



NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE TO TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS 2017-2018

Government of Guyana's planned initiatives, measures and activities to enhance the 'PREVENTION' of trafficking in persons, 'PROTECTION' of Victims of the crime and 'PROSECUTION' of Suspected Offenders through committed and focused 'PARTNERSHIP' among primary stakeholders in Guyana

**MINISTERIAL
TASK FORCE ON
TRAFFICKING IN
PERSONS**



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Background

Trafficking in Persons – “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons by means of threat or use of force or other means of coercion, or by abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or a position of vulnerability, or by 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.” – *Combating of Trafficking in Persons Act Chapter 10:06*

Guyana is equipped with the Combating of Trafficking in Persons Act Chapter 10:06 which provides the legal basis for law enforcement actions with regard to trafficking in persons. The introduction of this piece of legislation followed Guyana’s ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and its supporting instrument, the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children 2000.

In accordance with Part V, Section 30 (1) of the aforementioned Act, Guyana established a Ministerial Task Force on Trafficking in Persons in 2007. The Ministerial Task Force on Trafficking in Persons meets monthly to facilitate the planning, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of national strategies in response to trafficking in persons. The Task Force allows for the coordination of roles and has been instrumental in avoiding overlap of activities or gaps in the national response to trafficking in persons.

The Ministerial Task Force on Trafficking in Persons is chaired by the Honourable Vice President and Minister of Public Security. A diverse composition of stakeholder agencies – both Governmental and Non-Governmental – comprise the Task Force. It features a Ministerial Arm, containing Vice Presidents and Ministers of Government, as well as a Technical Arm, featuring technical representatives of each Agency on the Task Force. These technical representatives are regarded as their respective agencies’ Focal Points to assist in expediting inter-agency cooperation.

The Agencies represented on the Task Force are as follows:

1. Ministry of Public Security
2. Ministry of Social Protection
3. Ministry of Foreign Affairs
4. Ministry of Indigenous Peoples’ Affairs
5. Attorney General’s Chambers and Ministry of Legal Affairs
6. Ministry of Communities
7. Ministry of Natural Resources
8. Guyana Geology and Mines Commission
9. Guyana Police Force, Criminal Investigations Department



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10. Guyana Police Force, Central Immigration and Passport Office
11. Chambers of the Director of Public Prosecutions
12. Indigenous Peoples' Commission
13. Food for the Poor
14. Help and Shelter
15. Guyana Women Miners Organization

Stakeholder Agencies not officially represented on the Task Force are still able to collaborate with the Task Force in order to achieve a common goal.

In a new initiative, the Task Force has been divided into Sub-Committees so as to provide more focused attention on the issues surrounding trafficking in persons in Guyana. These Sub-Committees are as follows:

1. **Training** – to coordinate training programmes for stakeholders
2. **Awareness** – to lead the Task Force's programme on sensitization and awareness
3. **Protection and Reintegration** – to lead the Task Force's efforts in ensuring victims' safety and reintegration into society
4. **Research** – to research trends, new relevant information both internationally and locally, and public opinion regarding trafficking in persons in Guyana
5. **Prosecution and Legal Issues** – to advise the Task Force on matters related to trafficking in persons' investigation, prosecution and legislation/legal documents
6. **Action** – to conduct investigations and surveillance, and to lead establishment raids and rescue missions

These Sub-Committees will work to guarantee that specialized attention is paid to the different aspects of the fight against trafficking in persons and to prevent duplication of efforts. Agencies not included in a particular Sub-Committee still have the responsibility to contribute to the efforts of that Sub-Committee if necessary and if it has the means to do so.

From the inception of the Task Force, it has been guided by Two-Year Action Plans and efforts made to combat trafficking in persons were recorded in Annual Reports, the first of which was released in 2008. Most recently, the Ministerial Task Force had been implementing initiatives outlined in its National Action Plan for 2014-2015.

In seeking to implement the 2014-2015 Action Plan, the members of the Task Force were faced with a number of challenges. However, the individuals representing their Agencies on the Task Force during this period must be commended for their selfless efforts in contributing to Guyana's fight against the scourge that is trafficking in persons.

The Task Force was not dormant in 2016 as it worked to implement a number of initiatives, including training and awareness sessions along with Police surveillance and raids, inter alia, which provide a platform for the implementation of the 2017-2018 Action Plan.



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The Task Force has, in the past, worked with bilateral partners in Suriname, Brazil, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica and Barbados with regard to cases of alleged trafficking in persons and has worked with the International Organization for Migration, Organization of American States, United States Department of State, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Development Programme and others in the areas of training and awareness and regarding the provision of assistance to alleged victims.

