



68th Session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

23 October – 17 November 2017

**Excerpts from the Concluding Observations on the 5th periodic report of Singapore:
relevant to and potentially impacting sex workers, collated by NSWP.**

B. Positive aspects

4. The Committee welcomes the progress achieved since the consideration in 2011 of the State party's fourth periodic report (CEDAW/C/SGP/CO/4/Rev.1) in undertaking legislative reforms, in particular the adoption of the following:

(c) Prevention of Human Trafficking Act 2014, which criminalizes trafficking in persons, especially women and girls, for the purposes of sexual exploitation, forced labour or trade in organs;

(a) Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, in 2015;

Trafficking

22. The Committee acknowledges the significant efforts made by the State party to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, in particular women and girls. Nevertheless, the Committee remains concerned that the State party continues to be a destination and transit country for trafficking in women and girls for purposes of sexual and labour exploitation. It expresses particular concern about:

(a) The lack of definition, in the Prevention of Human Trafficking Act 2014, of key terms relating to trafficking, such as forced labour, deception and coercion, which hinders the effective identification of victims and perpetrators;

23. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Amend the Prevention of Human Trafficking Act 2014 to ensure its full compliance with the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;

(b) Continue to provide capacity-building programmes to the judiciary, law enforcement officers, border control officers, social workers and health workers with respect to the early identification and referral of victims of trafficking as well as gender-sensitive investigation methods;

(c) Ensure that victims of trafficking are provided with adequate protection and support, including by establishing separate, well-equipped shelters with trained staff to address their specific needs and concerns;

(d) Ensure that traffickers and other actors involved in trafficking are effectively identified, prosecuted and adequately punished;

(e) Intensify international, regional and bilateral cooperation with countries of origin, transit and destination, in particular with countries in the region, including by exchanging information and harmonizing legal procedures for prosecuting traffickers, to prevent trafficking.