

Stop Trafficking!

Awareness Advocacy Action

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FOCUS: This issue of the Stop Trafficking Newsletter highlights excerpts from the 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report.

2024 Trafficking in Persons Report

In his message introducing the [2024 Trafficking in Persons \(TIP\) report](#), Secretary of State Antony Blinken referred to human trafficking as “a stain on the conscience of our society. It fuels crime, corruption, and violence. It distorts our economies and harms our workers. And it violates the fundamental right of all people to be free.” This year’s report examines the role of 188 countries in addressing human trafficking while noting the global reach of technology in recruiting and selling victims while at the same time combating human trafficking.

The Department of State prepared this report using information from U.S. embassies, government officials, nongovernmental and international organizations, published reports, news articles, academic studies, and consultations with authorities and organizations in every region. The 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report covers government efforts from April 1, 2023, through March 31, 2024.

The Role of Technology

The introduction to the [2024 Trafficking in Persons Report](#) examines how technology is used to recruit, control, and exploit vulnerable individuals while also evading detection. It also highlights how technology can be used effectively by the anti-trafficking community. Traffickers use digital technology to amplify their reach, scale, and speed of human trafficking operations. However, while the methods and means may have evolved with technological developments, the exploitation of vulnerabilities at the heart of trafficking remains the same.

Challenges and Risks Technology Presents for the Anti-trafficking Community

Traffickers adapt their schemes to take advantage of the obscurity available with new online tools, such as hiding behind anonymization tools or software and benefiting from loose regulations of online platforms. These challenges make it difficult for law enforcement to identify and implement coordinated solutions fast enough to prevent trafficking facilitated by technology effectively. Law enforcement agencies must continuously adapt their tactics, develop technical expertise, and collaborate with technology companies to effectively stop trafficking.

Moreover, law enforcement and anti-trafficking stakeholders confront challenges such as navigating diverse legal frameworks to address technology-facilitated human trafficking that transcends borders. It is sometimes difficult to determine which jurisdiction has the authority to investigate and prosecute perpetrators and coordinate international investigation efforts involving multiple countries.

Data regarding victims in human trafficking cases has sometimes been breached, while the frameworks for data collection, storage, and sharing of personal data are often different, complicating international cooperation.

Encryption & Anonymity

Encryption systems may be used to safeguard data in digital interactions, including web browsing, messaging apps, and financial transactions. This prevents third parties from accessing data by changing readable data into a scrambled code that can only be recovered by the receiver’s system. This ensures that only authorized parties can access the original data.



Awareness

The Role of Technology (cont.)

This anonymizing technology provides a high level of privacy and conceals the connection between an individual's online activity and their real identity.

Encryption systems found in many online platforms are designed to protect the privacy and security of all online users; however, these systems and anonymizing technologies, such as virtual private networks (VPNs), can also protect human traffickers, allowing them to avoid detection and accountability.

The Promise of Technology in Monitoring and Combating Human Trafficking

Technology also plays a vital role in investigating and countering human trafficking. Digital technology can be used to share resources and training on human trafficking. Given the increase in online activity among children, governments and parents should even further prioritize education around online safety for children and youth. This potential of technology to educate and protect is a reason for hope in the fight against human trafficking.

Technology can also improve access to online support services for victims, survivors, and vulnerable populations. It can help with victim identification, employing various methods and platforms for finding victims online and allowing for self-reporting exploitation. Two examples included in the TIP report are the Canadian NGO Center for Child Protection (C3P), which operates Project Arachnid, a web crawler that searches for known CSAM. When detected, C3P sends a notice to the provider asking that the material be removed. Thorn, an NGO, has an AI-powered tool that detects CSAM and also tools that aid law enforcement in child sex trafficking investigations.

