

DRAFT

COMMON STATEMENT

INTER-DENOMINATION COALITION FOR PREVENTION OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

WISHING to restate the faith in the supreme value of man, created in the image and likeness of God and bestowed as master upon the material world, the work of His hands (Genesis 1, 28), and recalled – after the fall into the original sin – to the communion in love with Him and with his fellow creatures through Jesus Christ’s redeeming sacrifice;

PERCEIVING as our duty to point out the fact that, although the modern world is undergoing an unprecedented evolution in technology, we often witness serious deterioration in social relations, up to the dramatic situation of the trafficking in persons, a real attack against the human rights, especially against freedom, the most precious gift, offered by God to each human being;

CONCERNED DEEPLY that more and more persons, our compatriots, suffer in situations which remind of Josef being sold by his brothers or of Jesus Christ, betrayed by one of His apostles. This happens despite the efforts of many chiefs of states from all around the world, to legally enforce a limitation of the phenomenon;

JOINING IN the efforts of all those who work to prevent this phenomenon or who– by the example of the merciful Samaritan (Luke: 10, 25-37) – help the victims of trafficking in persons to cure their bodies and souls and to overcome their trauma;

WE STATE in common consent the following:

- the example of the father from the parable of the prodigal son (Luke:15, 11-32) who accepted with love his son who returned to the family must be followed;
- since no man can be deemed guilty for the actions undertaken against his will and under constraint, so should the victims of trafficking be considered not guilty for their actions;
- sustained effort is necessary in order to inform all believers on the problems and implications related to this phenomenon of modern slavery;
- it is important to define and understand correctly the essential differences which exist between the trafficking in human beings and prostitution from the religious, ethical, and social point of view;
- the active participation of the leaders of the country, the Government and all responsible authorities in preventing and combating the trafficking in human beings, inclusively in the creation and implementation of a national referral system it is overwhelmingly necessary;
- we implore the traffickers to stop their actions, in order not to incur upon themselves the wrath of God: *“The merchants of these wares, who gained wealth from her, will stand far off, in fear of her torment, weeping and mourning aloud, “Alas, Alas, for the great city that was clothed in fine linen, in purple and scarlet, adorned with gold, with jewels and with pearls! For in a single hour all this wealth has been laid waste. “(Revelation: 18,15-17);*
- we urge the believers to bring their lives closer to God and to have a moral life in the spirit of the Christian values, in order to keep away from sins like greed and debauchery – which are the decisive factors of the trafficking in human beings;

For this purpose, the parties agree to organize didactic and pastoral activities in order to inform the believers about the various aspects of the phenomenon of modern slavery. We also would like to suggest the choosing of a common day to be nationally dedicated to prayer for diminishing the trafficking in human beings.

We ask God, The One, who set Apostle Peter free from jail,(Acts: 12, 3-11) to give to the victims of trafficking strength and support, so that they may be released from their bonds, and to those who brought sufferings upon them, sorrow for their sins and strength to free themselves from the passions which control their bodies and souls.

Signed in Chisinau in the day of _____ 2007 by: