



Historical Significance:

In 2000, Congress passed the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), establishing the federal framework for combating human trafficking and providing critical protections to victims of this egregious crime. The TVPA created the first comprehensive trafficking law, authorized funds for needed services and enforcement tools, and established the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, which must publish an annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report that highlights human trafficking responses in the United States and around the world.

Framework:

The TVPA outlines the federal response to human trafficking in three areas: protection, prosecution, and prevention.¹

- **Protection** – The TVPA provides protection by ensuring (1) victims are identified and have access to an array of services, (2) first responders and key stakeholders receive trafficking-related training, and (3) immigration protections are established for foreign national victims of human trafficking.
- **Prosecution** – The TVPA criminalizes those who engage in, and profit from, human trafficking. Additionally, the TVPA ensures offenders face serious prison sentences and pay restitution to victims.
- **Prevention** – The TVPA aims to prevent human trafficking by aiding efforts to (1) disseminate awareness materials, (2) leverage partnerships between public and private sectors, and (3) institute programs for at-risk populations.

Reauthorization/Funding:

The TVPA has been reauthorized five times to expand current law and provide funding. The TVPA must be reauthorized again this year to ensure the following critical programs and protections remain in effect:

Impact of the pandemic and economic crisis

Due to the current **economic crisis** caused by this pandemic and related **family conflict and youth homelessness**, we must act now to reauthorize the preventative methods and protections for trafficking victims in the United States.

¹ <https://www.state.gov/3ps-prosecution-protection-and-prevention/>



- **Services to advocate for, and respond to youth**, including mentoring, counseling, housing assistance, and legal assistance in an array of civil and criminal matters, as well as **training for school personnel**
- **Extension of anti-trafficking grant programs:**
 - Database for quantifying the number of trafficking victims on a regional, national, and international basis, allowing for improved coordination in data collection, uniformity in data collection standards, and identification of trends and research priorities
 - Diplomatic and Consular Programs of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking
 - DHHS to carry out programs related to prevention and protection/assistance for victims of trafficking (including the National Human Trafficking Hotline)
 - Department of State to carry out programs and activities related to prevention, protection, and prosecution
 - Attorney General to carry out programs related to protection/assistance for victims of trafficking
 - Secretary of Labor to carry out programs related to protection/assistance for victims of trafficking
 - Annual trafficking conference
 - Grants to state and local law enforcement for anti-trafficking programs
 - Child advocates for unaccompanied minors
 - Reauthorization of grants to combat child sex trafficking and provide services
- **International Megan's Law** to prevent exploitation through advanced notification of traveling sex offenders
- **Airport training** to identify and report human trafficking victims
- Ensuring full funding for the **Domestic Trafficking Victims Fund** and reauthorizing the **special assessment** on convicted offenders to help fund services for victims of trafficking and related crimes

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