

# Indonesia's National Commission on Violence Against Women and Its Efforts to Address Human Trafficking

## **I. INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMISSION**

- commonly known as *Komnas Perempuan* in Indonesian
- Presidential Decree and Public Demand (1998)
- The Five main programs:
  - (1) Legal reform,
  - (2) public education,
  - (3) monitoring violations of women's human rights,
  - (4) systems-building for victim recovery, and
  - (5) protection of groups vulnerable to discrimination (migrant workers, domestic workers and women heads of households).



## **II. ADDRESSING HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

- Focused on Indonesian women migrant workers.
- Three principles in its approach:
  - 1) the indivisibility of civil political rights from economic, social and cultural rights
  - 2) the active promotion of rights of victims of violence and human rights violations, namely the right to truth, justice and rehabilitation
  - 3) the imperative of working through partnerships, with civil society and reformers in government, and the continuous linking of the local to the national and international.
- These principles have effectively put Komnas Perempuan in a bridging role, among others between civil society and government; between local groups and international networks; as well as between human rights institutions focusing on civil political rights and organizations working on development.



### **III. THE EFFORTS**

#### **1. Building a new knowledge base through annual reporting**

- a. Writing of published national reports on the pattern of abuse experienced by women migrant workers.
- b. Research on emerging issues, such as on social, economic and cultural dynamics in the initial recruitment of undocumented women migrant workers within Indonesia.

#### **2. Standard setting and law making**

- a. Input into the formulation of specific national laws on migrant workers:
- b. Facilitating a consensus document on migration management which reflects human rights standards and uses a gendered perspective.
- c. Endorsing ratification of new national laws which would protect the rights of domestic workers who are employed in-country.

#### **3. Ending impunity and witness and victim protection**

- a. Working for the decriminalization of victims
- b. Supporting criminal prosecution of trafficking cases
- c. Initiating development of a witness protection scheme

#### **4. Coalition building among and between civil society and government agencies**

- a. A coalition of women's NGOs
- b. A collaboration between civil society coalition and the Ministry of Women's Empowerment
- c. A multi-agency serial discussion within Government,

#### **5. International human rights mechanisms and networking**

- a. engagement in regional and cross-regional civil society networks in Asia Pacific and the Middle East
- b. Maintaining continuous policy dialogues
- c. Strategic involvement in UN human rights mechanisms & initiatives
- d. Initiating a proactive and collaborative role by national human rights institutions in countries of origin and employment

### **Lessons Learned and Challenges Forward**

- On Komnas Perempuan as a national human rights institution
- On the role of national human rights institutions on combatting human trafficking



*Finally*

**Komnas Perempuan seeks the support of the Asia Pacific Forum on National Human Rights Commissions and its members in its effort to bring together, in 2006, NHRCs from Asian countries where women migrant workers are recruited and employed.**

**It is hoped that this meeting would become one of the building blocks for the development of an effective regional human rights mechanism to address all forms of human trafficking.**

