**Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women**

**DRAFT General recommendation on Trafficking in**

**Women and Girls in the Context of Global Migration**

**ACRATH COMMENTS RE PARAGRAPH 72. Points e) and h) Pages 24 and 25**

1. **Strengthen the unconditional assistance and protection provided to victims of trafficking:**

**Paragraph 72. Point e) Page 24**

**Strengthen the provision of services to all victims of trafficking by providing enhanced human, technical and financial resources to social work centres and targeted training for social workers and medical staff dealing with victims;**

In terms of strengthening the provision of services to victim/survivors, it is imperative that frontline responders working in healthcare be provided with specialised training about Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery. In the case of forced marriage victim/survivors the training of midwives is particularly critical. Specialised training will help to build the capacity of frontline healthcare professionals to be in an informed position to assist victim/survivors beyond the presenting, immediate health needs. By being able to recognise the identifiers – Red Flags - healthcare professionals will be in a position to be able to safely identify victim/survivors and to use appropriate Referral Pathways via healthcare and community Social Workers to address the safety, protection and ongoing complex needs of victim/survivors.

**Paragraph 72. Point h) Page 25**

**Provide free and immediate access to these specialized shelters, high-quality medical care, psychosocial counselling, financial support, and educational and employment opportunities, in addition to access to free legal services, and specialized rehabilitation and reintegration services;**

The provision of support services - outside those associated with provision through law enforcement referral to formal Support Programs - needs to be addressed. In the case of victim/survivors of forced marriage, for example, there is a need to provide free and immediate access to crisis/emergency accommodation and then long-term and transitional accommodation. Victim/survivors of forced marriage are generally under the age of 18 years and have very little life and societal experience. As victim/survivors have far-reaching, complex needs accommodation services will be required to provide a strong support underpinning to enable them to holistically address these needs. Mental health and counselling needs are one critical element. So too is the need to address high-quality medical care needs – meaning connection to local acute health services is required. The provision of financial support is a baseline requirement, as is exploring educational and employment opportunities at an appropriate level of need. All these services will provide the necessary assistance to victim/survivors, so that their life trajectory is enhanced. The provision of these supports and services under one safe roof is seen as the best option for the long-term benefits of victim/survivors, as experience shows us that victim/survivors require the safety and security of an environment – where ongoing, supportive relationships are sustained, to work toward an overall responsive to their respective experiences.