

# RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS

The chart below shows the Ratification, Accession (a), or Acceptance (A) of relevant international conventions for those countries that have ratified, acceded to, or accepted any such conventions between April 2017 and March 2018. A complete list that includes all of the countries covered by the *2018 Trafficking in Persons Report* is available at: <https://www.state.gov/j/tip/conventions/index.htm>

Country	UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons	Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography	Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child in Armed Conflict	ILO Convention 29 Forced Labour (1930), entered into force in 1932	ILO Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, entered in to force November 9, 2016	ILO Convention 105, Abolition of Forced Labour (1957)	ILO Convention 182, Elimination of Worst Forms of Child Labor	ILO Convention 189, Domestic Workers (2011), entered into force September 5, 2013
Brazil	2004	2004	2004	1957	—	1965	2000	2018 (into force Jan 2019)
Central African Republic	2006	2012	2017	1960	—	1964	2000	—
Denmark	2003	2003	2002	1932	2017 (into force 14 Jun 2018)	1958	2000	—
Fiji	2017	2005	2005	1974	—	1974	2002	—
Guinea	2004	2011	2016	1959	—	1961	2003	2017 (into force 25 Apr 2018)
Iceland	2010	2001	2001	1958	2017 (into force 14 Jun 2018)	1960	2000	—
India	2011	2005	2005	1954	—	2000	2017 (into force 13 Jun 2018)	—
Jamaica	2003	2011	2002	1962	2017 (into force 13 Jun 2018)	1962	2003	2016
Japan	2017	2005	2004	1932	—	—	2001	—
Latvia	2004	2006	2005	2006	2017 (into force 07 Dec 2018)	1992	2006	—
Namibia	2002	2002	2002	2000	2017 (into force 06 Nov 2018)	2000	2000	—
Netherlands	2005	2005	2009	1933	2017 (into force 08 Aug 2018)	1959	2002	—
Poland	2003	2005	2005	1958	2017 (into force 10 Mar 2018)	1958	2002	—
Spain	2002	2001	2002	1932	2017 (into force 20 Sep 2018)	1967	2001	—
Sweden	2004	2007	2003	1931	2017 (into force 14 Jun 2018)	1958	2001	—
Switzerland	2006	2006	2002	1940	2017 (into force 28 Sep 2018)	1958	2000	2014

# STOPPING HUMAN TRAFFICKING, SEXUAL EXPLOITATION, AND ABUSE BY INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPERS AND CIVILIAN PERSONNEL

As required by law, this section summarizes actions taken by the United Nations (UN), the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) to prevent trafficking in persons or the exploitation of victims of trafficking.

	UNITED NATIONS	OSCE	NATO
TOTAL NUMBER OF PEACEKEEPING AND SUPPORT PERSONNEL	92,682	3,088	24,242
TOTAL NUMBER OF MISSIONS	15	15	3
PREVENTION POLICY	“Special Measures for Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse” (SEA) (2003)	“Code of Conduct for Staff and Mission Members”	“NATO Policy on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings” (2004 and 2007)
LEAD OFFICE RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION	Office of Field Support	Office of Human Resources	Women, Peace, and Security Office
PREVENTION TRAINING	Pre-deployment and at mission, including a new E-learning program	Pre-deployment	Pre-deployment and at mission “NATO Guidance for the development of training and educational programmes to support the policy on combating the trafficking in human beings” (2004)
NUMBER OF ALLEGATIONS IN 2017	62 allegations were made against 136 military, police, and civilian personnel of 11 UN peacekeeping and special political missions. The majority of the allegations were in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, Liberia and Haiti.  The allegations affected 131 victims of which 21 were children under 18 years of age.	No reported allegations	No reported allegations – NATO relies on contributing countries to report allegations.
NEW INITIATIVES	The UN Secretary General released his report (A/72/751) on the latest measures to implement his four-pronged strategy to improve the UN’s system-wide response to sexual exploitation and abuse (A/71/818) announced in early 2017.		
LINKS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	<a href="https://conduct.unmissions.org/">https://conduct.unmissions.org/</a>	<a href="http://www.osce.org/what/trafficking">http://www.osce.org/what/trafficking</a>	<a href="http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/topics_50315.htm">http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/topics_50315.htm</a>

# MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

ORGANIZATIONS AND SELECTED LINKS OF INTEREST	FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT RELEVANT TO TIP	TIP FOCAL POINT
<p><b>United Nations (UN)</b> www.un.org</p> <p><b>United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC):</b> www.unodc.org</p> <p>Human Trafficking Knowledge Portal: <a href="https://www.unodc.org/cld/en/v3/htmls/index.html">https://www.unodc.org/cld/en/v3/htmls/index.html</a></p> <p>UNODC Evidential Issues in Trafficking in Persons Cases: Case Digest <a href="http://www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/2017/Case_Digest_Evidential_Issues_in_Trafficking.pdf">http://www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/2017/Case_Digest_Evidential_Issues_in_Trafficking.pdf</a></p> <p>Assessment Toolkit: Trafficking in Persons for the Purpose of Organ Removal (2015): <a href="https://www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/2015/UNODC_Assessment_Toolkit_TIP_for_the_Purpose_of_Organ_Removal.pdf">https://www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/2015/UNODC_Assessment_Toolkit_TIP_for_the_Purpose_of_Organ_Removal.pdf</a></p> <p>Case Digest on Evidential Issues on Trafficking in Persons Cases (2017): <a href="https://www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/2017/Case_Digest_Evidential_Issues_in_Trafficking.pdf">https://www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/2017/Case_Digest_Evidential_Issues_in_Trafficking.pdf</a></p> <p><b>United Nations Security Council (UNSC):</b> -<a href="https://www.un.org/press/en/2017/sc13081.doc.htm">https://www.un.org/press/en/2017/sc13081.doc.htm</a> -<a href="https://www.un.org/press/en/2016/sc12647.doc.htm">https://www.un.org/press/en/2016/sc12647.doc.htm</a> -<a href="https://www.un.org/press/en/2015/sc12165.doc.htm">https://www.un.org/press/en/2015/sc12165.doc.htm</a></p> <p><b>United Nations Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights :</b> www.ohchr.org</p> <p><b>International Labour Organization (ILO) :</b> www.ilo.org <a href="http://www.alliance87.org/">http://www.alliance87.org/</a> <a href="http://www.ilo.org/sapfl/Informationresources/ILOPublications/Byregion/Global/lang--en/index.htm">http://www.ilo.org/sapfl/Informationresources/ILOPublications/Byregion/Global/lang--en/index.htm</a></p>	<p><b>UN Convention and Protocol:</b></p> <p>Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (A/RES/55/25) (2000)</p> <p>United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons (A/RES/64/293) (2010) <a href="https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/64/293">https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/64/293</a></p>	<p>Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children</p> <p>Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery</p> <p>Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography</p>
<p><b>African Union (AU)</b> www.africa-union.org/</p>	<p>Ouagadougou Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, Especially Women and Children (2006) <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/development/body/tmp_docs/2006/Action_plan_OUAGADOUGOU.pdf">http://ec.europa.eu/development/body/tmp_docs/2006/Action_plan_OUAGADOUGOU.pdf</a></p> <p>AU Commission Initiative against Trafficking Campaign (AU.COMMIT)</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Khartoum Process (EU/Horn of Africa Migration Route Initiative)</p>	<p>Khartoum Declaration on AU-Horn of Africa Initiative on Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants</p> <p>Declaration of the Ministerial Conference of the Khartoum Process (2014)</p> <p>Valletta Summit Action Plan (2015)</p> <p>Valletta Summit Political Declaration (2015)</p> <p>EU-Africa Action Plan on Migration and Mobility (2014-2017)</p>	
<p><b>Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)</b> www.asean.org</p> <p><b>ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP) and the ASEAN Plan of Action</b> <a href="http://asean.org/asean-convention-against-trafficking-in-persons-especially-women-and-children/">http://asean.org/asean-convention-against-trafficking-in-persons-especially-women-and-children/</a> <a href="http://www.asean.org/storage/2015/12/APA-FINAL.pdf">http://www.asean.org/storage/2015/12/APA-FINAL.pdf</a></p>	<p>ASEAN Declaration Against Trafficking in Persons, Particularly Women and Children (2004)</p> <p>ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (2015)</p> <p>ASEAN Plan of Action Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (2015) <a href="http://asean.org/storage/2012/05/APA-FINAL.pdf">http://asean.org/storage/2012/05/APA-FINAL.pdf</a></p>	<p>ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime</p>

