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MEDIA STATEMENT BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN LAW REFORM COMMISSION (SALRC) ON ITS INVESTIGATION INTO TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (PROJECT 131)

The SALRC releases its Report on Trafficking in Persons which contains the SALRC's final recommendations and a draft Bill.

The SALRC's investigation forms part of the South African government's response to the phenomenon of trafficking in persons. More specifically, the investigation seeks to enhance government's compliance with its international obligations as a State Party to the United Nations Protocol on Trafficking in Persons. The Protocol provides that each State Party must adopt legislative measures to criminalise the trafficking of persons.

The Report addresses three main aspects, namely the prevention of trafficking in persons, the prosecution of traffickers and other role-players, and the protection of victims of trafficking. In summary, the Report provides for:

- The establishment of public awareness programs or other measures for the prevention of trafficking in persons.
- The criminalisation of trafficking in persons and related acts such as subjecting a victim of trafficking to debt bondage, and destroying or confiscating the travel documents of victims of trafficking.
- Protective measures such as avenues for the reporting and referral of child and adult victims of trafficking respectively, a recovery and reflection period which will allow foreign adults certified as victims of trafficking to stay in the country for up to 90 days, immunity from prosecution for crimes committed as a direct result of being a victim of trafficking and the repatriation of victims of trafficking in terms of a process that takes cognisance of their safety not only during the repatriation process, but also in the countries to which they are to be returned or when returned to South Africa.
- The accreditation of organisations to provide certain services to adult victims of trafficking.
- Compensation to victims of trafficking for physical or psychological injury or for being infected with a life-threatening disease.

The Report will be made available on the Internet at: <http://salawreform.justice.gov.za>

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