

Submission by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

For the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights' Compilation Report

Universal Periodic Review:

2nd Cycle, 25th Session

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago acceded to the *1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees* and its *1967 Protocol* in November 2000 (hereinafter jointly referred to as the *1951 Convention*). Trinidad and Tobago succeeded to the *1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons* (the *1954 Convention*) in 1966, but is not yet a State party to the *1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness* (the *1961 Convention*).

Currently, in the absence of domestic implementing legislation for the protection of refugees or the granting of asylum under the international refugee instruments, persons in need of international protection remain subject to the provisions of the *1976 Immigration Act*.¹ UNHCR is assisting the Government with the implementation of its *National Policy to Address Refugee and Asylum Matters in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago*, which was formally adopted in June 2014, and which foresees the development of a functioning asylum system within the next three years. The country is currently in the process of drafting legislation to implement the *National Refugee Policy*.

As of September 2015, 116 refugees and 78 asylum-seekers were registered in Trinidad and Tobago. In 2014, 184 persons were registered as new asylum-seekers in Trinidad and Tobago, which represented a 195 per cent increase in new arrivals of asylum-seekers compared to 2013, when 44 persons were registered as asylum-seekers. Trinidad and Tobago continues to be by far the largest refugee-receiving country in the Caribbean. Within the context of the overall upward trends in the region, the increase in the number of extra-regional cases is particularly noteworthy. In Trinidad and Tobago, more than 40 per cent of the refugee population originates from outside the Americas.²

¹ *Trinidad and Tobago: Immigration Act of 1976* [Trinidad and Tobago], July 1976, available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6b5b23.html>.

² The main countries of origin of asylum-seekers and refugees in Trinidad and Tobago are: Cuba, Syria, Colombia, Bangladesh, Nigeria and Pakistan.

Trinidad and Tobago is both a destination and a transit country for large numbers of undocumented migrants, many of whom come to the country looking for economic opportunities, as its booming construction and energy sectors have raised the country's economic status in the Caribbean region. Within this mixed migration context, an increasing number of persons in need of international protection have been identified. Trinidad and Tobago is well connected through air travel routes and its proximity to the coast of Venezuela also makes it feasible for persons moving from or transiting through Latin America to arrive by boat.

II. ACHIEVEMENTS AND POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS

UNHCR welcomes the adoption by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago of the *National Policy to Address Refugee and Asylum Matters in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago*³ in June 2014. The new *Refugee Policy* provides for the phased transfer of responsibility for refugee status determination (RSD) from UNHCR to the Government.⁴ This gradual implementation is to be accomplished under the leadership of the Ministry of National Security and in close cooperation with UNHCR and other key stakeholders, including its operational partner Living Water Community. This reflects a strong commitment by Trinidad and Tobago to develop an effective asylum system in line with international refugee and human rights standards and provide protection to refugees and asylum-seekers arriving in the country.

The phased implementation of the *Refugee Policy* has also served as a catalyst for UNHCR's efforts to provide technical support and capacity-building to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago. In addition to frequent missions by UNHCR Regional Office Washington DC, the deployment of RSD experts to the country, and intensive training of immigration officials, UNHCR plans to establish a direct presence in Trinidad and Tobago before the end of 2015. This will enable UNHCR to provide support to the Government on the ground and ensure ongoing guidance throughout this important transition period.

UNHCR also commends the constructive role of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago in the commemoration process surrounding the 30th anniversary of the *1984 Cartagena Declaration on Refugees*, including its participation in the Caribbean Sub-Regional Consultation on Mixed Migration and the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons in September 2014 in the Cayman Islands and in the Ministerial Meeting in Brasilia in December 2014, at which the *Brazil Declaration and Plan of Action*⁵ was adopted.

These documents include a *Framework and a Roadmap for Cooperation and Regional Solidarity to Strengthen the International Protection of Refugees, Displaced and Stateless Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean* and contain innovative proposals on how to

³ Hereinafter "the *Refugee Policy*."

