



## South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children

SAARC Apex Body

### In Solidarity with the Children of SAARC

#### SAIEVAC STATEMENT

on

#### Ending all forms of Child Trafficking on 'WORLD DAY AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS'

Kathmandu (Nepal), 30 July, 2014 – Human trafficking is one of the biggest crimes in the world. Millions of children, women and men are the victims of this crime. They trafficked nationally and transnational both. According to the UN global report on Trafficking in person 2012 Twenty-seven per cent of all victims detected globally are children. Of every three child victims, two are girls and one is a boy. Women account for 55-60 per cent of all trafficking victims detected globally; women and girls together account for about 75 per cent. In order to raise awareness and make the public understand the plight of trafficking United Nations General Assembly Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural GA/SHC/4090) approved and urge Member States to designate 30 July as the World Day against Trafficking in Persons<sup>1</sup>.

Children in South Asia are also victim of various forms of in-country and cross border trafficking including for prostitution, for and through marriage, for and through adoption, for labour, for armed conflict, for organ transplantations, for entertainment like circus, begging, camel jockey and for many other purposes.

On this occasion, South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC) as a SAARC - Apex Body would like to request to all stakeholders from the member states of South Asia region to take all necessary steps to end ALL forms of child trafficking in South Asia. We would also request to all the citizens including children, women and men

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2013/gashc4090.doc.htm>



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from this region and all around the globe to make a pledge to protect our children from this heinous and organized crime and to promote the rights of the children.

SAIEVAC is committed to the philosophy and principles envisioned in the various international Human rights treaties. We are committed to the United Nations Convention to the Rights of the Child, Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children and SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution and all other conventions.

SAIEVAC call upon all the Member states to make necessary changes in their respective laws and policies on child trafficking by making the laws and procedures progressive, protective and child friendly in accordance with the human rights principles.

Acknowledging the range of positive commitments made by Member States in relation to protect the children from trafficking SAIEVAC further urges:

- To adopt measures for preventing child trafficking through effective enforcement of laws and public awareness
- to create child sensitive national and regional framework on all forms of child trafficking issues;
- to promote effortless, child friendly repatriation of the trafficked child survivors;
- to enhance the capacity of the implementing organizations for sensitive handling of the cases in in-country and cross border trafficking;
- to establish and operate adequate services for the comprehensive rehabilitation and reintegration of trafficked child survivors
- to put the safety, protection, development of the child in the first place while framing laws on child protection;
- ensure Right to be Heard in all the legal proceedings for the children survivor of trafficking.



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- make comprehensive laws and policies for the child survivor of trafficking.

SAIEVAC further urges civil society partners to advocate having regional anti child trafficking issues at the front line and having a regional child protection perceptible. SAIEVAC further call the policy makers, CSOs, educational institutions, media and other partners to raise awareness on the plight of child trafficking at the community, state and country level.

SAIEVAC also urges parents and community at large that they should discuss and make children understand about the evils of trafficking. SAIEVAC also request children to take all necessary precautions in order to protect herself/himself from the clutches of child trafficking.

In the end we request to all our partners; National Action and Coordinating Group for ending Violence Against Children, South Asia Coordinating Group on Action against Violence against Children and all the other partners to take necessary steps to END all forms of trafficking in South Asia and in the world.

The South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC) is the South Asian response to the global call by the UN Secretary General to end Violence Against Children. Awarded the status of a SAARC Apex Body for Children in 2011 during the 17<sup>th</sup> SAARC Summit, SAIEVAC is the only inter governmental body in the world that has created an inclusive platform for Governments, children, civil society organizations and UN/INGO partners to collectively drive the South Asian movement to end violence against children and create a better world for children in the SAARC Region. The mandate of SAIEVAC is to employ a regional systems-building approach to strengthen child protection across the region and addresses five key thematic areas (child marriage, corporal punishment, child labor, sexual abuse and exploitation of children and child trafficking) and associated strategic actions.



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On this World Day against Trafficking in Persons, SAIEVAC Regional Secretariat and its national mechanisms in the 8 SAARC Member States in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka renew our commitment to end this heinous violence against children in South Asia.

**For further information please contact:**

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