



THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S PRIORITY ACTIONS TO **COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Human trafficking is a crime that impacts all races, ethnicities, genders, and socio-economic classes. Traffickers prey on the vulnerabilities of their intended victims, depriving them of their dignity and self-worth, and endangering their physical and mental well-being, for the purposes of profit. Human trafficking is modern slavery.

The National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking (NAP) presents the U.S. government's broad-based, multi-disciplinary, whole-of-government response to eradicating human trafficking. This plan is built around the "three pillars" laid out in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA): Prevention, Protection, and Prosecution. Under the heading of each pillar, the NAP identifies foundational principles and associated priority action items. The United States also recognizes the invaluable benefit of implementing collaborative and cooperative efforts which crosscut all three pillars and involve a multitude of stakeholders and professionals from various disciplines and sectors.

Human trafficking is an intolerable blight on any society that values freedom, individual rights, human dignity, and the rule of law. My Administration is committed to leveraging every resource we have to confront this threat, support victims, and hold traffickers accountable.

PILLAR 1: PREVENTION

The U.S. government is committed to strengthening its response to preventing human trafficking. Strategic prevention programs will be wide-ranging, from targeted education of vulnerable populations and mitigating risk factors, to demand reduction efforts related to sex trafficking, to prohibiting goods produced with forced labor from entering U.S. markets. Prevention initiatives will include the following foundational principles:

1. Enhance education and outreach efforts

Prevention starts with education. Communities benefit from knowing the threat they could be facing and what actions they could take to prevent crime from occurring. The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) – along with many federal partners – will develop and disseminate culturally-sensitive and age-appropriate tools to communities, schools, law enforcement, and other

stakeholders to implement effective prevention programs at the federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial level.

2. Strengthen efforts to address demand reduction

If there were no demand, there would be no human trafficking. Cultivating a better understanding of what types of demand-reduction efforts are most effective will lead to better informed, evidence-based policymaking. The Senior Policy Operating Group (SPOG)—representatives of federal agencies who coordinate on anti-trafficking efforts—will establish a working group to examine the role of demand-reduction efforts in preventing human trafficking.

3. Strengthen efforts to identify, prevent, and address labor trafficking in product supply chains

Governments, the private sector, and individuals can all make a difference in addressing human trafficking in product supply chains. The United States has a standing policy prohibiting government employees, contractors, subcontractors, grantees, and subgrantees from engaging in trafficking in persons. Federal agencies with significant spending levels and/or heightened risk of labor trafficking in government contracts will increase efforts to ensure implementation of anti-trafficking acquisition rules. These agencies will also develop initiatives to provide information to key partners in the private sector about forced labor in product supply chains.

4. Enhance capacity to prohibit goods produced with forced labor

International trade enforcement practices require constant vigilance to prevent products manufactured with forced labor from entering the United States. The Office of the United States Trade Representative will coordinate with other federal agencies and ensure that U.S. trade policy reflects the U.S. anti-trafficking strategy and priorities.

5. Enhance protections from trafficking in visa programs

Persons entering the United States on nonimmigrant visas can be vulnerable to human trafficking due to their lack of knowledge regarding laws and protections in the U.S. The SPOG will review current protections for workers across employment-based nonimmigrant visa programs and propose recommendations to the U.S. Department of State (DOS). DOS will continue to monitor and support implementation of bilateral agreements with key countries concerning U.S. temporary worker programs and expand to additional countries.

PILLAR 2: PROTECTION

The U.S. government is committed to offering a number of interventions, services, and support to protect and assist victims of human trafficking. Protection starts with robust outreach and proactive identification efforts. Protection of victims continues through providing comprehensive services as they begin to heal in a safe environment. Consistent application of victim-centered, trauma-informed strategies encourages victims to safely come forward, report to law enforcement, and participate as witnesses in criminal investigations and prosecutions. Protection initiatives will include the following foundational principles:

1. Develop/update and implement screening forms and protocols

The wide variety of professionals likely to encounter human trafficking victims should be familiar with indicators of human trafficking, so that they can identify victims and refer them for appropriate services and/or to law enforcement. Therefore, the best tools, training and resources should be available to these professionals. The SPOG will develop or update screening forms and protocols to be used by all federal officials who have the potential to encounter a human trafficking victim in the course of their regular duties. Federal agencies will also ensure that appropriate screening forms and model protocols are available to health care professionals, social workers, and other front-line workers who may encounter a victim of human trafficking.

