

**Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children**

REFERENCE:  
OL ITA 1/2020

25 March 2020

Excellency,

I have the honour to address you in my capacity as Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 35/5.

Let me first express my solidarity with your Excellency's Government in this challenging moment caused by the COVID-19 outbreak and welcome the incredible efforts made to combat the spread of this virus.

I would like to bring to the attention of your Excellency's Government information received on the upcoming deadline of 31 May 2020 when vital anti-trafficking projects are supposed to come to an end and the importance and urgency that national authorities approve their extensions at the next coordination meeting for the coordination and promotion of initiatives regarding the use of Community funds (Cabina di Regia Nazionale) scheduled on 27 March 2020. These projects have been instrumental for contributing to ensuring adequate conditions of accommodation, food and health care and the continuation of assistance and social integration for foreigners victims of violence and exploitation, as referred to in paragraph 6 bis of art. 18 of the legislative decree n.286 of 25 July 1998, as well as to the victims of the crimes in accordance with articles 600 and 601 of the Penal Code.

The extension of these projects for at least six and up to eighteen months is of paramount importance for the continuation of essential services needed by victims of trafficking.

The situation of unaccompanied children should also be carefully considered in the extension of these projects, including by adopting protection measures aimed at avoiding risk of re victimization of young adults who have just reached the age of maturity and have dropped off educational and assistance programmes intended for children.

Furthermore, I would like to note that vulnerable groups are not mentioned by the Decree Laws of the President of the Council of Ministers passed respectively on 9 March and 17 March 2020 (the latter called Cura Italia). I therefore call on your Excellency's Government to take the needs and specific situation of vulnerability of these groups in due consideration while implementing these Decrees.

Finally, I would also like to recall that all measures to contain and combat the spread of COVID-19 should be taken in strict accordance with human rights standards and particular attention should be paid to vulnerable groups, which should be explicitly

included in any future regulations that the authorities may adopt and cared for, without discrimination.

As it is my responsibility, under the mandate provided to me by the Human Rights Council, to seek to clarify all cases brought to my attention, I would be grateful for your observations on the following matters:

1. Please provide any additional information and/or comment(s) you may have on the above-mentioned information.
2. Kindly provide promptly information on the outcomes of the meeting at Cabina di Regia Nazionale.

This communication, as a comment on pending or recently adopted legislation, regulations or policies, and any response received from your Excellency's Government will be made public via the communications reporting [website](#) within 48 hours. They will also subsequently be made available in the usual report to be presented to the Human Rights Council.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Maria Grazia Giammarinaro  
Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children