



HUMAN SMUGGLING AND TRAFFICKING CENTER

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BACKGROUND

Section 7202 of the *Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004* (IRTPA) established the Human Smuggling and Trafficking Center (HSTC) to achieve greater integration and overall effectiveness in the U.S. Government's enforcement and other response efforts to address the separate but related issues of human smuggling, human trafficking, and criminal facilitation of clandestine terrorist travel. In 2015, a National Security Council Deputies Committee refocused the HSTC's mission on human trafficking exclusively, in recognition of the creation and advancement of other entities managing the other mission sets.

MISSION and OBJECTIVES

The HSTC is an interagency center whose mission is to provide multi-source and multi-agency data fusion and analysis to assist law enforcement and policymakers in preventing trafficking, protecting victims and prosecuting traffickers. HSTC objectives are to:

- Enhance collaborative information-sharing capabilities;
- Leverage interagency anti-trafficking subject matter expertise; and
- Provide fused analysis of data to facilitate detection, investigation and prosecution.

FUNCTIONS and ACTIVITIES

Human trafficking is a serious human rights issue both domestically and across the globe. The HSTC brings together law enforcement, intelligence, and diplomacy specialists from U.S. government agencies to convert information into intelligence that enables law enforcement, policy and diplomatic actions.

More specifically, the HSTC:

- Maintains a data repository and makes available the exchange of trafficking information in accordance with protection and dissemination protocols;
- Interacts with stakeholders to understand their needs and requirements;
- Identifies information and intelligence gaps;
- Collaborates with interagency partners on issues of common concern;
- Prepares and disseminates operational and strategic-level analysis on trafficking tactics, techniques and procedures; and
- Delivers an annual assessment to Congress on initiatives taken in the past year to address gaps, and their impact, remaining or emerging gaps, and planned actions in the coming year.

Please direct any information, questions, or comments regarding this fact sheet to the HUMAN SMUGGLING AND TRAFFICKING CENTER, (202) 312-9746, HSTC@STATE.GOV