



Bankrupt Slavery: The Campaign to Dismantle the Business of Human Trafficking

Strategic Framework

Human trafficking, or modern day slavery, is a crime with global impact. There are an estimated 20.9 million victims of modern-day slavery around the world today, generating \$150 billion in illicit profits each year. The human costs—in lives, dignity, and rights—are incalculable. While efforts to reduce the demand for slave labor and rescue victims are critical, without reversing the risk-reward equation for perpetrators, we will struggle to keep pace with this growing illicit enterprise.

The United States is a source, transit, and destination country in the global human trafficking business and must play a central role in combating this scourge. Our country has taken many important steps, including enacting and reauthorizing the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000 and acceding to the Palermo Protocol to the Transnational Crime Convention in 2005. But the numbers of victims and the profits made by exploiting them have continued to rise.

We aim to dismantle the business of human trafficking by increasing the legal risk to perpetrators and diminishing their profits. Through cooperation between the U.S. government, private sector, and civil society, we will press for increased prosecutions and more robust criminal asset forfeiture proceedings, targeting all the enablers and participants in this criminal enterprise.

Together, we pledge to put our individual and collective energies and influence behind a major public education and advocacy effort to dismantle the business of human trafficking. We endorse the following strategic framework to guide the campaign:

- 1) Prosecutions need to be increased in number and effectiveness to intensify the risks associated with trafficking. Prosecutions should encompass all actors in the exploitation network—from beginning to end of the exploitation chain. Collaboration between government agencies and local jurisdictions is essential to this effort.
- 2) By providing the right incentives and tools, American companies can play a strategic role in dismantling the business of trafficking.
- 3) At its core, human trafficking is a financially motivated crime. To dismantle it, we must focus on drying up the profits. If we can eliminate the incentives that attract perpetrators into the business, we can begin to it.
- 4) Trafficking prosecutions should consistently include criminal asset forfeitures in order to deter traffickers, dry up their profits, and provide restitution to victims.
- 5) Human trafficking can affect legitimate businesses by damaging their brands, exposing them to legal liability, and ultimately hurting their profits. Businesses should identify and implement best practices for mapping their supply chains to ensure they are free from slave labor. The U.S. Government, as a major purchaser of goods and services, should also adopt and improve safeguards against human trafficking in its supply chains.



- 6) Accurate and comprehensive data is essential in developing and evaluating strategies. The U.S. government should develop comprehensive and reliable statistics about trafficking in the United States.
- 7) The priority of a societal problem is reflected in the public resources devoted to solving it. The United States should increase funding for combating trafficking.

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American ideals. Universal values.

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