

# Stop Trafficking !

*Anti-Human Trafficking Newsletter*



*Awareness*

*Advocacy*

*Action*

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This issue highlights excerpts from the current Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report



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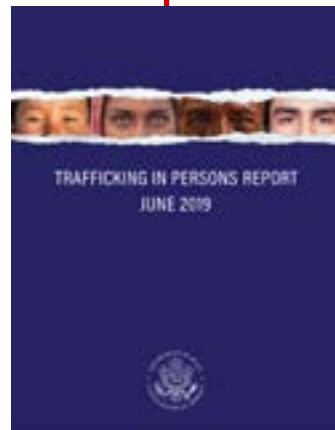
## 2019 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report

### Message of U.S. Ambassador-at-Large

### Humanity United Response to TIP

John Cotton Richmond, U.S. Ambassador-at-Large to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons stated, "This is an important time for us to be engaged in the work of stopping traffickers, protecting victims, and tackling the systems that allow the crime to thrive. Traffickers continue to operate with impunity and only a small fraction of victims receive trauma-informed, victim-centered support services. Yet, by working together, governments, civil society organizations, survivor advocates, and faith communities can reverse this troubling pattern. "This year, the TIP Report introduction highlights human trafficking that takes place exclusively within the borders of one country, absent any transnational elements. Although acknowledging human trafficking in this form is not new or novel, it remains important. The ILO reports that, globally, traffickers exploit 77% of victims in their countries of residence. Far too often, individuals, organizations, and governments erroneously use

Richmond *cont. pg. 2*



Following the release of the 2019 U.S. *Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report*, Melysa Sperber, Director, Policy and Government Relations at *Humanity United* said, "The credibility of the TIP Report must first and foremost be grounded in the integrity of the

government issuing the report. The ranking of the United States as being in Tier 1 is not credible. U.S. policies are deliberately eroding protections for the most vulnerable among us. Not only is this approach ineffectual to reduce human trafficking, this puts the United States' standing as a leader on human rights in question.

"Contradicting the Trump administration's stated commitment to fight human trafficking, the U.S. is increasingly denying human trafficking survivors' access to T Visas, which were explicitly created to allow survivors of severe labor or sex trafficking to receive services and remain in the U.S. to help prosecute their traffickers. Instead, survivors seeking a T Visa are being denied and flagged for deportation, which

Sperber *cont. pg. 2*



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## Awareness

### Richmond *cont. from pg. 1*

definitions of trafficking in persons that require the movement of victims. Both the *Trafficking Victims Protection Act* and the *United Nations' Palermo Protocol* focus on compelling a person to work or engage in a commercial sex act; they do not require movement from one place to another. The *Palermo Protocol* requires each state party to establish in its domestic law the crime of human trafficking both within and between countries.

"As we in the *Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons* worked to prepare the 187 country narratives for this year's TIP Report, it became apparent that in many countries, governments are reluctant to address human trafficking when it happens at home. In effect, they are turning a blind eye to those traffickers who exploit their own citizens, neglecting to apply their own domestic laws regarding human trafficking, and sometimes even allowing harmful cultural norms and practices to thrive.

"This year, the TIP Report serves as a call to action for governments around the world to embrace the full meaning of the Palermo Protocol and implement their domestic laws in a manner that protects all victims and punishes all traffickers.

"Promoting justice and human rights around the world is essential because freedom and individual human dignity are core to American values and the foundation of international law. These are the very principles that traffickers work against when they commit these crimes. I am confident that we can make significant strides to hold accountable domestic, and transnational, traffickers and effectively implement laws so that all may enjoy freedom."

(pg. vi <https://www.state.gov/reports/2019-trafficking-in-persons-report/>)



John C. Richmond

### Sperber *cont. from pg. 1*

makes them more vulnerable and spreads fear among those yet to come forward.

"Additionally, the administration's zero tolerance and the "*Remain in Mexico*" border policies show an inexcusable lack of concern for the basic human rights of migrating families, many fleeing persecution and exploitation. By painfully separating families and prosecuting asylum seekers as criminals, the administration empowers traffickers who target desperate men, women and children seeking refuge.

cuts to Northern Triangle governments underscores the administration's lack of interest in addressing root causes of exploitation and trafficking.

