

CHILD TRAFFICKING — ACTION

Child trafficking involves the movement of children from one place to another for the purposes of exploitation, which often means the crossing of borders either within nations or between countries. Therefore, the coordination of various law enforcement officials is essential in combatting this industry.

The UN has developed conventions and protocols to increase cooperation, and other organizations, such as the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation, have created conventions on trafficking that meet the more specific needs of their geographic area. Thirty-seven countries in Europe now have institutions committed to anti-trafficking policy development.

Canadian Approaches

Canada's National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking was launched June 6, 2012 after a strong push from Conservative MP Joy Smith. The government committed \$25 million over four years to create a human trafficking taskforce, as well as address issues surrounding the four pillars associated with trafficking problems:

1. Prevention of human trafficking;
2. Protection of victims;
3. Prosecution of offenders; and
4. Working in partnerships with others, domestically and internationally.

Various agencies have become involved and engaged in the effort to combat trafficking in Canada. This list will continue to grow as the understanding of what child trafficking is and how it can be best eradicated improves.

- The RCMP established the Human Trafficking National Coordination Centre in its Ottawa headquarters and is responsible for raising awareness, facilitating investigations and coordinating international initiatives.
- Canadian Border Services Agency is charged with providing information to vulnerable foreign nationals when they come into Canada.
- The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs has committed to raising awareness in First Nations communities in its province.
- Immigration officers now have the capacity to issue short-term, temporary residence permits to foreign national victims. It is hoped that the support these permits provide will serve as an incentive for victims to seek help.

Sources

- Public Safety Canada, *National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking* (2012), online: <<http://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/prg/le/cmbt-trffkng-eng.aspx>>.
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