



73rd Session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

1 July – 19 July 2019

Excerpts from the Concluding Observations on the 8th periodic report of the Democratic Republic of the Congo: relevant to and potentially impacting sex workers, collated by NSWP.

Trafficking and exploitation of prostitution

29. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Expedite the adoption of the draft law on combating trafficking in persons and develop and implement a new national action plan in collaboration with women's organizations and the relevant United Nations entities in that respect, including regarding the elaboration of a study on the extent and root causes of trafficking and forced prostitution in the State party;
- (b) Provide the new agency and the national committee on combating trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling with adequate human, technical and financial resources;
- (c) Investigate, prosecute and adequately punish perpetrators of trafficking for forced labour, exploitation and forced prostitution of women and girls, including in artisanal mines and conflict areas, and ensure that victims of trafficking and forced prostitution are exempted from criminal liability;
- (d) Take the measures necessary to prosecute and sanction sexual violence, rape and harassment committed by the police against women in prostitution;
- (e) Provide training for law enforcement officers and border control personnel on combating trafficking in women and girls, and on the early identification of victims and their referral to appropriate services and intensify efforts to ensure the early identification of women and girls exploited by armed groups and provide them with rehabilitation and reintegration services;
- (f) Provide counselling, legal services, rehabilitation and social integration programmes for women and girls who are victims of trafficking;
- (g) Allocate sufficient resources for exit programmes for women wishing to leave prostitution, including by providing alternative income-generating opportunities.