

Delegation of the United Mexican States

Human trafficking is a broadly defined crime which consists out of more than 20 different forms under Mexican law.

As much as human trafficking is widespread in the world, it even makes up to be the second lucrative market in Mexico. For female sex-trafficking and makers of child pornography in the Americas, Mexico even ranks number one.

Mexico ratified the Palermo Convention on April 11, 2003. The first anti-trafficking law passed in 2007, and the current one in 2012 with a broader definition of the crime. After its reform in 2014, we publicly endorsed the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime's Blue Heart Campaign against Human Trafficking, becoming the first country in Latin America to do so.

We, the recent government, acknowledge human trafficking as a serious problem of our nation. There have been various challenges regarding this topic in the past, which we are willing to face right now.

First, there has been poor data and broad targets. Therefore, we have appointed the Inter-Ministerial Commission Against Human Trafficking. The goals meanwhile will have to be broken into manageable parts as high ambitions can lack in clarity, which can make priorities vague and indeterminate.

Second, we want to motivate the 12 states, which have not yet updated their legislation to be in accordance with the most recent national law on human trafficking to do that. Only in unity, we can also cooperate internationally with success. At the same time, Mexico has the challenge, that our regional differences require tailored approaches. We are of the opinion that the decriminalization of Sex work does not prevent an efficient persecution of human trafficking. The recently passed bill of Mexico City, that removed a law which stated that prostitutes and their clients could be fined if neighbours complained, might have even the advantage of not pushing this business in the shadows. We believe, that local organizations that combat human trafficking are the optimal way to tackle this issue. Therefore, they receive an adequate funding from the government.

Furthermore, we invest in the support for victims of human trafficking and taking active steps after critics from academics and activists.

Many victims in Mexico are solicited from surrounding countries, also from Eastern Europe, which shows what challenges the Internet brings in the modern age. We count on the work together with our neighbouring countries as well as globally to find solutions together.

Mexico is aware, that its past loosely-regulated trafficking laws and its reputation brought many culprits to Mexico. Especially the city of Tenancingo wields an international human trafficking presence and is the largest source of sex trafficking sent to the U.S. which shows, that Mexico is at the same time a country of origin. Additionally, Mexico is a crucial point of transit and return of victims.

We strongly believe in the advantage of this international dialogue and that it will allow us to face together shared concerns regarding the topic of human trafficking and find solutions.