ORGANIZATIONS AND SELECTED LINKS OF INTEREST	FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT RELEVANT TO TIP	TIP FOCAL POINT
<p><b>Bali Regional Ministerial Conference On People Smuggling, Trafficking In Persons And Related Transnational Crime (Bali Process)</b> www.baliprocess.net</p> <p>Bali Process Policy Guides, Handbooks and Guides for first responders and officials: <a href="http://www.baliprocess.net/regional-support-office/resources/">http://www.baliprocess.net/regional-support-office/resources/</a></p> <p>Policy Guides on Identification and Protection of Victims of Trafficking (2015): <a href="http://www.baliprocess.net/regional-support-office/policy-guides-on-identification-and-protection-of-victims-of-trafficking/">http://www.baliprocess.net/regional-support-office/policy-guides-on-identification-and-protection-of-victims-of-trafficking/</a></p> <p>Policy Guides on Criminalizing Migrant Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons (2014): <a href="http://www.baliprocess.net/regional-support-office/policy-guides/">http://www.baliprocess.net/regional-support-office/policy-guides/</a></p>	<p>Co Chairs' Statements of the first (2002), second (2003), third (2009), fourth (2011), fifth (2013), and sixth (2016)</p> <p>Bali Regional Ministerial Conference On People Smuggling, Trafficking In Persons And Related Transnational Crime</p> <p>Bali Process Working Group on Trafficking in Persons - Updated Forward Work Plan: 2015-17 <a href="https://www.baliprocess.net/UserFiles/baliprocess/File/Updated%20-%20Bali%20Process%20TIP%20Working%20Group%20Forward%20Work%20Plan%202015-17%20(1)(1).pdf">https://www.baliprocess.net/UserFiles/baliprocess/File/Updated%20-%20Bali%20Process%20TIP%20Working%20Group%20Forward%20Work%20Plan%202015-17%20(1)(1).pdf</a></p>	<p>Bali Process Working Group on Trafficking in Persons</p>
<p><b>Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)</b> www.cis.minsk.by/ (in Russian only)</p>	<p>Agreement on the Cooperation of the CIS Member States in Combating Trafficking in Persons, Human Organs and Tissues (2005)</p> <p>Program of Cooperation between the CIS Member States against Trafficking in Persons for 2014–2018</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking (COMMIT)</b> <a href="http://un-act.org/">http://un-act.org/</a></p> <p>Victim Identification and Referral Mechanisms: Common Guidelines for the Greater Mekong Sub-region: <a href="http://un-act.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/COMMIT_-_Guidelines_on_Victim_ID__Referrals.pdf">http://un-act.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/COMMIT_-_Guidelines_on_Victim_ID__Referrals.pdf</a></p> <p>Supporting the Reintegration of Trafficked Persons: A Guidebook for the Greater Mekong Sub-Region: <a href="http://un-act.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Final-Reintegration-Guidebook-3.pdf">http://un-act.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Final-Reintegration-Guidebook-3.pdf</a></p>	<p>COMMIT Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation Against Trafficking in Greater Mekong Sub-Region (2004)</p> <p>COMMIT 3rd Sub-Regional Plan of Action (COMMIT SPAIII, 2011-2013)</p>	<p>United Nations Action for Cooperation against Trafficking in Persons</p> <p>Regional COMMIT Task Force (TF)</p>
