Delegation of Spain

Due to its high profitability and low risk, human trafficking is on the rise. In recent years, the amount of reported cases has increased significantly, partly because of more awareness and a better understanding of the issue. Data provided by Spain authorities shows a total of 193 victims of trafficking being identified in 2016.

Spain is mainly a destination for victims, as well as a country of transit to other European countries like France or the United Kingdom. Victims are of Romanian, Nigerian, Spanish and above all, Ukranian descent. The majority of victims, primarily women and girls between the age of 17 and 25, is used for sex trafficking, but girls even younger are already forced into the traumatizing experience of sexual exploitation.

Spain condemns and criminalizes all forms of human trafficking. In 2015, a law protecting the statute of specifically vulnerable victims such as child victims was put in place. A second National Action Plan starting in 2015 included more effective screening processes, prosecution of offenders, accompanying victims throughout the process and working closely together with regional NGOs. Furthermore, Spanish authorities want to strengthen the coordination of national action against human trafficking for all forms of exploitation, notably labor exploitation.

To combat human trafficking effectively, it is crucial to start at the source. In their countries of origin, victims are being captured and lured into foreign countries using false promises of a better future, trying to escape a lack of job opportunities at home. As a worldwide community, we need to take up measures to fight the sources of human trafficking. Moreover, considering the vast amount of female trafficking victims, female rights in countries of origin need to be strengthened.