

Stop Trafficking !

Anti-Human Trafficking Newsletter



Awareness

Advocacy

Action

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This issue highlights information from the
2018 U.S. State Department
'Trafficking in Persons' (TIP) Report



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- Sisters of the Precious Blood
- Society of the Divine Savior USA
- Society of the Holy Child Jesus
- Society of the Sacred Heart
- U.S. Ursuline Sisters of the Roman Union

2018 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report

Announcement of 2018 TIP Report

“Human trafficking deprives millions worldwide of their dignity and freedom. It undermines national security, distorts markets, and enriches transnational criminals and terrorists, and is an affront to the universal values we as Americans hold dear. The use of human trafficking by terrorist groups, such as ISIS and Boko Haram, not only reflects the brutality of these groups, but also acts as a means by which terrorist organizations recruit adherents and finance their operations. Combating human trafficking is not merely a moral issue or one that affects the interests of the American people; it is also an issue that threatens international peace and security.

“The United States remains a committed leader in combating this global threat. President Trump has made ending human trafficking a top priority for the Administration and dedicated the government’s

Pompeo cont. pg. 2

Critique of 2018 TIP Report

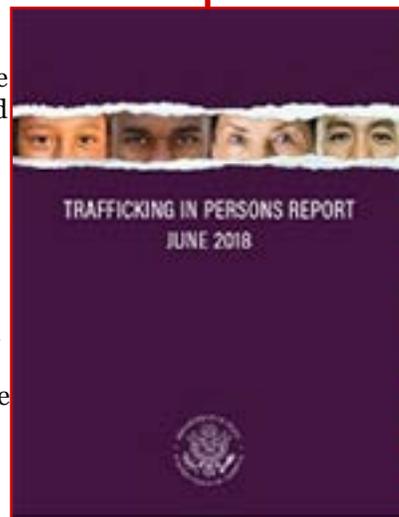
U.S. Senator Bob Menendez (D-NJ), Ranking Member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, reacted to the 2018 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report by the U.S. State Department.

“The State Department missed yet another opportunity to restore the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report

to what it once was - the gold standard for unbiased, accurate reporting on countries’ efforts to end the scourge of human trafficking. While I applaud some of the Department’s decisions in this report, including the long overdue downgrade of Malaysia, it still chose to go easy on many countries that clearly do not meet the legal standards.

“I continue to believe that TIP rankings must be based on an objective assessment of the minimum standards in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, a country’s efforts to meet them, and the impact that government actions are having on

Menendez cont. pg. 2





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Pompeo *cont. from pg. 1*

full resources to fighting this crime. I am proud to lead the Department's dedicated efforts to rid the world of modern slavery. I will continue to strengthen our partnership with Congress, faith-based organizations, the private sector, advocates, and human trafficking survivors, whose voices are critical to developing effective antitrafficking strategies and public policies. As I have throughout my career, I remain committed to advancing civilian security and preserving human life and dignity.

"The 2018 Trafficking in Persons Report is an essential State Department tool used to shed light on the darkness where modern slavery thrives and to highlight specific steps each government can take to protect victims of human trafficking, prevent trafficking crimes, and prosecute traffickers in the United States and around the world. The findings in this report help inform policymakers, law enforcement, and civil society on gaps and areas of concern, as well as serve as a roadmap forward to end the scourge.

"This year's report focuses on effective ways local communities can address human trafficking proactively and on how national governments can support and empower them. Local communities are the most affected by

this abhorrent crime and are also the first line of defense against human trafficking. By engaging and training law enforcement, religious leaders, teachers, tribal elders, business executives, and communities, we become more vigilant and learn to identify and address vulnerabilities swiftly. Proactive community-driven measures



Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Special Advisor to the President Ivanka Trump present Maizidah Salas of Indonesia with an award for her advocacy work. She is one of the heroes featured in the 2018 TIP Report. (<https://www.cnn.com/2018/06/28/politics/state-dept-trafficking-annual-report/index.html>)

strengthen our ability to protect our most vulnerable and weaken a criminal's ability to infiltrate, recruit, and exploit. I have experienced firsthand that individuals closest to a problem are often the best resource to solving it, which is why the Department prioritizes equipping and empowering front-line civil society leaders.

