

South Africa is integral to the functioning of the trafficking in persons scourge destroying the lives of millions around the world¹. Though South Africa has strong legislative instruments, it was noted that, South Africa does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking. ²

According to the 2020 trafficking in person's report, between 2018 and 2019 there was an improvement in the progress made to combat human trafficking. Unemployment and poverty, as underline causes among others, contribute to the slow progress made in dealing with human trafficking in South Africa.ⁱⁱⁱ

The global pandemic disrupted the economy and business sectors within South Africa increasing unemployment and placing more people at risk. According to Interpol, "The land route from the Horn of Africa to South Africa continues to show signs of activity where the evasion of border controls has, in some cases, taken a fatal toll on the lives of migrants".³

We recommend that in line with the 2020 US Department of State report, South Africa:

- a. Increase efforts to investigate, prosecute, and convict officials complicit in trafficking crimes and traffickers within organized crime syndicates.
- b. Increase human trafficking prevention training to South African Police Service (SAPS) officers throughout the country.
- c. We especially recommend the training of medical staff throughout South Africa, to assist in evidence gathering for the purposes of prosecution and to
- d. Increase the training within the health sector to identify trafficking victims.

¹ IOM (2003) *Seduction, Sale and Slavery: Trafficking of Women and Children for Sexual Exploitation in Southern Africa*.

² U.S Department of State (2020) *Trafficking in Persons Report 20th Edition*. ⁱⁱⁱ

UNICEF . (2017). *What Fuels Human Trafficking?*. Available: <https://www.unicefusa.org/stories/what-fuels-human-trafficking/31692>.

³ <https://www.interpol.int/en/News-and-Events/News/2020/COVID-19-impact-on-migrantsmuggling-and-human-trafficking>