

Human Rights and Human Trafficking: Issues of Discrimination and Xenophobia.

Saturday, 12th of May. Sabado 12 de mayo



Summary of Panel Discussion and Workshop:

- Human trafficking: the concept, its causes, its purpose and other factors.
- Xenophobia: a case in Argentina was examined in which a Bolivian mother and her child were murdered.
- Human trafficking is often for the goal of prostitution. One example would be the trafficking that occurs in the tri-national area of Paraguay, Brazil and Argentina; as well as the startling cases of abused women in Buenos Aires.
- Group activity: small groups of participants individually presented their opinions on the problems of human trafficking and xenophobia, after which there was a collective discussion.

Principal Points of Agreement and Recurring Themes:

- Human trafficking with goal of prostitution and forced labor is often undocumented transnational migration. The absence of law encourages the deception, lack of protection and fear of victims, especially women.
- Xenophobia towards migrants stems from the stigma that is placed on them by the media and the government, who both often portray migrants as the cause of unemployment. In many cases, using migrants as scapegoats shield the public from the real problems concerning poor governance and degenerative capitalism.
- Discrimination is not only physical but also symbolic.
- Extreme xenophobia often leads other groups of disenfranchised peoples to organize against oppression.
- Trafficking may be used as a pretext to criminalize migrant women, to justify tighter immigration controls and stricter punishments for migrants
- The complicity of the state makes it very difficult to prevent trafficking.

Measures Proposed:

- Education of the problems of xenophobia and human trafficking is essential as a means of prevention both for potential individual victims and of societal problems.
- Organization of migrants and victims is essential for the creation of more effective means of battling inequality. It is also important to create international networks between groups fighting for this same cause.