"Modern slavery has no place in the world, and I intend to ensure, through diplomatic engagement and increased action, that the United States government's leadership in combating this global threat is sustained in the years to come."

Michael R. Pompeo, Secretary of State

"The traumatic experiences suffered by victims of human trafficking are beyond comprehension. It is crucial that law enforcement agencies develop strong and enduring partnerships with NGOs and faithbased organizations that are on the front lines of survivor support."

- Callista Gingrich,
U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See

Menendez *cont. from pg. 1*

improving the lives of trafficking victims. That is why this year's upgrades of Bahrain, Thailand, and Uzbekistan, and granting a waiver to Cuba, are simply unjustifiable and troubling given the facts on the ground.

"The credibility of the TIP Report ultimately derives from the United States' leadership on human rights. A number of this Administration's words and actions have eroded that leadership, most recently its policy of separating children from their families at the border. As the TIP Report says, 'Children in institutional care, including government-run facilities, can be easy targets for traffickers.'

"It is now more important than ever that Congress swiftly pass my Trafficking In Persons Report Integrity Act to reform the ranking process and ensure that it is no longer subject to political manipulation or inconsistent analysis. Any government that traffics its own citizens deserves nothing less than our strongest condemnation. Each year that goes by without reform is a disservice to the millions of trafficking victims this process strives to protect."

Sen. Menendez has tried to stop trade agreements with countries that have the worst human trafficking records like the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). In 2015, Menendez authored an amendment to the Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) legislation that for the first time prohibited expedited 'fast track' congressional consideration for any trade deal including a country ranked Tier 3 in a TIP report.

Menendez then helped bring the TIP process under scrutiny after the 2015 report rankings were proven to have been intentionally manipulated due to political pressures. The Senator authored bipartisan legislation to comprehensively reform the State Department's annual TIP Report process, a proposal currently pending before the Senate.

<https://www.menendez.senate.gov/news-and-events/press/menendez-reacts-to-state-departments-2018-trafficking-in-persons-report>



Victim Stories

Dominican Republic

When Raul was in high school in the Dominican Republic, he jumped at the opportunity to go to the U.S. to continue his education. A family friend offered to be his sponsor and hire Raul in his restaurant while Raul attended school.

Shortly after Raul arrived in the U.S. and began attending the local high school, his sponsor pulled him out of classes and forced him to work in his restaurant full-time for less than \$1 an hour. The sponsor withheld Raul's passport, threatened him, and sexually abused him. Raul was forced to live in filthy conditions in the restaurant.

After an anonymous call to the national hotline, law enforcement officials raided the restaurant and arrested Raul's sponsor. (TIP, pg. 7)

Ghana Emmanuel and Isaac's mother struggled to care for them and keep them safe. When she could no longer afford to feed her boys, she sold them to a man who put them to work on a fishing boat. This man was abusive, often hitting Emmanuel and Isaac with the boat paddle. Emmanuel and Isaac would often split one meal a day between them.

The brothers were able to escape when their trafficker heard authorities were arresting people who had kids working on the boats. Emmanuel and Isaac now live with a neighbor who sends them to school. (TIP, pg. 14)



USA

Lipenga grew up in *Malawi*, and was at first excited to accompany her employer, a Malawian diplomat, to the U.S. in 2004. Once she arrived, however, she was subjected to conditions much different from those that her employer had led her to expect as a domestic worker. Lipenga frequently worked 17-hour days and was paid less than 40 cents a day. After a long day of cooking, cleaning, and washing and ironing clothes, she was forced to work in the middle of the night at her trafficker's company cleaning carpets with heavy equipment. She was not even given her own room and had to sleep on the ground in her trafficker's basement. As a result of harsh working conditions, inadequate food, and a lack of access to healthcare, Lipenga lost 12 teeth, suffered from extreme malnourishment, and psychological trauma.