⁴ The *Refugee Policy* adopted by the Government of Trinidad & Tobago in July 2014 provides for a gradual approach consisting of three phases: during the first phase, UNHCR leads the RSD procedure and provides intensive training to authorities on refugee protection and RSD; during the second phase, the Government establishes the national framework through the enactment of refugee legislation and the creation of an Eligibility Committee and gradually assumes responsibility for the RSD process with ongoing support from UNHCR; and during the third phase, the Government implements procedures for the identification, registration and referral of asylum-seekers and sets up a Refugee Unit that will be trained to handle refugee and asylum matters.

⁵ Regional Refugee Instruments & Related, *Brazil Declaration and Plan of Action*, 3 December 2014, available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/5487065b4.html>.

address the main humanitarian challenges affecting the region. Chapter 5 of the *Brazil Plan of Action*, “*Regional Solidarity with the Caribbean for a Comprehensive Response on International Protection and Durable Solutions*,” highlights the “special challenges” the Caribbean region faces in the management of mixed migration movements, especially in light of the extensive maritime borders and limited financial, technical, human and material resources. The main objective of the *Regional Solidarity with the Caribbean* programme is to promote a regional dialogue, which may lead to the establishment of a Regional Consultative Mechanism (RCM) for the efficient management of mixed migration.⁶ UNHCR encourages Trinidad and Tobago to work with other States in the region to advance these objectives outlined in the *Brazil Plan of Action*.

Trinidad and Tobago also actively participated in the May 2013 Regional Conference on the Protection of Vulnerable Persons in Mixed Migration Flows – Promoting Cooperation and Identification of Good Practices which was jointly organized by UNHCR and IOM in The Bahamas.

UNHCR commends Trinidad and Tobago’s passage of the *2011 Trafficking in Persons Act* and the creation of a Counter-Trafficking Unit. The Government’s significant efforts to eliminate human trafficking through investigations illustrate its ability to mobilize political and human resources to work towards a solution for vulnerable populations.

III. KEY PROTECTION ISSUES, CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Issue 1: Safeguards against *refoulement* and access to asylum procedures

Linked to 1st cycle UPR recommendation no. 88.52: “Strengthen the protection safeguards, in particular the control mechanisms that allow the detection of cases of migrants with special needs for international protection (Chile).”⁷

As a State party to the *1951 Refugee Convention* since 2000, Trinidad and Tobago reinforced the national refugee protection system with the adoption of its *Refugee Policy* in 2014. This demonstrates an important commitment towards enhancing the protection of refugees in the country. The Ministry of National Security is currently in the process of setting up a Refugee Unit within the Immigration Division that will be in charge of processing asylum claims and

⁶ Four main areas of action for a Regional Consultative Mechanism are outlined in Chapter 5 of the *Brazil Plan of Action*, specifically: (1) strengthen cooperation between countries of origin, transit and destination of asylum-seekers and refugees, in order to increase national and regional capabilities to optimize the management of mixed movements and implement comprehensive responses under a framework of rights, with a focus on maritime protection of persons; (2) progressively establish asylum systems through the formulation of public policies and internal regulations and implement procedures for the identification and differentiated assistance of groups in situation of vulnerability, guaranteeing access to refugee status determination procedures and alternatives to detention for asylum-seekers, refugees and accompanied and unaccompanied children; (3) formulate programmes that promote durable solutions, including measures that promote integration in local communities and the inclusion of refugees in national plans and policies, as well as the promotion of international cooperation and regional solidarity to facilitate resettlement of refugees, including South American countries, and voluntary return of migrants, and thus relieve the disproportionate burden in some island countries; and (4) implement measures to favour coordination in the Caribbean to promote the adequate implementation of procedures of refugee status determination.

⁷ See: “Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Trinidad and Tobago,” A/HRC/19/7, 14 December 2011, available at: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/TTSession12.aspx>.

will be composed of immigration officials who underwent intensive training in refugee status determination.