"These actions, coupled with the president's divisive rhetoric, serve to dehumanize and harm the very populations that the TIP Report profiles as the most vulnerable in the U.S.

and, in doing so, erode the country's long-standing leadership on combating trafficking worldwide.

"In the absence of leadership from the executive branch, Congress has stepped up, and last year passed new



provisions as part of the *Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act* of 2018 that aim to strengthen the TIP Report. Congress sent a clear message: To show progress, foreign governments must demonstrate concrete action in combating all forms of human trafficking. Given the weak justification for the Tier 1 ranking of the United States, the State Department should prioritize implementation of Congress' mandate rather than the approach of phasing in the reauthorization's provisions.

"Late last year the Trump administration announced sharp reductions in foreign assistance to countries listed on Tier 3 of the 2018 TIP Report. When it enacted the *Trafficking Victims Protection Act*, Congress never intended to justify the withdrawal of humanitarian assistance on anti-trafficking grounds. We urge the administration to maintain humanitarian and non-trade assistance to countries on Tier 3 of this year's TIP Report.

"As the administration continues to undercut its own stated commitment to end modern slavery, its actions severely weaken the integrity of the TIP Report and America's ability to influence other countries to do more."

(<https://humanityunited.org/humanity-united-response-to-2019-tip-report/>)

## Focus of the 2019 TIP Report

The multifaceted crime of human trafficking can challenge policy makers. The foundational elements of human trafficking are difficult to grasp and the real world instances of this exploitation are even harder to identify. Importantly, how governments address human trafficking depends heavily on the way authorities perceive the crime. When officials view trafficking as a crime and have a precise understanding of its core elements, they are better equipped to identify and combat it, regardless of the particular scheme the trafficker uses.

TIP Focus *cont. pg. 3*



"Finally, the State Department's funding



## Awareness

### TIP Focus *cont. from pg. 2*

Over the last two decades, the international community has benefited from an improved understanding of and response to human trafficking. Working together, governments, NGOs, international organizations, academics, communities, and survivors of human trafficking have built a more complete picture of human trafficking—a picture that rejects a narrow understanding of traffickers and victims, in favor of one that encompasses the full range of ways traffickers exploit their victims.

Despite major progress, a number of countries still struggle with gaps in their domestic legal responses, often because they do not recognize and address human trafficking using the wider view described above. In practice, this may mean that governments overlook certain forms of human trafficking when the conditions do not meet their narrower presumptions. For example, authorities may not consider men and boys as victims of sex trafficking due to a common misperception that sex traffickers only exploit women and girls. This may also result in governments arresting and prosecuting trafficking victims for the unlawful acts their traffickers compelled them to engage in, instead of offering them the support of protective services. Where this happens, anti-trafficking interventions are inadequate and the potential for productive criminal justice, protection, and prevention efforts is threatened.

This year the TIP Report focuses on one such gap, common in many countries around the world, whereby governments concentrate on transnational

human trafficking cases at the expense of cases taking place within their borders. This focus is not intended to suggest that transnational human trafficking is not also important, or that the many other forms of trafficking that may go unaddressed due to similar oversight are of lesser consequence, but rather to call on governments to ensure they are addressing all forms of human trafficking and finding a balanced approach. In that vein and to de-emphasize movement, the 2019 Report no longer refers to countries by the nomenclature “*source, transit, and destination country.*”

The *International Labor Organization* (ILO) estimated that traffickers exploit 77% of all victims in the victims’ countries of residence. Likewise, in 2018 the U.N. *Office on Drugs and Crime* (UNODC) reported that, for the first time ever, a majority of victims had been identified in their countries of citizenship. The UNODC also reported that the clear majority of traffickers were citizens of the countries where they were convicted.

