

# Trafficking in children on the rise: immediate action required

Margins of the 58<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council

Venue: Palais des Nations, Geneva

Room XXII

14 March 2025

14:00-15:00 CET

(9:00 – 10:00 EST)

Run of Show (DRAFT)

Time	Who	SCRIPT	NOTES
<b>14:00 – 14:20   Setting the Scene - <i>Total Duration: 20 minutes</i></b>			
<b>14:00 – 14:07</b>	<b>SRSG</b>	<p><b>Excellencies, distinguished delegates, Dear participants, good afternoon.</b></p> <p><b>Welcome to this critical event focused on ending child trafficking. I'm Najat Maalla M'jid, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children, and I'll be your moderator today.</b></p> <p><b>As we gather today, we are reminded of the importance of urgent action to end child trafficking -- a devastating violation of children's rights.</b></p> <p><b>Today, we will hear from experts, advocates, and survivors who are on the front lines of the fight to end this crime.</b></p> <p><b>Together, we will explore the actions taken so far, the challenges we still face, and the steps we must take to eliminate this crime.</b></p>	

		<p><b>Thank you for being here in person and online and for your commitment to this cause.</b></p> <p><b>Let’s begin by watching a short video summarizing a report on child trafficking and its impact globally.”</b></p>	
<p><b>14:07 – 14:10</b></p> <p><b>Video Summarizing the Report</b></p>	<p><b>Comms team to play the video</b></p>	<p><b>VIDEO</b></p>	
<p><b>14:10 – 14:14</b></p> <p><b>Key Address by Ms. Ghada Waly (via Video Message)</b></p>	<p><b>SRSG-VAC</b></p>	<p><b>We are now hearing from Ms. Ghada Waly, the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.</b></p> <p><b>Unfortunately, she cannot join us in person, but she has prepared a powerful video message that will share her insights on the global efforts to combat child trafficking.</b></p> <p><b>Let’s hear from Ms. Waly.</b></p>	
	<p><b>Comms team to play the video</b></p>	<p><b>VIDEO</b></p>	
<p><b>14:14 – 14:20</b></p> <p><b>Keynote Address by Ms. Sophie Otiende</b></p>	<p><b>SRSG</b></p>	<p><b>Thank you, Ms. Waly, for your inspiring message.</b></p> <p><b>Now, I’m honored to introduce a champion in the fight against child trafficking—Ms. Sophie Otiende.</b></p>	

		<p><b>Sophie is a survivor of human trafficking and has dedicated her life to advocating for those affected by this crime.</b></p> <p><b>Please join me in welcoming Ms. Sophie Otiende.</b></p>	
	<p><b>Ms. Sophie Otiende</b></p>	<p><b>SPEECH</b></p>	
<p><b>14:20 – 14:55   Actions Taken and Remaining Challenges</b></p>			
<p><b>14:20 – 14:23</b></p> <p><b>Transition to Panel Discussion</b></p>	<p><b>SRSG</b></p>	<p><b>Thank you, Ms. Otiende, for your courageous and powerful words.</b></p> <p><b>Your testimony today reminded us of the real, human toll of trafficking and why we must act now.</b></p> <p><b>Now, we will move into a panel discussion where we will dive deeper into the actions being taken to combat child trafficking and the remaining challenges.</b></p> <p><b>Our panelists today are leaders in the field who will share their expertise and perspectives on how we can accelerate action to protect children from trafficking.</b></p> <p><b>Let me now introduce our panelists and ask them to share their thoughts on specific questions. Each of you will have about 4 minutes.</b></p>	

<b>14:23 – 14:50</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>First, we have Ms. Aleksandra Chołuj, who heads the Department for Combating Human Trafficking, Hate Crimes, and Supporting Activities within the EU Internal Security Policy in Poland.</b></li><p><b>Ms. Chołuj -- Noting the alarming increase in child trafficking, what are some of the actions your government/ your organization is taking to address the vulnerabilities of children.</b></p></ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Next, we have Ms. Laura Arango, Counsellor for Humanitarian Affairs at the Permanent Mission of Colombia to the United Nations in Geneva, addressing the same question.</b></li><li>• <b>Joining us from Nigeria is Ms. Tolulola Olufunmilayo Odugbesan, Director of the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Department. Same question for you about actions taken in Nigeria to address the vulnerability of children to trafficking.</b></li><li>• <b>Mr. Mark Beavan is with us from INTERPOL, where he leads the Crimes Against Children Unit. Given the growing use of technology by organized criminal networks in facilitating child trafficking, what effective strategies or interventions can be</b></li></ul>	

		<p><b>implemented to combat this challenge, protect children from digital exploitation and hold perpetrators accountable/end impunity?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Guillaume Landry is the Executive Director of ECPAT, an organization dedicated to eliminating child exploitation and trafficking. Same question to you, Guillaume, about effective strategies and interventions to hold perpetrators accountable.</b></li> <li>• <b>And last but not least, Ms. Charimaya Tamang, Founder and Executive Director of Shakti Samuha, a prominent CSO from Nepal working to fight human trafficking.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Charimaya, How can governments, NGOs, and communities collaborate to create durable solutions that address both the global demand for child exploitation and the need for comprehensive support for survivors of trafficking?</b></p>	
<p><b>14:50 – 14:55   Q&amp;A Session</b></p>	<p><b>SRSG</b></p>	<p><b>[DEPENDING ON TIME]</b></p> <p><b>Thank you to all our panelists for your insightful contributions.</b></p>	

		<p><b>Now, we would like to open the floor for questions. We welcome interventions from other states and participants in this session.</b></p> <p><b>Please feel free to raise your hand, and we will call on you to speak.</b></p> <p><b>Online participants, please send your questions through the chat function.</b></p>	
<b>14:55 – 15:00 Closing Remarks</b>			
<b>14:55 – 15:00 Key Messages and Next Steps</b>	<b>SRSG</b>	<p><b>Thank you to all our panelists and participants for this engaging and important discussion.</b></p> <p><b>As we conclude today’s session, I would like to briefly highlight some of the key takeaways....</b></p> <p><b>Let’s not forget that the fight to end child trafficking is not just a legal or policy issue—it’s a moral imperative.</b></p> <p><b>Children must be protected from all forms of violence, leaving no one behind.</b></p>	

		<p><b>With that, I would like to thank all of you for your participation today. Let's work together to continue this important fight and ensure a safer future for all children.</b></p> <p><b>Thank you, and I look forward to seeing all of you take action in the coming months.</b></p>	