

**United Nations Human Rights Committee (CCPR)**  
**Oral Statement for the eighth and ninth periodic review of Uganda during the 138th Session**  
**Trafficking In Persons in Uganda**

*22 June 2023*

*Delivered by Mickaël Repellin*

Thank you,

We would like to draw the committee's attention to labor trafficking in Uganda. We acknowledge certain improvements in the implementation of Uganda's 2009 Prevention of Trafficking in Person Act, and the National Action Plan for the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons 2019-2024.

However, we observe that the Coordination Office to Prevent Trafficking in Persons fails to provide efficient prevention and necessary care for victims' labor trafficking upon their return, mainly due to the severe lack of funding.

According to our interview with twenty victims of labor trafficking returned to Uganda, 85% (seventeen persons) explained their experience of unpaid overwork, poor pay, poor diet, ill-treatment, and sexual exploitation during their overseas labor employment. Due to the confiscation of their personal documents by the employers, including work contract and Identification documents, these labor trafficking victims were unable to receive medical, psycho-social, financial, nor legal support upon their return to Uganda.

In 2022, the Government of Uganda accepted several UPR recommendations aimed at eliminating human trafficking by strengthening the means of prevention and protection of victims.

Therefore, we would like the Committee to raise the issue of labor trafficking in Uganda and urge the government of Uganda to fully implement the 2009 Prevention of Trafficking in Person Act, as well as the National Action Plan for the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons 2019-2024. This includes to significantly increase the annual budget of the Coordination Office for Prevention of Trafficking in Persons. In addition, the Government of Uganda should improve its investigation and prosecution mechanisms and its training for the relevant justice professionals as well as enhancing collaboration with civil society organisations working on the issue.

I thank you.