In the absence of domestic implementing legislation for the protection of refugees or the granting of asylum under the international refugee instruments, however, there is an urgent need to enhance safeguards to ensure full respect of the principle of *non-refoulement*⁸ and to prevent persons in need of international protection from being punished for their irregular entry or stay in the country.⁹ Migrants who entered or remained in an irregular manner in Trinidad and Tobago are subject to criminal sanctions, in the form of imprisonment and fines, without exceptions for refugees under the currently applicable immigration law,¹⁰ as well as administrative detention pending deportation to their countries of origin. The development of refugee legislation, as foreseen by the refugee policy, is of critical importance in this respect. Several refugees have been subjected to criminal sanctions due to their irregular arrival and/or presence in the country prior to being granted access to the RSD procedure. RSD is then carried out by UNHCR while they are administratively detained pending deportation. In practice, the Government has not deported any refugees once recognized as such by UNHCR. Concerns remain, however, regarding the identification of persons in need of international protection and their timely referral to an RSD procedure.

Recommendations:

UNHCR recommends that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago:

- a. Continue to facilitate and enhance access to asylum procedures for persons who have expressed a fear of returning to their country of origin and ensure *non-refoulement* of all persons in need of international protection, including those held in detention;
- b. Develop, enact, and implement refugee legislation consistent with international standards for facilitating access to asylum, which would include:
 - a. establishing fair and efficient procedures for conducting refugee status determination, including an appeals procedure; and
 - b. providing for the non-penalization of persons found to be refugees who entered or remained in an irregular manner in Trinidad and Tobago, in line with Article 31 of the *1951 Convention*; and
- c. Continue to gradually implement its *Refugee Policy*, in close collaboration with UNHCR, its implementing partner and other stakeholders.

Issue 2: Protection of the rights of recognized refugees

Currently, Trinidad and Tobago does not provide refugees recognized under UNHCR's mandate with any form of legal status or documentation, resulting in their lack of ability to exercise the rights guaranteed to them under the *1951 Convention*. Consequently, refugees lack the means to transition to self-reliance. Reporting requirements accompanying

⁸ Article 33 of the *1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees*: "No Contracting State shall expel or return ("refouler") a refugee in any manner whatsoever to the frontiers of territories where his life or freedom would be threatened on account of his race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion."

⁹ Article 31 of the *1951 Convention*: "The Contracting States shall not impose penalties, on account of their illegal entry or presence, on refugees who, coming directly from a territory where their life or freedom was threatened (...), enter or are present in the territory without authorization (...)."

¹⁰ *Trinidad and Tobago: Immigration Act of 1976* Part IV Offences and Penalties § 40. [Trinidad and Tobago], (July 1976), available at: <http://www.immigration.gov.tt/Portals/0/Documents/Immigration%20Act.pdf>.

Government-issued Orders of Supervision for persons released from administrative detention pose *de facto* restrictions that may affect the ability of refugees to establish themselves in the country.¹¹ Furthermore, in the absence of any legislation authorizing refugees to receive work permits, recognized refugees who may qualify for family-based or employment-based work permits or residency under the migration law are often denied access to these on the basis of their asylum-seeker or refugee status, or must choose to exempt themselves from refugee protection in order to take advantage of their rights under the other migrant categories. With few exceptions, UNHCR submits refugees for resettlement to third countries because of the absence of legal protection and the limited local integration prospects in Trinidad and Tobago.

The *Refugee Policy* envisions the Government providing recognized refugees a permit of stay, work authorization and access to public assistance. Therefore, implementation of the *Policy* will not only enhance the State's capacity to conduct refugee status determination, it will also represent a real achievement in terms of guaranteeing respect for refugees' rights. The creation of local integration opportunities will allow for a better allocation of both Government and UNHCR resources, as it will facilitate the productive contribution by refugees to society in Trinidad and Tobago.

Recommendations:

UNHCR recommends that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago:

- a. Continue to implement its *Refugee Policy*, in close collaboration with UNHCR, its implementing partner, and other stakeholders;
- b. Develop, enact, and implement refugee legislation consistent with international standards for refugee protection, which would include guaranteeing the rights of all recognized refugees in Trinidad and Tobago to work and earn a livelihood, to access public assistance and to pursue naturalization;
- c. Ensure the issuance of documents or other ID cards for refugees, since the lack of documentation creates obstacles in exercising a wide range of rights; and
- d. Issue work permits to promote self-reliance of refugees and reduce their need for humanitarian assistance.

