



Medlemmer af Europarådets  
Parlamentariske Forsamling

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Dansk Røde Kors har med glæde konstateret, at Europarådet er i færd med at formulere en europæisk konvention mod menneskehandel ("the European Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings"). I Røde Kors er vi meget bekymrede for de humanitære konsekvenser af denne voksende kriminelle aktivitet, der udnytter fattigdom og sårbarhed og underkaster mennesker slaveri, gældsslaveri og de mest ekstreme former for udnyttelse.

Dansk Røde kors har taget initiativ til et europæisk samarbejde mellem Røde Kors- og Røde Halvmåneselskaber i Europa. Formålet er at samle alle gode kræfter, samarbejde med andre organisationer og institutioner, udveksle erfaringer og udvikle nye aktiviteter, der retter sig mod dette sørgelige og rædselsfulde fænomen. Udgangspunktet for denne indsats er de involverede personers sårbarhed og humanitære behov, og vores indsats er baseret på Røde Kors Bevægelsens principper.

Da Dansk Røde Kors mener, at vore erfaringer fra dette arbejde er relevante for den europæiske konvention mod menneskehandel, tillader jeg mig hermed at gøre opmærksom på Dansk Røde Kors syn på en række forhold, som bør indgå i drøftelserne om konventionen. (Se vedlagte bilag). Jeg håber dermed at kunne bidrage til en god debat i den Parlamentariske Forsamling.

Med venlig hilsen

*Jørgen Poulsen*  
Jørgen Poulsen  
Generalsekretær

1. **Comprehensive national mechanisms and referral systems** with the necessary infrastructure needed must be put in place. Such a system can ensure that civil society actors and the relevant governmental bodies collaborate, discuss, and act in a structured and orderly manner with clear roles and responsibilities defined.
2. **International networks and cooperation** are essential and should include all countries of origin, transit and destination. As Trafficking in Human Beings is a trans-national phenomenon, it requires responses beyond the capacity of one single government or civil society actor, hence a multi-faceted and multi-sectorial effort of all stakeholders is required. The Danish Red Cross cooperation with other European National Societies and other networks has been conceived in this spirit.
3. **Victims of trafficking must be recognised as victims of a specific violation of human rights.** Hence the Danish Red Cross welcomes the reference to this fact in the Preamble and throughout the proposed document. Victims cannot and should not only be seen in the context of irregular migration.
4. **Victim identification** schemes will only be efficient if they combine efforts by properly trained authorities and civil society actors. Non-governmental actors can provide support to training, knowledge and assistance to the victims identified.
5. **Access to support, assistance and protection** should be granted to all victims of human trafficking. The Danish Red Cross, guided by humanitarian concerns, believes that victims should have access to range of services to ensure their safety, dignity and well-being.
6. **Children** are particularly vulnerable to this crime. This aspect needs to be recognised and incorporated in national legislation, and must be reflected in the corresponding implementing mechanisms such as National Action Plans. Referral systems must include special provisions for children. The special needs of children should be taken into account during identification, assistance and longer-term considerations be it local integration, repatriation/return to the country of origin or resettlement in a third country. Similarly, trafficking in children should be considered in preventive efforts.
7. **Public awareness** efforts should aim at reducing risks. Albeit efforts of raising public awareness were successful in making people generally aware of trafficking in human beings, their impact needs to be reviewed and the feasibility of new, innovative solutions explored.
8. **Reflection period** needs to be adequate. The Danish Red Cross believes that the reflection period needs to be adequate for the individual concerned. A recovery process must commence in safety where an informed decision can be made regarding the future. The Danish Red Cross believes the reflection period should enable a meaningful input through psychological assistance and support, at the same time, to the extent possible, it should be individually tailored to the needs of the victim.

During the reflection period victims should have access to services, support and protection.

9. **Repatriation/return** should take into account the danger of re-trafficking in the country of origin. Regrettably, it is not uncommon that the initial agents of trafficking of especially women and children are parents, relatives or close friends. Taking these facts into account, a proper risk assessment in the country of origin should be carried out including a social inquiry. The repatriation/return of a victim should preferably be voluntary and assisted, taking into account dignity, safety and some help towards the future.

10. **The demand** side of trafficking in human beings calls for attention, and Danish Red Cross believes that there is a need for more in depth research into this aspect in the countries of destination, including Denmark.