</sup> plenary session of the Congress of the Council of Europe and the role of local powers

**believe it is important to highlight a new approach for preventing and combating human trafficking and therefore remind the local powers to undertake the following commitments:**

- **to consider the phenomenon of human trafficking in its broadest sense, by adopting a holistic approach** that considers as victims of trafficking all those people – women, men and minors – who are transported from one place to another, by means of coercion and deception, for reasons of sexual or work exploitation<sup>2</sup>;
- **to promote correct information that is coherent with this kind of approach**, in order to make territorial contexts aware and enable them to recognize the seriousness of this phenomenon various aspects and to combat it in order to enhance the campaigns promoted nationally and by the Council of Europe;
- **to foster legal immigration programmes**, especially as regards reception and integration, as the trafficking phenomenon is mostly linked to illegal immigration;
- **to promote**, within their role of guarantors of citizens’ social cohesion, welfare and safety, **territorial negotiation of policies aiming at preventing and combating the phenomenon** through the establishment of inter-institutional prevention and intervention networks, the coordination and establishment of inter-institutional negotiations, the setting up of programmes for the monitoring, controlling and preventing of human trafficking exploitation forms;
- **to re-launch policies aimed at preventing and combating human trafficking as priority actions within their own administration policies** and to implement, with a view to achieving decentralized cooperation, the highest possible number of proposals as they have been described in Resolution nr. 196/05 on the fight against human trafficking and exploitation of victims (programmes for the protection of victims and their social and work integration, security force, control bodies of labour contexts, etc.) issued by the Council of Europe Congress;
- to solicit the heads of state and the governments, who have not yet done so, to **ratify the agreement on the action against human trafficking** as a privileged tool and guide for efficaciously preventing and fighting the phenomenon.

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<sup>2</sup> Exploitation typologies: sexual exploitation, work exploitation, begging, trafficking of organs, wombs for rent, etc.

When one of the three elements is lacking it is not possible to speak of trafficking, but of other kinds of crimes, as smuggling, work exploitation, fraud, beggary by minors, etc.