2. Enhanced training for those on the frontlines

The U.S. government will make every effort to ensure that any of its employees who may interact with a trafficking victim is trained and equipped to properly respond. Each SPOG department or agency will ensure victim-centered training and awareness materials are routinely updated and disseminated to federal employees that may come in contact with a trafficked person or trafficking scenario. Additionally, DOJ will continue to ensure frontline professionals at the state, local, tribal, and territorial levels have access to the most up-to-date and effective training to enhance victim identification, investigation and prosecution, as well as appropriate victim services.

3. Increase access to public awareness materials

Engaging the public in helping to identify victims of human trafficking is an essential step in eradicating this pervasive crime. It is equally important that victims have access to information on how to get assistance. The SPOG Public Awareness and Outreach Committee will coordinate with relevant federal partners to ensure the dissemination of information and materials necessary for stakeholders to conduct effective public awareness campaigns, ideally at

airports, schools, medical facilities, federal buildings and other locations, as well as on social media.

4. Ensure victims of human trafficking are safeguarded

The U.S. government will continue its efforts to ensure that victims of human trafficking are properly identified as such and not inappropriately incarcerated or penalized criminally. Federal law enforcement agencies will review existing training and policies to ensure the inclusion of appropriate guidance on proper identification and response to a victim of human trafficking, including that a victim should not be inappropriately incarcerated or penalized for engaging in unlawful activity as a direct result of being a victim in a human trafficking scheme. The U.S. government will also encourage state, local, tribal, and territorial governments to adopt similar policies and training.

5. Expand and improve federal assistance to victims of human trafficking

Federal victim assistance provides critical support to survivors in the aftermath of a crime, and thus is an integral part of the criminal justice process and the restoration of the victim. Federal criminal investigative agencies will ensure victim assistance personnel is available throughout the United States and appropriately trained to provide services to victims of human trafficking.

6. Seek financial remedies for victims

For some victims, financial remedies that permit them to meet their own basic needs and those of any dependents are the most important aspect of justice. DOJ and federal investigative agencies should conduct comprehensive training regarding the investigation, imposition (charging through sentencing), transfer of forfeiture to victims under the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, and collection of restitution. DOJ will develop public materials on advocating for restitution in a case and the availability of other financial remedies, such as private civil causes of action and crime victims compensation programs.

7. Increase access to services for victims

Human trafficking survivors who have experienced trauma and other harmful effects may require social services, healthcare and other programs to rebuild their lives. The U.S. government funds a range of services and grant programs, some of which are available to human trafficking survivors. Based on available appropriations, the U.S. government will prioritize funding for mental health services, shelter and safe housing, access to education and employment opportunities, and other assistance as needed for survivors of human trafficking. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will ensure that the federally funded National Human Trafficking Hotline will be able to make referrals to victim services, as appropriate.

PILLAR 3: PROSECUTION

The U.S. government is committed to holding individuals and entities engaged in human trafficking accountable and to dismantling human trafficking networks. The investigation and prosecution of human trafficking present a distinct set of challenges. Many human trafficking violations span years, involve dozens or hundreds of victims, and often cross jurisdictions. The target of an investigation may lead to an extensive network of potentially culpable co-conspirators, including facilitators who benefit financially and buyers of goods, labor, or services who turn a blind eye to victims. Asset forfeiture and restitution are valuable and effective tools available in such cases.

