

Preface

by Pierre Sané, Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences Sector

UNESCO's ethical and intellectual mandate and its role in standard setting and policy promotion, places it in a key position to contribute to achieving the first of the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), that of eradicating poverty, especially extreme poverty and hunger.

'Poverty, Gender and Human Trafficking: Rethinking Best Practices in Migration Management' is the first publication of the UNESCO Poverty series. This series intends to provide food for thought in understanding poverty as a human rights issue and in proposing paths for action through scientific research on contemporary issues.

Human trafficking, often qualified as the 'modern day slavery', is caused by human rights violations embodied in poverty while it also contributes to increased deprivation. In other words, poverty is one of the main factors leading people, especially women and children to fall preys to the traffickers. In turn, human trafficking locks up the trafficked persons in poverty through exploitation. This vicious circle 'poverty – human trafficking – poverty' denies individuals the basic right to education and information, the right to health, the right to decent work, the right to security and justice.

'Poverty, Gender and Human Trafficking: Rethinking Best Practices in Migration Management' tries to unpack the interconnectedness between human trafficking and poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa, based on a critical analysis of migration processes in relation to human rights abuse. I hope that it can be used as a tool for all those who fight against this injustice to re-think the existing interventions and advocate for sustainable change by tackling trafficking at its roots.

Poverty and human trafficking will only cease when they are dequately addressed as two intermingled issues, which nurture each other and plunge vulnerable persons into deep deprivation and exploitation.