

Israel, UNECE and CATW Side-event

Women's Economic Empowerment as a Tool for Combating and Eliminating Violence against Women

04 March, 2013, 1:15 – 2.30 pm - Conference Room 6

psychological or sexual violence in their lifetime. Trafficking in women for contemporary forms of slavery, including exploitation of prostitution and sexual exploitation, has been addressed in various international and European norms, including the Beijing Platform for action, article 6 of the CEDAW Convention, the Palermo Protocol on Trafficking in Human Beings, supplementing the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, as well as the Warsaw Convention of the Council of Europe. All these specific treaties address the need to reintegrate the victims of trafficking in human beings (THB) into the education system and the labour market, in particular through the acquisition and improvement of their professional skills.

The topic is of grave importance for both developed and developing countries, as various forms of violence against women are persistently spread worldwide. It has been defined as one of the UN specialized agencies' priority areas and efforts have been undertaken to understand the fundamental political, economic and social causes and use the resulting knowledge of this research to promote better policies and educational programs for violence elimination.

The objective of this side event is to address the economic empowerment of women as a tool for combating and eliminating violence against women. In particular, we would like to discuss how, through entrepreneurship development, women can find an exit from a painful life and fulfill their ambitions for an independent existence.

Entrepreneurship is an important avenue towards women's economic empowerment; one that can provide the means to financial independence. But it also is a powerful factor that boosts women's self-confidence, brings women together in networks in their communities, in regions and across countries and hence makes their voices heard more strongly and at all levels of political and economic life.

In the discussion, we will focus on the linkages between women's economic empowerment and the elimination of violence against women. We will draw particular attention to the development of entrepreneurship as a tool for women to gain independence and a life free from violence. The experience of Israel (MCTC), UNECE, CATW and Azerbaijan

the slide down into the trap of domestic violence, perhaps exacerbated by financial dependence.

CATW believes that one of the main problems around trafficking, is the prevention through educational programs and empowerment of women in situations