However, in Western and Central Europe, the Middle East, and some countries in East Asia domestic victims were not as prevalent as foreign victims. In addition, the ILO found that victims of sex trafficking more likely faced transnational human trafficking while victims of forced labor typically experienced exploitation in their country of residence.

Frequently, human trafficking within a country is found in sectors that are common nearly everywhere, such as: the commercial sex industry, farming, construction, manufacturing, and mining. The latter are also often referred to as ‘*dirty, dangerous, and difficult*’ — relying on low-skilled and vulnerable local labor forces. Instances of human trafficking within a country may be more characteristic of that specific country or region, such as child domestic work or exploitative sham marriages.

There may be complicated reasons

why a government would fail to address country-based human trafficking. It is easier to look outward and call on other governments to act. It takes much more resolution and political will for governments to look inward and stop traffickers, including their own citizens, from exploiting victims who have not crossed an international border. Varying political and economic systems may make it easier for traffickers to commit the crime. When governments ignore human trafficking at home, they risk being blinded to and neglecting an often significant crime within their own borders.

- Traffickers in *Brazil*, under the guise of religious mandates, exploit Brazilian victims in forced labor, including on farms and in factories and restaurants, after the victims join certain churches or religious cults.
- In *Cambodia*, a lack of jobs leads some women and girls to leave their homes in rural areas to try to find work in tourist cities. In many cases, traffickers exploit them in sex trafficking, including in massage parlors, karaoke bars, and beer gardens.
- In *Ethiopia*, traffickers often deceive parents of children living in rural areas into sending their children to major cities to work as domestic workers. The traffickers promise families that the children will go to school and receive wages for their work, thereby enabling them to send money home.
- In *India*, the government officially abolished bonded labor in 1976, but the system of forced labor still exists. Under one scheme, granite quarry owners offer wage advances or loans with exorbitant interest rates, trapping workers in debt bondage—sometimes for their entire lives.
- In the *United Kingdom*, gangs force British children to carry drugs. According to 2017 *UK National Crime Agency* data, the largest group of potential victims referred to the National Referral Mechanism was UK nationals.
- In the *United States*, traffickers prey upon children in the foster care system. Recent reports have consistently indicated that a large number of

TIP Focus *cont. on pg. 4*





## Awareness

TIP Focus *cont. from pg. 3*

victims of child sex trafficking were at one time in the foster care system.

- In *Yemen*, the ongoing conflict has led to many human rights violations, with many parties using child soldiers. According to a UN report, there have been 842 verified cases of the recruitment and use of boys as young as 11 years old.

In the *Netherlands* in 2017, the *Dutch National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings* worked with UNODC to develop the “*first reliable estimate of actual number of victims in the Netherlands*.” Using a methodology that helped to find hidden populations of trafficking victims, the Netherlands found the estimated number of trafficking victims is four to five times higher than the average number of those identified. It also found that the most common form of human trafficking in the Netherlands (46%) is sex trafficking of Dutch nationals, while the least visible victims are Dutch girls. The National Rapporteur further acknowledged the findings exposed “*gaps and blind spots*” in the Dutch approach to combating human trafficking and the need to pursue evidence-driven policies.

### **Harmful Cultural Norms and Practices**

Cultural norms and practices play an important role in defining a country or society, but human traffickers have also used them to support, hide, or attempt to justify human trafficking. The *UN Palermo Protocol* states that exceptions cannot be made to the criminalization requirement based on cultural variations.

TIP Focus *cont. on pg. 9*

## TIP Topic of Special Interest

### ‘Sham Marriages’ & Human Trafficking in Europe

Unlike ‘forced marriage’, where one or both parties do not give free or full consent to the union, ‘sham marriages’ have both persons giving free consent to marry in order for one party to obtain permanent residency in another country. Often there is an exchange of benefits, financial or otherwise. ‘Sham marriages’ are an increasingly prevalent trend in Europe.