Issue 3: Challenges in the context of mixed migration

Linked to 1st cycle UPR recommendation no. 87.33: “Endeavour to sustain the maximum humane care for ‘illegal immigrants’ and assist them to utilize, on a timely basis, the prevailing legal system in the country to address their situation (Ghana).”¹²

¹¹ There are several national legal instruments that govern migrant detention and alternatives to detention (ATD) in Trinidad and Tobago. Section 4(a) of the *Constitution* affords the right to “life, liberty, and security of the person.” The *Immigration Act of 1969* (revised in 1995) outlines the responsibilities and procedures of Immigration Officers. Specifically, Section 17 of the *Immigration Act* grants the Minister the authority to grant conditional release or orders of supervision. Furthermore, Regulation 29 outlines procedures for release from detention pending adjudication of immigration appeal matters. The *Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago* § 4 (1976), available at: <http://rgd.legalaffairs.gov.tt/Laws2/Constitution.pdf>; *Trinidad and Tobago: Immigration Act of 1976 Part IV Offences and Penalties* § 17, Reg. 29 [Trinidad and Tobago] (July 1976), available at: <http://www.immigration.gov.tt/Portals/0/Documents/Immigration%20Act.pdf>.

¹² See: “Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Trinidad and Tobago,” A/HRC/19/7, 14 December 2011, available at: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/TTSession12.aspx>.

Like many other countries in the region, Trinidad and Tobago faces a complex phenomenon of mixed migratory movements. It is crucial that Trinidad and Tobago, as a country of both destination and transit, further strengthen its capacity to appropriately manage these movements. There is a need for cooperation among countries in the region on data collection and analysis, and to establish protection-sensitive entry systems, reception arrangements, mechanisms for profiling and referral of vulnerable migrants, differentiated processes, and long-term solutions. When addressing these aspects of migration movements, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago should take into consideration the specific situation of persons in need of international protection and persons belonging to vulnerable groups.

Trinidad and Tobago has indicated its willingness to support the implementation of the *Brazil Declaration and Plan of Action*¹³ and contribute to ongoing efforts to establish a Regional Consultative Mechanism (RCM) for the efficient management of mixed migration.

Trinidad and Tobago maintains an Immigration Detention Centre (IDC) with separated facilities for female and male detainees, and uses detention for irregular migrants who are pending deportation to their countries of origin..

UNHCR has been encouraged by the Government's use of alternatives to detention for many asylum-seekers, and by the Government's practice of releasing from detention persons recognized as refugees under UNHCR's mandate, who are monitored using Orders of Supervision. UNHCR recommends that these reporting requirements are applied in a way that allows refugees to become self-reliant.

Particularly in the context of mixed migration, it is important that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago continues and enhances its efforts to identify migrants who may be in need of international protection at points of entry as well as in detention facilities or prior to detaining vulnerable migrants.

The trafficking of persons, particularly of women and children, is of major concern to UNHCR, since a coordinated approach to prevent trafficking and protect victims of trafficking has not been fully developed in the region. Trinidad and Tobago may further improve its efforts to address human trafficking by strengthening procedures for identifying victims of trafficking, as well as by providing them with the opportunity to apply for asylum, and by developing appropriate care arrangements.¹⁴

Recommendations:

UNHCR recommends that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago:

- a. Further engage in an enhanced dialogue and consultation with UNHCR regarding mixed migratory movements experienced by the country;
- b. Take measures to ensure the early identification of persons in need of international protection and facilitate their access to asylum procedures, including persons in detention, through further training and sensitization of immigration officers;
- c. Continue to promote alternatives to detention and apply these in a liberal manner; and
- d. Strengthen efforts to ensure that victims of trafficking are provided with an opportunity to seek asylum and enjoy corresponding rights and services.

¹³ Regional Refugee Instruments & Related, *Brazil Declaration and Plan of Action*, 3 December 2014, available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/5487065b4.html>.

¹⁴ United States Department of State, *2014 Trafficking in Persons Report – Trinidad and Tobago* (20 June 2014) available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/53aab98f5.html>.