Other tools offer secure grievance mechanisms for workers, aggregate worker survey responses, and provide feedback opportunities, allowing workers to share information about their recruitment and work experiences. An example is the Nonechka project from Polaris, which collaborated with technology partner Ulula on a platform allowing farmworkers in Mexico and the United States to share information on risky recruitment and employment processes. This information helps inform workers about their rights, wages, and working conditions and how to access general services locally, including emergency, transitional, or long-term services.

Organizations are using data analytic tools to help recognize trends in recruitment, map complex supply chains for links to forced labor, and detect emerging human trafficking schemes.

This section of the TIP report also examines the role of government in addressing and regulating the criminal sector's use of technology. It emphasizes the crucial role of collaboration between law enforcement, NGOs, the financial sector, and the technology industry in anti-trafficking efforts. This collaboration is essential in the fight against human trafficking.

Topics of Special Interest

A Framework for Balancing Prosecution, Prevention and Victim Protection Priorities in Criminal Justice Systems

The Palermo Protocol comprises three elements: the "3Ps" of prosecuting traffickers, protecting victims, and preventing human trafficking. The goal is to enhance support for victims while strengthening investigations and prosecutions to increase traffickers' accountability and mitigate vulnerabilities that may lead to a person becoming a victim. Whether survivors testify against the trafficker or provide more limited assistance to law enforcement, strong victim protections are necessary at all stages of the criminal justice process, and prosecutors should develop evidence to decrease reliance on victim testimony.

The Intersection of Forced Marriage and Human Trafficking

Governments differ on whether forced marriage constitutes human trafficking. The 2022 update to the U.S. Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence Globally defines forced marriage as a marriage at any age that occurs without the free and full consent of both parties, including anyone under the age of 18 who is not able to give full consent.

The terms “early marriage” and “child marriage” are often used interchangeably to refer to any marriage in which at least one of the parties has not attained the age of 18. There is overwhelming evidence that child, early, and forced marriages can increase individuals’ vulnerability to future exploitation and abuse.

Article 3 of the UN TIP Protocol defines “trafficking in persons” to require three essential elements—an act conducted using one or more means for an exploitative purpose. Article 3 does not list forced marriage explicitly as a form of exploitation; instead, it provides that “exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.”

Countries that have chosen to include forced marriage within their domestic definitions of trafficking, either explicitly or implicitly, have taken three common approaches:

- Forced Marriage Included as a Form of Exploitation
- “Practices Similar to Slavery” Interpreted to Include Some Forms of Forced Marriage
- Forced Marriage and Trafficking in Persons as Distinct Crimes.

At the heart of the question of whether a forced marriage constitutes a human trafficking crime is the question of whether the Intention was to exploit a person or persons through the marriage.

Marriages generally involve domestic work and sexual relations between spouses, neither of which is usually understood to constitute abuse or exploitation. However, there are circumstances in which individuals may be exploited in connection with each of these under the guise of marital obligations. Taking into consideration the cultural and national contexts in which marriages transpire is a complex but necessary task when determining whether all three elements of a human trafficking offense are present in a case involving forced marriage.

Trafficking for the Purpose of Organ Removal

Although trafficking in persons for organ removal is one of the least reported crimes regarding human trafficking, experts believe that this form of human trafficking is increasing. As with all forms of human trafficking, vulnerable human beings are exploited for profit, in many cases through deception. The most frequent organs involved are kidneys, although the liver, corneas, and skin are also taken. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime warns that most cases of trafficking for organ removal are never reported, with an increased number of transactions arranged online, so the full scale of this crime is not known.

Experts have proposed ideas to increase the supply of legally donated organs, with a focus on making organ trafficking less lucrative. These ideas include transitioning deceased organ donation from an opt-in to an opt-out system, implementing paired exchanges, creating awareness campaigns, addressing barriers to altruistic organ donation, and providing guidance on how to prevent trafficking in persons for organ removal. Equally important is the need to improve transparency and reporting around transplantation, to ensure accountability and deter illicit activities.