Evidence shows exploitative sham marriage schemes tend to be carried out by organized crime syndicates also engaged in other forms of exploitation. For example, recruiters—most often helping men from India, Pakistan, or Bangladesh to obtain EU residency benefits, work, and citizenship rights—convince women from the Baltics, Eastern Europe, Portugal, or France with promises of money or a lucrative job to move to the UK, Ireland, or Germany and marry men they have never met. Once married, the men are able to travel, live, and work anywhere within the 28 EU member states.

Although victims understand from the beginning that the marriages are shams, they believe the arrangement will benefit them, providing economic opportunity. The reality, however, may be very different. Traffickers mislead victims with false information about financial remuneration, accommodations, job opportunities, and divorce procedures. Before victims realize, they are trapped in situations based on lies, are exploited and live in fear in a foreign country. (TIP pg. 18-19)



At the age of 16, in her home country, Amy married a man she barely knew.

Days later he began forcing her to work, confiscating any pay she made. For more than 20

years, Amy’s spouse subjected her to forced labor. Toward the end of this time, her husband sold her to traffickers who moved her to the *United Kingdom* and forced her to work 20-hour days as a janitor. The traffickers threatened to kill her children if she ever said anything.

Amy suffered years of physical pain, abuse, and depression, even reaching a point where she was unable to walk.

Finally, she got help to escape and contacted officials in the Home Office, who moved her into a safe house. Amy is gradually learning how to adjust to a new life. She hopes to be reunited with her children one day, but fears for their safety, as she believes her husband is back in her home country.

A trafficker, posing as a friend, offered a 23-year-old Romanian woman a lucrative job contingent on her moving to *Germany* and marrying an Indian man. With the hope of a better life and opportunities abroad, the woman agreed, moved across Europe, and married the man.

Once in Germany, however, she learned that the job was no longer available. With no means to support herself, she turned to her ‘friend’ for help but over time became dependent on him for money, eventually accumulating debt she could not afford to repay. The trafficker coerced her into sex trafficking through the use of debt bondage.

The woman is now receiving care and services from an NGO in *Romania*.

### **Other Topics of Special Interest:**

- Challenges & Advances in Data Collection & Management in Combating Human Trafficking (TIP pg. 16)
- Dedicated Prosecution Units (TIP pg. 20)
- Human Trafficking Hotlines (TIP pg. 22)
- Promoting Human Trafficking Survivor Leadership & Input (TIP pg. 24)
- U.S. Government’s Federal Acquisition Regulation Definition of ‘Recruitment Fees’ (TIP pg. 28)



## Awareness

### TIP Topic of Special Interest: Increased Focus on Labor Recruitment

Combating human trafficking in global supply chains has been an issue of growing importance in the anti-trafficking movement over the last decade. Governments, the private sector, and civil society are increasingly examining human trafficking through this lens as a part of broader anti-trafficking strategies.

As labor is a critical part of global supply chains, there has also been an increased focus on labor recruitment as one of the most important pressure points in the global economy for addressing this crime. The past five years have witnessed an exponential growth in initiatives focused on eradicating exploitative labor recruitment practices, developing models for fair recruitment, and changing industry standards in hiring practices.

As globalization increasingly drives markets toward temporary or seasonal contract workers who are mobile



and flexible, the importance of the recruitment industry grows. Each year, millions of workers turn to or are approached by labor intermediaries (recruiters, agents, or brokers)

who facilitate movement of labor both within countries and across borders to satisfy global labor demands. A 2018 ILO report estimates there are 164 million migrant workers worldwide, an increase of 9% since the 2015 estimate.

Labor intermediaries function as a bridge between workers and employers. At their best, they provide helpful guidance and assist in matching workers with jobs and in arranging visas and documentation, medical checkups, pre-departure orientation, training, and travel. At their worst, labor recruiters exploit the vulnerability inherent among those migrating for work, often engaging in fraudulent and misleading recruitment practices that can lead to human trafficking.

In particular, low-wage migrant laborers are extremely vulnerable to and at high risk of exploitative practices such as unsafe working conditions, unfair hiring practices, and debt bondage—a form of human trafficking. Some recruiters take advantage of the fact that migrant workers lack information on the hiring process, are unfamiliar with the legal protections they are owed and options for recourse, and often face language barriers. Certain unscrupulous recruitment practices known to facilitate human trafficking include worker-paid recruitment fees, misrepresentation of contract terms, contract switching, and destruction or confiscation of identity documents.

