NATIONAL REFERRAL MECHANISMS

JOINING EFFORTS TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF TRAFFICKED PERSONS

A National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is a co-operative, national framework through which governments fulfil their obligations to protect and promote the human rights of victims of trafficking.

It enables the co-ordination of their efforts in a strategic partnership with civil society organisations, the private sector, survivor leaders and other actors working in the field.
NRM Handbook: 2004 and 2022
The role of Survivors and Survivor Leaders is at the heart of NRMs

“Survivor-Leaders are highly active in international efforts to combat trafficking. They have lived experienced, knowledge and insight into the methods and activities of traffickers, together with an unrivalled understanding of survivors’ individual needs, and the specific risks that they face.”
What does the updated Handbook provide?

12 NRM PRINCIPLES

- Identification plus Protection
- Individual Support and Access to Services
- Social Inclusion
- Criminal Justice and Redress

Recommended Standards for Implementation
Multi-disciplinary and multi-agency partnership is the key to effective NRMs
Inside the updated NRM Handbook
**NRM Preparatory Guide:**

- Understanding ‘vulnerability’ and related needs and risks
- Advocates for adults and Guardian Advocates for Children
- Multi-agency, multi-disciplinary partnership
- NRM procedures and services for children
- Age dispute and age estimation assessment
- Effective professional communications and conduct
- Communications with children; The Lundy Model
- Pastoral support and supervision for professionals

**NRM Protocol:**

- Confidentiality and informed consent
- Data protection and information sharing
- Working with survivors who have disabilities
- Tailoring services for survivors
- Assessment and safety planning for adults and children
- Interpreters and cultural mediators
- Early access to healthcare services
- Early access to free legal advice and representation
- Prioritising practical, financial and material needs
The Four NRM Pillars

**PILLAR ONE: Identification + Protection**

"As a victim of trafficking, you learn to be very careful. My trafficker told me: "There is an angel who can confirm your identity for you." He was a fraudster who used this fact to control your freedom of movement and to keep your identity hidden. But he was also a real angel for me because he showed me that there was someone who really cared for me and believed in me." -- Jodie Khan, Anti-trafficking activist and survivor teacher

**PILLAR TWO: Individual Support and Access to Services**

"With the help of human trafficking, I found myself in constant danger and was constantly afraid. I was unable to escape and had no means to protect myself. But when I was finally rescued, I realized that I was not alone. I found a safe place where I could start rebuilding my life." -- Shantel Nwokoro, Chair of GFAC, founder of Global Forum Against Slavery and Human Rights

**PILLAR THREE: Social Inclusion**

"Gender-based violence and human trafficking are intertwined. Women and girls are often used as a tool to exploit and control other people. We need to work together to create a safer world for everyone." -- Nancy Ma, Member of GFAC, Independent Anti-Trafficking Consultant, OSCE in Moldova and survivor teacher

**PILLAR FOUR: Access to Criminal Justice and Redress**

"Human rights violations are violations of fundamental freedoms that are non-derogable. They include the right to life, the right to liberty and security of person, the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion, the right to be free from discrimination, and the right to seek and receive refuge. They are non-derogable freedoms that are protected by international law and should be upheld in every case." -- Stephen Parson, Co-Chair of the GFAC and the Western Hemisphere Regional Coordinator for GFAC

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The Four NRM Pillars

Pillar One: Identification plus Protection

Pillar Two: Individual Support and Access to Services

Pillar Three: Social Inclusion

Pillar Four: Access to Criminal Justice and Redress
The Adult and Children Assessment Guides

1. Key details for each assessment or review
2. Immediate risk assessment (with next steps)
3. Core needs & risks assessment
4. Ongoing safety and support plan
5. Components of the adult and child needs and risks assessment
5. Template record of all assessments and reviews
Promising Practices from across the OSCE