Topics of Special Interest

Key Trafficking Issues in the Western Hemisphere Region

In the Western Hemisphere – North, Central, and South America and the Caribbean – there are shared issues, trends, and approaches related to trafficking. These regional issues are extrapolated from the individual [narratives of the countries](#) in the region.

Unprecedented irregular migration in the region impacts all Western Hemisphere countries. Migrants and asylum seekers are especially vulnerable to sex trafficking and forced labor, including by large and small organized criminal groups. Some countries have enacted policies to provide temporary residency and access to formal employment, education, and healthcare aimed at reducing migrants' vulnerability to trafficking.

Countries across the region generally have a good understanding of and political will to respond to sex trafficking. Efforts regarding trafficking for labor and the protection of victims of forced labor are usually weaker. State-sponsored forced labor is also a concern, specifically Cuba's labor export program.

Traffickers exploit many victims in forced criminality. Organized crime groups, including gangs and illegal armed groups, exploit girls in child sex trafficking, force children into street begging, forcibly recruit or use child soldiers, and coerce and threaten young men and women to transport drugs, commit extortion, act as lookouts, or commit acts of violence, including murder. Organized crime groups target groups of migrants unable to enter a country due to border restrictions or awaiting asylum decisions, including at the U.S.-Mexico border. There is an urgent need for stronger policies and resources to care for victims of human trafficking, especially among migrants, and provide trauma-informed services.

Other underserved populations include Afro-descendant, Indigenous, and LGBTQ+ persons, as well as members of different ethnic and linguistic minorities, refugees, individuals experiencing homelessness, and displaced persons. There are insufficient trafficking-specific services for victims, particularly for men and boys, in most countries across the region. Additionally, access to services is concentrated in large urban areas, while the most vulnerable individuals frequently live in rural areas with limited government presence.

Many governments have weaknesses in their legal systems and uneven judicial application of trafficking laws, including levying fines instead of imprisonment for trafficking crimes, imposing penalties not commensurate with those for other crimes, and failing to criminalize all forms of child sex trafficking. Official complicity within law enforcement, the prison system, and local government facilitates trafficking crimes across some governments. Criminal prosecution of complicit officials is even lower than the already low number of convictions of other traffickers. Many officials combine human trafficking with other crimes, including migrant smuggling, child labor, sexual violence against children, illegal commercial sex, and illegal adoption. This leads to inadequate data collection and reporting on human trafficking and, therefore, an incomplete understanding of the extent of the crime in the hemisphere.

Human Trafficking in Cuba's Labor Export Program

Each year, the Cuban government sends tens of thousands of citizens to work in other countries under multi-year cooperation agreements negotiated with the receiving countries. While medical missions remain the most prevalent, the Cuban government profited from other labor export programs, including teachers, artists, athletes and coaches, engineers, forestry technicians, and nearly 7,000 merchant mariners. At the end of 2023, more than 22,000 government-affiliated Cuban workers were in over 53 countries.

Medical professionals compose 75 percent of its exported workforce, and it is estimated that the Cuban

government collects \$6 billion to \$8 billion annually from this export of services. Anyone leaving the program without completing their time as “deserters” and they cannot return to Cuba for eight years. This and other government policies coerce workers and punish those wanting to leave.

It is believed that approximately 40,000 professionals have been sanctioned by the government, with close to 5,000 children forcibly separated from their parents due to Cuba’s policies surrounding the program. Other criticisms include workers who did not volunteer for the program, had inadequate medical training to treat the complex conditions they faced, had their passports confiscated when they arrived at their destinations, and only received 10-25 percent of their salaries, with the rest going to Cuba.

Nothing About Us Without Us: Human Trafficking and Persons with Disabilities

People with disabilities, a significant portion of the global population at about 16 percent or 1.3 billion individuals, as per the World Health Organization, are vulnerable to trafficking. This vulnerability, whether it’s due to physical, intellectual, or psychosocial disabilities, is further exacerbated by factors such as race, age, gender, sexual orientation, family situation, or migratory status. This is a global issue that urgently demands our attention.