#### **Recruitment Initiatives and New Resources**

Promising new initiatives focused on recruitment have recently emerged. If governments and other stakeholders can sustain this momentum and work to connect and create areas of collaboration, there is huge potential for progress in improving recruitment practices and protecting workers from human trafficking. Some examples of initiatives are found on pg. 27 TIP.

### TIP Topic of Special Interest: Promoting Human Trafficking Survivor Leadership & Input

The survivor voice is a vital part of establishing effective and comprehensive anti-trafficking strategies that advance prosecution, protection, and prevention efforts. Now more than ever, survivors are leaders in the anti-trafficking movement, whether they run organizations, advocate before legislatures, train law enforcement, engage with the public, or collaborate with governments to improve domestic and foreign programs. Survivors know firsthand what is needed to improve government anti-trafficking responses and their input is key to ensuring anti-trafficking policies reflect perspectives that only those with a lived experience can provide.

For any entity, whether a government, business, or civil society organization, adopting a ‘*survivor-informed*’ approach means seeking meaningful input from a diverse community of survivors at each stage of a program or project. This includes a wide range of opportunities, from the initial program development and design stage throughout implementation of the project as well as during any evaluation activities.

Governments and organizations should avoid making requests that involve final or close-to-final products, tight time constraints, or other factors that could impair the quality of input and be counter-productive to establishing a truly ‘*survivor-informed*’ product or process.

Knowing how to engage with survivors appropriately and responsibly is critical to establishing a survivor-informed practice. Engagement should be *trauma-informed*, which means having an understanding of the physical, social, and emotional impact of trauma on the individual, as well on the professionals who work with them.

Survivor Leadership *cont.* pg. 8



## Advocacy

# 2019 TIP Report Tier Placement

Legend: (+/-) indicates the number of tiers a country moved up (+)/down (-) since 2018; (s) Special case; (\*) Time on Watch List (years); (••) Time on Tier 3; (‡) Countries which continue to violate the Child Soldier Protection Act (CSPA) on pg.31 TIP; • Not a party to the UN Palermo Protocol on pg. 38 TIP  
(Source: TIP pg. 48 <https://www.state.gov/reports/2019-trafficking-in-persons-report/>)

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

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

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.

Albania	Denmark (-)	Hong Kong (+)	Madagascar (+)	Pakistan •	Solomon Islands •
Antigua & Barbuda	Djibouti	Iceland	Mali ‡ (+)	Palau •	Suriname (-)
Armenia	Dominican Republic	India	Malta	Panama	Tajikistan (+)
Aruba (-)	Ecuador	Indonesia	Mauritius	Paraguay	Thailand (+)
Benin	Egypt	Ireland	Mexico	Peru	Timor-Leste
Botswana	El Salvador	Italy (-)	Micronesia	Poland (-)	Togo (+)
Brazil	Eswatini (+)	Jamaica	Moldova	Qatar	Tonga •
Bulgaria	Ethiopia	Jordan	Mongolia (+)	Rwanda	Trinidad & Tobago
Burkina Faso	Germany (-)	Kenya	Morocco	Serbia	Tunisia
Cabo Verde	Ghana (+)	Kosovo	Mozambique	St. Lucia	Turkey
Cameroon	Greece	Kuwait (+)	Namibia	St. Maarten (++)	Uganda •
Chad (+)	Guatemala (+)	Latvia	Nepal •	St. Vincent & Gren	Ukraine
Costa Rica	Guinea (+)	Lebanon	Niger (+)	Senegal	United Arab Emirates
Cote d'Ivoire	Haiti (+)	Macau (+)	Nigeria (+)	Seychelles (+)	Uruguay
Croatia	Honduras	Macedonia	Oman (+)	Singapore	Zambia
				Slovakia (-)	Zimbabwe (+)

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, including increased investigations, prosecution, and convictions of trafficking crimes, increased assistance to victims, and decreasing evidence of complicity in severe forms of trafficking by government officials; 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.

