



Trafficking in Persons Clearinghouse

ABOUT US

This clearinghouse aims to be a central access point for information on the global and local problem of trafficking in persons. It hopes to promote conversation on trafficking in persons and related issues through the provision of:

- PUBLICATIONS
- RESOURCES & EDUCATION MATERIALS
- PROJECT INFORMATION
- NEWS & EVENTS CALANDER
- WHAT CAN I DO?

CONTACT US: trafficking@infoxchange.net.au

www.goodshepherd.com.au/justice/trafficking.html



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The Honourable Senator Christopher Evans
Minister for Immigration and Citizenship &
Leader of the Government in the Senate
48 Ventnor Avenue
West Perth WA 6005

Date:

Dear Senator Evans,

Re: the visa framework for persons who are victims of trafficking.

I want to start by acknowledging the significant commitment made by the Australian Government to tackle the issue of trafficking in persons.

However, I am concerned that the Australian Government takes a criminal justice approach to the visa framework issue. I would urge the government to recognise that this is first and foremost a human rights issue.

Therefore I would ask you to focus on the human rights and needs of all trafficked persons, and not on their usefulness or willingness to assist in prosecuting traffickers.

I call on you to put your efforts into implementing the recommendations of the CEDAW Committee to the Australian Government which also stress the importance of a human rights approach. In particular I call your attention to recommendation number 21 which asks that the Government,

“...consider the extension of temporary protection visas and reintegration and support services to all victims of trafficking, including those who are unable or unwilling to cooperate in the investigation and prosecution of traffickers.”

All persons who are trafficked to Australia should receive the care and support of the Australian Government. A person who has been trafficked may not be able or willing to assist in a prosecution and there could be many cultural, psychological, emotional and physical reasons for this. This makes them no less a victim of this horrendous crime and no less in need of our help and compassion.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

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