

Progress Report: The Obama Administration's Efforts to Combat Human Trafficking at Home and Abroad

"Our fight against human trafficking is one of the great human rights causes of our time, and the United States will continue to lead it..."

--President Barack Obama, September 25, 2012

In September 2012, President Obama delivered a [seminal speech](#) at the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) announcing the Administration's commitment to lead the fight against human trafficking, a scourge which afflicts far too many communities, both here at home and around the globe. In April 2013, the White House convened a forum to highlight efforts spurred by the President's call to action and reaffirmed its commitment to combat human trafficking. Today, the Administration is highlighting additional key milestones already achieved and announcing new initiatives and commitments to deliver on the vision laid out by President Obama one year ago.

- **Launch Anti-Trafficking TechCamps:** Today in Cambodia, the U.S. Department of State will hold the first in a series of anti-trafficking "[TechCamps](#)" to take place in locations around the world, emphasizing vulnerable regions with historically high rates of trafficking. These two-day TechCamps will bring together expert technologists and civil society organizations that are working with victims on the ground to design low-cost, easy-to-implement tools to combat trafficking.
- **Expand Research on Child Sexual Exploitation:** Today, the Institute of Medicine and the National Research Council released a report funded by the Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention entitled *Confronting Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Sex Trafficking of Minors in the United States*. The report summarizes existing relevant research and evidence on the topic of child sex trafficking and recommends approaches for addressing these issues and guiding future studies in this field.
- **Enhance Health Care System Responses:** Recognizing that trafficking victims often move through the healthcare system while seeking treatment for injuries or medical conditions resulting from trafficking, the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) today is launching a national initiative to strengthen screening, increase training, and develop service protocols for healthcare workers to better identify trafficking victims and provide assistance. As a part of this initiative, HHS will convene a panel of medical and health experts to develop data-driven solutions to help identify potential victims and link them to appropriate, trauma-relevant services.
- **Engage Global Payment Services Industry:** The U.S. Department of Homeland Security [Blue Campaign](#), which provides information on training and outreach, how traffickers operate, and victim assistance to help keep the public informed, is expanding its network of partners to include Western Union in the fight against human trafficking.
- **Mobilize the Airline Industry:** In June, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Department of Transportation, along with Delta Air Lines, JetBlue Airways, Allegiant Air, Silver Airways and North American Airlines, launched Blue Lightning—a voluntary training program to educate commercial airline flight crews and other airline staff about human-trafficking indicators they may encounter on the job, and to empower airline staff to safely report possible human trafficking instances to the proper authorities.

- Increase Protections for Domestic Workers Employed by Foreign Diplomats in the United States:** Recognizing that domestic workers employed by foreign diplomats are among the most vulnerable populations of migrant domestic workers, the State Department has briefed foreign missions, as well as the domestic workers employed by the missions, regarding employment rights and responsibilities. In addition, the State Department is working to put in place new policies and procedures for the in-person registration of domestic workers employed by diplomatic personnel in the District of Columbia and surrounding area, to promote awareness of their rights.
- Strengthen Protections in Federal Contracting:** Earlier this year, the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council, which helps to coordinate procurement policy across the Federal Government, sponsored a public meeting to solicit input on the development of a Government-wide rule to implement portions of the [President's Executive Order](#) on this issue, and the EndTrafficking in Government Contracting Act. The proposed rule will be published for public comment in the coming days along with a proposed regulatory supplement developed by the Defense Department with additional steps that the department will take to further strengthen anti-trafficking protections in its own supply chain. In addition, the State Department and Department of Labor are supporting a project to identify areas of greatest risk of trafficking both in global supply chains and for U.S. federal contracts, develop a tool for businesses to analyze the potential risk of trafficking in corporate supply chains, and help agencies implement controls and training to improve monitoring and compliance to prevent trafficking.
- Implement the Recommendations of the President's Advisory Council on Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships:** In September 2013, the White House hosted more than 100 leaders of national religious and civic organizations, including heads of religious denominations, CEOs of large non-profits such as the United Way and Girl Scouts, and foundation leaders, along with human trafficking survivors and experts, for a summit to explore ways to increase and coordinate American civil society efforts to counter human trafficking. Going forward, the Administration will continue to work closely with this critical community on these issues.
- Strengthen Awareness and Responses to Child Trafficking:** Last week, HHS' Administration for Children, Youth and Families issued [guidance](#) to States and service programs to build greater awareness and strengthen responses to the trafficking of children and youth in the United States. This guidance will serve as a road map for how to identify, engage, serve, and ultimately restore victims, particularly among child welfare systems and runaway and homeless youth services.
- Replicate Successful Pilot Projects:** International Justice Mission, with \$8 million in support from the Google Foundation, is leveraging and scaling throughout India a successful State Department-funded pilot project to assist bonded laborers. The original pilot, implemented in one Indian province, developed a comprehensive model, utilizing strategic partnerships with public criminal justice and social service offices as well as local NGOs, to identify, release, and assist bonded laborers and help apprehend and prosecute the perpetrators of this crime.
- Strategize Donor Opportunities:** This week, in conjunction with the annual meeting of the United Nations General Assembly, USAID, in partnership with Humanity United, is convening over a dozen key public and private donors to map current funding for efforts to combat trafficking, identify gaps in resources, and explore opportunities to collaborate and leverage resources going forward.
- Invest in New Programming:** USAID's Human Rights Grant Program devoted \$1.7 million in funding to combat trafficking by supporting a wide variety of prevention and protection work in

Bosnia, Egypt, Peru and Jordan. The effort in Jordan includes raising awareness in Syrian refugee camps about human trafficking.

- **Launch Public-Private Challenges:** Last week, the Partnership for Freedom, a public-private partnership aimed at identifying and piloting innovative solutions to better care for human trafficking victims, launched the first of three challenge to combat trafficking. This first challenge, [Reimagine: Opportunity](#), aims to spur local communities to propose innovative ways to provide sustainable housing, economic opportunities, and social services for trafficking victims.
- **Build Tech Challenge Contest:** Building on the success of the 2012 [Campus Challenge](#) that grew an online community of over 2000 students worldwide, next month, USAID, together with MTV EXIT, will solicit innovative ideas for the use of technology to raise awareness and promote social action to combat trafficking in Ukraine.