

# Recognition of Services Ceremony on Prevention of Trafficking in Persons in Pakistan



At National Police Bureau, Islamabad  
02-08-2023

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A ceremony to recognize services of different stakeholders in the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons in Pakistan was held at National Police Bureau Islamabad on 02 August 2023. The ceremony aimed to recognize the services of all the government, civil society and international partners actively working on combating human trafficking in Pakistan. The event also provided an opportunity for strengthening partnership among stakeholders and promoting human-centered approaches to prevent human trafficking and bonded labour. The event was chaired by Dr. Ehsan Sadiq, Director General of National Police Bureau. Representatives from FIA, police, relevant government ministries, UN agencies, diplomatic community, academia, and civil society participated.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Ehsan Sadiq, Director General National Police Bureau said enumerated various measures undertaken by Pakistan in recent years for prevention of trafficking in persons; including promulgation of Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act 2018, issuance of TIP rules 2020, ratification of TIP protocols to UNTOC and collaboration on TIP communities at provincial level. He stressed upon the need for all stakeholders to work together to reduce trafficking in persons cases. He was of the view that recent Rizwana case was highlighted the need for recognizing the importance of child protection and assessing the true magnitude of the issue. He informed that National Police Bureau is compiling database and working closely with FIA and police to enhance coordination and collaboration among relevant agencies.

Appreciating services of Sardar Zaheer Ahmed, a Pakistani law enforcement officer who was presented with the prestigious Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Hero award by U.S. State Department, Dr. Ehsan Sadiq remarked that Sardar Zaheer Ahmed has made all of us proud and today; ceremony gives us an opportunity to recognize the services of all those who are working on issue of trafficking in persons in Pakistan.



Sardar Zaheer Ahmed in his remarks thanked DG NPB for organizing the session and inviting all the relevant stakeholders. Indeed, countering trafficking in persons requires whole of society and a whole of government approach. Together we all can make a difference. He hoped that Dr. Ehsan Sadiq, as a National Focal Person on UNTOC, he has been and now as DG NPB, he will be an inspiration for all stake holders in their anti-human trafficking efforts. He was of the view that Pakistan is one of the countries actively involved in anti-human trafficking efforts in collaboration with UNICEF, UNODC, FIA, and various NGOs that recognize issues and implement strategies against them. The second phase of anti-human trafficking involves voluntarily coming together from all around the world wearing different hats but working towards a common goal.



Senator Ayesha Raza Farooq, Chairperson NCRC, in her remarks highlighted that Pakistan has taken important steps towards preventing child domestic labour. She appreciated SSDO working on internal human trafficking and child domestic labour cases like Rizwana torture case. She was of the view that laws should be implemented for the protection of child rights.



Mr. Muhammad Alam Shinwari, Director Anti-Human Trafficking Cell FIA, said that all government organizations should enhance their coordination especially with Police. He said that the events like Rizwana incident could help in enhancing coordination among the stakeholders and devise a strategy to work together.

Ms. Hina Maqsood, Program Manager, ICMPD said that counseling and protection of victims of internally migrants is the key area of her organization work along with awareness raising. She was of the view that it is vital to raise awareness on laws, child and human protection in the marginalized groups. Ms. Shahida Gillani, Chairperson from UNODC shared another perspective on their commitment and briefly discussed that UNODC has the UN protocol on combatting human trafficking, UNODC taking measures to strengthen the focal agency's trust through collaboration with the Government of Pakistan. She stressed the need of implementation of laws and enhancing coordination among the implementing agencies.

Ms. Monica, Special Advisor on Migration, Norway Embassy shared that during this year the highest rate of people migrated to Europe since 2015. There are many common reasons cases for increase in migration which needs to be addressed.

Dr. Rabia Razzaq, Senior Program Officer, ILO emphasizes on prevention policies within Social Protection policy frameworks. She also said that the ways for safe migration should be propagated among the citizens to prevent them from illegal migration. She informed that ILO is working on establishing safe regular pathways, awareness about the phases of migration, and the establishment of Safe Migration Programs in Pakistan.

Mr. Muhammad Fahim, AD, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said that Pakistan is also putting forth significant effort via its workforce contributing to safe and secure migration programs hence awareness should be shared with people who are interested to move foreign countries through legal ways.

Mr. Shahid Khan, Senior Director SSDO appreciated the initiative by National Police Bureau to bring all stakeholders together to address the multifaceted challenges posed by the issues of human trafficking and bonded labour. Further, he mentioned the efforts of SSDO on combatting human trafficking.

Professor Dr. Farhan Navid Yousaf of University of Punjab underscored need for awareness raising among young students about the safe migration and avenues of studying abroad so that they can take accurate decisions and do not fall victim to illegal consultants.

Mr. Asad ul Allah, Section Officer Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Manpower said that it is important to work on creating legal ways for promoting safe migration and to protect the young generation from smuggling.

Ms. Suzana Paklar, Senior Program Coordinator, IOM was of the view that it is not possible to stop people from migrating to seek better life and financial opportunities. We need to create awareness about the legal ways and promote safe migration.

Mr. Syed Kausar Abbas, Executive Director of SSDO, speaking on the occasion appreciated all the stakeholders who participated at the event and suggested that this forum should be given a permanent structure and should meet at least once in every quarter to share the progress on TIP, to





enhance coordination and way forward. He emphasized the need for strengthened coordination between stakeholders on child trafficking.

He expressed the hope that such consultative session would promote discourse and debate to extract concrete, data-driven and evidence-based policy recommendations, that will help all to eliminate this issue in a systematic and effective manner.

At the end the Recognition Awards were presented to Sardar Zaheer Ahmed, DIG AJK Police, Senator Ayesha Raza Farooq, Chairperson NCRC, Mr. Alam Shanwari, Director Anti-Human Trafficking Cell, FIA, Mr. Muhammad Azam, Former ADG FIA, Ms. Shahida Gillani, Chairperson UNODC, Ms. Suzana Paklar, Senior Program Coordinator, IOM, Ms. Hina Maqsood, Project Manager, ICMPD, Professor Dr. Farhan Navid Yousaf, University of Punjab, Mr. Nowsherwan, SP Islamabad Police, Mr. Asad ul Allah, Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Manpower, Mr. Muhammad Fahim, AD, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Iqbal Detho, Chairperson Sindh Human Rights Commission, Dr. Rabia Razzaq, Senior Program Officer, ILO and Muhammad Shahid Khan, Senior Director, SSDO.