Often, multiple investigative agencies must deploy experts to dismantle large criminal enterprises involved in human trafficking due to other offenses such as narcotics, immigration, racketeering, money laundering, fraud, extortion, sexual exploitation, and to disgorge profits. Often, multiple investigative agencies must deploy experts to dismantle large criminal enterprises involved in human trafficking due to other offenses such as narcotics, immigration, racketeering, money laundering, fraud, extortion, sexual exploitation, and to disgorge profits. Therefore, the U.S. government must commit significant law enforcement and victim assistance resources over multiple years to eviscerate a human trafficking enterprise and bring offenders to justice. To confront these complexities, federal investigators and prosecutors must improve coordination among themselves and their partners, deploy a broad range of federal enforcement tools, build strategies to combat labor trafficking, and ensure advanced training on an ongoing basis. Prosecution initiatives will include the following foundational principles:

1. Improved coordination among law enforcement to increase criminal enforcement

To target and dismantle complex human trafficking networks and hold human traffickers accountable, federal prosecutors and law enforcement agencies must leverage the diverse perspectives, skills, and capacities of many partnerships.

To that end, federal partners will seek to secure sufficient resources to maintain the successful Anti-Trafficking Coordination Teams. Together with the Diplomatic Security Service, federal partners will further elevate labor trafficking as a priority for investigations and prosecutions.

Further, DOJ and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will work to expand the impact of the U.S.-Mexico Bilateral Human Trafficking Enforcement Initiative by leveraging DOJ, DHS, and partners' intelligence and analysis to expedite simultaneous investigations and prosecutions in multiple U.S. and Mexican jurisdictions. The Treasury Department's enforcement agencies will continue to augment cross-border human trafficking investigations in coordination with DOJ to leverage money laundering expertise. DOJ will also continue to evaluate, improve, and expand the Enhanced Collaborative Model Task Forces to Combat Human Trafficking program, and develop a strategy to ensure that task forces are sustainable.

Additionally, DOJ will develop a protocol to refer human trafficking cases that will not be federally criminally prosecuted so that other criminal, civil, and administrative authorities can be exercised.

2. Build capacity of law enforcement to investigate and prosecute

Law enforcement investigators require advanced training to address the complex crime of human trafficking. Training programs should be survivor-informed, and include topics such as: strategies to implement a victim-centered, trauma-informed approach; developing evidence of a victim's state of mind to use in prosecutions for coercion-based crimes; engaging in proactive investigations relying on financial and other intelligence; and investigating financial crimes and identifying assets.

To that end, DOJ will convene a working group that brings together investigative and prosecutorial stakeholders from the federal, state, local, tribal and territorial levels to increase prosecutions, and identify subject matter experts available to provide training and outreach. These efforts will include enhancing the capabilities to locate children who are missing, including those that have run away or are vulnerable to human trafficking. DOJ and HHS will work with the social media and technology industry to identify potential barriers to their voluntary reporting of suspected human trafficking on their platforms, as well as possible solutions. DOJ, DHS, and HHS will also work with the social media and technology industry, NGOs and academia to develop and adopt innovative technical tools to interdict human trafficking.

DOJ, in coordination with DOS, DOL, Treasury, and DHS, will adopt policies which ensure appropriate coordination and strategic engagement in investigating and prosecuting labor trafficking. And finally, DOJ will enhance its efforts to investigate and prosecute the demand associated with human trafficking, as well as other facilitators of human trafficking.

3. Enhance efforts to bring traffickers to justice by deploying a broader range of non-criminal tools

The U.S. government can deploy a range of federal enforcement options – including non-criminal civil forfeiture actions, financial tools including sanctions and anti-corruption measures, travel restrictions, and enforcement of reporting requirements – in conjunction with or as an alternative to criminal prosecution of human trafficking crimes, to disrupt criminal networks and enhance accountability. Federal agencies, including Treasury and DOS, will further leverage a broad range of tools designed to target and deter malign actors, such as financial sanctions. DOT will continue to implement the No Human Trafficking on Our Roads Act and its implementing regulation that requires every state to permanently ban drivers convicted of a severe form of trafficking offense from operating a commercial motor vehicle for which a commercial driver's license or a commercial learner's permit is required. Further, the federal government will propose legislation to facilitate revocation of passports and other

administrative actions against individuals convicted of certain travel-related human trafficking and child sexual exploitation crimes