Furthermore, the exploitation of some people with disabilities by their caregivers is a grave injustice. As the Human Trafficking Legal Center has pointed out, in the United States, many cases of trafficking involving persons with disabilities include an additional element: the theft of Social Security or disability benefits. This theft of government benefits provides an added incentive for traffickers to target persons with disabilities, worsening their already vulnerable situation.

The TIP Report enhanced its coverage of the intersection of disability and trafficking, with the 2023 TIP Report referencing persons with disabilities in 65 country narratives. These references not only highlighted the challenges faced by persons with physical or intellectual disabilities but also underscored the urgent need for specialized services for persons with disabilities who are victims of trafficking.

The centerpiece of the United States statutory framework to combat trafficking, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), was promulgated in part as a reaction to the Supreme Court’s decision in United States v. Kozminski, 487 U.S. 931 (1988), a case involving two men with intellectual disabilities held in what justices referred to as “slave-like” conditions on a farm. In the case, the Court held that the law banning “involuntary servitude” was limited to circumstances involving “the compulsion of services by the use or threatened use of physical or legal coercion.” However, Congress subsequently passed the TVPA, which recognized that psychological coercion and threats of nonviolent coercion can be every bit as powerful as physical force in overcoming the will of targeted individuals.

In 2009, the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission brought a case involving Henry’s Turkey Service, which exploited 32 intellectually disabled men at a farm in Atalissa, Iowa. For more than 30 years, the men endured physical and mental abuse and received virtually no pay. The jury awarded the men what at the time was the largest-ever award in an employment discrimination case – \$240 million – although it was later reduced to \$1.6 million due to a federal cap in the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Finally, one of the first significant trafficking prosecutions in the United States involved persons with disabilities. In that case, dozens of immigrants with hearing disabilities, including young children, were forced to work 18-hour days as trinket vendors in New York City. Traffickers targeted persons with disabilities who were also young migrants and did not speak English, exemplifying how disability can intersect with other forms of vulnerability. Sadly, this form of exploitation of persons with disabilities continues to this day.



Advocacy

Connecting the Dots: Preventing Forced Labor by Empowering Workers

Forced labor is prevalent in nearly every industry worldwide, mostly in the private economy and connected to global supply chains. The key to successful interventions is empowering workers, elevating their voices and agency, and placing them at the center of prevention efforts through strategic partnerships.

When the Government is the Trafficker: State Sponsored Trafficking in Persons

While the Trafficking Victims Prevention Act (TVPA) Minimum Standards for the Elimination of Trafficking In Persons and the UN TIP Protocol call on governments proactively to address trafficking crimes, some governments directly force their citizens or other individuals into sex trafficking or forced labor.

Several governments exploit persons in forced labor for local or national public works projects, military operations, economically important sectors, as part of government-funded projects or missions abroad, or in sexual slavery on government compounds. Governments threaten the withdrawal of public benefits, withhold salaries, intentionally fail to adhere to limits on national service, manipulate the lack of legal status of stateless individuals and other minority groups, threaten to punish family members, or conditioning services, food, or freedom of movement on labor or sex.

The TVPA already directs the Secretary to consider the extent to which “officials or employees of the government have participated in, facilitated, condoned, or were otherwise complicit in” trafficking when determining whether the government is making significant efforts to meet the minimum standards, this section directly links a government’s “policy or pattern” of trafficking to a Tier 3 ranking.

