

## STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT



### Tool 2.6 Guiding principles in developing responses to trafficking in persons

#### Overview

*This tool suggests guiding principles which should be borne in mind when developing strategies and action plans, and resources which can assist.*

There are some key principles which must be at the core of all national, regional and international strategies and plans of action mounted against trafficking in persons. Several resources offer principles which should be borne in mind during the strategic planning process; the following examples are only a selection.

### Recommended resources

#### ***Ten guiding principles in developing action plans and strategies against trafficking in persons***

##### ***(Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe)***

1. Protecting the rights of trafficked persons should be the first priority of all anti-trafficking measures;
2. An infrastructure to combat human trafficking should work on the basis of a broad definition of trafficking in order to have the ability to respond rapidly to different forms of trafficking;
3. Support and protection services should be accessible for all categories of trafficked persons;
4. A protection mechanism should include a wide range of different specialized services, addressing the specific needs of each individual;
5. Victim-protection mechanisms based on human rights can help secure successful prosecution;
6. Combating trafficking in human beings requires a multidisciplinary and cross-sector approach, involving all relevant actors from Government and civil society;
7. A structure to combat trafficking in human beings should assess and build on existing national capacity in order to foster ownership and sustainability;
8. The guiding principles of an action plan or strategy should include transparency and assignment of clear responsibilities and competencies according to the different mandates of all actors involved;

9. Action plans and strategies are building blocks of effective regional and international cooperation to combat trafficking and assist its victims;
10. The process of implementing an action plan or strategy should be embedded in an overall democratization process to ensure accountability and legitimacy.



Source: *National Referral Mechanisms: Joining Efforts to Protect the Rights of Trafficked Persons* (Warsaw, OSCE, 2004), available at: [www.osce.org/publications/odihhr/2004/05/12351\\_131\\_en.pdf](http://www.osce.org/publications/odihhr/2004/05/12351_131_en.pdf)

### ***Guiding principles for forming the conceptual framework for comprehensive anti-trafficking responses***

#### ***(International Centre for Migration Policy Development)***

##### *Government ownership*

State actors should assume full participation, responsibility and accountability in defining objectives, implementing activities and achieving outcomes of national anti-trafficking responses.

##### *Civil Society participation*

Both the development and implementation of programmes and measures against trafficking must involve stakeholders who are independent of the State and outside the Government and public administration. Stakeholders must play an active role in decision-making and their views should be adequately reflected in the design and implementation of anti-trafficking responses.

##### *Human rights-based approach*

Anti-trafficking responses should be based normatively on international human rights standards and operationally should promote and protect human rights, especially those of victims. Such an approach asserts that the human rights of victims are at the core of anti-trafficking responses.

##### *Interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral approach*

Effective counter-strategies must address different aspects of trafficking simultaneously. Knowledge of and expertise in different disciplines and their methods must be combined to develop measures against trafficking.

##### *Sustainability*

Structures and systems that are put in place must endure over the long term and adapt creatively to changing conditions. There should be no critical dependencies (e.g., major external donor funding) which could compromise the longevity of the response.



*Guidelines for the Development and Implementation of a Comprehensive National Anti-Trafficking Response* (Vienna, 2006) available from the International Centre for Migration Policy Development ([www.icmpd.org](http://www.icmpd.org)). Section B of this resource deals specifically with guiding principles. Section F of this resource provides a model strategy.

***Report of the Expert Group on Strategies for Combating the Trafficking of Women and Children***  
***(Commonwealth Secretariat)***

Law Ministers of the Commonwealth, at a meeting held in Trinidad and Tobago in 1999, concluded that the Commonwealth Secretariat should propose strategies to assist States in developing national and regional initiatives against human trafficking.

The Human Rights Unit of the Commonwealth Secretariat convened a Commonwealth expert group on unlawful trafficking of women and children in June 2002, to develop strategies to combat trafficking in accordance with international standards and identify guidelines based on gender and rights-based approaches, drawing on international guidelines. The Expert Group on Strategies for Combating the Trafficking of Women and Children asserted that responses to trafficking must be mainstreamed at all levels of Government policy and programming and that coordinated action should be undertaken at the regional and international levels.

The Expert Group developed a set of proposals concerning:

- (a) Gender-responsive, rights-based approaches to trafficking;
- (b) Prevention strategies;
- (c) Assistance to victims of trafficking;
- (d) Research and the creation of a database;
- (e) Treatment of child victims.



The Report of the Expert Group on Strategies for Combating Trafficking of Women and Children is available at:  
[www.thecommonwealth.org/Internal/39443/expert\\_groups/](http://www.thecommonwealth.org/Internal/39443/expert_groups/)

***Tools for developing national plans of action against commercial sexual exploitation of children***

Though not specifically focused on trafficking, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific *Toolkit for Implementing and Monitoring the East Asia and Pacific Regional Commitment and Action Plan against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children* is a valuable resource. It contains various tools for developing and implementing plans of action and sample worksheets to facilitate the process.



The Toolkit is available at:

[www.unescap.org/publications/detail.asp?id=1156](http://www.unescap.org/publications/detail.asp?id=1156)