

SUMMARY REPORT  
SECOND MEETING OF THE  
CARIBBEAN MIGRATION CONSULTATIONS (CMC)  
**COUNTER-TRAFFICKING NETWORK**

12 MARCH 2019  
GEORGETOWN, GUYANA



Photo: ACP-EU Regional Thematic Meeting on Trafficking in Human Beings and Smuggling of Migrants

## INTRODUCTION

Trafficking in human beings is one of the most lucrative crimes worldwide, estimated to reap more than 152 billion USD per year<sup>1</sup> and affecting an estimated 40.3 million men, women and children according to Alliance 8.7, the UN alliance which aims to support world leaders in their efforts to reach Target 8.7 of the 2030 Agenda to “take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking [...] in all its forms.”

The governments of the Caribbean region have made important advances in their efforts to prevent, detect, and respond to trafficking in persons since it was defined formally within the *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children* in the year 2000. In addition to targeted legislation, specialized law

enforcement actions, the establishment of national referral systems to provide support and protection to victims, as well as ongoing efforts to sensitize potential victims are among the important actions that have been taken in the region. While trafficking in persons can take place within a country, many trafficking criminal networks cross borders, making multi-country cooperation essential. Regional actions to align law enforcement efforts, as well as to improve assistance to victims of trafficking through consulates, child protection and other social service actors, require regional cooperation.

Since 2016, the CMC, a State-led process with the support of IOM and UNHCR, has facilitated regional cooperation and exchange of information and good practices related to migration governance and international protection. In April 2018, through the generous support of the United States

<sup>1</sup> Profits and poverty: the economics of forced labour / International Labour Office. - Geneva: ILO, 2014, available here: [http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_norm/---declaration/documents/publication/wcms\\_243391.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---declaration/documents/publication/wcms_243391.pdf)

Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration, the First Meeting of the Caribbean Migration Consultations (CMC) Counter-Trafficking Network was hosted by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago with the support of the International Organization for Migration (IOM).<sup>2</sup> This First Meeting brought together representatives of the existing counter-trafficking response of the English, Spanish, and Dutch speaking Caribbean countries and territories – including multi-sectoral taskforces, committees and coalitions – as well as key experts and partners. The resulting establishment of a Caribbean regional Counter-trafficking Network that includes both victim protection and

law enforcement efforts was an important step in the fight against human trafficking in the region.

In March 2019, through the generous support of the ACP-EU Migration Action<sup>3</sup>, and in the context of a Regional Thematic Meeting on Trafficking in Human Beings and Smuggling of Migrants (RTM), a special session of the CMC CT network was held, providing a platform for counter-trafficking authorities from across the Caribbean to exchange information about current regional issues as well as next steps and priorities of the CT Network.

## OVERVIEW OF THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE CMC CT NETWORK

The special session of the Caribbean Migration Consultations Counter-Trafficking Network (CMC CT Network) held during the ACP-EU Regional Thematic Meeting on Trafficking in Human Beings and Smuggling of Migrants was an excellent opportunity to continue the discussions which began in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago in 2018, when this regional network was launched. Special thanks are given to the ACP-EU Migration Action for the opportunity to hold this productive meeting.

1. The CMC CT Network session was opened by IOM and UNHCR, on behalf of the Caribbean Migration Consultations, together with the previous and current host governments, Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana, respectively. All expressed their commitment to the topic at hand.
2. The first portion of the meeting was focused on counter-trafficking information and data sharing, which included a presentation of the recent IOM Caribbean Migration Governance report and its mapping of counter-trafficking efforts in 10 countries, as well as a presentation of how the Regional Coalition in Central America is working to produce regional data together with the support of IOM's Western Hemisphere Program.
3. The second session was focused on current trends in the region, specifically the flows of Venezuelan migrants and refugees, and how they are impacting counter-trafficking responses in some parts of the region. Experts from Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Curacao and the Dominican Republic shared their experiences and discussed current actions.



<sup>2</sup> More details on IOM's response to human trafficking can be found here: <https://www.iom.int/counter-trafficking>

<sup>3</sup> <https://acpeumigrationaction.iom.int/>

## PRELIMINARY OUTCOMES OF THE 2ND

## MEETING OF THE CMC CT NETWORK

1. The representatives of the national counter-trafficking coalitions and specialized units present expressed their interest in continuing to cooperate in the framework of the CMC CT Network, and welcomed the support of IOM to continue to facilitate the network, and follow-up actions. Throughout the discussions of all three days of the ACP-EU meeting, the importance of regional cooperation was highlighted. Participants welcomed the offer of IOM to continue facilitating these discussions and to support related fund-raising efforts.
2. The CMC CT Network focuses on counter-trafficking efforts comprehensively, including both law enforcement efforts and protection and assistance actions. It is also unique in the region in that it brings together not only CARICOM Members but also other States, countries and territories. Participants noted the importance of cooperation across the entire Caribbean, and welcomed the participation of states that had not been able to attend the first meeting of the CMC CT Network. Indeed, one follow-up action requested by multiple participants is to exchange information about focal points who can be contacted in each country or territory by others within the Network. This action took place following the meeting, when the focal points of the Network received a detailed contact list.
3. Participants expressed interest in continuing to work together to define the structure and functioning of the Network, including a future regional document or related agreement. Existing CARICOM agreements on the sharing of intelligence which may help facilitate these actions were noted. It was recognized that further meetings will be needed to continue this discussion. IOM agreed to ask the Regional Coalition in Central America if it is possible to share their foundation documents with this Network and will translate them into English if necessary.
4. One of the most important outcomes of the Second Meeting of the CMC CT Network was the formation of two working groups, with participating countries to be determined:
  - Regional CT information-sharing working group – which aims to gather some of the counter – trafficking statistics already being produced at the national level, and to collate them into a regional information brief that, once validated and approved by governments, could be shared publicly.
  - Venezuela working group – which aims to share good practice on how counter-trafficking responses in affected countries are handling the challenges currently being faced, which include high levels of vulnerability, insufficient shelter options, lack of residency and work permit options, longer stays, and increasing numbers of trafficking cases, among others.

## CONCLUSION

IOM looks forward to continuing to support the CMC CT Network. Indeed, many of the broader ACP-EU event outcomes and suggested actions related to human trafficking could be addressed through the Network in the future. IOM is committed to continue facilitating this process, including through joint fund-raising to continue to put identified

priorities into action. UNHCR also stands ready to support the CT Network in addressing the protection and assistance needs of victims of human trafficking who may be in need of international protection. The working groups will be further established and will seek to produce concrete results and deliverables to be shared with the CMC.

More information on UNHCR's role in relation to issues of human trafficking can be found here:

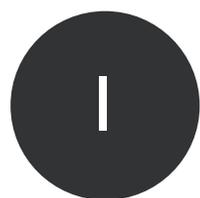
<https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/unhcr-human-trafficking.html>

More information about the intersection of trafficking in persons and needs for international protection can be found here:

[https://caribbeanmigration.org/sites/default/files/repository/trafficking\\_in\\_persons\\_and\\_refugee\\_status.pdf](https://caribbeanmigration.org/sites/default/files/repository/trafficking_in_persons_and_refugee_status.pdf)



# ANNEXES



AGENDA



PARTICIPANTS  
CONTACT LIST