



IOM International Organization for Migration

COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Trafficking in persons is modern-day slavery. Its victims are tricked or coerced into forced labour or sexual exploitation. Annually some 600,000 to 800,000 people are trafficked across borders worldwide. Millions of others are trafficked within their own countries. The US State Department Trafficking in Persons (TiP) Report 2009 describes Sri Lanka as a country of origin and destination for men, women, and children trafficked for sexual exploitation and domestic labour. The primary objective of IOM's counter-trafficking work in Sri Lanka is to support government efforts to protect victims of trafficking and to prosecute human traffickers.



Counter-trafficking awareness materials

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING

IOM started to work with the Sri Lanka Police to build counter trafficking capacity and awareness. It initially developed a curriculum to train 48 police trainers. Working with the trainers, it was extended for training workshops conducted island-wide. These trained over 1,600 police officers in identifying and investigating cases of human trafficking, the law relating to trafficking and victim protection.

The training curricula and training sessions were based on a survey assessing the knowledge, attitude and perceptions of human trafficking among government officials, including the police, immigration officers, the Attorney General's Department and the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment.

A curriculum was developed for a training of trainers program targeting selected immigration officers based at Katunayake International Airport. This specialized training curriculum for 61 immigration officers was implemented with the help of an international consultant.

IOM also organized a residential program for 36 State Counsels at the Attorney General's Department. The program was designed to increase their awareness of international and national legislation on human trafficking, to identify links between trafficking and transnational organized crime, and to improve their understanding of investigations requiring international cooperation.

In close cooperation with the Ministry of Justice and the Judges Training Institute, IOM supported a judicial colloquium on human trafficking for 26 high court judges. The colloquium, which was the first of its kind, included presentations by eminent judges from the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal.

A data collection system was launched in late 2009 and established at the Sri Lanka Police Department to collect information on cases of human trafficking and to assist law enforcement in investigation, tracking cases and prosecution.

PROTECTION OF VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING

IOM works to protect the basic rights of victims of trafficking by providing assistance including shelter, medical and psychosocial support, either directly or through partner agencies such as Women in Need or the Salvation Army. It also conducts capacity building programs to enhance the skills and knowledge of the police, the judiciary, immigration officers, NGOs and media to raise awareness of human trafficking and counter trafficking legislation. IOM is currently discussing with the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Development the establishment of new shelters for trafficking victims.

Training in Counter-Trafficking Awareness and Capacity Building	2008	2009	2010
Police	897	716	-
Immigration	20	41	-
State Counsels (Attorney Generals' Department)	36	-	-
HC Judges	-	26	-
NGOs	209	-	-
Journalists	-	48	19
Total	1162	831	19



Ferry routes and boat smuggling zones around Sri Lanka.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

IOM awareness campaigns on the threat of human trafficking have been conducted island-wide. They have included the distribution of leaflets, posters and stickers, together with radio public service announcements, docu-dramas, and street theatre. IOM also conducted three workshops in Colombo, Galle, and Kurunegala districts for a total of 67 journalists to improve reporting and awareness on human trafficking and to help to ensure that information about the problem reaches the public.

DONOR SUPPORT

IOM counter-trafficking projects in Sri Lanka are funded by the US Department of State, USAID, and the British High Commission.



MOVEMENT MANAGEMENT AND PRE-CONSULAR SERVICES

The Movement Management Unit (MMU) is responsible for provision of operational assistance to migrants and refugees departing from Sri Lanka for temporary or permanent migration under a variety of programs, including resettlement, reunification and repatriation.

The MMU also provides pre-consular assistance to regular migrants, facilitating efficient and reliable migration procedures that benefit both migrants and governments. Pre-consular and departure services are provided to countries including Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the USA. They include:

- Reservations and ticketing, departure, and transit assistance
- Provision of medical and operational escort(s)
- Coordination of arrival assistance when required
- Pre-departure briefing
- Unaccompanied baggage assistance and coordination of issuance of exit permits
- Medical processing facilitation
- Cultural orientation
- Country of origin information
- Verification of academic and trade qualifications, work references and work records, and documents issued by public authorities
- Interviewing visa applicants (non-adjudication)
- Logistical assistance
- Passport / Visa / Document handling
- General facilitation and liaison



Photos (clockwise from right to left) Opening of the 'Counter-Trafficking Database' unit at the Sri Lanka Police, capacity building training programmes for the Sri Lanka Police, and public awareness campaigns.



Year	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010 (up to May)
Family Reunification	30	122	68	76	23	13	58	46	10
Third Country Resettlement	15	13	28	35	21	53	41	96	71
Humanitarian Entrants	-	-	-	-	-	-	42	23	-
Migrant Movements	-	-	-	-	-	-	26	4	-
Stranded Migrants	58	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	10
Voluntary Repatriation	-	13	5	5	-	-	1	-	7
Self-payer	-	-	-	-	2	4	21	-	-
General Verification	-	-	-	-	58	45	68	85	35
Pre-Verification	-	-	-	-	5	38	47	153	64
Canadian Orientation Abroad	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	197	111
Total	103	148	101	116	109	153	311	609	308

DONOR SUPPORT

Donors supporting movement management and pre-consular services includes the governments of Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Norway and the USA and private funding.

Photos (right) illustrate assistance to stranded migrants and pre-departure activities of Movement Management Unit.

