

PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION

Aim

The Inter-agency Taskforce on Trafficking in Persons (TIP) is seeking feedback on the proposed National Plan of Action which will guide Singapore's response to TIP from 2012-2015.

Background

2. TIP is a significant transnational crime which exploits vulnerable victims. As people increasingly move across borders in search of economic opportunities, this creates an opportunity for traffickers to exploit individuals with promises of good jobs and economic opportunity. Singapore is an attractive hub of economic activity with high people flows. Hence, Singapore is no less vulnerable than other countries and would be seen as an attractive destination country by human trafficking syndicates.

Definition of TIP in UN TIP Protocol

Trafficking in Persons (TIP) is the act of recruiting, transporting, transferring, harbouring and receiving a person through the use of force, coercion or other means for the purpose of exploiting them. Exploitation can take the form of prostitution of others or other forms of sex exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.

3. To coordinate Singapore's response to TIP, the Singapore Government formed an Interagency Taskforce in 2010, co-chaired by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and the Ministry of Manpower (MOM). This Taskforce includes representatives from the Singapore Police Force (SPF), Immigrations & Checkpoints Authority (ICA), Ministry of Community Development, Youth & Sports (MCYS), Ministry of Health (MOH), Ministry of Law (MinLaw), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and the Attorney-General's Chambers (AGC).

National Plan of Action

4. To guide the strategy and actions to combat TIP, the Taskforce will be drafting a National Plan of Action to set out both the strategic outcomes and initiatives to combat TIP. The initiatives are grouped according to 5 categories – Enablers, and the 4 'P's strategy namely, Prevention, Prosecution, Protection and Partnership. Please refer to Annex A for the outline of tentative ideas for the proposed National Plan of Action.

Public Consultation

5. The Inter-agency Taskforce invites interested parties to provide feedback on the tentative ideas for the proposed National Plan of Action. The consultation period is from 10 February 2012 to 23 February 2012. Feedback should be submitted no later than 12:00 p.m., 23 February 2012.

All feedback received through the consultation exercise will be reviewed by the Inter-agency Taskforce and, if accepted, will be incorporated into the National Plan of Action.

Feedback Channel

6. We seek your full support to ensure that the consultation exercise is productive and focused, and we would like to request that respondents follow these guidelines:

- a. Identify yourself and the organisation you represent (if any), as that would assist in our understanding of the impact of the proposed changes to different stakeholder groups;
- b. Keep your comments and suggestions clear and concise;
- c. Focus your comments on the proposed initiatives, and suggestions of new initiatives (if any)

7. Your feedback is important to us and we encourage you to submit your feedback to the Inter-agency Taskforce Secretariat through this email address: mom_consultation@mom.gov.sg [Subject Heading: Public Consultation on TIP National Plan of Action].

Summary of Response

8. We regret that we will not be able to separately address or acknowledge every single comment we receive. We will announce a summary of the key feedback received together with our responses. The summary will not disclose the identity of the person(s) providing the feedback.

Tentative Ideas for the National Plan of Action

Key outcomes	Key Initiatives
<i>Enablers</i>	
A. Effective implementation of National Plan of Action	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Produce annual self-assessment report of Singapore's efforts to combat TIP 2. Enhance data collection, statistical reporting and monitoring of TIP offences through developing of dashboard 3. Request for funding of TIP initiatives
B. Benchmark against international standards on combating TIP	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Study feasibility of accession to UN Palermo Protocol on TIP
<i>Prevention</i>	
C. Heighten Awareness of TIP amongst Government officials, workers, employers and members of public	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Define sex and labour trafficking offences and indicators 6. Embark on comprehensive training curriculum for government officials 7. Conduct joint research studies 8. Conduct TIP Campaigns
D. Early detection of potential TIP case	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Strengthen case referral mechanism for potential victims and members of public 10. Set up of TIP National Hotline
<i>Prosecution</i>	
E. Effective Investigation and Prosecution of TIP cases	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Strengthen investigation and prosecution processes 12. Fast track TIP cases

	<p>13. Set up specialised enforcement teams for sex and labour trafficking</p> <p>14. Study setting up of joint databases across enforcement agencies</p>
F. Commensurate penalties and deterrence sentencing for convicted TIP cases	<p>15. Review legislations related to TIP</p> <p>16. Engage judiciary and prosecutors on severity of TIP offences and need for commensurate penalties and deterrent sentencing</p>
Protection	
G. Enhanced detection and care of victims	<p>17. Develop clear SOPs and indicators to identify victims</p> <p>18. Train enforcement officers in victim identification management</p>
H. Enhance protection processes supportive of victims' needs	<p>19. Enhance victim care services including medical care, counseling services and translation services</p> <p>20. Facilitate re-entry and return of victims to home countries</p> <p>21. Review adequacy of shelters for TIP victims</p> <p>22. Review provision of legal assistance</p> <p>23. Review access to work facilitation and training for victims</p>
Partnership	
I. Stronger collaboration with foreign governments and embassies	<p>24. Engage enforcement agencies of source countries for joint-investigation and sharing of information</p> <p>25. Engage foreign countries in their experiences to combat TIP</p>
J. Stronger partnerships with	26. Formalise engagement of stakeholders

<p>NGOs, relevant organisations and other elements of civil society</p>	<p>including NGOs, relevant organisations and other elements of civil society</p> <p>27. Work with NGOs in identifying TIP cases and victims</p> <p>28. Partner NGOs on outreach initiatives</p> <p>29. Engage businesses on corporate social responsibility for the prevention of TIP in supply chains</p>
<p>K. Contribute to the global TIP dialogue and enhance multilateral cooperation in combating TIP</p>	<p>30. Participate actively in meetings, discussions and initiatives on TIP in UN, ASEAN and other international / regional fora</p>