<p><b>Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS)</b> <a href="http://www.cbss.org/civil-security-the-human-dimension/tfthb/">http://www.cbss.org/civil-security-the-human-dimension/tfthb/</a> <a href="http://www.childcentre.info/egcc/">www.childcentre.info/egcc/</a></p> <p>The Guidelines against Labour Exploitation in the Baltic Sea Region (2014): <a href="http://www.cbss.org/guidelines-labour-exploitation-baltic-sea-region/">http://www.cbss.org/guidelines-labour-exploitation-baltic-sea-region/</a></p> <p>Guidelines to Prevent Abusive Recruitment, Exploitative Employment and Trafficking of Migrant Workers (2014): <a href="http://www.cbss.org/guidelines-prevent-abusive-recruitment-exploitative-employment-trafficking-migrant-workers-brief/">http://www.cbss.org/guidelines-prevent-abusive-recruitment-exploitative-employment-trafficking-migrant-workers-brief/</a></p>	<p>A Vision for the Baltic Sea region by 2020, CBSS Summit 2010</p> <p>Human Trafficking 2016 – Baltic Sea Round-up Report</p>	<p>Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings (TF-THB)</p> <p>Expert Group on Children at Risk</p>
<p><b>Council of Europe (COE)</b> www.coe.int <a href="http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/trafficking/">http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/trafficking/</a></p> <p>HELP Online Training Course: <a href="https://www.coe.int/en/web/anti-human-trafficking/help-online-training-course">https://www.coe.int/en/web/anti-human-trafficking/help-online-training-course</a></p>	<p>COE Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings (2005)</p>	<p>Group of Experts on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA)</p>
<p><b>Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)</b> www.ecowas.int</p> <p><b>Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)</b> www.ceeac-eccas.org/</p>	<p>ECOWAS Initial Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons (2002-2003), extended until 2011 <a href="https://issafrica.org/acpst/uploads/Reading%20material-ECOWAS%20PoA%20CT.pdf">https://issafrica.org/acpst/uploads/Reading%20material-ECOWAS%20PoA%20CT.pdf</a></p> <p>Joint ECOWAS/ECCAS Regional Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children (2006-2008)</p>	<p>Anti-Trafficking Unit</p>
<p><b>European Union (EU)</b> <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/index.action">http://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/index.action</a></p>	<p>EU Strategy towards the Eradication of Trafficking in Human Beings (2012-2016) <a href="https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/sites/antitrafficking/files/eu_strategy_towards_the_eradication_of_trafficking_in_human_beings_2012-2016_1.pdf">https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/sites/antitrafficking/files/eu_strategy_towards_the_eradication_of_trafficking_in_human_beings_2012-2016_1.pdf</a></p>	<p>European Union Anti-Trafficking Coordinator</p>