It is intended for the Task Force to increase collaboration with its international partners in combating trafficking in persons in Guyana, with fruitful discussions having already been held in 2016 with such entities as the United States Embassy in Guyana, INTERPOL, the International Association of Women Judges, Caribbean Development Bank and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, among others.

The Ministerial Task Force on Trafficking in Persons acknowledges that trafficking in persons is a dynamic phenomenon that cannot be easily thwarted. In this regard, the Task Force appreciates the commitment of its members and partners and invites other entities and groups to invest in this important fight.

The support of the general public is also of utmost importance. In this regard, the Ministerial Task Force on Trafficking in Persons urges all citizens of Guyana to join the fight, doing so through seeking education on the issue, sharing what is learnt with others and contacting the authorities upon detection or suspicion of an occurrence of the crime.

The following pages outline how the Task Force plans to address trafficking in persons using a victim-centered approach under the pillars of 'Prevention, Protection, Prosecution and Partnership'.



Prevention

An extremely important aspect of any government's fight against trafficking in persons is its effort to prevent the crime from occurring in the first place. There are a number of different methods in existence which can serve to dissuade prospective offenders from perpetrating the crime. It is the responsibility of the relevant authorities in any given country to choose those methods which are best suited to the nature of the area over which they have jurisdiction.

It is noted that the modus operandi of the interior regions in Guyana is much different to that of the Capital City and this would be reflected in the Task Force's TIP Prevention Programme. One of the first steps in creating and successfully implementing an effective Prevention Programme is ensuring that there are skilled personnel to carry out the implementation. In this regard, comprehensive training is necessary for members of the Task Force and also for decentralized Task Force agents who would be utilized in the distribution of awareness material, etc.

The Ministerial Task Force on Trafficking in Persons, through its 'Training', 'Awareness' and 'Research' Sub-Committees, intends to take a multi-faceted approach to prevent trafficking in persons in Guyana. The Task Force will take the fight to the general villages, schools, youth groups – both general and faith based, convalescent homes, etc. Sensitization would be conducted through various media including presentations, general discussions, distribution of awareness material, skits, airing of movies/documentaries, etc.

The Task Force wishes to thank its local and international partners for their interest shown in providing assistance in achieving the above objectives and looks forward to the materialization of collaboration in this area.



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A. PREVENTION						
Project purpose	Activities	Performance Indicators	Means of Verification		Time Frame	Projected Cost G\$
			Type of Report	Data Source		
<p>A.1 To increase distribution of information on the topic of trafficking in persons</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two thousand five hundred (2500) TIP Awareness Brochures distributed in schools • Awareness and sensitization sessions conducted in secondary schools, PTAs, Youth Groups, Faith Based Organizations and Youth Spaces in all ten (10) administrative Regions in Guyana • Schools competition whereby students will submit artwork or other material and information to be used as Task Force Posters/Brochures • General TIP awareness and sensitization sessions conducted in communities/spaces in all ten (10) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution of 2500 brochures • 70 secondary schools, PTAs, Youth Groups, Faith Based Organizations and Youth Spaces; 50 Youths Trained in incorporating TIP awareness and prevention in their activities • 50 units of Poster/Brochure information and artwork or drama skits submitted by students in all ten administrative Regions, awards presented to winners • 15 General TIP Awareness Walk-Through Sessions and 'Road Side Gaff' sessions conducted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub-Committee Quarterly Report, Annual Report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness Sub-Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January, 2017 – December, 2018 • January, 2017 – December, 2018 • February, 2017 – December, 2018 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6,000,000



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Project purpose	Activities	Performance Indicators	Means of Verification		Time Frame	Projected Cost G\$
			Type of report	Data Source		
	<p>administrative regions in Guyana. (Road Side Gaff)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic dissemination within the institutions, e.g. mugs, stickers being used in the workplace. • Week of Activities to commemorate United Nations World Day Against Trafficking in Persons • Increase in information on trafficking in persons available to the General Public, inclusive of awareness materials, media releases, etc. • Specific trafficking in persons module to be 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1000 booklets/ brochures and 1000 educational novelties distributed within Governmental and Non-Governmental Institutions; 100 Posters affixed to walls at Police Outposts, Immigration Ports, GGMC Checkpoints and other popular locations (e.g. market stalls) • 2 Flash Mob Activities, 1 TIP Walk, 2 Awareness Sessions conducted • 150 Information Booklets donated to Libraries; 100% increase in novelties used in awareness exercises. • 100% of persons deployed overseas to represent the Country sensitized on trafficking in persons 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training Sub-Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June, 2017 – December, 2018 • July 24 – 30, 2017 and 2018 • July, 2017 – December, 2018 • January – December, 2018 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2,500,000 • 2,000,000 • 1,500,000