The 2024 TIP Report includes the following 13 governments with a documented “policy or pattern” of human trafficking, trafficking in government-funded programs, forced labor in government-affiliated medical services or other sectors, sexual slavery in government camps, or the employment or recruitment of child soldiers:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Afghanistan* | Korea, Democratic People’s Republic of |
| Belarus | Russia |
| Burma | South Sudan |
| China, People’s Republic of | Sudan |
| Cuba | Syria |
| Eritrea | Turkmenistan |
| Iran | |

* The TIP Report describes the state of human trafficking within a country and with respect to Afghanistan, assesses the actions of Afghan ministries, as well as the Taliban, without implying recognition of the Taliban or another entity as the government of Afghanistan.

Tier Placement

The State Department places each country in this report into four categories. This placement is based on the extent of government efforts to meet the Trafficking Victims Protection Act's (TVPA) minimum standards for the elimination of human trafficking, which are generally consistent with the Palermo Protocol.

Tier 1 is the highest ranking and indicates that a government has tried to address the problem that meets the TVPA's minimum standards. To maintain a Tier 1 ranking, governments must demonstrate appreciable progress each year in combating trafficking.

Tier 2 includes countries whose governments do not fully meet the TVPA's minimum standards but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards.

Tier 2 Watch List is comprised of countries whose governments do not fully meet the TVPA's minimum standards but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards, and for which:

- the estimated number of victims of severe forms of trafficking is significant or is significantly increasing, and the country is not taking proportional concrete actions;
- there is a failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat severe forms of trafficking from the previous year, including increased investigations, prosecutions, and convictions of trafficking crimes, increased assistance to victims, and decreasing evidence of complicity in severe forms of trafficking by government officials.

Tier 3 includes countries whose governments do not fully meet the TVPA's minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so. In addition, the TVPA directs the Secretary of State to consider, as proof of a country's failure to make substantial efforts to fully meet the TVPA's minimum standards, a government policy or pattern of:

- Human trafficking.
- Human trafficking in government-funded programs.
- Forced labor in government-affiliated medical services, agriculture, forestry, mining, construction, or other sectors.
- Sexual slavery in government camps, compounds, or outposts.
- Employing or recruiting child soldiers.

The TVPA also provides that any country that has been ranked Tier 2 Watch List for two consecutive years and that would otherwise be ranked Tier 2 Watch List for the next year will instead be ranked Tier 3 in that third year.

Funding Restrictions for Tier 3 Countries

Under the TVPA, governments on Tier 3 may be subject to certain restrictions on foreign assistance, whereby the President may determine not to provide U.S. government nonhumanitarian, nontrade-related foreign aid as defined in the TVPA. In addition, the President may withhold funding for government official or employee participation in educational and cultural exchange programs in the case of certain Tier 3 countries. Further restrictions also apply.

Changes in tier ranking of countries include:

- Malaysia, previously on the Tier 2 Watchlist, along with Trinidad and Tobago, has been upgraded to Tier 2
- Brunei and Sudan have been moved to Tier 3, which could subject the countries to sanctions or cutbacks in U.S. assistance. Brunei is reported not to have convicted any traffickers for seven consecutive years, with the U.S. alleging that the government may have punished victims of trafficking via prosecution or deportation. In the department's 2023 report, Sudan was in Tier 2, meaning it was not fully compliant with the TVPA but was making "significant efforts" to do so. In the same 2023 report, Brunei was on the Tier 2 watch list.
- Hong Kong was downgraded to the Tier 2 watch list.

The 2024 TIP Heroes

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the TIP Report Heroes awards program. Each year, the Department of State honors individuals for their tireless efforts, despite some working in challenging environments where human trafficking concerns remain pervasive and facing resistance, opposition, or threats to their lives, to protect victims, punish offenders, and mitigate the underlying factors that cause vulnerabilities traffickers often target. These individuals include NGO workers, lawmakers, government officials, survivors of human trafficking, and concerned citizens.



