

## UN Commission on Human Rights

61st session: 14 March – 22 April 2005

### Agenda item 14: Specific groups and individuals - Human Rights of Migrants & Contemporary Forms of Slavery

Franciscans International, Dominicans for Justice and Peace, the Dominican Leadership Conference in conjunction with Initiative D'Entraide Aux Libertés welcome the progress made by the Special Rapporteur, Ms. Gabriela Rodriguez Pizarro, in addressing the question of the human rights of migrants and urge Commission Member States to extend for a period of three years the mandate of the Special Rapporteur. Regrettably, as to date the UN Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families has been only ratified by 28 countries, and its Committee has not yet examined any periodic report. Therefore, the continuation of the mandate will, inter alia, allow us to receive a comprehensive updated report and permit visits, including to countries that have not yet acceded to the Convention.

Turning to the question of contemporary forms of slavery, Franciscans International, Dominicans for Justice and Peace, the Dominican Leadership Conference in conjunction with Initiative D'Entraide Aux Libertés believe that trafficking in persons, forced labor, bonded labor and early or forced marriages are among the gravest manifestations of this scourge. In particular, trafficking in human being is a widespread, global phenomenon undertaken both for sexual and economic exploitation purposes. Governments should, therefore, ensure that: a) trafficked persons, independently of their capacity or willingness to cooperate in legal proceedings, are protected from further exploitation and harm and have access to adequate physical and psychological care ; b) the protection of trafficked persons is built into anti-trafficking policy, including protection from return where there are reasonable grounds to conclude that such deportation or return would represent a significant security risk to the trafficked person and/or her/his family.

States should also: (1) ratify the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the Convention on Transnational Organized Crime (2000) and to ensure that its measures are effectively implemented at the national level; (2) incorporate at the earliest into their domestic the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking and implement them in full; (3) present detailed information concerning the measures that they have taken to prevent and combat trafficking to the appropriate United Nations human rights mechanisms, including the relevant treaty-monitoring bodies and special procedures; (4) cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children whose mandate represents an important opportunity to devise measures to adequately uphold and protect the human rights of the victims of human trafficking.