

Good Practices in Combating Human Trafficking

The Commission on the Prevention of Human Trafficking
Virginia General Assembly
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Trafficking in Virginia

- Likely to be significantly underreported

Forms of trafficking:

- ❖ Domestic servitude (Countryman case, foreign diplomats)
- ❖ **Exploitation of migrant workers** (seafood processing industry, agriculture, tobacco)
- ❖ Trafficking for sexual exploitation (domestic and international; case of foreign students in VA)
- ❖ Mail order brides
- ❖ Trafficking for adoptions

Anti-trafficking Practices: Prevention

- ❖ Swedish law criminalizes the purchase and attempt to purchase sexual services.
 - Women & men in prostitution do not face criminal sanctions.
 - The law went into effect on 1/1/1999; resulted in significant drop in prostitution & trafficking.
 - Finland, Norway & South Korea have adopted similar laws.
- ❖ U.S. police & local governments have publicized the names and photographs of buyers of sexual services in local media, on the Internet, & on billboards (Omaha, NE; Akron, OH; Richmond, VA in 2005).

Anti-trafficking Practices: Prevention

- ❖ In “Operation Snapshot,” police in Winnipeg, Canada videotape men as they pick up women in prostitution and broadcast the video on the Internet.
- ❖ Frederick, MD released 82 pages of prostitution business records,
 - including the names of 500 men who bought women in prostitution.
 - Records had been seized in a brothel raid by the police.

Anti-trafficking Practices: Prevention

- ❖ Travel agents are trained to identify and report perpetrators of child sex tourism (Carlson Companies, the world's second largest travel agency, USA)
- ❖ Awareness programs targeting the public transportation system.
 - Bus terminals report possible child trafficking cases to police (Ethiopia).
 - Taxi cabs have anti-trafficking stickers inside (Ecuador).

Anti-trafficking Practices: Prevention

- ❖ Educating the public (results in identification of trafficking cases in communities)
- ❖ Former victims work alongside border officials to identify traffickers and victims at key crossing points (Nepal).
 - The former victims are able to spot potential victims and provide assistance.

Anti-trafficking Practices: Prevention

- ❖ Using popular culture to raise public awareness:
 - In Colombia a popular soap opera incorporated a storyline of a trafficking victim; broadcast on Spanish language TV in several countries;
 - A popular South African soccer team wore T-shirts with a counter-trafficking message & a toll-free number to call for help during the warm-up before a match during the annual Human Trafficking Awareness Week;
 - South Africa's largest urban radio station partnered with IOM to produce and air PSAs that encourage people to find out more about human trafficking and report suspected cases on IOM's toll-free helpline;
 - Ricky Martin, a popular Latin singer, worked with volunteers to disseminate anti-trafficking information at his concerts in Ecuador (reaching 24,000 people).

Anti-trafficking practices: Prosecution/Detection

- ❖ Elite anti-trafficking police units
 - 2-4 officers in each regional police dept. trained on trafficking; resulted in more trafficking investigations (Tajikistan);
 - Specialized police investigative department to investigate and combat labor trafficking (Czech Republic);
 - Police now focus resources and manpower to investigate sophisticated criminal networks involved in forced labor;
 - The unit coordinates with labor inspectors who enforce labor laws pertaining to working conditions.
- ❖ Singapore applies higher penalty for exploitation of foreign domestic workers to prevent trafficking.

Anti-trafficking practices: Protection

- ❖ Council of Europe adopted Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings in 2008:
 - Ratified by ten member states
 - Entitles victims to 30-day recovery and reflection period to escape the influence of traffickers and make an informed decision regarding cooperation with authorities
 - Residence permits NOT based on cooperation with authorities

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