TIP Hero: Maria Werlau, Founder/Executive Director, Free Society Project

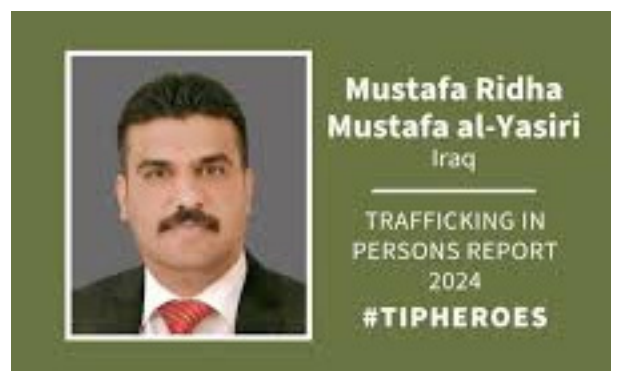
Maria Werlau is co-founder and Executive Director of Free Society Project, also known as Cuba Archive, a non-profit think tank that defends human rights through information. She began in 2009 researching, documenting, and denouncing exploitation and forced labor in Cuba's labor export program and advocating for its victims and survivors.

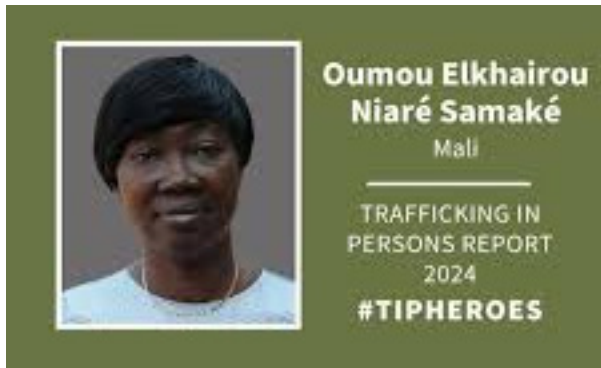
Maria has interviewed dozens of Cuban workers, primarily doctors coerced to work globally. Through her work at Cuba Archive, she has exposed the dark aspects of Cuba's medical missions, emphasizing the abuses faced by the workers: violence, sexual harassment, family separation, exploitation, forced labor, wage confiscation, restriction of movement, passport retention, repression, forced exile, psychological trauma, loss of life, and more. She has also documented and exposed the labor export program's lesser-known impact on the public health systems of Cuba and host countries, as well as its economic and political value to the Cuban regime.

TIP Hero: Mustafa Ridha Mustafa al-Yasiri, Director – Anti-Human Trafficking Directorate, Ministry of Interior

Brigadier General Mustafa Ridha Mustafa al-Yasiri has worked in Iraq's Ministry of Interior (MOI) to combat trafficking in persons throughout a career dedicated to defending Iraq's most vulnerable. He improved the Government of Iraq's efforts to combat trafficking in persons and enhanced services for women trafficking victims only months after being appointed in March 2023 as the Director of MOI's Anti-Human Trafficking Directorate. With support from the Minister of Interior, he

increased government resources dedicated to fighting trafficking in persons, appointed women Trafficking in Persons officers and employees to assist trafficking victims better and appointed new investigative officers and officials knowledgeable on trafficking in persons, victim identification, and violence against women. Together with the Iraqi judiciary, Mustafa established a strategy to identify victims more accurately and better address sexual exploitation and other forms of trafficking. In addition, Brigadier General Mustafa worked with hiring companies to ensure they publish and display signs detailing Iraqi workers' rights and the MOI's Trafficking in Persons hotline.