Issue 4: Prevention of statelessness

Linked to 1st cycle UPR recommendation no. 88.22: “Ratify the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Slovakia).”¹⁵

Trinidad and Tobago succeeded to the *1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons* in April 1966. The country is not yet a State party to the *1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness*, but it has indicated that it is considering acceding.¹⁶ In meetings with UNHCR, the Government acknowledged that statelessness has become a priority, particularly in light of events that have occurred in other States in the Caribbean region. As a result, the Government expressed its intention to conduct an analysis of how the *1961 Convention* relates to relevant domestic laws to identify any gaps. UNHCR offered technical assistance with this project, and encourages the Government to proceed.

In October 2013, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees called for the “total commitment of the international community to end statelessness.”¹⁷ Additionally, in 2014, UNHCR launched the *Global Action Plan to End Statelessness: 2014 - 2024*¹⁸ (the *Global Action Plan*), which was developed in consultation with States, civil society and international organizations, and sets out a guiding framework comprised of 10 Actions that need to be undertaken to end statelessness within 10 years. Action 9 of the *Global Action Plan* promotes accession to the *UN Statelessness Conventions*.

Moreover, the *Brazil Plan of Action* includes a chapter related to the eradication of statelessness in the Americas that promotes accession to both *Statelessness Conventions*.¹⁹

There is a global and regional consensus on the importance of acceding to the *Statelessness Conventions*. They are key international treaties designed to ensure that every person has a nationality and that stateless persons enjoy a basic set of human rights. The *Statelessness Conventions* do not stand alone, but complement a much broader range of international legal standards, in particular those contained in human rights treaties.

The *1961 Convention* establishes an international framework to ensure the right of every person to a nationality. It requires that States establish safeguards in their nationality laws to

¹⁵ See: “Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Trinidad and Tobago,” A/HRC/19/7, 14 December 2011, available at: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/TTSession12.aspx>. In the Addendum A/HRC/19/7/Add.1 of 1 March 2012 the Government states that: “While Trinidad and Tobago is not seriously challenged by (...) statelessness as addressed by the *1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness*, consideration is still being given to acceding to these core pieces of international human rights protection law.”

¹⁶ Para. 6 of the Addendum, A/HRC/19/7/Add.1, 1 March 2012, available at: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/TTSession12.aspx>, “While Trinidad and Tobago is not seriously challenged by the human rights issues of enforced disappearance dealt with under CED, and statelessness as addressed by the *1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness*, consideration is still being given to acceding to these core pieces of international human rights protection law.”

¹⁷ High Commissioner’s Closing Remarks to the 64th Session of UNHCR’s Executive Committee, 4 October 2013, available at: <http://unhcr.org/525539159.html>.

¹⁸ UNHCR, *Global Action Plan to End Statelessness: 2014 – 2024*, November 2014, available at: <http://www.unhcr.org/statelesscampaign2014/Global-Action-Plan-eng.pdf>

¹⁹ *Brazil Plan of Action: “A Common Roadmap to Strengthen Protection and Promote Sustainable Solutions for Refugees, Displaced and Stateless Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean within a Framework of Cooperation and Solidarity,”* 3 December 2014, available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/5487065b4.html>.

prevent statelessness at birth and later in life. UNHCR welcomes the indications of Trinidad and Tobago that it is considering accession to this international statelessness instrument.

Recent events in the Caribbean have raised the possibility of statelessness issues significantly affecting other States in the region. This highlights the importance of States presenting unified support for a baseline of legal protection for reducing and preventing statelessness. Accession to the *1961 Convention* would help bolster regional responses to whatever situations might arise in the future.

Against the backdrop of the global and regional consensus reflected in the UNHCR *Global Action Plan* and the *Brazil Plan of Action*, Trinidad and Tobago should be encouraged to accede to the *1961 Convention* as an important action to end statelessness globally. This would also allow Trinidad and Tobago to implement the 1st cycle UPR recommendation no. 88.22.

Recommendations:

UNHCR recommends that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago:

- a. Conduct its analysis of domestic laws relevant to statelessness in coordination with UNHCR; and
- b. Accede to the *1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness*.

**Human Rights Liaison Unit
Division of International Protection
UNHCR
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ANNEX

Excerpts of Recommendations from the 1st cycle Universal Periodic Review

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

We would like to bring your attention to the following excerpts from the 1st cycle UPR recommendations relating to issues of interest and persons of concern to UNHCR with regards to Trinidad and Tobago.

