

Trafficking in Women

In Slovakia, no specific strategy or action plan has been adopted explicitly for the purposes of combating trafficking in women. However, on 11 January 2006, the Slovak government passed the [National Action Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings for years 2006-2007](#) as the key referential document with the following aims:

- Cooperation in this field, such as cooperation with the relevant partners at the level of state administration, self-government, both profit and non-profit sectors, and at the international level.
- Carrying out preventive activities, such as information campaigns, outreach, access to relevant information, education at elementary and high schools, training staff working in the field of trafficking in human beings, working with vulnerable groups, etc.
- Helping victims of trafficking in human beings, such as repatriation, health care, psychological and social help, re-socialization, establishing counseling centers for victims of trafficking.
- Good practice in investigating cases of trafficking in human beings via specialized units of the Police Forces at their individual levels (*sufficient personnel, material and information resources; access to continuous training and research, international cooperation*).[1]
- Research and development in the field of trafficking in human beings, carrying out and publishing analyses, surveys and other relevant information for both the professional sector and general public.

For the purposes of the NAP on Trafficking in Human Beings, Slovakia has adopted the definition stated in the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime:

“Trafficking in persons shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.”

The Ministry of Interior has allocated 1.900.000 Slovak crowns (approx. 50.000 EUR) for the purposes of the above action plan. Reports on progress made in carrying out the NAP on trafficking activities are not available so far.

Section 179 of the Penal Code addresses trafficking in human beings:

(1) for a person who using fraud; lies; restriction of personal liberty; violence; threat of violence; threat of harm; accepting or offering financial reward or other advantages to obtain the consent of a person, on whom another person depends; or by abuse of his/her status, powers, or vulnerability of other vulnerable position entices, recruits, transports or receives another person from abroad or abroad for purposes of sexual exploitation or other forms of sexual abuse including pornography, forced labor, slavery or other practice similar to slavery; or the removal of organs, tissues or cells; the applicable sentence is deprivation of liberty for not less than 4 years and not exceeding ten years.

(2) the same sentence is applicable for a person who entices, recruits, transports or receives another person under 18 from abroad or abroad for purposes of sexual exploitation or other forms of sexual abuse including pornography, forced labor, slavery or other practice similar to slavery; or removal of body organs, tissue or cells.