

INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF THE "WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC"

His Majesty the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas, Emperor of India; His Majesty the German Emperor, King of Prussia, in the name of the German Empire; His Majesty the King of the Belgians; His Majesty the King of Denmark; His Majesty the King of Spain; the President of the French Republic; His Majesty the King of Italy; Her Majesty the Queen of the Netherlands; His Majesty the King of Portugal and of the Algarves; His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias; His Majesty the King of Sweden and Norway; and the Swiss Federal Council, being desirous of securing to women of full age who have suffered abuse or compulsion, as also to women and girls under age, effective protection against the criminal traffic known as the "White Slave Traffic", have decided to conclude an Agreement with a view to concerting measures calculated to attain this object, and have appointed as their Plenipotentiaries, that is to say:

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

Article 1

Each of the Contracting Governments undertakes to establish or name some authority charged with the coordination of all information relative to the procuring of women or girls for immoral purposes abroad; this authority shall be empowered to correspond direct with the similar department established in each of the other Contracting States.

Article 2

Each of the Governments undertakes to have a watch kept, especially in railway stations, ports of embarkation, and en route, for persons in charge of women and girls destined for an immoral life. With this object instructions shall be given to the officials, and all other qualified persons, to obtain, within legal limits, all information likely to lead to the detection of criminal traffic.

The arrival of persons who clearly appear to be the principals, accomplices in, or victims of, such traffic shall be notified, when it occurs, either to the authorities of the place of destination, or to the diplomatic or consular agents interested, or to any other competent authorities.

Article 3

The Governments undertake, when the case arises, and within legal limits, to have the declarations taken of women or girls of foreign nationality who are prostitutes, in order to establish their identity and civil status, and to discover who has caused them to leave their country. The information obtained shall be communicated to the authorities of the country of origin of the said women and girls, with a view to their eventual repatriation.

The Governments undertake, within legal limits, and as far as can be done, to entrust temporarily, and with a view to their eventual repatriation, the victims of a criminal traffic when destitute to public or private charitable institutions, or to private individuals offering the necessary security.

The Governments also undertake, within legal limits, and as far as possible, to send back to their country of origin those women and girls who desire it, or who may be claimed by persons exercising

authority over them. Repatriation shall only take place after agreement as to identity and nationality, as well as place and date of arrival at the frontiers. Each of the Contracting Countries shall facilitate transit through its territory.

Correspondence relative to repatriation shall be direct as far as possible.

Article 4

Where the woman or girl to be repatriated cannot herself repay the cost of transfer, and has neither husband, relations, nor guardian to pay for her, the cost of repatriation shall be borne by the country where she is in residence as far as the nearest frontier or port of embarkation in the direction of the country of origin, and by the country of origin as regards the rest.

Article 5

The provisions of the foregoing Articles 3 and 4 shall not affect any private Conventions existing between the Contracting Governments.

Article 6

The Contracting Governments undertake, within legal limits, to exercise supervision, as far as possible, over the offices or agencies engaged in finding employment for women or girls abroad.

Article 7

Non-Signatory States can adhere to the present Agreement. For this purpose they shall notify their intention, through the diplomatic channel, to the French Government, who shall acquaint all the Contracting States.

Article 8

The present Agreement shall come into force six months after the exchange of ratifications. If one of the Contracting Parties denounces it, this denunciation shall only have effect as regards that party, and that only twelve months after the date of denunciation.

Article 9

The present Agreement shall be ratified, and the ratifications shall be exchanged, at Paris, with the least possible delay.

IN FAITH WHEREOF the respective plenipotentiaries have signed the present Agreement, and thereunto affixed their seals.

DONE at Paris, the 18th May, 1904, in single copy, which shall be deposited in the archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the French Republic, and of which one copy, certified correct, shall be sent to each Contracting Party.

PROCÈS-VERBAL OF SIGNATURE

The undersigned plenipotentiaries, assembled this day for the purpose of proceeding to the signature

of the Agreement intended to secure effective protection against the "White Slave Traffic", have exchanged the following Declaration respecting the application of the said Agreement to the respective Colonies of the Contracting States:

Article 1

The countries signatories to the Agreement have the right to accede thereto at any time for their Colonies or foreign possessions.

They may do this either by a general Declaration comprehending all their Colonies or possessions within the accession, or by specially naming those comprised therein, or by simply indicating those which are excluded.

Article 2

The Government of His Britannic Majesty declare that they reserve the right to accede to the Agreement, and to denounce it for each of the British Colonies or possessions.

The German Government declare that they reserve their decisions on the subject of their Colonies.

The Danish Government declare that they reserve the right to accede to the Agreement for the Danish Colonies.

The Spanish Government declare that they reserve their decisions on the subject of their Colonies.

The French Government declare that the Agreement shall apply to all French Colonies.

The Italian Government declare that the Agreement shall apply to the Colony of Erythræa.

The Netherland Government declare that the Agreement shall apply to all the Netherland Colonies.

The Portuguese Government declare that they reserve the right to decide subsequently whether the Agreement shall be put into force in any of the Portuguese Colonies.

The Russian Government declare that the Agreement shall be applicable in its integrity to all the territory of the Empire in Europe and in Asia.

Article 3

Any Governments who may subsequently have declarations to make on the subject of their Colonies shall make them in the form provided in Article 7 of the Agreement.

At the moment of proceeding to the signature of the Agreement, his Serene Highness Prince Radolin, Ambassador of Germany, desires, in the name of his Government, to make the following declaration:

In the view of the German Government, the Rules which may exist between the German Empire and the country of origin respecting the mutual assistance of paupers are not applicable to persons who are repatriated in virtue of the present Agreement on their way through Germany.

IN FAITH WHEREOF plenipotentiaries have signed this procès-verbal.

DONE at Paris, 18 May 1904.