



## **Media Release**

For immediate release  
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### **UNODC commends the Government of South Africa on Trafficking in Persons Law**

**The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime congratulates the Government of South Africa for passing the new law on Trafficking in Persons. By signing the Bill into law last week, H.E. President Jacob Zuma and the Government of South Africa have taken a very important step in combating human trafficking effectively. UNODC stands ready to provide any support necessary to assist the Government.**

Worldwide, every year, thousands of men, women and children fall into the hands of traffickers, in their own countries and abroad. Every country in the world is affected by trafficking, whether as a country of origin, transit or destination for victims.

The South African Trafficking in Persons Law is a comprehensive piece of legislation which gives practical expression to the country's international obligations in terms of the Palermo Protocol (The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children). It sends a strong message to traffickers by imposing tough penalties for the commission of the offence and other forms of unlawful conduct facilitating it.

It contains detailed provisions addressing prevention of trafficking in persons, including through awareness raising interventions amongst most vulnerable people, which is critical to addressing the core of the problem.

UNODC further welcomes that, in line with the South African culture of human rights, the law has strong victim support and assistance provisions. It distinguishes between child and adult victims and recognises special protection needs for children.

2012 UNODC Global TiP Report revealed that in Africa and the Middle East 68% of identified victims were children. The South African law takes this strongly into consideration.

UNODC Regional Representative for Southern Africa, Mr Mandiaye Niang commented: *"This step taken by South Africa is not only important for the victims of trafficking in South Africa, but also sets an example for other countries. UNODC stands ready to assist the South African Government to implement this law with its global expertise in combating human trafficking – the crime that shames us all".*

– End –

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**MAKING THE WORLD SAFER FROM DRUGS, CRIME AND TERRORISM**

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**Note to editors:**

UNODC is the guardian of the [United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking In Persons, Especially Women and Children.](#)

UNODC provides global legal and technical advice and assistance on the ratification and implementation of the Convention and Protocol including capacity building for Member States of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in this regard.

**Prevention**

*Research • Awareness Raising • Border Management*

**Protection of victims**

*Identification of Victims • Development of Referral Schemes • Assistance to Victims • Repatriation and Reintegration*

**Prosecution**

*Development of Legislation • Training on Effective Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Responses*

**National coordination**

*Development of Policy and National Plans of Action • Establishment of National Coordinating Mechanisms*

**International cooperation**

*Mutual Legal Assistance • Extradition • Confiscation of Proceeds of Crime • Sharing of Information • Joint Investigations*

[www.unodc.org/southernafrica](http://www.unodc.org/southernafrica)

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/index.html?ref=menuaside>