

Strategies to combat human trafficking includes the 5 Ps:

- ❑ prevention,
- ❑ protection,
- ❑ prosecution,
- ❑ provision (help and recovery) and
- ❑ participation (cooperation, civil society, former victims).

Prevention

Prevention is the key to combating human trafficking. And the key to prevention is getting the right and most compelling information out to the young people, as well as, who are most at risk from the traffickers. No amount of information will substitute for providing good jobs and real economic opportunities to potential victims. But when prevention programs are based on the premise that young people must have the information they need to make truly informed choices in their struggle for a better life, they are always making a difference. The philosophy of such prevention programs is that they should reach directly those at greatest risk in all villages, small towns and in the cities.

In furtherance of prevention, we should encourage public awareness through media campaigns, information exchange and training, tighter border controls and travel document security checks. Programs and practices that address trafficking, as such, can help prevent or reduce its impact. The training of NGOs and law enforcement, law reform, national focal points committees, safe return policies, public/private sector participation (hotel industry training in areas where at-risk girls are found), volunteer networks, participation programs, media campaigns and support from inter-government organizations (IGOs such as UNDP, ILO, UNICEF, and IOM).

Legislation on other important issues can have an incredible impact on the prevention of trafficking; laws regarding women, anti-corruption, money laundering, labor and anti-child pornography laws can help reduce its proliferation. On the dark side, legislation that regulates national or regional immigration, anti-prostitution and juvenile justice systems can have negative impacts on trafficked victims. A wide range of measures is needed to protect victims: legal assistance, counseling, shelter, medical help and safe return of the victim.

The Co-Director of the Johns Hopkins University Protection Project argues that trafficking statutes should constitute a special, separate body of law enacted to protect women and children. The proposed model anti-trafficking statute contains the following legal elements:

- ❑ A crime control approach
- ❑ The inclusion of all forms of trafficking: forced labor, sexual exploitation, domestic servitude and the involuntary removal of body organs
- ❑ Notice of trafficking as a serious crime
- ❑ The acknowledgment that trafficking is a transnational crime that may require extradition, extraterritoriality and bilateral treaties
- ❑ A human rights approach
- ❑ Victim assistance and witness protection programs
- ❑ Civil compensation mechanism
- ❑ A migration law approach
- ❑ Tools for prevention
- ❑ Equality of treatment for all actors – equal prosecution and punishment of both natural and juridical persons.