

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

## Mali

We would like to bring your attention to the following excerpts, taken directly from Treaty Body Concluding Observations and Special Procedure reports, relating to issues of interest and concern to UNHCR with regards to Mali.

### **Treaty Body Concluding Observations**

**CMW/C/MLI/CO/1 4<sup>th</sup> Session  
31 May 2006**

*14. The Committee takes note with concern of the lack of statistics on migration flows affecting Mali and on other migration-related issues. The Committee recalls that such information is indispensable to an understanding of the situation of migrant workers in the State party and to an assessment of the implementation of the Convention.*

***The Committee strongly encourages the State party to seek the necessary technical assistance in order to create a sound database, with data disaggregated by sex, that will enable it to comprehend the migration context and the situation of migrant workers in Mali, including those who are in an irregular situation, to monitor the implementation of each of the rights set out in the Convention, and to collect the data to be provided to the Committee relating to the effective exercise of each of those rights.***

*22. The Committee takes note with satisfaction of the efforts made by the State party to combat trafficking in children. Nevertheless, it is concerned to note that, as the State party acknowledges, trafficking in children continues to be a very serious problem in Mali. The Committee is particularly concerned at the trafficking in Malian children to other countries in the region and at the fact that they are subjected to slavery and forced labour. It is also concerned about the situation of migrant girls who are allegedly exploited.*

***The Committee recommends that the State party should intensify its efforts to combat trafficking in children, in cooperation with international governmental and non-governmental organizations, and to implement the recommendations made in this regard by the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on the Rights of the Child.***

*23. The Committee regrets the lack of information on measures taken by the State party to combat trafficking in women.*

***The Committee encourages the State party to take effective measures to combat trafficking in women and to provide more detailed information on this subject in its next report.***

**CCPR/CO/77/MLI 77<sup>th</sup> Session**  
**16 April 2003**

9. *The Committee, while welcoming the conclusion in 1992 of the National Pact between the Government and the rebel movement in the north of the country, regrets that it has not been provided with adequate information on the status of implementation of the peace agreements.*

*The Committee wishes to receive more detailed information in this regard, in particular on the repatriation of Malian refugees, economic and social development in the north, and the effects of the policy of decentralization on pacification and the situation of human rights in that region.*

20. *The Committee is concerned by reports of the hardship suffered by some 6,000 Mauritanian refugees who, for the last 10 years, have been living in the west of the country (Kayes region), are not registered, possess no identity papers, have the de facto status of stateless persons and whose right to physical security is not sufficiently protected.*

*The State party should enter into discussions with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), with a view to improving the status and conditions of these persons.*

**CRC/C/MLI/CO/2 44<sup>th</sup> Session**  
**3 May 2007**

10. *The Committee notes that the Convention takes precedence over national legislation and that certain legislative and regulatory steps have been taken to give effect to the Convention, such as the Child Protection Code and the draft Individuals and Family Code. However, the Committee remains concerned that a number of measures that would facilitate the full implementation of the Convention have not been undertaken.*

12. *The Committee also recommends that the State party ensure, through adequate legal provisions and regulations, that all child victims and/or witnesses of crimes e.g. abuse, domestic violence, sexual and economic exploitation, abduction, and trafficking are provided with the protection required by the Convention, and in doing so the State party take fully into account the United Nations Guidelines on Justice in Matters Involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime (annexed to Economic and Social Council resolution 2005/20 of 22 July 2005).*

37. *The Committee welcomes the State party's initiatives to promote birth registration, such as the campaigns undertaken on the Day of the African Child in 2003; the 2004-2008 action plan to improve registration of civil status ("Plan de la Mission d'Appui à la Consolidation de l'Etat Civil") and in 2006 the adoption of Law No. 06-024, which governs civil status and ensures free birth registration. However, the Committee is concerned that birth registration is a complicated process, that a large number of children are neither registered at birth nor at a later stage, and that*

*major disparities exist between the birth registration of children in urban and rural and remote areas.*

*38. The Committee recommends that the State party continue its efforts of systematic birth registration for all children born within the national territory, inter alia by ensuring a simplified and cost-free birth registration process, and by increasing the coverage of the mobile units, especially in rural and remote areas, in order to reach the most disadvantaged populations. The Committee also urges the State party to proceed with the registration of those children who have not yet been registered and to enable them to access, in particular, education and health care.*

*68. The Committee welcomes the various efforts taken by the State party to combat the trafficking of children, including by signing cooperative agreements with its neighbouring countries. However, the Committee remains concerned at the cross-border trafficking of children to other countries in the region and especially to Côte d'Ivoire, the lack of investigations opened and the lack of data on the number of children trafficked.*

*69. The Committee recommends that the State party:*

*(a) Take measures, including legislation, to prevent and protect children from being trafficked;*

*(b) Effectively implement a policy against trafficking, including by allocating appropriate financial and human resources and by introducing awareness-raising campaigns;*

*(c) Ensure that all cases of trafficking are investigated and that perpetrators are charged, convicted and punished in accordance with due process of law;*

*(d) Ensure the application of the cooperative agreements to control cross-border trafficking;*

*(e) Reinforce the community surveillance units in the frontier zones of Sikasso,*

*Ségou, Mopti and Koulikoro;*

*(f) Ensure the return of the child to its country and its family, if this is in the best interests of the child;*

*(g) Provide adequate programmes of assistance, recovery and reintegration for trafficked children, who should be treated as victims and neither criminalized nor penalized;*

*(h) Seek cooperation with, among others, UNICEF and the International Organization for Migration.*

**- End of excerpts -**

**Protection Operation and Legal Advice Section  
Division of International Protection Services  
UNHCR  
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