Universal Periodic Review

Recommendation ²⁰	Recommending State	Position ²¹
Statelessness		
88.22. Ratify the <i>1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness</i>	Slovakia	Supported ²²
Asylum Procedures/RSD		
87.33. Endeavour to sustain the maximum humane care for “illegal immigrants” and assist them to utilize, on a timely basis, the prevailing legal system in the country to address their situation	Ghana	Supported (and considered already implemented or implementation in progress)
88.52. Strengthen the protection safeguards, in particular the control mechanisms that allow the detection of cases of migrants with special needs for international protection	Chile	Noted ²³
Sexual and Gender-Based Violence / Discrimination		
86.4. Maintain its efforts in favour of prevention, punishment and eradication of all forms of violence against women	Argentina	Supported
86.5. Strengthen legislation and policy measures aimed at preventing and addressing violence against women	Brazil	Supported
87.8. Continue to strengthen legislation aimed at the elimination of gender based violence, including through public awareness campaigns	South Africa	Supported (and considered already implemented or

²⁰ All recommendations made to Trinidad and Tobago during its 1st cycle UPR can be found in: “Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Trinidad and Tobago,” A/HRC/19/7, 14 December 2011, available at: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/TTSession12.aspx>.

²¹ Trinidad and Tobago’s views and replies can be found in the Addendum, A/HRC/19/7/Add.1, 1 March 2012, available at: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/TTSession12.aspx>.

²² Addendum: “The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (GOTT) presents the responses to outcomes of the Universal Periodic Review on Trinidad and Tobago conducted on the 5th of October 2011. The GOTT undertook to examine with a view to signing, ratifying and implementing as applicable, the following Human Rights Instruments: (...) The 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. While Trinidad and Tobago is not seriously challenged by the human rights issues of enforced disappearance dealt with under CED, and statelessness as addressed by the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, consideration is still being given to acceding to these core pieces of international human rights protection law.”

²³ Addendum 88.52: “This recommendation of the Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review on Trinidad and Tobago states: Strengthen the protection safeguards, in particular the control mechanisms that allow the detection of cases of migrants with special needs for international protection.

29. In relation to the protection of the rights of migrants in general, the GOTT via the Ministry of National Security is currently working to develop a national policy on refugees and asylum- seekers. The Ministry of Health has also undertaken an initiative to develop a policy and national programme which seeks to ensure that the migrant population as a vulnerable group has proper and easy access to HIV/AIDS treatment.”

		implementation in progress)
87.11. Undertake more effective measures to address the problems of sexual abuse and violence against women and girls, including through strengthening of law enforcement and the judicial system and intensive media and education programmes aimed at increasing public awareness and sensitivity on the rights of women and girls	Malaysia	Supported (and considered already implemented or implementation in progress)
87.12. Place high priority on measures aimed at combating violence against women in the family and in society, increase the population's awareness about violence against women as well as strengthen support programs aimed at the elimination of sexual violence and incest, and prostitution as a form of exploitation	Uruguay	Supported (and considered already implemented or implementation in progress)
87.13. Address, as a matter of urgency, the reportedly widespread violence against women, including a pursue of appropriate public awareness raising campaigns against the traditional negative social attitudes and stereotypes	Slovakia	Supported (and considered already implemented or implementation in progress)
87.23. Increase measures to ensure that violence and discrimination against members of vulnerable groups, such as women and lesbians, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons, are both prevented and prosecuted	United States	Supported (and considered already implemented or implementation in progress)
88.51. Regarding the situation of LGBT community, adopt legislative and political measures to establish a specific framework of protection from discrimination for sexual preference. Additionally, put in place public awareness raising campaigns on the matter	Spain	Noted ²⁴
Trafficking in Persons		
87.15. Enact draft human trafficking legislation to improve prosecution of trafficking offenders and protections for victims of forced labour and sex trafficking.	United States	Supported (and considered already implemented or implementation in progress)

²⁴ Addendum 88.51: "With particular reference to violence against the LGBT community, the definition of rape in the Sexual Offences Act, 1986 was amended by Act 31 of 2000 to reflect a gender neutral position with regard to the complainant and the victim. This amendment serves to include protection for victims of violent same sex activity."