



The actor Nicolas Cage today lent his support to victims of human trafficking.

Attending an event in the Austrian capital of Vienna, the actor, film-maker and Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), called for greater attention to the issue, while helping to raise private sector funds for victims. A highlight of the evening was the auction of a specially designed “Blue Heart” carpet - an international symbol increasingly being adopted by governments, civil society, the private sector and individuals in the fight against this scourge.

“As a global society, we cannot tolerate people being bought and sold as commodities. We cannot fight for a better planet and for the rights of all its beings while we allow our own species to trick, abuse and brutally exploit each other for profit. We cannot stand quietly on the sidelines, while humans are being shipped and traded across the globe,” Cage stated.

“A person stripped of their documents, their rights and their dignity needs specialized help.

They need to rebuild their lives brick by brick. Your contribution tonight can provide vital help to these victims," Cage appealed.

Human trafficking affects every country in the world. Victims are trafficked for sexual exploitation and forced labour. A recent UNODC report found that women and girls make up 75 per cent of detected victims, with girls constituting two out of every three child victims.

While in Vienna, Mr. Cage renewed his appointment made in 2010 as UNODC Goodwill Ambassador for Global Justice, saying it was a title and position he was "very proud to hold. Of all the experiences I have had in my life this has been the most humbling and challenging of responsibilities."

*(UN Information Service, Vienna, UN Photo/Mark Garten)*