![C:\Users\Jyotsana\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\IE\NY362EZD\1200px-Flag_of_the_United_States_(1912-1959).svg[1].png]() ***United States Of America***( )

**Topic - Protecting victims of human trafficking in conflict and post-conflict situations**.

Human trafficking is a pervasive crisis throughout the world. Millions of women, men, and children—often held against their will in slave-like conditions—have been forced into servitude, forced labor, or the commercial sex trade. It is a multi-billion dollar industry that fuels organized criminal enterprises, finances terrorists, imposes social and public health costs, and inflicts grave damage upon its victims. So what is the U.S. government doing to combat the problem?

In 2017, Departments of State and Labor and the U.S. Agency for International Development managed a total of 120 international counter-human-trafficking projects across more than 40 different countries.

The counter-trafficking projects have 3 goals:

* **Prevent** human trafficking through public awareness, outreach, education, and advocacy campaigns.
* **Protect** and assist victims by providing shelters as well as health, psychological, legal, and vocational services.
* **Prosecute** human trafficking by providing training and technical assistance for law enforcement officials, such as police, prosecutors, and judges.

**How these projects work**

State managed a short-term assistance project aimed at protecting human trafficking victims in emergency situations. The project provided shelter, food, counseling, and medical and legal services.

Labor managed a project with a goal to help bring local and national laws and policies into alignment with international labor standards.

Agencies also addressed human trafficking concerns in projects focused on other issues.

**Measuring impact**

We found ways for State and USAID to get a better handle on how well their projects are working. Specifically, they were using inconsistent and incomplete information to assess project performance so there’s risk that they can’t fully or accurately understand what projects are, or aren’t, achieving, and how they could improve their efforts

Human trafficking, also known as trafficking in persons (TIP), is a modern-day form of slavery. It is a crime under federal and international law; it is also a crime in every state in the United States.

**Federal Anti-Trafficking Laws**

The [Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000](https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-106hr3244enr/pdf/BILLS-106hr3244enr.pdf) is the first comprehensive federal law to address trafficking in persons. The law provides a three-pronged approach that includes prevention, protection, and prosecution. The TVPA was reauthorized through the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA) of [2003](https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-108hr2620enr/pdf/BILLS-108hr2620enr.pdf), [2005](https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-109hr972enr/pdf/BILLS-109hr972enr.pdf), [2008](https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-110hr7311enr/pdf/BILLS-110hr7311enr.pdf), [2013](https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-113hr898ih/pdf/BILLS-113hr898ih.pdf), and [2017](https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/BILLS-115s1862enr/pdf/BILLS-115s1862enr.pdf).

Under U.S. federal law, “severe forms of trafficking in persons” includes both sexes trafficking and labor trafficking:

**Sex trafficking** is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purposes of a commercial sex act, in which the commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age.

**Labor trafficking** is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purposes of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

**The Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015**

The [Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act (JVTA) of 2015](https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/178) improves the U.S. response to human trafficking. It contains a number of important amendments that strengthen services for victims. Among these amendments are changes in the criminal liability of buyers of commercial sex from victims of trafficking, the creation of a survivor-led U.S. Advisory Council on Human Trafficking, and new directives for the implementation of a national strategy for combating human trafficking.

The JVTA also requires the creation of a domestic trafficking victim’s fund to support victim assistance programs, block grants for child trafficking deterrence programs, and additional training requirements for first responders, among others. Notably, the JVTA amended the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA) by declaring youth who are victims of severe forms of trafficking in persons are eligible for services under the RHYA. It also amended the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) by adding human trafficking and child pornography as forms of child abuse.

**The Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014**

The [Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014](http://www.ncsl.org/research/human-services/preventing-sex-trafficking-and-strengthening-families-act-of-2014.aspx) seek to reduce the incidence of sex trafficking among youth involved in the foster care system. The portion of this law specific to sex trafficking requires child welfare systems to improve their response to sex trafficking by screening and identifying youth who are sex trafficking victims or those who are at risk for sex trafficking, provide appropriate services to youth who experience sex trafficking, report missing children to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, and develop protocols for locating missing or runaway children and determine what circumstances they faced while away from care.

Furthermore, state child welfare agencies are required to report instances of sex trafficking to law enforcement and provide information regarding sex trafficking victims or at-risk youth to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, who will in turn report these numbers to Congress.

**Agenda**-**Protecting victims of human trafficking in conflict and post-conflict**

 **situations**

**Committee**- **United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)**

**Country-) USA (United of America)**

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