Even in countries like the U.S. with comprehensive anti-TIP and labor rights laws, victims like Lipenga can still suffer abuse. With neither gloves nor boots, Lipenga was forced to shovel two feet of snow in her trafficker's driveway. She recalled that many cars drove by, but did not stop to ask if she needed help. Her neighbor, a policeman, saw her in the cold, but did not question her working conditions. She spoke of the isolation she felt after this incident and the lack of empathy she felt from others, saying, "I wanted to die, I didn't want to live anymore. I felt like a slave."

Lipenga fled her trafficker after three

grueling years. She spent a month in the hospital where she was treated for post-traumatic stress disorder and malnourishment. She then stayed at a homeless shelter where she learned English by watching cartoons at night. She received legal support from *American University Law School*, *The Human Trafficking Legal Center*, and the pro-bono team of a major Washington law firm, who opened a civil case against her trafficker. After years of tireless work, a judge in the District Court of Maryland awarded Lipenga a \$1.1 million judgment to compensate her for the wages she never received from her trafficker. Lipenga's trafficker fled the country, so she was never able to collect, but Lipenga has focused her energies on aiding other victims. (<https://blogs.state.gov/stories/2018/06/29/en/speaking-one-woman-s-powerful-account-human-trafficking>)

Child Institutionalization and Human Trafficking

The international community agrees that a family caregiving setting, or an alternative solution that is appropriate and culturally sensitive, is the most conducive environment for the growth, well-being, and safety of children.

Removal of a child from the family should only be considered as a temporary, last resort. Studies have found that both private and government-run residential institutions for children, or places such as orphanages and psychiatric wards that do not offer a family-based setting, cannot replicate the emotional companionship and attention found in family environments that are prerequisites to healthy cognitive development.

Yet, about eight million children worldwide, even though an estimated 80 - 90% of them have at least one living parent, live in these facilities.

Children cont. pg. 4



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Children *cont. from pg. 3*

The physical and psychological effects of staying in residential institutions, combined with societal isolation and often subpar regulatory oversight by governments, place these children in situations of heightened vulnerability to human trafficking.

Children in institutional care, including government-run facilities, can be easy targets for traffickers. Children are especially vulnerable when traffickers take advantage of their need for emotional bonding stemming from the absence of stable parental figures. In addition, the rigid schedules and social isolation of residential institutions offer traffickers a tactical advantage, as they can coerce children to leave and find ways to exploit them.

Children are more at risk for human trafficking in ill-managed facilities that allow traffickers to operate in or around the facility with impunity. Residential institutions that are complicit or directly involved in human trafficking take advantage of unfettered access to the children, knowing they have nowhere to turn for support. Several orphanages, including in *Oceania*, *Central America*, and *Eastern Europe*, have been found to be doubling as brothels. In one instance, children in an orphanage, as well as international NGOs, reported detailed cases of staff forcing some of the girls, especially those from rural or indigenous communities, out at night to engage in commercial sex. Civil society groups have also identified forced labor in residential institutions. One instance involved staff of an orphanage for children with disabilities forcing children to assist in construction projects and other dangerous tasks, such as steriliz-

ing soiled mattresses, under the guise of *'work therapy.'* In several countries, these children are made to perform domestic work in houses in the surrounding village or labor on a farm.

Institutional complicity can even extend to the practice of recruiting children for the facility. *'Child finders'* travel to local villages or communities — often those affected by war, natural disaster, poverty, or societal discrimination—and promise parents



TIP, pg. 23

education, food security, safety, and healthcare for their children. Instead of fulfilling those promises, many orphanages use the children to raise funds by forcing them to perform shows for, or interact and play with, potential donors to encourage more donations. Orphanages have also kept children in poor health to elicit more sympathy and money from donors.

