



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

20 March 2013

Excellency,


It was a pleasure meeting you on 18 December 2012 at United Nations Headquarters and to exchange views on matters of mutual interest and concern. You may recall that you requested my advice regarding important but relatively neglected issues concerning contemporary forms of slavery, where some additional financial support could be useful in helping to address them.

In reviewing relevant United Nations reports and recommendations, it seems to me that the situation of women and child migrant domestic workers and their vulnerability to slavery-like practices and other forms of human rights violations stands out in particular. As the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery put it in 2010, domestic workers who are subject to abuse are “effectively being treated as slaves”, including slavery-like practices such as bonded domestic labour and child domestic labour.

A recent report by the International Labour Organization (ILO) highlights that the precarious legal status of migrant domestic workers – an estimated 52 million world-wide, the majority of them women – makes them particularly vulnerable to abusive practices. According to ILO, 15.5 million children are engaged in domestic work and more girls under the age of 16 are in domestic service than in any other category of child labour. ILO observes that most governments have failed to develop effective policy responses to assist and protect migrant children.

In light of these reports, I wish to invite you to consider this area as particularly urgent and worthy of attention. Should you be interested in taking this further, I would encourage you to be in contact with my Office, through Mr. Andrew Gilmour, Director of Political, Peacekeeping, Humanitarian and Human Rights (gilmour@un.org).

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.


BAN Ki-moon

The Honorable Kevin Rudd, MP
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra, A.C.T.

13-02478

HRT/03/002

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
CABINET DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL

REFERENCE:

20 March 2013

Excellency,

The Secretary-General would be grateful if you could kindly forward the enclosed letter to His Excellency Mr. Kevin Rudd, MP, former Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia.

A copy of the letter is attached for your information.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Susana Malcorra
Chef de Cabinet

His Excellency
Mr. Gary Francis Quinlan
Permanent Representative of Australia
to the United Nations
New York

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Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Susana Malcorra'.

Susana Malcorra
Chef de Cabinet

United Nations



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Executive Office of the Secretary-General
Cabinet du Secrétaire général

To: CdC (through DSG)

Please find attached for your approval and SG's signature a draft letter addressed to the former PM of Australia, H.E. Mr. Kevin Rudd, in follow-up to their meeting of 18 December 2012 during which Mr. Rudd inquired about areas concerning slavery where assistance would be welcome. (He has an extremely rich businessman friend who could contribute up to \$100 million, if we could help identify a particular issue related to slavery).

Upon the SG's request, PU has identified the situation of women and child migrant domestic workers and their vulnerability to slavery-like practices as particularly relevant, and prepared the SG's response.

The letter invites Mr. Rudd to contact me should he wish to take the matter further.

Approved
JE

AK
Political Unit
20 March 2013

PS: SG annotated in one of our Updates his agreement with this course of action.

13-02473

SG to Kevin Rudd

Drafter: KM
Proofread by: MZ
Seen in ODSG by: *CM*

13-02467 *20* March 13
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