



A Rights-Based Approach to Anti-Trafficking: Lessons from Asia and Europe

Panel Discussion, Swedish Embassy Residence, 39 Andrew Road, Singapore 299957
Friday, 21 October 2016, 15:00 – 17:00pm

Trafficking in persons (TIP) is considered to be the fastest growing, global illegal enterprise in the 21st century, second to drug trafficking. The Palermo Protocol promotes international cooperation on counter-trafficking, criminalising trafficking and punishing the traffickers, and to protect and assist the victims of trafficking ‘*with full respect for their human rights*’. Since the majority of trafficking victims are trafficked intra-regionally, regional efforts to combat human trafficking have only intensified. Based on the outcomes from the 15th Informal ASEM¹ Seminar on Human Rights and Trafficking in Persons, the objectives of the panel session are to:

- Exchange best practices and lessons learnt from across Asia and Europe for taking a rights-based approach to counter human trafficking
- Provide the current state-of-play on the advances made across ASEAN in the implementation of ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children
- Identify opportunities for multi-stakeholder cooperation on anti-trafficking, both within and between the two regions.

Programme

14:30 – 15:00 pm: Registration

15:00 – 17:00 pm: **Panel**

Welcome remarks: **H.E. Håkan JEVRELL**, Ambassador of Sweden to Singapore

Chair: **Mr. Rolf RING**, Deputy Director, Raoul Wallenberg Institute

- *Understanding trafficking to counter trafficking* - **Ms. Klara SKRIVANKOVA** (Anti-Slavery International)
- *European and Swedish experiences to counter-trafficking* – **Amb. Per-Anders SUNESSON** (Swedish Ambassador at Large for Combatting Trafficking in Persons)
- *Trafficking in Southeast Asia*– **Ms. Braema MATHI** (MARUAH)
- *Victim protection in Singapore* – **Ms. Shelley THIO** (Transient Workers Count Too)

Closing remarks: **Amb. Karsten WARNECKE**, Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)

Presentations will be followed by a Q&A session and a light reception.

—
Kindly RSVP your attendance by registering [here](#)

¹ The **Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)** is an intergovernmental forum for dialogue and cooperation established in 1996 to deepen relations between Asia and Europe, which addresses political, economic and socio-cultural issues of common concern. ASEM brings together 53 partners (21 Asian and 30 European countries, the ASEAN Secretariat, and the European Union). www.aseminfoboard.org

The **Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights** is the Asia-Europe Meeting’s (ASEM) annual dialogue on human rights and rule of law. Providing a unique platform for discussions between government representatives and civil society experts, the seminar series is co-organised by the [Asia-Europe Foundation](#) (ASEF), the [Raoul Wallenberg Institute](#) (nominated by the [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sweden](#)), the [Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development of France](#), the [Department of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines](#) and the [Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland](#). For more information, please visit www.asef.org

Speakers Profiles (as of 18 October):

Håkan JEVRELL was appointed Ambassador of Sweden to Singapore in August 2013 and he is also the non-resident Ambassador of Sweden to Brunei Darussalam. Mr Jevrell was State Secretary at the Swedish Ministry of Defense from 2007-2012. He was also the Political Adviser at the Swedish Prime Minister's office between 2006-2007. Mr Jevrell holds Masters of Law from Stockholm University and has also completed an Executive Management Program at the Institute for Leadership at Stockholm School of Economics.

Rolf RING is the Acting Director of the Raoul Wallenberg Institute. Prior to joining Raoul Wallenberg Institute, he worked as a Project Co-ordinator for Swedish Red Cross and served as an assistant to the Chair of International Law at the Faculty of Law, Lund University. Mr. Ring holds an LL.M from Lund University and has published intensively on the various international law topics.

Klara SKRIVANKOVA is a recognised expert on human trafficking and forced labour in the UK and internationally. In 2005 she joined Anti-Slavery International where she leads its Europe Programme, managing research and advocacy to eliminate all forms of modern slavery, including in supply-chains, in the UK and Europe. She frequently provides expert witness statements in courts in the UK, Ireland and Hong Kong in modern slavery cases and in 2007 co-founded the UK Trafficking Law and Policy Forum, an educational think-tank on human trafficking and related issues. Since 2010, has acted as a Programme Adviser to the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. She was also a specialist contributor of Human Trafficking Handbook: Recognising Trafficking and Modern-Day Slavery in the UK, Chandran P.ed, Lexis Nexis, 2011, with chapters on forced labour and on compensation for victims of modern day slavery and a co-editor of Vulnerability, Exploitation and Migrants: Insecure Work in a Globalised Economy, Palgrave Macmillan, 2015.

Ms Skrivankova has held numerous expert appointments internationally. She has been an expert on human trafficking with the Council of Europe since 2005 and a member of the EU Experts Group on Trafficking in Human Beings from 2008 until 2015, advising the European Commission. Between 2010 and 2013 she served on the board of the UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking and 2009-2013 on the board of the UN Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery. Currently she is also a special advisor to the Ethical Trading Initiative and provides consultancy on modern slavery to businesses.

Pers-Anders SUNESESSON is Sweden's first Ambassador at Large for Combatting Trafficking in Persons. Ambassador Per-Anders Sunesson has a legal background and in recent years has held various positions at the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, including head of social services, disability issues and child rights. Mr Sunesson has also previously worked at the Ministry of Justice, where his area was the standing of victims in criminal proceedings, and at the National Board of Health and Welfare, where he was responsible for supervision of health and medical care, and social services. Per-Anders Sunesson has also been the Government Offices coordinator for issues related to vulnerable EU citizens and human trafficking. He was leading the work on developing the Government's new action plan to combat human trafficking. Mr Sunesson has extensive experience of collaboration with a wide range of parties and organizations.

Braema MATHI is a consultant on corporate communication, the non-profit sector and social policies. She leads a human rights group called MARUAH, was the founder-president of Transient Workers Count Too (TWC2), a former president of AWARE (the Association of Women for Action and Research, where she led an initiative on human trafficking) and she served two terms as Nominated Member of Parliament. An award-winning journalist with The Straits Times, Braema also initiated the Straits Times School Pocket Money Fund.

Shelley THIO is an executive committee member of Transient Workers Count Too (TWC2); she currently chairs the Direct Services Committee. Since 2006, she has been a volunteer case worker, providing advice and assistance to male and female migrant workers. The particularly invisible ones – domestic workers trapped inside homes and fishermen confined to boats – are her special concern. In the course of her work, Shelley has also been advocating for the rights of migrant workers in Singapore.

Karsten WARNECKE is the 6th Deputy Executive Director of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) and assists the ASEF Executive Director in the management and administration of the organization, in the implementation of its programmes and policies, and in representing the organization. He joined ASEF in August 2012. Before joining ASEF, Karsten dealt mainly with Germany's and the EU's involvement in ASEAN and in the ASEM Process as part of his portfolio as Counsellor at the German Federal Foreign Office in Berlin, where he served as Deputy Head of Division for Regional Organizations and Cooperation in Asia-Pacific. A seasoned career diplomat with over 25 years of experience, including 17 years with Asia, Karsten is adept at working in cross-cultural settings and in bringing people together from diverse backgrounds.

ASEF's contribution is with the financial support of the European Union



With the support of the Section for Development Cooperation at the Embassy of Sweden, Bangkok, Thailand