Foreign travelers wishing to include charity in their vacation often partake in *'voluntourism'* at orphanages, which child advocacy organizations and governments have documented as harmful. Volunteering in these facilities for short periods of time without appropriate training can cause further emotional stress and even a sense of abandonment for already vulnerable children with attachment issues affected by temporary and irregular experiences of safe relationships. In addition, it is rare that background checks are performed on these volunteers, which can also increase the risk of children being exposed to individuals with criminal intent. *'Voluntourism'* not only has unintended consequences for the children, but also the profits

made through volunteer-paid program fees or donations to orphanages from tourists incentivize nefarious orphanage owners to increase revenue by expanding child recruitment operations in order to open more facilities. These orphanages facilitate child trafficking rings by using false promises to recruit children and exploit them to profit from donations. This practice has been well-documented in several countries, including *Nepal*, *Cambodia*, and *Haiti*.

In response, governments can take steps to protect children from these vulnerabilities, starting with providing assistance to families who find it difficult to provide their children with food, education, and healthcare and may be at risk of losing custody of their children as a result. Also, governments can develop, coordinate, and encourage family-based care options over institutional care whenever appropriate. Oversight bodies should demand stricter monitoring of children's homes, ensuring they meet international guidelines and pursue criminal accountability for those who facilitate or organize trafficking in or near government facilities. Governments can also evaluate their laws to increase protections for children with disabilities and strengthen parental rights and abilities to promote children staying with families when it is in the best interest of the child. Donor countries can ensure foreign assistance prioritizes support for programs or initiatives that preserve family-based care and do not support residential institutions that are not in compliance with international standards. Donor countries can also look at ways to increase oversight of organizations and charities funneling money to residential institutions abroad. Moreover, awareness-raising efforts can counter social media campaigns promoting *'voluntourism'* in orphanages, as well as educate well-intentioned groups, such as tourism companies and religious organizations that unintentionally perpetuate the demand for children in residential institutions. (Excerpted from TIP, pgs. 22-23)



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Awareness

How Governments Address Domestic Servitude in Diplomatic Households

Domestic servitude is a form of human trafficking involving domestic workers employed by diplomats and international organization officials posted abroad. Although rare, when diplomats subject domestic workers to involuntary servitude or other forms of exploitation, the problem is a grave and challenging one for host governments to address.

Foreign mission personnel and their family members enjoy various forms of immunity from jurisdiction in the country in which they are posted. In particular, foreign government representatives who are accredited to a host country as 'diplomatic agents,' or as 'permanent representatives to the United Nations,' enjoy immunity from criminal and most civil jurisdiction, along with their spouses and children, and thus cannot be sued or prosecuted unless their government grants a waiver of immunity. Diplomats and their immediate family members also enjoy personal inviolability, meaning they cannot be arrested or detained. Other foreign government representatives, such as embassy administrative and technical staff members, may also be immune from a host state's civil, administrative, and criminal jurisdiction.

The immunities for members of a diplomatic mission are enshrined in the *Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations*, a treaty based on the reciprocal interests of all States that both host foreign diplomats and send their own abroad. The Convention also obliges diplomats to respect the host nation's laws, and implicitly recognizes the long-held privilege of bringing foreign domestic workers on diplomatic assignments abroad.

Domestic workers often face circumstances that leave them extremely

vulnerable to exploitation by their diplomat employers. They usually are a legal resident in the country in which they are working only by virtue of

their employment by the diplomat.

Thus, they may remain in exploitative situations because they feel they have no other options. Further, these workers are often isolated from the community beyond the diplomat's family due to lack of familiarity with the language, institutions, and culture of the country in which they are employed. There is a significant power disparity between a diplomat, who is a government official of some standing, and a domestic worker, who likely has a modest background and may have limited education or language skills. In addition, domestic workers are usually made aware of the special status of diplomats and may believe that rules of accountability do not apply to their employers and that it is hopeless to seek help.

An international consensus has begun to take shape, but it should also acknowledge that diplomats be held accountable for exploitation of domestic workers.

For instance, it is increasingly understood that there is a temporal limit to the immunity enjoyed by diplomats and their family members. The *Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations* provides that, after a diplomat leaves his or her position, the diplomat enjoys a limited form of immunity that extends only to the diplomat's 'official acts' while he or she was accredited.



An Ethiopian domestic worker cleans a household in Lebanon. (TIP, pg. 27)

Employment of a domestic worker is widely recognized not to be an official act. Thus, after diplomatic status has been terminated, domestic workers have successfully sued diplomats (and their spouses) for abuses alleged to have occurred while the diplomats were accredited.