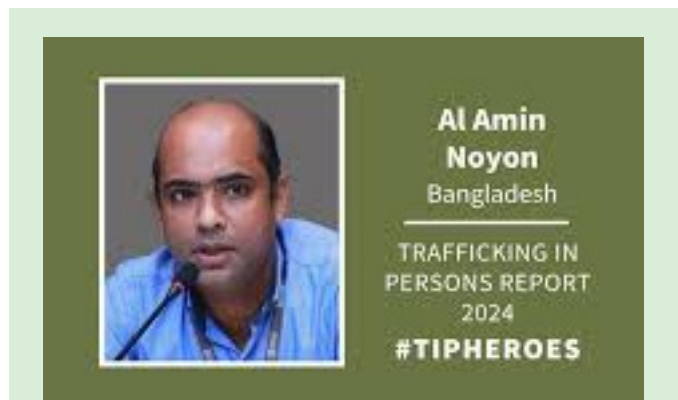




TIP Hero: Oumou Elkhairou Niaré Samaké, Coordinator, National Integrated Program for the Fight Against Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime; National Committee for the Fight Against Trafficking in Persons and Similar Practices

Oumou Elkhairou Niaré Samaké (Oumou) serves as the coordinator of Mali's National Integrated Program for the Fight against Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime and as Coordinator of the National Committee for the Fight Against Trafficking in Persons and Similar Practices. Oumou has spearheaded Mali's recent adoption of a new Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons, championed the development

of Mali's new draft penal code to criminalize trafficking in persons, and fought to increase prosecutions over the past year of hereditary slavery cases. Oumou spearheaded the development, drafting, and adoption of Mali's new National Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons, launched in October 2023. She has maintained high-level standards of contact with partners, donors, and national and international stakeholders in the fight against trafficking in persons and hereditary slavery.



TIP Hero: Al Amin Noyon, Manager, BRAC Migration Centre

Md. Al-Amin, or Noyon, is a welcoming first face to trafficking survivors and migrants as they return to Bangladesh. As a fellow trafficking survivor, Noyon is uniquely qualified and motivated to help them rebuild their lives. In his capacity as manager of the BRAC Migration Welfare Centre onsite at the Dhaka airport, Noyon has supported more than 34,000 Bangladeshi trafficking survivors and migrants over the last 15 years.

Noyon believes education is one of the best ways to insulate Bangladesh's next generation from the perils of human trafficking. He assists with safe migration campaigns at schools across Bangladesh and has supported thousands of students whose families are migrants or trafficking survivors to secure academic scholarships.

TIP Hero: Marcela Martinez, Activist/Lawyer

Ms. Martinez is an accomplished Bolivian lawyer from La Paz and a leading anti-trafficking activist who has changed the direction of Bolivian and regional efforts to combat trafficking in persons, providing hope for families affected by human trafficking in Bolivia.

In 2017, Ms. Martinez formed the Social Responsibility Area of her law firm, from which the #RedAlertTempranaZar hashtag operates. This hashtag is modeled after the Amber Alert system in the United States to help activate searches for victims in Bolivia. More than 18,000 volunteers participate in the network and have helped authorities locate more than 150 victims.



Action



Edith Murogo
Kenya

TRAFFICKING IN
PERSONS REPORT
2024
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TIP Hero: Edith Murogo, Founder/Chief Executive Officer, Centre for Domestic Training and Development

Edith Murogo is a beacon of hope on the frontlines of the fight against human trafficking and labor exploitation in Kenya. After establishing the Centre for Domestic Training and Development (CDTD) in 2001, Edith became a leading advocate for domestic workers' rights and lobbied the government for strengthened protections for migrant workers. Edith initiated training to professionalize domestic workers and convinced the government to develop the curriculum and establish a certificate program for domestic workers seeking employment abroad. CDTD has assisted over 50,000 domestic workers with advocacy, skills, and knowledge to prevent them from becoming victims of trafficking.

In 2012, Edith opened the Talia Agler Girls Shelter (TAGS) – a safe house providing comprehensive assistance for survivors of human trafficking. TAGS has assisted over 1,000 girls with removal from trafficking situations.



TIP Hero: Marijana Savić, Founder/Director, Atina

Marijana Savić, founder and director of NGO Atina, is an activist dedicated to advancing women's and girls' rights. For over two decades, she has provided vital support and recovery programs for survivors of trafficking and gender-based violence in Serbia.

