

Combating Human Trafficking



The Administration is committed to preventing human trafficking and the online sexual exploitation of children. Effectively combating these crimes requires a comprehensive and coordinated response to prosecute human traffickers and individuals who sexually exploit children online, protect and support victims of human trafficking and child exploitation, and provide prevention education to raise awareness and help lower the incidence of human trafficking and child exploitation into, from, and within the United States.

The FY 2021 President's Budget affirms this commitment through key investments in programs to support victims of trafficking and enhance the prosecution of offenders.

Enhances the Prosecutorial Capacity of the Department of Justice. The Budget provides \$70 million to support Federal investigators and prosecutors in the fight against human trafficking. Since it was founded in 2007, DOJ's *Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit* (HTPU) and United States Attorneys have together brought 866 trafficking cases against 1,925 defendants as of FY 2019. In total, DOJ has secured some 1,623 convictions in cases spanning all kinds of trafficking. The Budget builds on this success by providing \$14 million to expand prosecution efforts in the United States Attorneys Offices and \$5 million to enhance the HTPU.

In addition, the Budget provides \$44 million to support efforts by the Federal Bureau of Investigations, \$6 million to maintain current efforts at the Criminal Division, and \$1 million to support efforts by the U.S. Marshals Service to locate missing children.

Maintains Department of Homeland Security Human Trafficking Investigations: The Budget provides \$50 million for DHS Investigations proactively to identify, disrupt, and dismantle human trafficking organizations and minimize the risk they pose to national security and public safety. Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) employs a victim-centered approach whereby equal value is placed on the identification, rescue and stabilization of victims, and on the deterrence, investigation, and prosecution of traffickers. In FY 2019, HSI initiated more than 1,000 human trafficking investigations resulting in over 2,100 criminal arrests.

Expands State and Local Efforts to Combat Trafficking and Support Victims. The Budget offers robust support for local victims groups, law enforcement, and other stakeholders, by providing \$120 million for DOJ *Victims of Trafficking* grant programs. Of this amount, \$40 million will be devoted to supporting multi-disciplinary efforts to investigate and prosecute trafficking offenders. An additional \$3 million is provided for DOJ *Human Trafficking Research* by the National Institute of Justice, which will fund research efforts to better understand domestic trafficking in order to support law enforcement efforts.

Supports Critical Services for Victims of Trafficking and Nationwide Awareness and Prevention Efforts. The Budget provides \$28 million for the *Anti-Trafficking in Persons Programs* in the Department of Health and Human Services to provide case management services and benefits for victims of trafficking. These funds will also support the next phase of the human trafficking data collection project, expand collaborations to prevent human trafficking, and strengthen partnerships to increase calls to and referrals by the National Human Trafficking Hotline. In addition, HHS will implement the Human Trafficking Youth Prevention Education program, which will engage primary and secondary education students, teachers, school administrators, resource officers, and health care professionals in primary prevention efforts.

Protects Freedom Worldwide. The Budget provides \$72 million for the Department of State and U.S. Agency for International Development to end modern slavery abroad and provide resources for survivors. In order to

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accomplish this, the Budget supports programs that strengthen the rule of law abroad, combat transnational criminal operations, and partner with local and faith-based organizations to prevent and respond to modern day slavery. Programs also include initiatives to empower survivors through trauma-informed care.