Afghanistan ‡ (-) (*)	Belize (+) (*)	Congo (ROC) • (+) (*)	Iraq ‡ (*)	Malawi (-) (*)	Sierra Leone (*)
Algeria (*)	Bolivia (+) (*)	Curaçao (-) (*)	Kazakhstan (-) (*)	Malaysia (*)	South Africa (*)
Angola (*)	Bosnia & Herzegovina (-) (*)	Fiji (*)	Kyrgyzstan Republic (*)	Maldives (*)	Sri Lanka (-) (*)
Azerbaijan (-) (*)	Brunei • (-) (*)	Gabon (+) (*)	Laos (+) (*)	Marshall Islands (-) (*) •	Sudan ‡ (*)
Bangladesh • (*)	Cambodia (-) (*)	Guinea-Bissau (+) (*)	Lesotho (-) (*)	Montenegro (*)	Tanzania (-) (*)
Barbados (-) (*)	Cent. African Rep. (*)	Hungary (*)	Liberia (*)	Nicaragua (*)	Uzbekistan (*)
				Romania (-) (*)	Vietnam (-) (*)

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

Belarus (•• 5 yrs)	China (PRC) (•• 3 yrs)	Equatorial Guinea (•• 8 yrs)	Korea, North (•• 8 yrs) •	Saudi Arabia (-) (•• 1 yr)	Special Cases:
Bhutan (-) (•• 1 yr) •	Comoros (•• 5 yrs) •	Eritrea (•• 8 yrs)	Mauritania (•• 8 yrs)	South Sudan (•• 5 yrs) ‡ •	Libya (s)
Burma/Myanmar (•• 2 yrs) ‡	Congo (DRC) (•• 3 yrs) ‡	The Gambia (-) (•• 1 yr)	Papua New Guinea (•• 2 yrs) •	Syria (•• 8 yrs) ‡	Somalia (s) ‡ •
Burundi (•• 5 yrs)	Cuba (-) (•• 1 yr)	Iran (•• 8 yrs) ‡ •	Russia (•• 7 yrs)	Turkmenistan (•• 4 yrs)	Yemen (s) ‡ •
				Venezuela (•• 6 yrs)	





## Advocacy

# 2019 TIP Heroes

### **Adelaide Sawadogo (Burkina Faso)**



In recognition of her decades of leadership to ensure human trafficking survivors receive the best possible

care, including securing pro bono legal counsel and designing programs to foster economic stability and her extraordinary bravery in challenging traditional norms to advocate for the protection of children.

### **Daniel Rueda & Veronica Supliguicha (Ecuador)**



In recognition of their co-founding of an organization to care for trafficking survivors. They operate a shelter and provide personalized and holistic support for hundreds of survivors. Also for their tireless engagement with the Ecuadorean Government to prevent human trafficking. (Excerpted remarks of John C. Richmond: <https://www.state.gov/secretary-of-state-michael-r-pompeo-at-the-2019-trafficking-in-persons-report-launch-ceremony/2019-trafficking-in-persons-report/>)

For the full accounts of the TIP heroes, go to pgs. 42-46 of the TIP Report: <https://www.state.gov/reports/2019-trafficking-in-persons-report/>

### **Agnes De Coll (Hungary)**

In recognition of her exceptional contributions to strengthen the capacity of Hungarian Government institutions to combat human trafficking and raise public awareness, and for her steadfast efforts in leading the anti-trafficking unit of one of Hungary's premier civil society organizations.



### **Sister Gabriella Bottani (Italy)**

In recognition of her dynamic leadership of an extensive international network of Catholic sisters committed to preventing human trafficking and connecting survivors to critical



services and her relentless resolve to elevate the importance of combating human trafficking in communities around the world.

### **Roseline Eguabor (Italy)**

In recognition of her unwavering commitment to forge



trusting relationships with survivors throughout their recovery and her tenacity in drawing from her personal experiences to find creative solutions for helping human trafficking survivors reintegrate into society.

