

PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE  
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES  
COMMITTEE ON INTER-AMERICAN SUMMITS MANAGEMENT  
AND CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION  
IN OAS ACTIVITIES

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APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN OAS ACTIVITIES  
PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 6 OF THE GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATION BY  
CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS IN OAS ACTIVITIES [CP/RES. 759 (1217/99)]

[Bilateral Safety Corridor Coalition (BSCC)]

ANALYSIS OF THE ELEMENTS RELATED TO THE APPLICATION BY  
*BILATERAL SAFETY CORRIDOR COALITION (BSCC)*  
TO PARTICIPATE IN OAS ACTIVITIES

This document was prepared by the Summits of the Americas Secretariat to provide Member States of the Organization of American States (OAS) with information on the civil society organization (CSO) *Bilateral Safety Corridor Coalition (BSCC)*.

The information contained in this report responds to resolution CP/RES. 759 (1217/99), "Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities." This document contains a summary and a list of supporting documentation presented by *BSCC* in accordance with the aforementioned Guidelines.

1. Background

*BSCC* is a non-profit association founded on October 1, 2002 in Spring Valley, California, USA with the objective of preventing the commercial and sexual exploitation of women and children while advocating for all exploited persons. It operates on both sides of the U.S.-Mexican border, in particular in National City, California in the U.S. and Tijuana in Mexico.

*BSCC* operates a network that provides emergency shelter, advocacy, and legal counseling to victims of trafficking in persons as well as an emergency hotline and a Trafficking Emergency Response Team that assesses victim needs and provides essential services such as shelter, legal aid, immigration counseling, case management, medical services, and employment training. The organization holds workshops, training sessions, and meetings in efforts to combat trafficking in persons. Its regional training seminar on trafficking in persons trained members of municipal, state, and federal governments in investigative techniques for law enforcement, domestic trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of minors, and inter-agency collaboration.

*BSCC* is comprised of 75 organizations; 22 of which are based outside the United States in Mexico, Guatemala, Dominican Republic, Panama, Costa Rica, and Ecuador. Representatives from these organizations comprise its Board of Directors.

U.S. government agencies, including the US Departments of State, Justice, Health & Human Services primarily fund *BSCC* activities. Grants from individual donors and program revenue also fund *BSCC*.

*BSCC* submitted its application on May 11, 2006.

2. Name, address, and date of establishment of the CSO

Name of the Organization: *Bilateral Safety Corridor Coalition (BSCC)*  
Address: 2050 Wilson Ave, Suite C  
National City, California 91950  
USA  
Telephone: (619) 336-0770  
Fax: (619) 336-0791  
E-mail address: llopez@bsccinfo.org  
Website: www.bsccoalition.org  
Executive Director: Marisa Ugarte  
Date established: October 1, 2002

3. Primary areas of activity of the CSO and their relationship to OAS activities

The main objective of *BSCC* is to preserve the dignity and well being of sexually exploited women and children through prevention, intervention, and education. Its activities are related to those of the OAS in the following areas:

- Increase awareness and provide education in an effort to combat trafficking in persons, particularly women and children among government officials and the general public;
- Promote the human rights of women and children as the primary victims of the crime of trafficking in persons;
- Foster cooperative strategies and partnerships between government and civil society organizations in efforts to combat trafficking in persons;
- Contribute to the strengthening of democratic governance through the development and implementation of social services and law enforcement.

4. CSO contributions that could be of interest to the OAS

*BSCC's* experiences in strengthening partnerships among key stakeholders in order to develop strategies to fight the crime of trafficking in persons, promote human rights, and strengthen law enforcement could be of interest to the OAS. In this regard, the following activities that *BSCC* carries out may be of interest to the OAS:

- Create a network that provides care, education, and advocacy to victims of trafficking in persons and commercial exploitation;
- Coordinate coalition task force members to prevent human rights violations of women and children forced into commercial and sexual exploitation;

- Hold conferences and forums on the problem of commercial sexual exploitation;
- Forge a regional public education network on exploitation issues in Southern California;
- Develop training materials to be used by border authorities in other areas;
- Lobby for immigration and border security policy change on the local, state, and federal levels;
- Make recommendations to law enforcement bodies for improved public policy regarding border security;
- Provide emergency services to victims of trafficking in persons crimes.

5. Identification of the OAS work areas in which the CSO proposes to support ongoing activities or to make recommendations on the best way to achieve OAS objectives

In collaboration with the OAS and its Member States, the *BSCC* could support efforts to combat trafficking in persons and strengthen and promote human rights through contributing research and best practices. In particular, *BSCC* can assist the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization in the following ways:

- Collaborate with the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Section of the Secretariat of Multidimensional Security to advance effective anti-trafficking in persons best practices in prevention, protection, investigation and prosecution;
- Assist in the implementation of existing OAS Anti-Trafficking in Persons (TIP) projects and training programs, as well as share expertise learned in previous programs;
- Promote cooperation among law enforcement officials and civil society organizations from border regions of North American countries;
- Collaborate with the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) to facilitate the exchange of information and best practices among member states that so request with a view to fighting the crime of trafficking in persons and expanding its research to include other member states;
- Promote dissemination of the American Convention of Human Rights, in particular Convention provisions pertaining to human rights of migrants; Bring evidence of human rights violations to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights;
- Monitor the fulfillment of 2004 General Assembly AG/RES. 2019, "Fighting the Crime of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women, Adolescents, and Children;" by studying integral cooperation mechanisms among the states to ensure protection of and assistance to the victims, prevention of the crime, and prosecution of its perpetrators;

- Assist the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Section in its reporting on activities being carried out by the various OAS organs to address the issue of trafficking in persons, and on developments in the Hemisphere, including progress in law enforcement, prevention, and the protection of and assistance to victims of trafficking;
- Disseminate and promote fulfillment of the commitments and recommendations developed by the member states in the context of the I Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons, held March 2006 on Isla Margarita, Venezuela.

6. Documents submitted by the CSO to the OAS

- Annual Report (2005)
- Mission Statement
- Bylaws
- 2005 Financial Report (audited by Ronald E. Grund, CPA)
- Articles of Incorporation
- List of Board of Directors
- Letter Addressed to the Secretary General (dated May 11, 2006)