

# Foreword

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As we are commemorating the bicentenary of the official abolition of slavery, millions of men, women and children across the world are still subjected to slave-like living and working conditions. Trafficking in human beings is the fastest growing means by which people are forced into exploitative migration and modern-day slavery.

Despite growing international mobilization, effective policies tackling the scourge at its roots remain scarce. Human trafficking is a sensitive topic, frequently associated with irregular migration, prostitution or child labour. It is consequently often approached in a highly ideological or political way.

By contrast, UNESCO has chosen to develop the concept of Best Practices in the fight against human trafficking, to encourage a more results-oriented approach to this sensitive issue. Best Practices provide a much-needed link between research and policy-making by inspiring decision-makers with successful initiatives and model projects that can make an innovative and sustainable contribution to actually solving problems in society.

In *'Poverty, Gender and Human Trafficking: Rethinking Best Practices in Migration Management'*, Thanh Dam Truong analyses how international organizations and NGOs intervene based on their understanding of trafficking and what they view as 'best' ways to fight it.

Indeed, practices in migration management carry a certain value system shaped among other things, by the agenda of those who implement them. There is thus a need for a more holistic approach and cooperative actions among agencies to multiply Best Practices to address human trafficking and its inner complexities.

We hope that this study is a first step in this direction.