

Human Trafficking : a healthy plan of French government

05/16/2014

Wednesday, May 14 , Najat Belkacem-Vallaud presented to the Council of Ministers on the forefront of France in the fight against trafficking. The Collective Set against trafficking in human beings welcomes the launch of the first plan, while emphasizing the need to take into account the different forms of exploitation and the means necessary for its implementation, such as explained by Geneviève Colas, coordinator of the Collective for Secours Catholique



Christophe Petit Tesson / Maxppp

Commemoration on May 10, before the FERS statue dedicated to Alexandre Dumas for the national day of remembrance memories of trafficking and the abolition of slavery.

Presentation of the "National Plan of Action against Trafficking in Human Beings 2014-2016 " to the Council of Ministers: is it a breakthrough in this area?

The Collective Set against trafficking in human beings, network of 23 organizations coordinated by the Catholic Caritas Services, welcomes the presentation by Ms. Najat Belkacem-Vallaud, Minister of Women's Rights, the City, Youth and Sports. Result of work undertaken by associations with the victims, the minister and the Interministerial Mission for the protection of women victims of violence and the fight against trafficking in human beings (Miprof), this national action plan should enable France to define and implement a genuine public policy against trafficking in human beings.

The implementation of the national action plan is a key step in the protection of victims of trafficking in human beings. But in its implementation, the member associations of the Collective will pay particular attention so that these people are always treated as victims and not as offenders, which is not always the case.

Is that plan taking into account all aspects of trafficking in human beings?

Trafficking in human beings comes in action, a means and an end. It means the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, major or minor, threat or use of force, coercion, fraud, deception or abuse of authority for the exploitation of prostitution, forced labor, domestic slavery, organ harvesting, forced begging, or incitement to theft.

Therefore, if the Collective welcomes real action against trafficking for exploitation of prostitution are under this plan, it also emphasizes the need to explicitly take into account other forms of exploitation. For example, economic slavery, but also domestic slavery, forced begging or incitement to theft.

Measures should be declined in order to effectively combat all forms of trafficking in human beings and give equal assistance to victims of trafficking in all its forms.

Are these forms of exploitation covered by legal measures?

France has been condemned by the European Court of Human Rights in two cases of domestic servitude and forced (Siliadin business and CN and V. against France) work, Parliament passed a law in August 2013 to address them. This has brought the concepts of slavery, forced labor or services, reduced to servitude and organ removal from the list of offenses.

What are the points of attention of the Collective in the implementation of the plan?

We consider it essential that in their implementation, measures affecting minors always respect the best interests of the child and in the context of common law. They must be put in place at an early date on a schedule that we want to know. These measures should finally be thought in a long time, ranging from identification of children, essential to the identification of victims, through their support, their accommodation and avoiding accompanying youth breaks their majority constitute a real abandonment. The Collective would also like associations are closely associated with the implementation of the national action plan in accordance with their missions. It is hoped that funding will be granted to enable an effective and sustainable action for victims and to strengthen their interventions in all areas without forgetting prevention.

The Collective also emphasizes the transnational dimension of trafficking in human beings should encourage France to act on the causes beyond the borders and foster collaboration initiatives between countries, not only on a bilateral basis and in the light of news , but encouraging multinational approaches .

We will pay particular attention to the implementation of the measure to the organization of meetings involving all stakeholders in the fight against trafficking. Coordination and cooperation between different actors is necessary for the protection of victims.

Finally, you ask the trafficking in all its forms is declared "Grand National Cause". Why?

This is necessary in view of the ignorance of the public regarding this issue. Because we all are concerned. The first action to combat trafficking is to inform about the phenomenon and be able to identify the victims; it affects the whole of civil society, in addition, of course, players associations.

It should also challenge the institutions at all levels (social services, education, police, justice ...) and work with all while advocating European and global local, national level. From that day François Soulage, president of Catholic Caritas Services transmitted a letter to the President of the Republic to welcome the launch of this first plan for France and forward some concrete proposals.

Interview by Sophie Lebrun

Associations members of the Collective Together against Trafficking in Human Beings: Catholic Action for Women, Acting Together for Human Rights , Amicale du Nid Army Hi , Association Against Child Prostitution , Fireplace Jorbalán Association , Association Jeunes Errants , Association for Social Rehabilitation, Committee Against Modern Slavery Evangelical Protestant Committee for Human Dignity , **Sisters of OLC of the Good Shepherd** , French Council of Associations for Children's Rights , ECPAT France , Protestant Federation of Mutual , Scelles Foundation , Off Street , Justice and Peace France , **the Fields of Boaz** , Mouvement du Nid , International Organisation Against Modern Slavery , Orphans Sans Frontières , Planet Kids , Caritas Europe .