Some of the innovative approaches currently implemented by the U.S. government and other host governments around the world address domestic servitude in diplomatic households using the '3P' paradigm of *Prevention, Protection, and Prosecution*.

(Only 'Prevention' is highlighted in this excerpt.)

Prevention

- Foreign domestic workers employed by diplomats should have written contracts in their language before arriving in the host country. Contracts should specify the hours of work, wages, holidays, medical care, etc. Employers should not withhold workers' travel and identity documents.
- Domestic workers should register in person with the host government (usually the *Protocol Office in the Foreign Ministry*). Registrations offer workers an opportunity to meet with host government representatives without their employer present to discuss their working conditions and learn about their rights and obligations. A domestic worker typically is provided with an identification card that is renewed periodically and contains contact information for assistance, if needed.
- In countries with effective banking systems, wages should be deposited directly to a bank account in the sole name of the domestic worker or paid by check. Wages should not be in cash. These measures provide objective evidence in the event of a salary dispute. Many governments have minimum wage requirements and prohibit entirely or specify the extent to which lodging or food expenses



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2018 TIP Report Tier Placement

Legend: (+/-) indicates the number of tiers a country moved up (+)/down (-) since 2017; (s) Special case; (*) Watch List Waivers (3-4 years);

(‡) Countries which continue to violate the Child Soldier Protection Act (CSPA); ● Not a party to the UN Palermo Protocol (Data found on pgs. 42, 54 TIP)

Tier 1 Countries whose governments fully meet the Trafficking Victims Protection Act's (TVPA) minimum standards.

Argentina (+)	Canada	Finland	Japan (+)	Norway	Spain
Aruba (+)	Chile	France	Korea, South	Philippines	Sweden
Australia	Colombia	Georgia	Lithuania	Poland	Switzerland
Austria	Cyprus (+)	Germany	Luxembourg	Portugal	Taiwan
The Bahamas	Czech Republic	Guyana	Netherlands	Slovakia	United Kingdom
Bahrain (+)	Denmark	Israel	New Zealand	Slovenia	USA
Belgium	Estonia (+)	Italy			

Tier 2 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.

Afghanistan	Cambodia	Greece	Macedonia	Pakistan (+) ●	St. Vincent & Gren
Albania	Cameroon (+)	Honduras Iceland	Malawi	Palau ●	Tanzania
Antigua & Barbuda (+)	Costa Rica	India	Malta	Panama	Thailand (+)
Armenia (-)	Cote d'Ivoire	Indonesia	Marshall Islands (+) ●	Paraguay	Timor-Leste
Azerbaijan	Croatia	Ireland (-)	Mauritius	Peru	Tonga
Barbados	Curaçao	Jamaica	Mexico	Qatar	Trinidad & Tobago
Benin (+)	Djibouti (+)	Jordan	Micronesia	Romania	Tunisia
Botswana	Dominican Republic	Kazakhstan	Moldova (+)	Rwanda (+)	Turkey
Brazil	Ecuador	Kenya	Morocco	Serbia (+)	Uganda ●
Brunei ●	Egypt	Kosovo	Mozambique (+)	Singapore	Ukraine
Bulgaria (+)	El Salvador	Latvia	Namibia	Solomon Islands ●	United Arab Emirates
Burkina Faso (+)	Ethiopia	Lebanon	Nepal ●	Sri Lanka	Uruguay
Cabo Verde (+)	Ghana (+)	Lesotho	Oman (+)	St. Lucia	Vietnam
					Zambia (+)

Tier 2 Watch List 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: a) The absolute number of victims of severe forms of trafficking is very significant or is significantly increasing; b) There is a failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat severe forms of trafficking in persons from the previous year; or c) The determination that a country is making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance with minimum standards was based on commitments by the country to take additional future steps over the next year.