ORGANIZATIONS AND SELECTED LINKS OF INTEREST	FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT RELEVANT TO TIP	TIP FOCAL POINT
<p><b>League of Arab States (LAS)</b>  <a href="http://www.arableagueonline.org/category/arab-league/">http://www.arableagueonline.org/category/arab-league/</a></p>	<p>Arab Framework Act on Combating Trafficking in Persons (2008)</p> <p>Arab Initiative to Combat Trafficking in Persons, 2010</p> <p>Comprehensive Arab Strategy for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (CASCTHB), Council of Arab Ministers of Justice Resolution 15/2/2012</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>Organization of American States (OAS)</b>  <a href="http://www.oas.org/en/default.asp">www.oas.org/en/default.asp</a>  <a href="http://www.oas.org/dsp/english/cpo_trata.asp">www.oas.org/dsp/english/cpo_trata.asp</a></p>	<p>Work Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons in the Western Hemisphere 2010-2012 (AG/RES. 2551 (XL-O/10))</p> <p>Second Work Plan against Trafficking in Persons in the Western Hemisphere 2015-2018 (RTP-IV/doc.4/14 rev. 1) <a href="http://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=XXXIX.4%20RTP-IV/doc.&amp;classNum=4&amp;lang=e">http://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=XXXIX.4%20RTP-IV/doc.&amp;classNum=4&amp;lang=e</a></p> <p>Inter-American Declaration against Trafficking in Persons “Declaration of Brasilia” (2014)</p> <p>Hemispheric Efforts against Trafficking in Persons “Declaration of Mexico” (2018)  <a href="http://scm.oas.org/doc_public/ENGLISH/HIST_18/RA00265E03.doc">http://scm.oas.org/doc_public/ENGLISH/HIST_18/RA00265E03.doc</a></p>	<p>Coordinator Against Trafficking in Persons</p>
<p><b>Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)</b></p>	<p>Charter of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (2008)</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)</b></p> <p>The OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains in the Garment and Footwear Sector:  <a href="http://mneguidelines.oecd.org/OECD-Due-Diligence-Guidance-Garment-Footwear.pdf">http://mneguidelines.oecd.org/OECD-Due-Diligence-Guidance-Garment-Footwear.pdf</a></p>		<p>OECD Task Force on Countering Illicit Trade</p>
<p><b>Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)</b>  <a href="http://www.osce.org/secretariat/trafficking">http://www.osce.org/secretariat/trafficking</a></p> <p>Handbook - How to prevent human trafficking for domestic servitude in diplomatic households and protect private domestic workers (2014):  <a href="http://www.osce.org/handbook/domesticervitude">http://www.osce.org/handbook/domesticervitude</a></p> <p>OSCE Alliance against Trafficking in Persons:  <a href="http://www.osce.org/secretariat/107221">http://www.osce.org/secretariat/107221</a></p>	<p>OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings (2003) <a href="https://www.osce.org/actionplan?download=true">https://www.osce.org/actionplan?download=true</a></p> <p>Platform for Action Against Human Trafficking (2007)</p> <p>Decision No. 1107 Addendum to the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, Decision No. 1107, 6 December (2013)</p> <p>OSCE Parliament Assembly Resolution on Responsibility To Combat Human Trafficking in Government Contracts For Goods And Services (2015)</p>	<p>Special Representative and Coordinator for Trafficking in Human Beings</p>
<p><b>Regional Conference on Migration (RCM) (Puebla Group)</b>  <a href="http://www.rcmvs.org">www.rcmvs.org</a></p> <p>Regional Guidelines for Special Protection in Cases of the Repatriation of Child Victims of Trafficking (2007):  <a href="http://www.rcmvs.org/Publicaciones/Publicaciones.htm">http://www.rcmvs.org/Publicaciones/Publicaciones.htm</a></p>	<p>Regional Conference on Migration Plan of Action (updated in 2009)</p>	<p>The Liaison Officers Network to Combat Migrant Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons</p>
<p><b>Southern African Development Community (SADC)</b>  <a href="http://www.sadc.int/">www.sadc.int/</a></p> <p>Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Persons: Lessons from the SADC Region Booklet (2017):  <a href="https://www.sadc.int/issues/gender/sadc-gender-and-development-monitor-2016/preventing-and-combating-trafficking-persons-lessons-sadc-region/">https://www.sadc.int/issues/gender/sadc-gender-and-development-monitor-2016/preventing-and-combating-trafficking-persons-lessons-sadc-region/</a></p>	<p>SADC Strategic Plan of Action on Combating Trafficking in Persons, especially women and Children (2009-2019)</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)</b>  <a href="http://www.saarc-sec.org/">www.saarc-sec.org/</a></p> <p>SAARC Convention on Preventing And Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution:  <a href="http://saarc-sec.org/digital_library/detail_menu/saarc-convention-on-preventing-and-combating-trafficking-in-women-and-children-for-prostitution">http://saarc-sec.org/digital_library/detail_menu/saarc-convention-on-preventing-and-combating-trafficking-in-women-and-children-for-prostitution</a></p>	<p>SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution (2002)</p>	<p>Regional Task Force</p>

