



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

Trafficking in Persons Fact Sheet February 27, 2006

“This trade in human beings brings suffering to the innocent and shame to our country, and we will lead the fight against it.” President George W. Bush, July 16, 2004.

“Human trafficking is a moral evil that is nothing less than modern-day slavery.”
Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales, June 23, 2005

President George W. Bush Addresses the Department of Justice’s first national Conference on Human Trafficking

- President Bush condemned human trafficking as an affront to America's fundamental values and committed his Administration to combating trafficking on every front at home and abroad. He praised attendees for their courage and for their devotion to the fight against this evil.
- The President made clear that a successful approach to combating trafficking combines aggressive law enforcement with compassionate outreach to the victims. He praised the Justice Department for its strong record of vigorous prosecution. The President committed to continue funding local NGOs who reach out to trafficking victims.

Success in Prosecutions

- Since 2001, the Civil Rights Division and the U.S. Attorney’s Offices prosecuted **287** traffickers – **this signifies nearly a 260% increase** over the previous five years. Of those prosecutions, **211** have come since October 2003. In FY 2006, **62** defendants have been charged.
- Prosecution rates are increasing. As of February 2006, the Justice Department had **216** open trafficking investigations.

Success in Helping Victims

- Since 2001, the Civil Rights Division has helped **926** trafficking victims from **55** countries obtain refugee-type benefits under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act.

- The Department assists qualified trafficking victims to secure a “T-Visa,” which enables them to live and work legally in the United States for three years while their cases are investigated and prosecuted.
- Since 2001, the Civil Rights Division has helped **766 victims** extend their stay in the U.S. to assist law enforcement, through continued presence or a T-Visa certification.

Looking to Future with an Innovative, Multidisciplinary Task Force Approach

- Tripling the rate of cases filed and exponentially increasing convictions since 2001 is a good record, but going forward the Department of Justice can do more.
- The Civil Rights Division, in conjunction with United States Attorneys’ Offices, is organizing Task Forces across the nation to improve its ability to uncover trafficking operations, rescue victims, and prosecute traffickers. Through these task forces, the Department is working with the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Homeland Security, victim services providers, local law enforcement, and faith-based organizations.
- Task forces have been established in American Samoa, Atlanta, Austin, Boston, Cobb County (Georgia), Collier County (Florida), State of Connecticut, District of Columbia, El Paso, Harris County (Texas), State of Hawaii, Los Angeles, Miami, Nassau County (New York), State of New Jersey, Oakland, Phoenix, San Diego County, San Francisco, San Jose, Suffolk County (New York), Seattle.
- The Department has announced \$14 million that will be made available to law enforcement agencies and service providers to participate in these task forces across the nation. In November 2004, the Department awarded more than \$7.6 million in grants to local law enforcement and service providers who are committed to participating in the battle against human trafficking through these task forces.