

technical assistance international cooperation
prevention partnerships legislative assistance
protection Trafficking in Persons Protocol
trainings policy development mock trials prosecution
model laws capacity development
awareness raising

Transnational Organized Crime Trafficking in Persons

The *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children* (Trafficking in Persons Protocol) supplements the *United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime*. To date, 170 States have become parties to the Trafficking in Persons Protocol. The Protocol requires State Parties to criminalize trafficking in persons and take a range of measures to meet the three objectives of the Protocol: (i) prevent and combat trafficking in persons, paying particular attention to women and children, (ii) protect and assist the victims of such trafficking, with full respect for their human rights; and (iii) promote cooperation among States Parties in order to meet those objectives.

The Trafficking in Persons Protocol is the first global, legally binding instrument with an agreed definition on trafficking in persons. The Protocol seeks to harmonize national criminal legislation, and thereby enabling efficient international cooperation in investigating and prosecuting trafficking in persons crimes.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) supports Member States in developing both global solutions to critical challenges and adequate national responses through direct technical assistance.

To accomplish this task, UNODC has established the Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Section (HTMSS) in the Organized Crime Branch, in line with UNODC's Comprehensive Strategy to Combat Trafficking in Persons. One of the core functions of HTMSS is to assist Member States to implement the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, in close cooperation with UNODC's Regional and Country Offices. This assistance includes the development of practical tools for criminal justice actors, including law enforcers, assistance providers, prosecutors, judges, policy makers and administrators. These tools reflect international standards and are primarily developed for global use, while later on they are piloted, adapted and tailored to local needs of governments, practitioners, and service providers, and put into operational use.

KNOWLEDGE BASE EXPANSION

❖ Research, data collection and information sharing

Globally there is a lack of solid and segregated data and knowledge about the trends, profiles, financial flows, etc. concerning trafficking in persons. The Global Plan of Action, adopted by the General Assembly (resolution 64/293) mandated UNODC to collect information and publish a bi-annual [Global Report on Trafficking in Persons](#). UNODC also created the [Human Trafficking Knowledge Portal](#) that hosts a Case Law Database on officially documented court cases concerning trafficking in persons.

❖ Needs and gaps assessments

UNODC conducts assessments of the criminal justice response to trafficking in persons, based on the [UNODC Needs Assessment Toolkit on the Criminal Justice Response to Human Trafficking](#); [UNODC Assessment Toolkit: Trafficking in Persons for the Purpose of Organ Removal](#). UNODC also develops national assessments on the situation of human trafficking such as the ones conducted in [Mexico](#) and [Brazil](#).

STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY

UNODC advises on the development of comprehensive and multi-sectoral strategies on the fight against trafficking in persons and the protection of victims of trafficking or the inclusion of the issues into national strategies on migration, security, etc. This is done on the basis of the [UNODC Framework for Action to Implement the Trafficking in Persons Protocol](#).

PREVENTION AND AWARENESS RAISING

UNODC has developed communication strategies and awareness raising campaigns on trafficking in persons that can be and have been further tailored and replicated (e.g. in Brazil, Colombia, Lebanon, Mexico, Nigeria, Panama, Peru, Portugal, Serbia, Spain, etc.), such as the [UNODC Blue Heart Campaign](#). The Office also commemorates the annual [World Day against Trafficking in Persons](#) – 30 July.

RATIFICATION AND LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANCE

Legislative assistance is meant to (i) facilitate States' ratification or accession to the Trafficking in Persons Protocol by reviewing and amending relevant laws and; (ii) help States that are already parties to implement their obligations under the Protocol by assessing existing laws and bringing them in line with the requirements of the Protocol and related international standards and instruments or by developing new laws to that end.

- ❖ **Gap analysis:** Legislative assistance starts with a gap analysis of the existing national legislation and its compliance with the Trafficking in Persons Protocol and other relevant instruments.
- ❖ **Recommendations:** In a second step, UNODC develops recommendations for aligning national legislation with the Protocol requirements.
- ❖ **Drafting of legislation:** UNODC further assists in the drafting process by reviewing draft legislation and also by conducting legislative drafting workshops, on the basis of the [UNDOC Model Law against the Trafficking in Persons](#).
- ❖ **Awareness-raising among parliamentarians:** UNODC also organizes awareness-raising sessions with parliamentarians who would discuss and enact the law on the basis of the [UNODC Combating Trafficking in Persons: A Handbook for Parliamentarians](#).

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

UNODC offers the following services to help countries build both their institutional and human resource capacities to adequately respond to trafficking in persons:

- ❖ **Training:** To raise the awareness of criminal justice practitioners and to provide them with in-depth guidance respectively, (usually over 4-5 days), on the basis of the [UNODC Anti-Human Trafficking Manual for Criminal Justice Practitioners](#). The training addresses each phase of the criminal justice response to trafficking in persons, from identification of victims through investigations and prosecutions of trafficking, to the protection of victims. The manual consists of 14 public and 12 restricted modules that have been developed with and are to meet the specific needs of criminal justice practitioners.
- ❖ **Train the Trainers:** Additional workshops reviews training delivery techniques and involves participants in the delivery of the content (e.g. training of trainers in Morocco, Panama).
- ❖ **Specialized training on cross-cutting and highly topical issues:** Anti-trafficking in persons in the contexts of money-laundering; joint investigation teams in trafficking in persons; cybercrime and modern tele-communication technologies; trafficking in persons in the fishing industry; identification, protection and assistance of victims of trafficking in persons among refugees and displaced persons, etc.
- ❖ **Various tools and techniques:** [First Aid Kit for use by Law Enforcement Responders in Addressing Human Trafficking](#); [Victim Translation Assistance Tool - Life support messages for trafficking victims](#); [Training film "Affected for life" \(13:36 and 23:38 min\)](#); [Case Digest on Evidential Issues in Trafficking in Persons Cases](#); [Case studies using cases from the UNODC Human Trafficking Case Law Database](#) and Role Play; Mock Trial (e.g. in Colombia).
- ❖ **E-learning modules:** Three [on-line modules on trafficking persons](#) are available (and can be combined with modules on document fraud, on migrant smuggling and on human rights). They are currently available in English with the following content: 1. Understand Human Trafficking; 2. Human Trafficking Process and 3. Identifying and Dealing with Victims.
- ❖ **Mentoring** and establishment of **specialized infrastructures**, such as law enforcement units.
- ❖ **Regional and trans-regional cooperation workshops:** focus on cooperation across regions or along common routes (e.g. in South Eastern Europe).

For more information about UNODC's work against trafficking in persons contact:

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