Algeria	Cuba (*4)	Hong Kong (*3)	Madagascar	Niger (*3)	Sudan ‡ (+)
Angola (-)	Eswatini/Swaziland (*3)	Hungary	Malaysia (-)	Nigeria ‡	Suriname
Bangladesh ●	Fiji (-)	Iraq	Maldives (-)	Saudi Arabia (*4)	Tajikistan
Bhutan (-) ●	Guatemala	Kuwait (*3)	Mali ‡ (+)	Senegal (*3)	The Gambia
Bosnia & Herzegovina(-)	Guinea (+)	Kyrgyzstan Republic (-)	Mongolia (-)	Seychelles (-)	Togo (-) ●
Cent. African Rep. (+)	Guinea-Bissau (+)	Liberia	Montenegro	Sierra Leone (-)	Uzbekistan (+)
Chad ‡	Haiti	Macau	Nicaragua	South Africa (-)	Zimbabwe

Tier 3 Countries whose governments do not fully meet the minimum standards are are not making significant efforts to do so.

Belarus	Burundi	Congo (ROC) ●	Iran ●	Russia	Special Cases:
Belize	China (PRC)	Equatorial Guinea	Korea, North ●	South Sudan ‡ ●	Libya (s)
Bolivia (-)	Comoros ●	Eritrea	Laos (-)	Syria ‡	Somalia (s) ‡ ●
Burma/Myanmar (-)	Congo (DRC) ‡	Gabon (-)	Mauritania	Turkmenistan	St. Maarten (s)
			Papua New Guinea (-) ●	Venezuela	Yemen (s) ‡ ●



Advocacy

TIP Heroes



Ivana Radović is the Head of Policy and Learning at ASTRA, one of the leading grassroots anti-trafficking NGOs in **Serbia**. She has

strengthened Serbia's response to human trafficking through advocacy and engagement with the government, the development of reports and resources for practitioners, and the provision of legal representation for victims, including free legal review of workers' employment contracts to ensure compliance with labor laws. She also acts as ASTRA's public relations officer, boldly serving as the public representative of the organization in the face of threats, harassment, and scrutiny. Ms. Radović produces ASTRA's annual report on the successes and shortfalls in Serbia's prosecution efforts on human trafficking cases and has authored a number of key manuals that Serbian court officials reference extensively. These tools have helped Serbia's judicial system provide relief to victims in an increasingly victim-centered manner and enhanced prosecutors' and judges' understanding of human trafficking in its various forms. Because of her work to build ASTRA into one of the most credible NGOs fighting human trafficking in the country, Serbia's government established a cooperative relationship with the organization and has included its staff in many of its anti-trafficking initiatives to serve as subject matter experts.



Ausamah Al-Absi, the CEO of the **Bahrain** government's **Labor Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA)** and Chairman of

the **National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons (NCCTIP)**, has played an instrumental role in increasing protections for trafficking victims and reducing vulnerability of migrant workers. He has worked to improve labor conditions for Bahrain's large migrant worker population. Under his leadership, the Government of Bahrain launched its **National Referral Mechanism for Victims of Trafficking in Persons**, which streamlines the identification of potential victims, ensures proper documentation and referral of cases, and provides assistance to potential victims until the resolution of their cases or voluntary return to their home countries. The LMRA launched the **"flexible work permit"** program in July 2017, an initiative that moves Bahrain away from a strict sponsorship system by allowing some foreign workers to live and work in the country as their own sponsors, in an effort to reduce their vulnerability to trafficking by unscrupulous employers.

"I welcome the focus on engaging with local communities to help them to spot the signs of modern slavery. We need to shine a light on this hidden crime and to encourage more victims to come forward so that we can provide them with the support they need." Prime Minister Theresa May, United Kingdom

Bahrain made key achievements during the reporting period and was upgraded to Tier 1. These achievements included the government's first conviction of a Bahraini national for forced labor and first conviction of a complicit government official. It also implemented a nation-wide referral mechanism and identified and provided care to more than 30 trafficking victims. It reformed the sponsorship system, allowing some undocumented workers to self-sponsor and it launched standardized tripartite labor contracts for domestic workers.