PILLAR 4: CROSSCUTTING APPROACHES

(Collaboration and Coordination)

Effectively combating human trafficking requires collaboration to complement and support the other three pillars of prevention, protection, and prosecution. This whole-of-government response will undoubtedly lead to better outcomes. The federal government's modeling of a coordinated effort may also encourage states and other localities to adopt a similar approach. Collaboration and coordination initiatives will include the following foundational principles:

1. Strengthen the understanding of human trafficking in the United States

The U.S. government cannot effectively prosecute traffickers, assist victims, and prevent trafficking, without first improving its understanding of the nature of the threat and its association with transnational organized crime and illicit financial activity. Specifically, the U.S. government must better combine sources of information to map the threat: who is involved, what illicit activity are they engaged in, and what are the associated financial flows. It is imperative that agencies use the most current information to ensure that methodology to combat human trafficking keeps pace with current illicit practices. The SPOG will develop a strategic intelligence assessment of both labor and sex trafficking that has a nexus to the United States, and the SPOG Research and Data Committee will work with federal agencies to determine what additional research is needed to better understand the impact of human trafficking and to identify recommendations to bolster effective interventions.

2. Enhance information sharing

Multidisciplinary approaches and interagency coordination on enforcement actions is imperative for successfully preventing human trafficking, protecting victims, and prosecuting human traffickers. Streamlining access to actionable data allows for maximum leverage of federal tools against significant human trafficking threats. The SPOG will coordinate with federal agencies to ensure the existence of interagency mechanisms for information sharing, including intelligence sharing between law enforcement and the intelligence community. And federal agencies will establish standards and make resources available for human trafficking data collection, fusion, analysis, and dissemination of intelligence related to human trafficking.

3. Strengthen federal anti-trafficking efforts by incorporating survivor input

Survivor input into anti-trafficking efforts is critical. Survivor voices are a vital part of establishing effective and comprehensive anti-trafficking strategies that advance prosecution, protection, and prevention efforts. Federal agencies should continue to strengthen

engagement with the U.S. Advisory Council on Human Trafficking and consider implementation of its recommendations wherever possible. Agencies should also develop a trauma-informed plan to work with survivors who have subject-matter expertise and relevant skills. Through the Human Trafficking Expert Consultant Network, DOS will lead an effort to assess successes and challenges of federal efforts to engage survivors.

4. Strengthen federal anti-trafficking efforts through coordination

Stakeholders and the public need information on human trafficking in order to take action. Engagement, information sharing, and consistent messaging from the U.S. government with external partners is essential. The SPOG Public Awareness and Outreach Committee will work with federal agencies to create a comprehensive inventory and description of federal human trafficking prevention and protection outreach efforts, awareness campaigns, toolkits and any evaluations of their effectiveness. For the next Five Country Ministerial meeting (a forum at which the U.S., Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the U.K. discuss emerging threats), federal agencies will develop a recommendation on how to better collaborate on human trafficking, such as in the areas of intelligence and information sharing, emerging technologies, joint investigations and assessments, victim protection, and policy initiatives.

CONCLUSION

Significant progress to combat human trafficking has occurred in the past 20 years because of the United States' global leadership, its comprehensive legal framework, dedication to the rule of law, and the significant resources devoted to this cause. But there is still work to do in order to eradicate this incredibly destructive crime. The Trump Administration's commitment to ending human trafficking will never waver. The broad-based, whole-of-government approach outlined here, and at greater length in the National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking, represents that commitment. This Administration will continue to direct executive agencies to identify gaps in their ability to prevent human trafficking, protect victims of trafficking, and prosecute the vile criminals who perpetrate it.

As President Trump said in designating January 2020 as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, we "renew our resolve to redouble our efforts to deliver justice to all who contribute to the cruelty of human trafficking, and we will tenaciously pursue the promise of freedom for all victims of this terrible crime."