



Universal Periodic Review 42<sup>nd</sup> session – Stakeholder’s Report

## Peru: Human Trafficking

Submitted to the Human Rights Council ahead of the Universal Periodic Review of Peru during the UPR 42<sup>nd</sup> session.

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Report submitted by:

**World Evangelical Alliance (WEA).** The WEA was founded in 1846 in London and has a special ECOSOC Consultative Status since 1997. Today, the WEA is a network of churches in 129 countries that have each formed an evangelical alliance and over 100 international organizations joining together to give a world-wide identity, voice, and platform to more than 600 million evangelical Christians.

**The Union of Evangelical Christian Churches of Peru (UNICEP)** was founded in 2003 and is a member of the WEA.

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1. Trafficking in persons has been a cause for concern in Peru in the last two decades. Recently, a complete legal framework has been developed and public policies have been implemented to combat human trafficking.
2. In 2021, two important milestones were achieved. First, law No. 31146 was enacted, amending the Penal Code, the Procedural Criminal Code and Law 28950 "Law against Trafficking in Persons and Illicit Trafficking of Migrants," with the purpose of systematizing the articles referring to the crimes of human trafficking and exploitation. Second, the National Policy against human trafficking and its forms of exploitation, valid until 2030 was approved and became the instrumental framework of public policies in the fight against human trafficking, with cultural and linguistic relevance, which will guide the action of the State in its three levels of government for the development of specified interventions.
3. In this context, the World Evangelical Alliance and the Union of Evangelical Christian Churches of Peru are advocating for two additional measures: (1) increasing justice operators specialized in human trafficking, and (2) strengthening protection of trafficked women and girls.

#### **Increasing justice operators specialized in human trafficking**

4. Given the complexity and transnational nature of the crime of human trafficking, it is desirable that in Peru police and justice operators specialize in addressing this crime with an emphasis on not revictimizing the victims. There are few justice operators specialized in human trafficking and these should not be removed from their posts, but instead should increase in number and also expand their skill-sets, knowledge and empathy. There should also be a greater number of women police officers and justice operators, who must have the necessary logistics and resources so that they can have a greater impact on the fight against human trafficking.
5. In a newspaper published on Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> July of this year, a report was disseminated about a major violation of women's rights in the area known as *La Pampa*, in the province of Madre de Dios, a place occupied by an illegal mining company. The number of sexually exploited trafficking victims is in the hundreds and many have disappeared. The police unit that specializes in human trafficking in Madre de Dios only has 10 police officers and one police vehicle, despite the size of the territory, and the dangers. In these conditions, efficient intervention is not possible, so trafficking for the purpose of sexual and labor exploitation continues in plain sight and with impunity.<sup>i</sup> This is a heartbreaking report that presents the reality of the failures of the Peruvian State, allowing many women and children to be condemned to an atrocious life and potentially murdered with impunity. This must be urgently reversed.
6. **Recommendation:** Increase the number of justice operators specialized in human trafficking, and build capacity of justice operators to address human trafficking.

#### **Strengthening protection of trafficked women and girls**

7. The emphasis in the fight against human trafficking has been focused on the investigation and punishment of crimes, meaning justice operators have communicated with victims mostly with the aim of obtaining their statements to incriminate and punish criminals rather than to restore their violated rights. As a result, these victims are often re-victimized by those who should protect and rehabilitate them. It is necessary to ensure that intervention teams are mixed gender, interdisciplinary, multi-sectoral and specialized to avoid generating new trauma for the victims.
8. Likewise, given that the victims of human trafficking are mostly girls, adolescents and young women, the implementation of specialized comprehensive care services should be promoted according to their age. Given the lack of comprehensive services for those over 18 years of age, its implementation is urgent. The Peruvian State must consider private-public partnership to facilitate better and more timely access to resources for emergency care, rehabilitation, and better socio-family reintegration plans. Consideration should also be given to the creation of comprehensive services for adult male victims, who do not currently have any shelters or specialized services.
9. It is also necessary to implement a follow-up program for the victims, both minors and adults. Only in this way will it be possible to know if they managed to overcome the traumatic experiences they have suffered, if they complied with their individual reintegration plans, to what extent their violated rights were restored, and to guarantee their violence-free futures as opposed to their return to the trafficking circuit.
10. **Recommendations:** (1) Promote victim-centered investigation of human trafficking with intervention teams that are mixed gender, interdisciplinary, and multi-sectoral; (2) Promote age-appropriate care services to human trafficking victims; and (3) implement follow-up program for human trafficking victims to guarantee long term protection and to prevent further human rights violations.

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<sup>i</sup> Latina T's Fourth Power ProgramV, where the investigation unit disseminated the journalistic report "La Pampa: No Man's Land" The Capital of Exploitation Sexual and Illegal Mining.