



UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW ISSUE PRIMER:

COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

In January 2015, the United States will undergo a “Universal Periodic Review” (UPR) of its human rights record at the UN Human Rights Council, the UN’s top human rights body. To contribute constructively to the review, the **goal of this forum is to have a grassroots, open discussion on the U.S. human rights record concerning combating human trafficking.** Participants are encouraged to share individual perspectives, offer observations, and make constructive recommendations for the U.S. review. Ultimately, results of the consultation will be synthesized into a report and sent directly to the Human Rights Council and State Department.

Optional Issue Areas to Consider

- **Protecting & Empowering Victims**
- **Federal-State Coordination of Anti-Trafficking Efforts**
- **Sex Trafficking**
- **Forced or Bonded Labor**
- **Trafficking of Women and Girls**
- **Trafficking of Men and Boys**
- **Role of Private Sector Partnerships**
- **Awareness Raising and Education**



Sample Civil Society Input from the first U.S. UPR in 2010

- One NGO recommended “revising the [U.S.] Trafficking Victims Protection Act to bring the definition of human trafficking in line with the Palermo Protocol.”
- One NGO recommended “increasing efforts to prosecute those responsible for trafficking and to assist victims, particularly victims of sexual exploitation.”
- One NGO recommended that the U.S. “provide comprehensive services and legal support for migrant sex workers.”

Sample UN Member Recommendations from the first U.S. UPR in 2010

- The U.S. should “insist more on measures aiming to combat the demand and provide information and services to victims of trafficking.”
- The U.S. should “define, prohibit and punish the trafficking of persons and child prostitution.”



The UN Palermo Protocol defines trafficking as:

“The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.”

Status of Trafficking Accords and Related UN Treaties: United States

Treaty or Declaration	Signed?	Ratified?
Palermo Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Human Trafficking	★	★
UN Global Plan of Action to Combat Human Trafficking	★	N/A
Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)	★	⊘
Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)	★	⊘

Core Stats

- Trafficking is an estimated \$32 Billion worldwide industry (UNODC).
- According to the UN, \$9.5 billion is made from human-trafficking annually in the United States.
- An estimated 20.9 million men, women and children are trafficked for commercial sex or forced labor globally (Polaris Project).
- Florida ranked third in the nation for calls to a human trafficking hotline in 2011 (National Human Trafficking Resource Center).
- According to the State Department, between 14,500 and 17,500 people are trafficked into the U.S. each year.

Research Resources

U.S. Trafficking in Persons Report (TIP)

Polaris Project

American Civil Liberties Union

UN Office on Drugs and Crime

UN Resources

Official Results of First U.S. UPR Review in 2011

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/USSession9.aspx>

US National Report: UPR 2011:

http://lib.ohchr.org/HRBodies/UPR/Documents/session9/US/A_HRC_WG.6_9_USA_1_United%20States-eng.pdf