



# **U.S. Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report**

Presentation to the AHG/SOM  
Sydney, 12 October 2011

# State Department TIP Report

- The Secretary of State is required by law to provide Congress with a TIP Report each year that assesses governments' performance in meeting "minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking" and assigns one of four ranks. (Tier 1, 2, Tier 2 Watch List, and 3)

# Countries Covered

- The TIP Report has grown steadily – from 80 countries in 2001, to 116 in 2004, to 184 in 2011.
- Now almost the entire world is covered – reflecting the universality of human trafficking.
- Starting with the 2010 TIP Report, the United States is assessed.

# 4 Minimum Standards

- The four “minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking” are provided in our trafficking law – the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 – and are the criteria used in determining a country’s tier ranking.

# Standards address key issues as:

- whether a government has adequate laws to prohibit all forms of human trafficking, and adequate criminal punishments for forced labor and sex trafficking;
- whether a government takes proactive efforts to identify and provide services to victims of trafficking;
- whether a government takes steps to prevent child sex tourism.

# TIP's Similarity to Palermo Protocol

- TIP Report minimum standards are very similar to the provisions of the UN Protocol on Trafficking in Persons (aka the “Palermo Protocol”).
- If a government is meeting its obligations under the Palermo Protocol, it is most likely meeting the minimum standards of the TIP Report.

# Ranking Process

- A country that meets all four of the minimum standards is ranked Tier 1.
- A country that does not meet all four of the minimum standards, but that is assessed as making “significant efforts” to do so, is ranked Tier 2.
- A country that does not meet all four of the minimum standards, and is assessed as not making “significant efforts” to do so, is ranked Tier 3.
- Finally, a country that is determined to be Tier 2, **but** is not showing evidence of increasing efforts over the previous year is ranked Tier 2 Watch List.

# The 3 “Ps”

- The U.S. Government’s approach to Trafficking in Persons – similar to the UN’s approach – is framed by the “Three Ps”
  - Prosecution** of trafficking offenders;
  - Protection** of trafficking victims; and
  - Prevention** of new incidents of trafficking.
- As Secretary Clinton has emphasized in her release of recent TIP Reports, this diagnostic tool helps us advance a “Fourth P” – Partnerships – around the globe.

# Human Trafficking – A Crime Against the Individual

- Human Trafficking rarely exists alone – it is usually accompanied by other crimes such as people smuggling and document fraud, etc.
- However, given its unique crime of denying a person of basic freedoms, it is important to separate it from these other crimes.

# Victim Protection

- **Victim Protection** is the restoration of a person's dignity and their freedoms.
- The best way to do this is to empower former victims – given them choices, the right to make decisions for themselves.

# Progress

- There has been amazing progress in the decade following the Palermo Protocol's forging – laws have been enacted and resources dedicated.
- Most governments now have the basic tools with which to fight human trafficking.
- We see the second decade that we are all entering as the “Decade of Delivery”.

# TIP Report:

<http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2011/index.htm>

Thank you!