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.
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 UNDOC 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 UNDOC 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).

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