### **Judge Raoudha Laabidi (Tunisia)**

In recognition of her key role as the driving force behind Tunisia's efforts to implement a new human trafficking



law and her impressive ability to marshal scarce resources and overcome bureaucratic hurdles to establish and build on effective interagency and national authorities dedicated to improving the government's ability to advance a comprehensive anti-trafficking strategy.

### **Camilious Machingura (Zimbabwe)**

In recognition of his critical role in leading grassroots efforts to empower and increase the resiliency of human trafficking survivors,



particularly in rural communities across Zimbabwe, and for his relentless advocacy work to elevate the issue of human trafficking as a policy priority for the government.



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## Advocacy

### Survivor Leadership

cont. from pg. 5

Entities should also promote survivor empowerment and self-sufficiency, and consider ways to employ survivors in leadership positions as staff members, consultants, or trainers. Increasing leadership opportunities for survivors is not only an appropriate response to the survivor community, but also provides for greater effectiveness across all efforts to combat human trafficking. Survivors, like any other employee or consultant, should receive financial compensation for their time and expertise. Additionally, survivors should represent diverse perspectives, including experiences of both sex and labor trafficking, as well as across age, gender, race, national origin, and sexual orientation.

Organizations should also seek training on best practices in engaging with survivors and partner with survivor-led organizations and groups that have successful survivor leadership models, including knowledge in the field of professional and leadership development.

For example, the Cameroonian NGO, *Survivors' Network*, has built a unique approach to survivor empowerment by focusing on economic independence and fostering entrepreneurship among women and girls. *Francisca Awah Mbuli*, a 2018 TIP Report Hero, founded the *Survivors' Network* and under her leadership, it 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. (TIP, pg. 24-25)

### Sister Gabriella Bottani, a TIP Hero

"The recognition we, TIP heroes, receive today honors us and the many people, often unknown, committed to counteracting human trafficking around the world.

"I am here because of the work of *Talitha Kum*, a global network of women of faith challenged by the violence and the serious violation of human rights caused by human trafficking and any kind of global exploitation. "*Talitha Kum* is an Aramaic expression which means, "*Child, I say to you, stand up.*" This year is our tenth anniversary, and I would like to thank you, Ambassador Gingrich, for your support.

"With 50 national and regional networks led by Sisters, *Talitha Kum* is active on every continent and in more than 70 countries. The organization is an '*on-the-ground*' network whose members are involved in raising awareness, preventing human trafficking, and protecting survivors. These include the management of shelters and the provision of support for survivors' socio-economic rehabilitation and reintegration. It is an initiative that mirrors the great work done by my fellow TIP heroes, and we are learning much together. Thank you very much for the work you are doing.

"*Talitha Kum* promotes an annual day of prayer and awareness against human trafficking, which is supported by Pope Francis and takes place on February 8th.

"Like the individuals and organizations represented here this morning, we work in dialogue and in collaboration with people of different faith traditions, and with people of good will. We seek to overcome any kind of ideological, religious, or political difference in anti-trafficking efforts and activity, promoting instead a survivor-centered

approach, listening to their realities and respecting the inherent dignity of each person.

"All of us being honored today hope that every person and institution committed to combatting trafficking in persons would address the causes and vulnerabilities that contribute to human trafficking. There are many, but I highlight three: the unequal power structure in our societies, especially regarding women, children, and indigenous people, in terms of their rights and access to services; inadequate migration policies that leave people vulnerable in an increasingly interconnected world; and economic models that exploit human and environmental resources for the profit of a few in contrast with the exploitation of the many. (Excerpted from Bottani's speech at the TIP Hero ceremony on June 20, 2019)



(L. to R.) U.S. Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., S. Gabriella Bottani, and Callista Gingrich, U.S. Ambassador to the Vatican.  
COURTESY REP SMITH | CNS

