



June 9, 2017

His Excellency
Mr. António Guterres
Secretary- General of the United Nations
405 East 42nd Street
New York, NY 10017

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

The under-signed members of the NGO Committee to Stop Trafficking in Persons (NGO-CSTIP) commend the United Nations for its enduring commitment and for making intensive efforts to eradicate sexual exploitation and abuse by UN Peacekeepers and reaffirming that UN's zero tolerance policy be enforced. The adoption of S/RES/2272 (2016) and most recently A/71/818 (2017) are important measures to increase the UN's accountability in preventing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.

Sexual exploitation and abuse is often a form of human trafficking, with women and children the vast majority of victims of such crimes. We remain, therefore, seriously concerned about the news of ongoing abuse and impunity. Unfortunately, as recently as 12 April, 2017 the Associated Press reported that between 2004 and 2016, 150 allegations of abuse and exploitation by U.N. peacekeepers and other personnel had been reported in Haiti alone, out of the worldwide total of nearly 2,000.

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/C/CB_UN_PEAKEEKEEPERS_CHILD_SEX_RING_ASOL-?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

After review of S/RES/2272 (2016) and A/70/729 (2016), we offer the following recommendations and ask the following questions:

1. Prevention – As pre-deployment training is the best mechanism to prepare peacekeepers to uphold the standards of conduct of the United Nations, training and e-learning programs should be drastically improved, updated and clearly articulate standards of behavior that are expected of everyone who operates under the UN flag. Ongoing training should be a priority and required.

Risk management measures should be standardized and include inspection of bases, enforcement of curfews and monitoring access to local populations. (A/70/729 para 74).

Question-Has there been an increase in the number of mobile-training teams? (A/70/729 para 43).

2. Investigation and Impunity – A critical review of The Independent Special Courts Mechanism proposed by the Code Blue Campaign (<http://www.codebluecampaign.com>) should be conducted including a comprehensive plan to address the impunity currently enjoyed by non-military peacekeeping personnel. The proposal also addresses: 1) the problem of Troop Contributing Countries who lack the ability or will to investigate allegations of sexual abuse: 2) the dilemma of UN staff who find themselves in sometimes unqualified roles: “legal advisors”, “investigators”, and other roles.

3. Member States – S/RES/2272 (2016) and A/70/729 (2016) recommend the implementation and adoption of several measures by Member States.
 - a) Adoption of 6 month timeline to conclude investigations; b) develop uniform standards of investigation; c) assess existing national legislation to determine its applicability to sex crimes committed by nationals; and d) agree to obtain DNA samples.

Question- Have these measures been implemented and adopted?

This is a short list of concerns and recommendations. We will continue to monitor the progress of recommendations and changes applicable to the United Nations strategy of prevention, enforcement and remedial action to address sexual exploitation and abuse. We also look forward to the outcomes and successes of Special Coordinator Jane Holl Lute and the recently appointed High Level Task Force.

Please accept Mr. Secretary- General, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Casa Generalizia della Societa del Sacro Cuore (Society of the Sacred Heart)
Company of the Daughters of Charity
Congregation of our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd
Congregation of the Mission
Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America
Edmund Rice International
Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey
Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Loreto Generalate
LifeWay Network, Inc.
Organization: International Presentation Association
Pan Pacific and South East Asia Women's Association / PPSEAWA.
Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary
Sisters of Charity Federation
Sisters of Mercy, Mercy International Association
Sisters of Notre Dame De Namur
Society of Catholic Medical Missionaries
Soroptimist International
UNANIMA International
Ursulines of the Roman Union - Eastern Province
VIVAT International
Zonta International