

Highlights from the

**OECD PRINCIPLES FOR
COMBATTING CORRUPTION
RELATED TO TRAFFICKING
IN PERSONS**



1. Strengthen international cooperation

- *Ratify international conventions and join monitoring systems relating to corruption and trafficking in persons (TIP):* Countries should ratify all relevant conventions and agreements and adopt the appropriate domestic laws to implement them.*
- *Establish, strengthen, and streamline systems for international law enforcement cooperation, mutual legal assistance and extradition:* Because a large percentage of TIP cases involve more than one country, mutual legal assistance and extradition are vital tools to tackle this cross-border problem. Some international instruments, such as the UN Convention Against Corruption, make mutual legal assistance easier in cases involving corruption. Furthermore, law enforcement agencies should be encouraged to strengthen international cooperation and proactively share intelligence on transnational TIP networks.

2. Jointly address and investigate TIP and corruption

- *Develop strategies to tackle TIP and corruption in tandem:* All jurisdictions should ensure that corruption cases and TIP cases are tackled in an integrated manner.
- *Prioritise high-risk sectors when developing and implementing strategies:* Certain sectors, such as construction, fishing, and foreign labour recruitment, may be more likely to involve human trafficking and corruption. When jurisdictions are developing and implementing strategies on corruption and TIP, they should focus on these sectors first.
- *Promote intelligence exchange among relevant actors:* Be proactive in sharing information and resources between those actors working on corruption cases and those actors working on trafficking cases. Information stemming from anti-money laundering and financial intelligence systems can be used to detect and map the true extent of TIP networks, including links to corrupt officials, and can assist in confiscating money and other assets derived from TIP and corruption.
- *Recognise and investigate corruption in TIP cases, and TIP in corruption cases:* Investigations and prosecutions of trafficking in persons should be accompanied by investigations into corruption and finances of suspects.
- *Bring together anti-corruption and anti-trafficking stakeholders:* Prosecutors, police, other government officials who work on TIP or corruption efforts should participate in multi-stakeholder and multi-agency units and training. Agencies working on corruption cases should be trained to detect TIP in their investigations, and those working on TIP crimes should be trained and encouraged to recognise and investigate corruption.

3. Implement transparency measures and integrity frameworks for public officials at risk

- *Develop guidelines or codes of conduct with respect to corruption and trafficking for public officials at risk and ensure that violations of the codes of conduct entail sanctions:* Most public officials at higher risk of TIP-related corruption are already covered by codes of conduct. However, some of these codes may need to be updated in order to address the specific issues relating to TIP. As supervision, discipline, and accountability are key in preventing and combating corruption, effective mechanisms are needed for reporting, investigating and sanctioning the violation of these codes of conduct.
- *Ensure that the activities of staff working in at-risk sectors are performed in a transparent way:* Sectors at risk of corruption in the TIP context need to ensure that their staff's activities are performed in a transparent manner and that unnecessary bureaucracy is eliminated so that the opportunities for corrupt officials to seek bribes are limited.
- *Establish robust integrity frameworks for public officials:* Countries should develop and fully implement policies and procedures to promote integrity and deter corruption by public officials. These could include codes of conduct, asset disclosure requirements, conflict of interest prohibitions, and whistleblower protection.

- *Implement strong reporting systems and disciplinary measures for violations of anti-corruption measures:* Mechanisms need to be put in place to ensure that public officials as well as private sector employees that witness corrupt behaviour by their colleagues can provide information about these activities. Members of the public should also be given clear channels for exposing and reporting corrupt activities. Whistleblowers need to receive robust protection from retaliation and intimidation.
- *Promote integrity through recruitment and training:* Recruitment of public officials should be transparent, competitive, and open to independent scrutiny. Successful applicants should receive adequate training, including on codes of conduct and anti-corruption and transparency rules, and be subject to adequate supervision and regular performance evaluations.
- *Provide training on TIP for key public officials:* Public officials, particularly those who are likely to come in contact with trafficking victims, should receive training so that they are able to correctly identify trafficking victims, understand the nature of the crime, and recognise warning signs throughout the different stages of the TIP process.

4. Promote awareness and implement prevention measures against TIP

- *Raise public awareness of the existence, causes, and gravity of TIP:* Governments should collaborate with civil society, non-governmental organisations, and community-based organisations to implement a full range of public information activities on TIP, ranging from access to information campaigns to school programs promoting non-tolerance of corruption. Raising public awareness will facilitate involvement of the non-governmental sector in efforts to prevent and combat TIP-related corruption. In order to effectively raise awareness of the linkages between corruption and trafficking in persons, countries can involve and train media and facilitate investigative journalism on trafficking in persons and corruption.
- *Provide targeted awareness-raising and preventative measures on corruption and TIP:* In addition to broader awareness-raising activities on corruption, governments should provide specific awareness-raising measures that draw attention to how corrupt behaviour could facilitate the crime of trafficking in persons and the re-victimisation of the trafficked victims.
- *Ensure that preventive measures for potential victims of trafficking in persons are in place:* Communities should be made aware of the links between corruption and TIP, and be alerted to early signs of corruption. Citizens should be given access to counselling about corruption and trafficking before and after they have undertaken a migration journey, in order to make them aware of their rights and capable of looking for help if they become victims of trafficking.

5. Improve data collection and use the information in a systematic way

- *Collect and use data on corruption and TIP:* Because data on TIP-related corruption is necessary to design and implement a targeted response, countries should undertake a range of efforts to collect data, including from victims and non-governmental organisations. Because of the transnational nature of TIP, data on TIP-related corruption also needs to be collected and aggregated at the regional level. The information collected needs to be used in a systematic way.

6. Lift immunity in corruption and trafficking cases

- *Lift immunity from prosecution for public officials:* Countries should allow for lifting immunity from prosecution for public officials where it is necessary to effectively investigate and prosecute cases of TIP-related corruption.

* Examples include: UN Convention Against Corruption; UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime; UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons especially Women and Children; UN Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others; International Labor Organization (ILO) Forced Labour Convention; ILO Abolition of Forced Labour Convention; Inter-American Convention on International Traffic of Minors; South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution; Association of Southeast Asian Nations Declaration Against Trafficking in Persons Particularly Women and Children; and the Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings.

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