Understanding the Trafficking In Persons (TIP) Report
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The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000 and the Palermo Protocol describe Human Trafficking using a number of different terms, including involuntary servitude, slavery or practices similar to slavery, debt bondage, and forced labor. Their annual report places country tiers that identify the extent of their government action to combat trafficking.

*No tier ranking is permanent. Each and every country can do more, including the United States. All countries must maintain and increase efforts to combat trafficking.

The TIP Report:
- **Came about as a measure to decrease human trafficking**
- **The United States monitors how other states are doing in preventing Human Trafficking**
- **Set up to protect human rights**
- **Seeks not only to protect, but to also rebuild lives**
- **Encourages other countries to adopt victim-friendly laws and regulations**
- **Advocates for victims**
- **Appreciates and encourages Fair Trade products**
- **Seeks to clarify misconceptions of Human Trafficking: such as, the difference between trafficked victims and illegal immigrants**
- **End goal: To end modern day slavery**

### Background on the TVPA

**Tier 1**
- Countries whose governments fully comply with the TVPA's minimum standards, and are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards.
  - **United States of America: Tier 1**
    - **Background**:
      - The United States is a source, transit, and destination country for men, women, and children - both U.S. citizens and foreign nationals - subjected to forced labor, debt bondage, involuntary servitude, and sex trafficking.
      - **Prosecution**:
        - Trafficking in persons occurs in many licit and illicit industries or markets, including: brothels, massage parlors, street prostitution, hotel service, hospitality, agriculture, manufacturing, janitorial services, construction, health and elder care, and domestic service, among others.
        - **Protection**:
          - Continued efforts to increase victim identification and service provision to identify victims, since state and federal funding for victim services is provided in the previous period.
          - Supported foreign national and U.S. citizen victims during trafficking investigations and prosecutions by increasing the number of victim assistance coordinators assigned to field offices to assist victims throughout the trafficking investigation and prosecutions.
          - The TVPA authorizes DHS to provide two principal types of immigration relief to foreign trafficking victims:
            - T nonimmigrant status was granted to 557 victims and 722 immediate family members of victims, representing a significant increase from 447 and 349, respectively, in the previous period.

**Tier 2**
- Countries whose governments do not fully comply with the TVPA's minimum standards, but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards.
  - **Background**:
    - **Prosecution**:
      - Failed to convict any traffickers
      - **Protection**:
        - **Set up to protect human rights**
        - **Seeks not only to protect, but to also rebuild lives**
        - **Encourages other countries to adopt victim-friendly laws and regulations**

**Tier 3**
- Countries whose governments do not fully comply with the minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so.
  - **Background**:
    - The government of Sudan does not fully comply with the TVPA's minimum standards, but is making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards.
    - **Prosecution**:
      - The government of Sudan does not fully comply with the TVPA's minimum standards, but is making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards.
      - **Protection**:
        - **Set up to protect human rights**
        - **Seeks not only to protect, but to also rebuild lives**
        - **Encourages other countries to adopt victim-friendly laws and regulations**

Penalties for Tier 3 Countries
- Certain penalties are subject to sanction would face U.S. opposition to assistance from international financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (The TVPA provides for a waiver of sanctions if necessary to avoid significant adverse effects on vulnerable populations, including women and children.)
- U.S. Government can withhold or withdraw non-humanitarian, non-trade-related foreign assistance.
- Countries on Tier 3 may not receive funding for government employees' participation in international educational exchange programs.

Tier 2 Watch List:
- Countries whose governments do not fully comply with the TVPA's minimum standards, but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards:
  - **Background**:
    - Haiti, also known as the official Republic of Haiti, is a country in the Caribbean. Haiti occupies and shares a portion of the island of Hispaniola with the Dominican Republic. The border between these two countries is a huge source to the problem of Human Trafficking.
    - Haiti is currently on the Tier 2 watch list. Meaning Haiti's government does not fully comply with the TVPA's minimum standards, but is making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards.
  - **Prosecution**:
    - Trafficking victims do not require a demonstration of the use of force, fraud, or coercion.
  - **Protection**:
    - Haiti needs to create legislation prohibiting all forms of labor trafficking and sex trafficking.
  - **Prevention**:
    - Prevention is driven by international organizations and NGOs but needs to be implemented into the Haitian government as soon as possible.
    - Haiti's government is failing to implement the non-trade-related foreign assistance.