

# 1921 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF THE TRAFFIC IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN, AS AMENDED BY THE 1947 PROTOCOL

Amended by the Protocol signed at Lake Success, New York on 12 November 1947

[\[http://treaties.un.org/doc/Treaties/1950/04/19500424%2010-31%20PM/Ch\\_VII\\_2p.pdf\]](http://treaties.un.org/doc/Treaties/1950/04/19500424%2010-31%20PM/Ch_VII_2p.pdf)

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Albania, Germany, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, the British Empire (with Canada, the Commonwealth of Australia, the Union of South Africa, New Zealand and India), Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, the Netherlands, Persia, Poland (with Danzig), Portugal, Roumania, Siam, Sweden, Switzerland and Czechoslovakia;

Being anxious to secure more completely the suppression of the Traffic in Women and Children described in the preambles to the Agreement of May 18, 1904, and to the Convention of May 4, 1910, under the name of "White Slave Traffic";

Having taken note of the Recommendations contained in the Final Act of the International Conference which was summoned by the Council of the League of Nations and met at Geneva from June 30 to July 5, 1921 ; and

Having decided to conclude a Convention supplementary to the Arrangement and Convention mentioned above:

Have nominated for this purpose as their Plenipotentiaries:

THE PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF ALBANIA:

Monsignor Fan S. Noli, Member of Parliament, Delegate to the Second Assembly of the League of Nations.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE GERMAN REICH:

His Excellency Dr. Adolf Müller, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary in Berne.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE AUSTRIAN REPUBLIC:

His Excellency M. Albert Mensdorff-Pouilly-Dietrichstein, Former Ambassador, Delegate to the Second Assembly of the League of Nations.

His MAJESTY THE KING OF THE BELGIANS:

M. Michel Levie, Minister of State, President of the International Conference on Traffic in Women and Children.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BRAZIL:

His Excellency Dr. Gastão da Cunha, Ambassador in Paris, Delegate to the Second Assembly of the League of Nations.

His MAJESTY THE KING OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND AND OF THE BRITISH DOMINIONS BEYOND THE SEAS, EMPEROR OF INDIA:

The Right Honourable Arthur James Balfour, O.M., M.P., Lord President of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, Delegate to the Second Assembly of the League of Nations; and

FOR THE DOMINION OF CANADA:

The Right Honourable Charles Joseph Doherty, Minister of Justice and Attorney-General, Delegate to the Second Assembly of the League of Nations.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA:

Captain Stanley Melbourne Bruce, M.C., Member of the House of Representatives, Delegate to the Second Assembly of the League of Nations.

FOR THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA:

The Honourable Sir Edgar Harris Walton, K.C.M.G., High Commissioner for the Union of South Africa in the United Kingdom, Delegate to the Second Assembly of the League of Nations.

FOR THE DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND:

The Honourable Sir James Allen, K.C.B., High Commissioner for New Zealand in the United Kingdom, Delegate to the Second Assembly of the League of Nations.

FOR INDIA:

The Honourable Théo Russell, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of His Britannic Majesty in Berne.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHILE:

His Excellency M. Agustín Edwards, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at London, Delegate to the Second Assembly of the League of Nations.

His Excellency M. Manuel Rivas Vicuña, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary in Berne, Delegate to the International Conference on Traffic in Women and Children and to the Second Assembly of the League of Nations.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA:

His Excellency M. Ouang Yong-Pao, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary in Berne.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA:

His Excellency Dr. Francisco José Urrutia, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary in Berne, Delegate to the Second Assembly of the League of Nations.

His Excellency Dr. A. J. Restrepo, Barrister for the Republic in the Colombo-Venezuelan arbitration, Delegate to the Second Assembly of the League of Nations.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF COSTA RICA:

His Excellency M. Manuel Maria de Peralta, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary in Paris, Delegate to the Second Assembly of the League of Nations.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA:

His Excellency M. Guillermo de Blanck, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary in Berne and The Hague, Delegate to the Second Assembly of the League of Nations.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ESTHONIA:

His Excellency M. Antoine Piip, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Delegate to the Second Assembly of the League of Nations.

His MAJESTY THE KING OF THE HELLENES:

M. Vassili Dendramis, Director of the Permanent Greek Secretariat for the League of Nations, delegate to the International Conference on Traffic in Women and Children.

His SERENE HIGHNESS THE GOVERNOR OF HUNGARY:

M. Felix Parcher de Terjekfalva, Chargé d'Affaires in Berne.

His MAJESTY THE KING OF ITALY:

His Excellency the Marquis G. Imperiali dei Principi di Francavilla, Ambassador, Delegate to the Second Assembly of the League of Nations.

His MAJESTY THE EMPEROR OF JAPAN:

His Excellency M. le Baron G. Hayashi, Ambassador at London, Delegate to the Second Assembly of the League of Nations.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA:

M. M. V. Salnaïš, Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Delegate to the Second Assembly of the League of Nations.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LITHUANIAN REPUBLIC:

M. Ernest Galvanauskas, Minister for Finance, Commerce, Industry and Communications, Delegate to the Second Assembly of the League of Nations.