(TIP, pg. 86)



Blessing Okoedion is an inspirational voice in the fight against modern slavery. Ms. Okoedion helped push authorities in **Italy** to ensure

that survivors, especially Nigerian women and girls, receive the services they deserve during their healing process and that law enforcement and service providers engage with survivors in an increasingly culturally informed, victim-centered manner. She selflessly devotes her time to ensure survivors feel they have a trusted champion, who can advocate on their behalf as they go through the process of reintegrating into society, including through her work as a cultural mediator for trafficking victims staying in a local shelter run by a community of Ursuline sisters. Ms. Okoedion has demonstrated exceptional courage in

Heroes cont. pg. 8



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Heroes *cont. from pg. 6*

drawing from her own experiences as a trafficking survivor to raise awareness about human trafficking in Italy, where she was subjected to sex trafficking. Ms. Okoedion also partners with the Catholic Church, particularly women religious, and travels throughout her home country of **Nigeria** to educate vulnerable women and girls in poor and remote areas to help them detect traffickers' fraudulent recruitment and employment tactics, including false promises of work and a better life in large cities and other countries. In 2017, she published a book, co-written with an Italian journalist, to tell her story and to shine a light on this abhorrent practice.



Kim Jong-chul is the founder and former Director of the *Advocates for Public Interest Law*. He has worked tirelessly as an attorney

to ensure justice for victims of human trafficking and as a researcher whose groundbreaking investigative findings have shed light on the issue of forced labor in **South Korea** and around the world. His findings have increased understanding of forced labor and other human rights abuses across multiple countries and industries, including seafood in East Asia, cotton in Uzbekistan, steel mills in India, electronics in Mexico, palm oil in Indonesia, and garments in Bangladesh. Through his criminal litigation work and administrative advocacy, he has fought to prevent the detention and deportation

of sex trafficking victims and to secure convictions against fishing companies and individuals for sex and labor trafficking. As a recognized expert on human trafficking, he has worked extensively with the South Korean parliament to craft a law that strengthens regulations to prosecute traffickers, protect victims, and prevent human trafficking.



Francisca Awah Mbuli is a survivor of human trafficking and the founding director in **Cameroon** of *Survivors' Network*, a NGO comprised of

trafficking survivors that raises awareness, helps victims escape their trafficking situations, and offers temporary housing, vocational training, and other essential services that survivors need for successful reintegration. As a survivor of domestic servitude, Ms. Awah Mbuli uses her experience to educate and prevent others in Cameroon from experiencing human trafficking. Since 2015, Ms. Awah Mbuli and her organization have helped 28 women from West and Central Africa free themselves from their situations of forced labor, including debt bondage, in the Middle East. Under her leadership, *Survivors' Network* has built a unique approach to survivor empowerment by focusing on economic independence and fostering entrepreneurship among women and girls. She has provided guidance to more than 500 victims of trafficking,

and her organization has helped create economic opportunities for survivors across Cameroon by providing micro-financing to small businesses and income-generating projects as well as job and small business training. Ms. Awah Mbuli has sought out creative ways to reach different communities and socioeconomic groups throughout the country, including through appearances on national and international television and radio stations. She has taken every opportunity to advocate for better protections and support services for trafficking victims with Cameroonian and foreign government ministries. Through the outreach campaigns and partnerships formed with international non-profit organizations and her grassroots workshops and programs, Ms. Awah Mbuli and the *Survivors' Network* have raised the level of awareness among Cameroonians and others around the world.

Yosief Abrham Mehari is a practicing medical doctor who has



demonstrated an unparalleled commitment to serving survivors of human trafficking in **Sudan**. He devotes his personal time to ensure victims

in Khartoum and in Sudan's remote areas receive high-quality medical care and support. He volunteers nights and weekends at Eritrean and Ethiopian safe houses, where he is on call 24/7 so victims have a primary point of contact when they first seek services after escaping their traffickers. He has often purchased medicine and even medical equipment using his own resources, when none was available. Dr. Abrham Mehari coordinates with Sudanese authorities and service providers to see that victims receive proper care and traffickers are held accountable.

