

RESOLUTION

On the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings

The Baltic Assembly

acknowledges that trafficking in human beings is a serious social, economic and political problem nationally and internationally, which is a consequence of poverty, unemployment, social inequality and hard living conditions, and urges governments to pay particular attention to these matters. In recent years, significant achievements have been made in studying this issue, improving legislation, eliminating the consequences, providing support to victims, and determining the attitude of society, as well as raising the awareness of the population,

believes that trafficking in human beings is a crime against human dignity and fundamental human rights and freedoms and suggests legitimate and practical ways to identify this crime, to punish the perpetrators and to provide assistance to victims,

stresses that joint effort should be made to eliminate obstacles for crossborder cooperation, and that joint political and financial support should be provided to address the problem of human trafficking,

emphasizes that it is particularly essential to coordinate the cooperation of the institutions involved in the fight against human trafficking on national and international level since, as a rule, trafficking in human beings is not a problem of a single country and cannot be solved by one country; therefore, the fight should involve countries of the victims' origin, transit countries and recipient countries,

calls on the national parliaments and governments of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, the Baltic Council of Ministers and international organisations:

- **to acknowledge** that trafficking in human beings is a crime against humanity which should be addressed collectively;
- **to implement** initiatives and cooperation experience and information exchange among parliaments, governments and NGOs in order to achieve common goals related to preventing trafficking in human beings;
- **to fill** the gaps in national legislation which hinder fight against human trafficking, and to develop policies, strategies and comprehensive measures aimed at eliminating human trafficking;
- **to strengthen** the competence of the law enforcement agencies of the Baltic states using the experience of the Schengen area countries, thus preventing possible human trafficking in a timely way;
- **to pay** particular attention to specific socially vulnerable groups in order to prevent the trafficking of children;
- **to provide** to the victims of human trafficking, particularly children, the necessary assistance, legal protection and rehabilitation;
- **to facilitate** public discussions to encourage intolerance towards buyers of sexual services, thereby decreasing the demand for them;
- **to recommend** that the governments of the countries involved inform the Baltic Assembly about the measures of combating human trafficking and ensure the necessary legal and economic aid to persons who have become victims of trafficking.