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Project purpose	Activities	Performance Indicators	Means of Verification		Time Frame	Projected Cost G\$
			Type of report	Data Source		
	<p>included in diplomat briefings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> User friendly Booklet on the Counter Trafficking in Persons Act developed in order to strengthen and improve crime prevention models of human trafficking. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Booklet Launched and distributed to key stakeholders; used in awareness programmes 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prosecution and Legal Issues Sub-Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> April – September, 2018 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 500,000
A.2 Increased capacity of civil society (NGOs, etc.) to prevent trafficking in persons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 Civil Society representatives trained in identifying and reporting TIP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 Civil Society representatives trained; 15 referrals made by civil society 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sub-Committee Quarterly Report, Annual Report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training Sub-Committee; Action Sub-Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> October, 2017 and 2018 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 500,000
A.3 Increased awareness of the wider society on TIP and measures for prevention – Public-Private Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approximately five (5) Businesses to be approached to help facilitate trafficking in persons awareness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 businesses to be requested to accommodate Slogans against Trafficking in Persons on their products; 2 businesses to be requested to facilitate the erection of billboards near ports of entry and exit 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness Sub-Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> December, 2017 – June, 2018 	
					SUBTOTAL:	G\$13,000,000



Protection and Reintegration

The Ministerial Task Force on Trafficking in Persons recognizes that the most important entity involved in a trafficking in persons case is the **victim**. In this regard, while the Task Force seeks to prevent initial victimization, it also understands the importance of preventing re-victimization of those who have already suffered by the hands of perpetrators, protecting them from physical, psychological and social threats; and safely reintegrating them into society.

The Task Force will address this aspect of the fight against trafficking in persons through its ‘Protection and Reintegration Sub-Committee’.

A victim of trafficking in persons would have undergone a number of injustices which could have lasting physical and/or mental effects. Therefore, such an individual must be handled very carefully and must be provided with effective psychosocial care. The victim would need to be sheltered from the offender and the environment where the crime was committed given the physical harm that the experience would have likely imposed; the fear and other emotions that might have been instilled in the victim; and the threat of further harm that might be evident.

In this regard, efforts are made to ensure that victims, whether alleged or confirmed, are provided with such basic services as safe accommodation, health care, hot meals and access to academic and vocational training and/or gainful employment, inter alia. Shelter in Guyana is provided by Governmental and Non-Governmental Agencies in joint collaboration.



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B. PROTECTION						
Project purpose	Activities	Performance Indicators	Means of Verification		Time Frame	Projected Cost G\$
			Report Type	Data Source		
B.1 To provide appropriate and comprehensive direct assistance to survivors of trafficking in persons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprehensive provision of psychosocial support to all alleged victims 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% of victims/survivors of trafficking in persons in receipt of comprehensive psychosocial care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sub-Committee Quarterly Report, Annual Report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection and Reintegration Sub-Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> January, 2017 – December, 2018 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2,000,000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reintegration of survivors of TIP in their communities and opportunities for employment and education provided 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80% of TIP survivors employed or reinserted in an educational system etc. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May – December, 2017 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,500,000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design of a national strategy for the training of medical personnel with the purpose of generating care protocols for individuals who have been victims of human trafficking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Medical Training Strategy Developed 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> June, 2017 – December, 2018 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 500,000
B.2 Alleged victims of trafficking in persons identified and referred for services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proactive measures to identify, rescue and refer victims of trafficking in persons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50 surveillance activities conducted on radar locations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sub-Committee Quarterly Report, Annual Report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action Sub-Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> January, 2017 – December, 2018 	
SUBTOTAL:						<u>GS4,500,000</u>



Prosecution

A programme designed to combat trafficking in persons is incomplete without an effective plan to successfully prosecute perpetrators. In order for there to be a successful prosecution, there needs to be a focus on attaining and maintaining victim safety and comfort; a thorough investigation featuring expert evidence gathering; cooperation gained from the victim and witnesses; and accomplished case presentation by the prosecutors.

In order to achieve these goals, the Officers involved must be committed and well trained. In the period governed by this Action Plan, the Task Force intends to ensure that this training is provided with the presumed end result being a law enforcement and prosecutorial core that is well equipped at establishing the elements – Means, Act and Purpose – and proving the perpetration of the crime of trafficking in persons, whether a case involves individuals who are local or international.

The importance of such an achievement cannot be overstated as an increase in the number of offenders being held accountable for their crimes would no doubt serve as a deterrent to would-be perpetrators, making Guyana a less attractive place for traffickers.

The Task Force will address this aspect of the fight against trafficking in persons primarily through its ‘Action’, ‘Prosecution and Legal Issues’, and ‘Training’ Sub-Committees.