Under Marijana's guidance, Atina has become a pivotal organization in Serbia's anti-trafficking sector. Marijana actively contributes by helping integrate survivor experiences into law and human rights policies in Serbia and abroad. In 2015, she founded Bagel Bejgl, which provides employment to trafficking survivors and supports Atina's sustainability by directing its profits to anti-trafficking programming.

Marijana is an expert in combating trafficking, especially labor exploitation, who works with international bodies, including the Council of Europe. An alumna of the Human Rights Advocates Program at Columbia University, Marijana is also involved in global advocacy as a member of the Global Fund for Children's board, Canada's Equality Fund Investment Advisory Council, and the UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Human Trafficking board.



Rosa Cendón
España

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TIP Hero: Rosa Cendón, Advisor, Human Trafficking and Gender-based Violence, Catalonia Regional Ministry for Equality and Feminism

Rosa is a social worker and educator based in Barcelona and has led advocacy and institutional relations for SICARcat, the largest anti-trafficking NGO in the Catalonia region, for 20 years. Since 2022, Rosa has been an expert advisor for combating human trafficking and gender-based violence at the Catalonia Regional Ministry of Equality and Feminism. She contributed to designing the regional Catalanian and Barcelona city victim-protection protocols. Under her

leadership, SICARcat developed tools for detecting and intervening in human trafficking cases, working closely with law enforcement agencies.

TIP Hero: Rosa Cendón (cont.)

During the European migration crisis, Rosa helped found ASIL.CAT network of human rights NGOs that coordinated shelter, protection, and services for the influx of refugees. She ensured that anti-trafficking efforts were included in the asylum reception system. As a result of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Spain has received over 200,000 Ukrainian refugees, and Rosa has been at the forefront of providing support to the refugees arriving in Barcelona.



TIP Hero: Letitia Pinas, Inspector of Police – Head of the Trafficking in Persons Unit, Suriname Police Force

Inspector Letitia Pinas was assigned the role of Acting Head of the 14-person Trafficking in Persons Unit in November 2020. She overhauled the unit by drafting a strategic plan that improved the unit's ability to investigate suspects and identify and serve victims, its presence in and outreach to the community, and the public's trust in it. She successfully lobbied for funds from the police to establish an emergency shelter to house victims in the initial stages of an investigation. She closely collaborated with the

Prosecutors' Office for funding to create a long-term shelter for both male and female victims.

Through collaboration with the Maritime Police and the Military Police, the Trafficking in Persons Unit participates in inspections of incoming vessels, also checking for victims among incoming travelers at the airport. These efforts have led to increased numbers of identified victims, including many who have trusted the police enough to self-report. Her collaboration with senior police officials resulted in the development of a website that raises awareness on human trafficking and provides a tool to anonymously report suspected cases of trafficking.

TIP Hero: Samson Inocencio Jr., Vice President, International Justice Mission Philippines Program Against Online Sexual Exploitation of Children

Samson "Sam" Inocencio has dedicated over 20 years to combating trafficking in persons through his work with the International Justice Mission (IJM) Philippines. He has contributed to 147 convictions for commercial sexual exploitation and 220 for online sexual exploitation (OSEC) crimes since 2005. After becoming National Director of IJM in 2016, Sam assisted in the removal of 544 children from situations of commercial sexual exploitation and 1,237 children who were at risk of OSEC. As IJM's representative to the Government of the Philippines' Interagency Council Against Trafficking, Sam has assisted the Philippines in its efforts to combat the commercial sexual exploitation of children and OSEC-related crimes, to hold offenders accountable in courts of law, and to safeguard Filipino children.



Sam collaborated with the Government of the Philippines in 2016 to develop a "roadmap to Tier 1" in the U.S. Department of State Trafficking in Persons Report. The Philippines has been ranked Tier 1 for eight years due to the merits of its efforts.



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- [Southern CA Partners for Global Justice](#)
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