

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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**REMARKS AT LAUNCH OF UNITED NATIONS TRUST FUND
FOR VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING
New York, 4 November 2010**

Mr. President,
Mr. Executive Director,
Excellencies,

Demi Moore, Ashton Kutcher, Nicholas Kristof, it is good to see you again.
Thank you for your strong advocacy,

To one and all, welcome.

Thank you for joining us as we launch the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking, Especially Women and Children.

We are *here* because trafficking is *everywhere*.

No part of our planet is immune.

Almost every country is affected by this crime, whether as a place of origin, transit or destination for victims.

Traffickers respect no geographic borders or moral boundaries.

The women, children and men they exploit are often taken far from their homes, sometimes halfway around the world.

Many victims end up stranded, friendless, trapped in modern day slavery.

They may not ask for help because they are isolated or cannot speak the local language.

Or they may be seized by fear — fear that they will be treated as criminals even though they have been forced to engage in criminal acts.

That is why it is so important that Member States are taking a united stand to end trafficking in persons.

And we have made progress.

141 States have become party to the United Nations Protocol against Human Trafficking. UNODC, as guardian of the Protocol, is to be commended for the outstanding technical assistance it has provided Member States in the ratification and implementation of this most important instrument.

The international community has an agreed definition of trafficking in persons. It is no longer an ignored crime. And we are seeing concerted action.

Many countries have adopted anti-human trafficking legislation...established anti-human trafficking police units...and set in motion national strategies to stop this horrible crime.

The General Assembly also recently launched the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking Persons.

All of these are critical steps that will help put traffickers where they belong – behind bars.

Our efforts will also identify more victims, who can get the help and care they so desperately need...reintegrate into society...and ensure they never again become a victim.

This is where the Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons can play such a vital role.

I call on Member States, the private sector and philanthropists to contribute generously.

To put it bluntly: I know this initiative has your *trust*...now we need your *funds*.

Your financial support will be pivotal to success.

Your generosity will give victims of human trafficking a fresh start.

Your assistance can help end one of the worst violations of human rights in our world.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment.

Thank you for having a heart for the victims of trafficking.