



**CEAPA**

**DVCN**

## **National Observatory on Migration and Trafficking in Women and Girls in the Dominican Republic**

The Dominican Republic is one of the four countries worldwide with the greatest number of women trafficked for purposes of sexual exploitation. An estimated 50,000 Dominican women work in the sex industry, principally in Europe. In response to this situation, the Dominican Republic has signed international agreements and created a legal framework for preventing, combating and sanctioning the trafficking in persons and for protecting its victims. At the same time, Decree No. 97 of 1999 created the Inter-institutional Committee for the Protection of Female Migrants (CIPROM) with the objective to develop plans to strengthen governmental and non-governmental efforts to protect female Dominican migrants, especially those who are trafficked overseas for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

In order to strengthen the development of public policies on this subject, the *Centro de Apoyo Aquelarre* (CEAPA) and *Development Connections* (DVCN) have jointly established the National Observatory on Migration and Trafficking of Women and Girls in the Dominican Republic (OMTMN). The principal protagonists in the National Observatory are civil society organizations, including women victims of trafficking. The United Nations has recognized citizen oversight of public policies as a crucial factor in guaranteeing human rights, good governance, and the promotion of the changes necessary to arrive at more equitable societies. The OMTMN aspires to serve as a channel for achieving this goal.

### **Objectives**

- Strengthen citizen oversight to guarantee the fulfillment of the responsibilities and due diligence of the Dominican State for the protection of women and girls from trafficking in persons.
- Facilitate the dialogue between civil society, government offices, and authorities in the countries receiving trafficked women, to develop public policies aimed at eradicating the problem.
- Generate awareness and disseminate information that facilitates the development of evidence-based public policies.

## Participants

- **Coordination:** CEAPA and DVCN
- **General Committee of the OMTMN:** civil-society institutions, particularly NGOs, community groups, universities, and women victims of trafficking in persons.
- **OMTMN Forum:** a space for dialogue between civil society, government offices, authorities in the countries receiving trafficked women; and international cooperation agencies.

## Fields of observation and indicators

The fields of observation are those aspects in which public policies should produce positive changes, in conformity with international agreements and the national legal framework. They have been selected following the measures established in *The Trafficking in Persons Protocol, (2000)*, and *The Organized Crime Convention (2003)*.

A group of basic indicators has been established under each field of observation, to serve as a proxy for monitoring the achievements and challenges in the selected aspects.

Fields of observation	Indicators
<b>1. Social context of public policies on gender equity</b>	a. Political participation – proportion of women in the National Congress and municipalities  b. Salary of women in relation to the salary of men, at the national level, disaggregated by zone of residence  c. Proportion of the population (15+ years) that is literate, disaggregated by sex  d. Prevalence of violence against women at the national level  e. The level of decision-making among women in the home
<b>2. Penalties and sanctions</b>	a. Legislative and other measures to classify trafficking in women and girls as a crime and to apply sanctions  b. Cases resulting in sanctions, as a proportion of total cases presented for justice

Fields of observation	Indicators
<b>3. Assistance and protection to the victims</b>	Number of measures applied by governmental offices relative to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recovery of victims</li> <li>• Adequate housing for victims</li> <li>• Legal support for victims</li> <li>• Participation of the victims in the appropriate stages of legal actions against the perpetrators</li> <li>• Assistance in healthcare</li> <li>• Opportunities for work and training</li> <li>• Physical security and compensation for damages done.</li> </ul>
<b>4. Due diligence for defending the human rights of trafficked persons in the receiving countries</b>	Initiatives of the Dominican State to ensure the due consideration of humanitarian and personal factors for trafficked women and girls in the recipient countries.
<b>5. Prevention and cooperation</b>	a. Measures to protect the victims against repeat victimization  b. Type and number of investigational activities and informational campaigns  c. Type and number of social and economic initiatives aimed at preventing and combating the traffick in persons,  d. Type and number of cooperation initiatives with NGOs, other pertinent organizations and other sectors of civil society, to develop policies for the purpose of discouraging the demand that facilitates any form of exploitation conducive to trafficking in persons, especially women and children.
<b>6. Exchange of information and training</b>	Type of cooperation relative to the exchange of information between the authorities responsible for enforcing the law and immigration or other competent authorities in the receiving countries.
<b>7. Border measures</b>	Border controls established to prevent and detect the illicit traffick in migrants, without prejudice to international commitments relating to the free movement of persons.

## Activities of the OMTMN

**a. Periodic reports:** will present analyses of each one of the fields of observation and prioritized indicators based on information available from official sources and others such as documents produced by universities, NGOs and international cooperation organizations. The first report will be published in August 2007.

**b. Production of evidence and dissemination of information:** to date the following documents have been produced.

- Situation of women victims of trafficking in persons in Santo Domingo  
<http://www.dvcn.org/Documents/AnSittraficadas5.pdf>
- Drugs and violent experiences of women victims of trafficking in persons  
<http://www.dvcn.org/Documents/Drogasviolencia3.pdf>
- Needs of women victims of trafficking in persons in Santo Domingo  
<http://www.dvcn.org/Documents/Necesidadestraficadas5.pdf>
- Perceptions of policy-makers at community level on trafficking in women  
<http://www.dvcn.org/Documents/Tomadorestrafico3.pdf>

Also, an Essay Contest is being held for articles about migration and trafficking in women and girls in the Dominican Republic, which will be published in a special edition of *DVCN Critiques* in August, 2007. For more information visit:  
<http://www.dvcn.org/Documents/ConcursoEnsayos.pdf>

**c. Strengthening capacities for legal defense and development of policies:** in May 2007 the first course on “Public policies on trafficking in women and girls” will be held in Santo Domingo. For more information visit:  
<http://www.dvcn.org/Documents/CursoPP1.pdf>

**d. Intersectoral dialogue:** the dialogue will be developed via OMTMN forums on policies and programs including seminars, technical meetings, conferences, among others.

For more information about the OMTMN, contact:

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