His MAJESTY THE KING OF NORWAY:

Dr. Fridtjof Nansen, President of the Norwegian Delegation to the Second Assembly of the League of Nations.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN OF THE NETHERLANDS :

Jonkheer A. T. Baud, Attaché at the Netherlands Legation in Berne.

His IMPERIAL MAJESTY THE SHAH OF PERSIA:

His Highness the Prince Arfa-ed-Dowleh, Delegate to the Second Assembly of the League of Nations.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE POLISH REPUBLIC:

M. Jean Perłowski<sup>1</sup>, Counsellor of Legation, Secretary-General of the Polish Delegation accredited to the League of Nations. Delegate to the International Conference on Traffic in Women and Children.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE PORTUGUESE REPUBLIC:

His Excellency, M. Alfredo Freiré d'Andrade, Former Minister for Foreign Affairs, Delegate to the Second Assembly of the League of Nations.

His MAJESTY THE KING OF ROUMANIA:

His Excellency M. E. Margaritesco Greciano, Minister Plenipotentiary and Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires in Berne, Delegate to the International Conference on Traffic in Women and Children.

His MAJESTY THE KING OF SIAM:

His Highness the Prince Charoon, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, Delegate to the International Conference on Traffic in Women and Children and to the Second Assembly of the League of Nations.

THE FEDERAL COUNCIL OF THE Swiss CONFEDERATION:

M. Giuseppe Motta, Federal Councillor, Head of the Political Federal Department, Delegate to the Second Assembly of the League of Nations.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK REPUBLIC:

His Excellency Dr. Robert Flieder, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary in Berne.

Who having communicated their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed upon the following provisions:

## **ARTICLE 1**

The High Contracting Parties agree that, in the event of their not being already Parties to the Agreement of May 18, 1904, and the Convention of May 4, 1910, mentioned above, they will transmit with the least possible delay, their ratifications of, or adhesions to, those instruments in the manner laid down therein.

## **ARTICLE 2**

The High Contracting Parties agree to take all measures to discover and prosecute persons who are engaged in the traffic in children of both sexes and who commit offences within the meaning of Article 1 of the Convention of May 4, 1910.

## **ARTICLE 3**

The High Contracting Parties agree to take the necessary steps to secure punishment of attempts to commit, and, within legal limits, of acts preparatory to the commission of the offences specified in Articles 1 and 2 of the Convention of May 4, 1910.

## **ARTICLE 4**

The High Contracting Parties agree that, in cases where there are no extradition Conventions in force between them, they will take all measures within their power to extradite or provide for the extradition of persons accused or convicted of the offences specified in Articles 1 and 2 of the Convention of May 4, 1910.

## **ARTICLE 5**

In paragraph B of the Final Protocol of the Convention of 1910, the words "twenty completed years of age" shall be replaced by the words "twenty-one completed years of age".

## **ARTICLE 6**

The High Contracting Parties agree, in case they have not already taken legislative or administrative measures regarding licensing and supervision of employment agencies and offices, to prescribe such regulations as are required to ensure the protection of women and children seeking employment in another country.

## **ARTICLE 7**

The High Contracting Parties undertake in connection with immigration and emigration to adopt such administrative and legislative measures as are required to check the traffic in women and children. In particular, they undertake to make such regulations as are required for the protection of women and children travelling on emigrant ships, not only at the points of departure and arrival, but also during the journey and to arrange for the exhibition, in railway stations and in ports, of notices warning women and children of the danger of the traffic and

## **ARTICLE 8**

The present Convention, of which the French and the English texts are both authentic, shall bear this day's date, and shall be open for signature until March 31st, 1922.

## **ARTICLE 9**

The present Convention is subject to ratification. As from 1 January 1948 instruments of ratification shall be transmitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who will notify the receipt of them to Members of the United Nations and to non-member States to which the Secretary-General has communicated a copy of the Convention. The instruments of ratification shall be deposited in the archives of the Secretariat of the United Nations.

In order to comply with the provisions of Article 18 of the Covenant of the League of Nations, the Secretary-General will register the present Convention upon the deposit of the first ratification.

## **ARTICLE 10**

Members of the United Nations may accede to the present Convention.

The same applies to non-member States to which the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations may decide officially to communicate the present Convention.

Accession will be notified to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who will notify all Members of the United Nations and the nonmember States to which the Secretary-General has communicated a copy of the Convention.

## ARTICLE 11

The present Convention shall come into force in respect of each Party on the date of the deposit of its ratification or act of accession.

## ARTICLE 12

The present Convention may be denounced by any State which is a Party thereto, on giving twelve months' notice of its intention to denounce.

Denunciation shall be effected by notification in writing addressed to the Secretary-General of...

***(CIL note: Missing pages from original document)***

## CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the attached document is a true copy of the English and French texts of the International Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Women and Children concluded at Geneva on 30 September 1921, as amended by the Protocol signed at Lake Success, New York, on 12 November 1947, done at Lake Success, New York, on 12 November 1947, the original of which is deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Chief, Treaty Section,  
Office of Legal Affairs

Palitha T. B. Kohona  
United Nations  
New York, July 2005

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<sup>1</sup> M. Perłowski is also authorised by the Polish Government to represent the Free City of Danzig.