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ISTANBUL DECLARATION

AND

RESOLUTIONS

ADOPTED BY THE

OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

AT THE TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL SESSION

ISTANBUL, 29 JUNE to 3 JULY 2013

RESOLUTION ON
TRAFFICKING VICTIM WATCHFULNESS: PLANES,
TRAINS, BUSES, AND HOTELS

1. Recalling the resolutions on human trafficking adopted by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in St. Petersburg (1999), Oslo (2010), Belgrade (2011), and Monaco (2012), as well as efforts by participating States to implement the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings (2003 and 2005) and all OSCE commitments related to combating human trafficking,
2. Recognizing that according to the International Labour Organization, nearly 21 million people are enslaved at any given time, most of whom are women and children,
3. Aware that some 600,000 to 800,000 trafficking victims are moved across international borders each year, often on commercial airplanes, trains and buses, where they come into contact with transportation professionals,
4. Commending non-governmental organizations, such as Airline Ambassadors and Innocents at Risk, which have developed trafficking victim identification training for transportation professionals,
5. Commending non-governmental organizations such as ECPAT and The Global Business Coalition Against Human Trafficking for developing anti-trafficking guidelines and providing resources to businesses, including commercial carriers, hotels, and travel reservation companies to prevent the use of these businesses for human trafficking,
6. Commending airlines such as Delta and American Airlines, British Airways and Virgin Atlantic, as well as train service providers such as Amtrak, which have begun human trafficking prevention activities,
7. Noting United States government efforts to create airline-specific anti-trafficking training, including the Department of Homeland Security Blue Lightning program,
8. Commending hotel chains and travel groups, such as Accor, Carlson, Hilton Worldwide, Hotelplan Suisse, Wyndham, Sabre Holdings Corporation, Kuoni Travel, and many others that have committed to prevent the use of their businesses for human trafficking,
9. Welcoming the outcomes of the High-Level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on the review of the implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons held on 13 and 14 May 2013 at UN Headquarters, which has contributed to better co-ordination of international efforts in the global fight against trafficking in human beings and protection of the victims,

10. Commending the efforts of the current OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office to implement commercial carrier training in Ukraine and to host the Kyiv high-level conference in June 2013 on “Strengthening the OSCE Response to Trafficking in Human Beings”,
11. Recognizing that effective intervention in suspected human trafficking on airplanes, trains, and buses requires coordination between commercial carriers and law enforcement in order to develop a reporting protocol and rapid response,
12. Recognizing that national trafficking hotlines facilitate the rescue and assistance of trafficking victims and that regional anti-trafficking hotlines would be particularly useful for facilitating the rescue and assistance of trafficking victims travelling between participating States on regional commercial carriers,

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

13. Urges OSCE participating States and invites other relevant international, regional and subregional organizations to contribute within their respective mandates to the full and effective implementation of the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, above all through better co-operation and improved co-ordination;
14. Calls upon OSCE participating States to address the problem of demand, which drives trafficking in persons for all forms of exploitation, with a view to eliminating such demand and, to that end, to enhance preventive measures, including of a legislative nature, to deter exploiters of the victims and ensure that they are held accountable;
15. Calls on OSCE participating States to collaborate with commercial carriers, adopting legislation where necessary, in order to ensure that flight attendants, pilots, ground crew, train conductors, bus operators, and any other transportation professionals who may come into contact with a trafficking victim are trained to identify the victim and respond according to a protocol established with law enforcement;
16. Calls on OSCE participating States to collaborate with hotel and travel industry professionals, adopting legislation where necessary, to ensure the use of best practices for the prevention and identification of human trafficking in hotels and other travel accommodations;
17. Calls on OSCE participating States to facilitate appropriate law enforcement co-ordination with transportation, hotel, and travel industry professionals in order to ensure appropriate intervention and referrals to care for suspected human trafficking victims;
18. Requests that the OSCE Strategic Police Matters Unit examine ways in which the OSCE can assist participating States in combating the use of commercial carriers, hotels, and other travel accommodations for the transportation or exploitation of human trafficking victims;

19. Calls on any OSCE participating State which has not already done so to sign the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, which requires “states to adopt legislative or other appropriate measures to prevent means of transport operated by commercial carriers from being used in the commission of offences...”;
20. Encourages the Office of the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, with input from the OSCE Strategic Police Matters Unit as appropriate, to guide participating States on best practices in victim identification as well as protocols for law enforcement intervention and referral to care in human trafficking on commercial carriers and in hotels or other travel accommodation;
21. Urges those participating States that have not done so to establish national trafficking hotlines and to consider regional trafficking hotlines for reporting potential trafficking victims travelling on regional commercial carriers.