## GLOSSARY OF ABBREVIATIONS

ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EU	European Union
EUROPOL	European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation
GRETA	Council of Europe's Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings
IDP	Internally displaced person
ILO	International Labour Organization
ILO-IPEC	International Labour Organization, International Program for the Elimination of Child Labour
INTERPOL	International Criminal Police Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ISIS	Islamic State of Iraq and Syria
LGBTI	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex
NGO	Nongovernmental organization
OAS	Organization of American States
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UN WOMEN	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
2000 UN TIP PROTOCOL (PALERMO PROTOCOL)	Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

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NOTES: Local currencies have been converted to U.S. dollars (\$) using the currency exchange rates reported by the U.S. Department of the Treasury on December 31, 2017. The rates can be found here: <https://www.fiscal.treasury.gov/fsreports/rpt/treasRptRateExch/itin-12-31-17.pdf>

# PHOTO CREDITS

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## A CLOSING NOTE

In this age of interconnected markets, mobile workforces, and digital communication, human traffickers are developing newer and more sophisticated ways to exploit their victims. Traffickers are particularly skilled at identifying and cultivating vulnerability in those they exploit, taking advantage of difficult circumstances and instability, and exploiting government policies and activities in unexpected ways. No matter how effective national policies are in fulfilling their intended goals, governments should continuously examine and test their policies to ensure they do not enable traffickers or otherwise contribute to human trafficking.

For example, governments around the world spend billions of dollars to procure goods and services. Unfortunately, procurement policies can be blind to conditions that workers in the supply chain face, including those that may be indicative of human trafficking, such as contract fraud, unpaid wages, and passport confiscation. Governments should assess their procurement frameworks; bring together procurement, human trafficking, and labor rights experts; and implement policies that protect workers on government contracts. Governments should also enact policies that clearly prohibit human trafficking by government contractors and subcontractors, and prohibit activities, including those in the recruitment process, known to contribute to the risk of human trafficking, such as charging workers recruitment fees that create vulnerabilities to debt bondage.

Similarly, many governments prohibit labor migration to countries that pose particular risks as a means to protect their citizens from exploitation. While well intended, such policies not only restrict freedom of movement, but may also drive some individuals to take risks to circumvent the policy. More effective alternatives to prohibiting labor migration to countries include educating citizens of their rights and the specific risks posed in such destination countries; working with governments in destination countries to address vulnerabilities to exploitation and conduct joint investigations of abuse; and providing overseas officials the mandate and tools required to serve and protect their citizens abroad.

Some governments' pursuit of national security and regional stability may also indirectly enable human trafficking. At times, government support for and operational coordination with armed services and groups can unintentionally empower them to exploit people through forcible recruitment into armed groups, recruitment and use of children, or sexual exploitation. Governments that support militaries and armed groups should ensure they understand the full scope of such organizations' activities and how they put government resources to action. Governments should encourage the public to report abuses, establish transparent processes by which to review accusations, and take appropriate action including to hold perpetrators accountable and ultimately to end support and coordination with such groups.

These are only a few examples of how some government policies, even if made with good intentions, can leave individuals more vulnerable and give traffickers an advantage. It is incumbent on governments to assess and adapt to the specific dynamics of human trafficking. In enacting new policies and reviewing existing ones, governments should strive to understand the inadvertent yet potentially harmful effects they may have on individuals vulnerable to trafficking.




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*Special thanks to Lamyia Shawki El-Shacke and the graphic services team at Global Publishing Solutions.*