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C. PROSECUTION						
Project purpose	Activities	Performance Indicators	Means of Verification		Time Frame	Projected Cost G\$
			Report Type	Data Source		
C.1 Enhance the capacity of Law Enforcement and the Judicial System to combat TIP and increase intelligence gathering to facilitate proactive law enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training of Law Enforcement, Immigration, Mines Officers, Magistrates, Attorneys and Others • Increase in arrests, charges and convictions of alleged TIP perpetrators • Formulate proposal for increasing the efficiency of the judicial system in dealing with trafficking in persons cases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 Police Officers Trained in investigation of alleged TIP cases and interviewing alleged victims; 15 Magistrates and Attorneys/Police Prosecutors trained in prosecuting TIP cases; 10 Immigration Officers trained in TIP profiling at the Ports; training Provided for 10 Guyana Geology and Mines Commission Officers. • 100% increase in conviction-charge ratio • 1 Proposal formulated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub-Committee Quarterly Report, Annual Report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training Sub-Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January – April, 2017 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2,100,000
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action Sub-Committee • Prosecution and Legal Affairs Sub-Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January, 2016 – December, 2017 • February, 2017 – September, 2017 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 300,000
C.2 Establishment of TIP Investigation and Surveillance System.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research conducted to determine areas/regions that require special investigation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Methodology created; Number of questionnaires dispatched and responded to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub-Committee Quarterly Report, Annual Report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Sub-committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January – December, 2017 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 500,000



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Project Purpose	Activities	Performance Indicators	Means of Verification		Time Frame	Projected Cost G\$
			Report Type	Data Source		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase of surveillance on suspicious businesses and individuals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surveillance/Monitoring of Operations of 50 Bars, Clubs, Other Night Spots, Kayamoos, Hotels, Cinemas, Massage Rooms, Modeling/Art Agencies, Other Businesses, Interior Checkpoints, Mining Camps and General Businesses (Variety Stores etc) in the various Regions; Monitoring of classified ads; Information obtained on 20 suspicious individuals/businesses in Guyana if these exist 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action Sub-Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> January, 2017 – December, 2018 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$1,000,000
<p>C.3 Establishment of 'Surprise Inspection Framework'</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surprise inspections conducted on suspicious businesses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 Surprise Inspections conducted on suspicious businesses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sub-Committee Quarterly Report, Annual Report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action Sub-Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> January, 2017 – December, 2018 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 300,000
					SUBTOTAL:	<u>G\$3,200,000</u>



Partnership

Trafficking in persons is not a crime which can be effectively combated by any one entity or group. An approach which is not integrated and inclusionary is doomed to failure. This is acknowledged by the Government of Guyana in its promotion and support of the Ministerial Task Force on Trafficking in Persons and its many constituent Agencies.

These Agencies by joining the Task Force have taken a firm stand against the crime of trafficking in persons and have committed to contribute cooperatively to the country's programme to fight the scourge which has worldwide impact.

As the Task Force continues to develop and review its Protocol, Agencies on the Task Force are becoming more knowledgeable of their respective roles in this fight and the Task Force is improving in its functioning as a result.

It is intended for the 2017-2018 period to be one where the Ministerial Task Force on Trafficking in Persons begins to wrest control of the situation in Guyana regarding the crime. It is acknowledged that there is no overnight solution, therefore, patience is required. However, negligence cannot be tolerated.

It must be reiterated that the Guyanese 'Partnership' to combat trafficking in persons is not limited to the Task Force itself. Everyone in Guyana can contribute in some way and contributions from beyond Guyana's borders are also greatly encouraged and appreciated.

The Ministerial Task Force on Trafficking in Persons requires the support of the general public to make the 2017-2018 period a success in the fight against trafficking in persons in Guyana.



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D. PARTNERSHIP						
Project purpose	Activities	Performance Indicators	Means of Verification		Time Frame	Projected Cost G\$
			Report Type	Data Source		
D.1 To improve cooperation mechanisms among key stakeholders to prevent TIP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update Protocol to guide formal interagency cooperation mechanisms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Updated Interagency Protocol 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sub-Committee Quarterly Report, Annual Report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prosecution and Legal Issues Sub-Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> March – October, 2017 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 200,000
D.2 Enhance cooperation mechanisms between Government and Civil Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint planning and implementation of prevention activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 Joint Activities Collaboration with at least 5 civil society groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sub-Committee Quarterly Report, Annual Report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness Sub-Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> July, 2017 – December 31, 2018 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 500,000
					SUBTOTAL:	<u>G\$700,000</u>
					GRAND TOTAL	<u>G\$22,400,000</u>



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“LOOK OUT, SPEAK UP AND TAKE DOWN!”



Credit: www.ezilon.com

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