

United States of America

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Situation of Human Trafficking

Four central claims are frequently made regarding human trafficking's magnitude—claims that have now become the unquestioned, conventional wisdom: The number of trafficking victims worldwide is huge, and the magnitude of trafficking is steadily growing worldwide; human trafficking is the second or third largest organized criminal enterprise in the world after illegal drug and weapons trading, and sex trafficking is more prevalent and/or more serious than labor trafficking. Although human trafficking has always existed in various forms it certainly was not considered a serious social problem until recently, as evidenced by official discourse and media reporting (Farrell and Fahy 2009; Gulati 2011; Weitzer 2007). At present, trafficking has been socially constructed in a particular way—both in terms of its magnitude and in the often-melodramatic depictions of victims, who are usually presented as victims of sexual (rather than labor) exploitation and in an extreme manner that is often formulaic and decontextualized.

The United States is widely regarded as a destination country for trafficking in persons, yet the exact number of human trafficking victims within the United States has remained largely undetermined since passage of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) in 2000. Initial estimates cited in the TVPA suggested that approximately 50,000 individuals are trafficked into the United States each year. This number was reduced to 18,000–20,000 in the U.S. Department of State's June 2003 Trafficking in Persons Report. In its 2005 report, the Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons cites 14,500–17,500 individuals annually. These shifting figures call into question the reliability of estimates and have potential consequences for the availability of resources to prevent human trafficking, prosecute traffickers, and protect and serve victims of this crime.

First used in 1941, a "task force" is a temporary grouping under one leader for the purpose of accomplishing a definite objective. The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) has used this term to describe grant-funded multidisciplinary anti-trafficking teams since 2004 when BJA and OVC first funded local law enforcement agencies and local victim service providers (VSPs) to work collaboratively to combat human trafficking. Nationwide, human trafficking task forces are multidisciplinary teams established with the goal of providing the broadest range of services and resources for victims and the most diverse range of investigation and prosecution options in response to the perpetrators of this crime. Local law enforcement agencies and victim service providers are partnered with federal and state investigative, enforcement, and regulatory agencies and resources in pursuit of the most comprehensive response to the crime of human trafficking. This multidisciplinary task force response model (i.e., of agencies from various disciplines working together) is encouraged by the U.S. Department of Justice, and is considered worldwide as a "best practice" in the response to human trafficking.

As the delegation of United States of America we stand by the solution ideas which are the following: (1) determine the roots of human trafficking and its key points, (2) interview migrants and their facilitators in all types of trafficking against the danger of xenophobia which has been imbedded in the conscious of society or so called traditions, (3) take the step of

acknowledging the social and ecologic consequences of migration and trafficking in specific contexts by documenting and displaying it on the media.