Callista Gingrich, the U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See, nominated Sister Bottani for the award and spoke at the ceremony, saying the Comboni Sister deserved to be among the heroes who are "*recognized for their tireless efforts — despite resistance, opposition and even threats to their lives — to protect victims, punish offenders and raise awareness of ongoing criminal practices in their countries and abroad.*" ([https://www.catholicherald.com/News/National\\_\\_\\_International/Comboni\\_sister\\_honored\\_as\\_anti-trafficking\\_hero\\_/](https://www.catholicherald.com/News/National___International/Comboni_sister_honored_as_anti-trafficking_hero_/))





## Action

### TIP Focus *cont. from pg. 4*

For example, in *Nigeria*, traffickers use fraud to recruit women and girls for jobs in Europe and force them into commercial sex when they get there. Many traffickers force victims to take a *juju* oath to ensure compliance and threaten death resulting from the *juju* curse if they break their oath, disobey their traffickers, and try to leave their exploitative situations.

In early 2018, the *National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons* and the governor of *Edo State* partnered with the Oba of Benin, the traditional religious leader of the Benin kingdom in Nigeria, to publicize a ceremony where the Oba performed a ritual dissolving all previous *juju* curses performed by traffickers.

(TIP pgs. 2-10)



• Prophetess Odasani says she drives out the spirits afflicting women who come to her backstreet 'church' in Palermo, Italy. Foto: Francesco Bellina / Cesura

## Legislative Issues Need Your Voice Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)

VAWA will turn 25 this year IF the Senate reauthorizes its funding. The House voted to reauthorize VAWA on April 4, 2019 (HR 1585).

Study after study has confirmed that VAWA is working, has dramatically

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

reduced domestic violence across the country, and is saving lives.

The *National Rifle Association* (NRA) opposes its reauthorization. As a result Senate Republicans are refusing to allow any hearings, floor debates, or votes on the measure. Historically VAWA has been supported by Republicans and Democrats alike.

### Fight Illicit Networks & Detect Trafficking Act (HR 502 FIND Act)

HR 502 passed in the House on Jan. 28, 2019. S 410 is the Senate version of the bill. It requires the U. S. Comptroller General to carry out a study on how virtual currencies and online marketplaces are used to buy, sell, or facilitate the financing of goods or services associated with sex trafficking or drug trafficking, and for other purposes.

### Put Trafficking Victims First Act of 2019 (HR 507)

HR 507 passed the House on Feb 7, 2019. The Bill proposes that a portion of the funds used for training and technical assistance as part of the *Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000* be devoted to:

- Increasing the personal safety of victim service providers.
- Promoting a trauma-informed, evidence-based, and victim-centered approach to services for victims.
- Ensuring that law enforcement officers and prosecutors make every attempt to determine whether an individual is a victim of human trafficking before arresting the individual for, or charging the individual with, an offense that is a direct result of the victimization of the individual.
- Effectively prosecuting traffickers and individuals who patronize or solicit children for sex, and facilitating

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

#### **Trafficking in Persons Report**

<https://www.state.gov/reports/2019-trafficking-in-persons-report/>

#### **Sham Marriage**

<https://www.government.nl/topics/immigration/preventing-sham-marriages>  
<https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/nearly-100-people-indicted-50-currently-custody-massive-houston-based-marriage-fraud>

#### **Labor Recruiters**

<https://polarisproject.org/resources/labor-trafficking-us-closer-look-temporary-work-visas>

#### **Nigerian Juju Curses**

<https://time.com/longform/juju-curse-nigeria-sex-slavery-europe/>  
<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2017/sep/02/juju-curse-binds-trafficked-nigerian-women-sex-slavery>  
(•Source of photo pg. 8, col. 1)

#### **Information on Sexual Exploitation by International Peacekeepers**

**U.N.**  
<https://conduct.unmissions.org/O.S.C.E.>  
**N.A.T.O.**  
<http://www.osce.org/what/trafficking>  
[http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/topics\\_50315.htm](http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/topics_50315.htm)

access for child victims of commercial sex trafficking to the services and protections afforded to other victims of sexual violence.

**Contact your Senators to communicate your concerns:**  
<https://www.govtrack.us>

**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>

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