



## United States Mission to the OSCE

### **Release of the 2004 Trafficking in Persons Report**

As delivered by Acting Deputy Chief of Mission  
Bruce Connuck to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
June 18, 2004

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

On June 14, Secretary of State Colin Powell released the fourth annual Trafficking in Persons Report. The goal of this report is to inspire greater determination, creativity, and cooperation among governments in the fight against this modern-day slavery.

As the head of the State Department's Trafficking in Persons Office said recently, "we are reaching out in the spirit of partnership to encourage all governments to accelerate efforts to end this atrocity and protect people from human trafficking schemes."

The United States Government estimates that 600,000 to 800,000 people are trafficked across national borders each year. Of those, some 47 percent are women, 34 percent are girls under the age of 18, and 16 percent are boys under the age of 18, meaning that more than 80 percent of victims are female and 50 percent are children.

The United States devoted more than 70 million dollars in anti-trafficking in persons programs abroad in the last fiscal year, and, in his address to the UN General Assembly last September, President Bush committed an additional 50 million dollars for programs this year.

The global Trafficking in Persons Report, which now includes 140-countries, is the most comprehensive worldwide report on the efforts of governments to combat severe forms of trafficking in persons. Its purpose is to raise global awareness and to spur countries to take effective actions to counter trafficking in persons.

The United States is not immune from the human trafficking problem. We estimate that between 14,500 and 17,500 victims are trafficked into the U.S. each year across international borders. Despite a tremendous amount of positive action, there is more we must do to accelerate our anti-trafficking efforts at home. Ten federal agencies work on various aspects of the U.S. anti-trafficking campaign.

Moreover, the U.S. Department of Justice recently released a report to the Congress on how the United States itself is doing in combating trafficking in persons. According to the report, criminal prosecution of human traffickers has increased sharply in the past three years.

Anyone wishing to read the 2004 TIP report can access it through the website of the Department of State at <http://www.state.gov/g/tip>. The report written by the Department of Justice can be found at <http://www.usdoj.gov/>. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.