To read about all 10 heroes, go to: <https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/282799.pdf> (pgs. 47-51)



Action

TIP Topics of Special Interest

- Confronting Human Trafficking at the Provincial Level: A Focus on Ontario, Canada (TIP, pg. 18)
- After Human Trafficking: Successful Models that Promote Resilience and Provide Lasting Protections for Survivors (TIP, pg. 20)
- Child Institutionalization and Human Trafficking (TIP, pg. 22) (Featured pg. 3-4 of July issue.)
- Implementing a Trauma-Informed Approach (TIP, pg. 24)
- How Governments Address Domestic Servitude in Diplomatic Households (TIP, pg. 26)
- Promising Practices in the Eradication of Trafficking in Persons: Tracking Suspicious Financial Flows (TIP, pg. 28)
- Multilateral Efforts to Combat Human Trafficking Through Global and Regional Engagement (TIP, pg. 30)

Go to:

<https://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2018/index.htm>

TIP Fact Sheets 2018

- Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons: An Overview
- The 3Ps: Prosecution, Protection, and Prevention
- International Programs to Combat Trafficking in Persons
- Protecting Victims from Wrongful Prosecution and Further Victimization
 - Child Protection Compact Partnerships
 - Strengthening Protections Against Trafficking in Persons in Public Procurement

Go to:

<https://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2018/index.htm>

Toll-Free 24/7 Hotline
National Human Trafficking
Resource Center
1.888.3737.888
Text "BeFree" (233733)

Conduct a Community Needs Assessment

The U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime issued a "Guide to Conducting a Needs Assessment."

One of the first tasks of conducting a needs assessment is to identify what you want to learn about your community. Here are some questions to consider:

- What victim services are being provided within your community? How accessible are these services (e.g., hours, location, language capacity)?
 - How familiar are the key partners and community members with the issue you are trying to address?
 - Have providers in your area been trained on the issue? What are some additional training needs?
 - What outreach efforts are made to educate the public about the issue and the services you provide?
 - Who in your area is best suited to identify potential victims?
 - Which organizations are currently working with the victims you are trying to help?
 - What types of victims have these organizations seen? Are the victims from other countries? What languages do they speak?
 - What services do the victims need? Are you able to meet these needs? What additional support do providers need?
 - Do you have collaborations in place for working with victims? Are you able to pool your resources?
 - Are there any obstacles to accomplishing your mission? What are they? How can they be resolved?
- (<https://www.ovcttac.gov/docs/resources/OVCTAGuides/ConductingNeedsAssessment/step1.html>)

Informative Web Sites: (Each contains information related to human trafficking)

Malaysia Considers New Laws
<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-malaysia-trafficking/malaysia-considers-amending-human-trafficking-law-after-us-report-idUSKBN1JQo4Y>

Myanmar Among the Worst for Human Trafficking
<https://www.cnn.com/2018/06/28/asia/human-trafficking-tip-report-myanmar-rohingya-intl/index.html>

Maids *cont. from pg. 5*

- can be taken from wages, thereby limiting excessive deductions that can mask underpayment of wages.
- The number of domestic workers that any one diplomat may employ at the same time should be limited to help ensure diplomats can afford to pay the promised wages, as well as prohibit workers' family members from accompanying them, as family members themselves may be subject to exploitation. Workers accompanied by family may be less likely to report abuse for fear that their spouse or children will lose residence status.
 - Require that domestic workers demonstrate understanding of at least one of the host country languages before a visa is issued.
 - Provide training to diplomatic personnel on appropriate treatment of domestic workers before overseas assignments, and develop internal foreign ministry human resource policies to sanction diplomats who abuse domestic workers while posted abroad. (Excerpt from TIP, pgs. 26-27)

Stop Trafficking! is dedicated exclusively to fostering an exchange of information among USCSAHT members, organizations and concerned persons, collaborating to eliminate all forms of human trafficking.

To access back issues, go to:
<http://www.stopenslavement.org/past-issues-chronological.html>
 To contribute information, please contact:
jeansds@stopenslavement.org
 Editing and Layout: Jean Schafer, SDS