

POLICY ON THE FIGHT AGAINST

Trafficking in Human Beings



PANAHGAH



ABOUT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

According to Article 3(A) of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime, trafficking in persons is “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of threat, use of force or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability, or of the payment or receipt of benefits that facilitate the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation”.

CONTINUING

Migrant smuggling, in turn, is defined in the Brazilian Penal Code as “the act of promoting, by any means, the illegal entry of a foreigner into the national territory or of a Brazilian into a foreign country, in order to obtain economic benefits”.

All over the world, especially in developing countries, hundreds of men, women and children are attracted by the expectation of a safe and comfortable life through well-paid work in other, usually richer, countries. This expectation is the driving force behind human trafficking and migrant smuggling.

Social and economic issues, lack of opportunities are all ingredients of international human trafficking, together with a strong gender influence. As the National Policy to Combat Trafficking in Persons points out, this crime is both a cause and a consequence of human rights violations. It is a violation of human rights because it exploits people, degrades their dignity and restricts their freedom of movement. It is also a consequence of human rights violations because trafficking is the result of socio-economic inequality, lack of education, few prospects for employment and personal fulfilment, precarious health care and the daily struggle for survival.

Importantly, the majority of victims are women and children. In the case of children, most are forced, sold into sexual slavery by poor families or even abducted for trafficking and exploitation. Women, on the other hand, are lured by the promise of a loving relationship, marriage and better opportunities in the labour market.

The problem has reached pandemic proportions and requires action on an equal scale, which certainly cannot be taken in isolation by any single organisation. The answers require prevention, control of both supply and demand through continuous information, severe repression and punishment of the criminals involved, as well as protection and shelter for the victims.

Panahgah, whose mission is to offer a safe place where vulnerable migrants can rebuild their lives in an independent and autonomous way, does not intend to fight trafficking or smuggling, but as part of this complex system that is migration, it considers that it has a responsibility to provide clear and accessible information and not to encourage in any way, even in the form of support for the migrant, the perpetuation of this practice.

To this end, it has adopted measures aimed at strengthening the institutional capacity to deal with the problem:

- (i) promote awareness and sensitisation of its beneficiaries and staff on trafficking in human beings
- (ii) train its staff and volunteers to guide and welcome potential victims of trafficking and smuggling offences; and
- (iii) refer victims of trafficking to the relevant authorities and support services
- (iv) act in coordination with other organisations and agencies whose purpose is to combat trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants
- (v) cooperate with public authorities and competent bodies providing information and access to data on its target group

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(vi) contribute data and experience to the planning of national policies and the review of legislation.

ACTION I - Promote awareness and sensitisation of its beneficiaries and staff on trafficking in human beings

How? Participate in, offer and promote courses and workshops, round tables on the subject, educational materials, and seek the support of organisations that can provide reference and training materials for professionals, volunteers and beneficiaries, based on their previous experience. Distribute materials in different languages to promote information to potential victims. Support the regularisation of migrants' documents and their access to public services to ensure their protection and settlement.

ACTION II - Training of staff and volunteers for the orientation and reception of potential victims of trafficking and smuggling.

How? Continuous training of Panahgah staff by giving them access to data, policies and guidelines so that they all know how to act when faced with specific cases and suspicions that trafficking and smuggling crimes have been committed.

ACTION III - Refer victims of trafficking to the relevant authorities and support services.

How - To guide and direct victims, providing them with mechanisms to access their rights so that they can benefit from and integrate into the services provided by the public authorities and other organisations.

ACTION IV - Coordinate with other organisations and bodies whose aim is to combat trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants;

How? Seek the support of organisations with expertise in the field to share experiences and joint actions to strengthen the measures taken by Panahgah. Liaise with other civil society organisations for partnership, convergence, integration and exchange of information.

ACTION V - Collaborate with public authorities and competent bodies by providing information and access to data on its beneficiary group;

How? To quickly and consistently inform the competent authorities whenever there is a suspicion that a crime has or has not been committed against Panahgah beneficiaries.

ACTION VI - Contribute data and experience to the planning of national policies and the revision of legislation.

How - Quickly and consistently inform the relevant authorities whenever there is a suspicion of a crime being committed or not committed against Panahgah beneficiaries.

Contribute with data and experience to the planning of national policies and the revision of legislation.

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Actions taken so far:

- Participation in UN IOM training courses on the subject.
- Support for the translation into Dari of materials on human trafficking and migrant smuggling.
- Establishing a direct channel of denunciation with the federal authorities in order to cooperate in the collection of data.
- Holding regular meetings with families to alert them and disseminate information.
- Monitoring cases.

CONTACT

The official way to contact Panahgah is by email: wecantalk@panahgah.org. Whatever the issue, we will respond to your request or query.

The response time is five (5) working days.

In urgent cases, please add the word URGENT to the subject for a quicker response.

Panahgah phone: 55 11 98841-5321

If you are in danger you can dial to DISQUE 100 (just need to dial 100 on your phone).

If you are in danger, please contact us. No need to write anything, just send this signal 🖐️ and we will know that you need help.



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