



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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Democracy and Human Rights

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Orphanage trafficking: The role of parliaments in reducing harm

***Explanatory memorandum submitted by the co-Rapporteurs,
Ms. L. Reynolds (Australia) and Mr. E. Bustamante (Peru)***

1. Every child, without distinction of any kind, has the right to protection from all forms of exploitation prejudicial to any aspects of the child's welfare.
2. An estimated 5.4 million children worldwide live in institutions, including so-called orphanages, that cannot meet their needs and neglect their rights. Of these, an estimated 80% or more are not orphans.
3. During the 146th IPU Assembly (held in Manama, Bahrain in March 2023), the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights held a debate on orphanage trafficking. The draft resolution echoes the observations and contributions of Member Parliaments and partner organizations in that debate.
4. The draft resolution calls on parliaments to take all necessary action to reform national legal frameworks to prevent orphanage trafficking and tourism, and align national policies and programmes with international human rights standards regarding the rights of the child.
5. The draft resolution affirms commitments to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography as well as the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transitional Organized Crime.
6. The draft resolution recognizes that addressing orphanage trafficking can advance achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
7. Finally, the draft resolution encourages parliaments, the IPU and other relevant partners to collaborate in order to take specific national actions, monitor progress, and to build the capacity of parliaments and parliamentarians to develop mechanisms to prevent and prosecute orphanage trafficking and to protect children subjected or susceptible to orphanage trafficking.

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