

Trafficking Video Resource Guide

This resource guide, which can be viewed as an accompaniment to the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) trafficking video, *Responding to Victims of Human Trafficking: A Training Video for Victim Service Providers*, or alone, is one element of OVC's ongoing effort to provide current, relevant information to those professionals serving victims of human trafficking in the United States. Although this guide is by no means exhaustive, it represents a significant attempt to provide resources on the topics of “**What Is Trafficking in Persons?**” and “**Response to Trafficking in Persons**” by the U.S. Government, the international community, and nongovernmental entities. The guide also provides “**Resources and Information**” for service providers, attorneys, and researchers.

OVC neither endorses, has any responsibility for, nor exercises any control over the organizations' views or the accuracy of the information contained in links outside of OVC's Web site.

1. What Is Trafficking in Persons?

The following fact sheets from federal agencies provide information on trafficking in persons and how trafficking affects people in the United States and abroad.

- The Department of Justice (DOJ) produces several fact sheets, providing both general and specific information. [What Is Trafficking in Persons?](#) from OVC provides a basic explanation of trafficking in persons, as defined by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000 (see section 3.B.i). The Human Smuggling and Trafficking Center published a fact sheet (see section 2.A) titled [Distinctions Between Human Smuggling and Human Trafficking](#), which provides important information on the critical differences between these two crimes. DOJ's Criminal Division produced a number of fact sheets about sex trafficking and children. Three helpful publications are [Domestic Sex Trafficking of Minors](#), [Federal Efforts to Combat Interstate Sex Trafficking of Minors](#), and [Trafficking and Sex Tourism](#).
- The Department of State produces a number of valuable fact sheets. [Facts About Human Trafficking](#) places trafficking in the global context. [The Facts About Human Trafficking for Forced Labor](#) provides information about forced labor, its causes, and how the United States is addressing the problem. A description of the methods used to remove trafficking victims from their exploitative situations can be found in [Rescuing Victims of Modern-Day Slavery](#).

2. Response to Trafficking in Persons

Trafficking in persons (TIP) is often a complex crime, with the resulting fight against it taking a multipronged approach both inside and outside the United States. This section is divided into three parts: U.S. Government Response, International Community Response, and Nongovernmental Response. Although all three

stakeholders have an identical objective of ending human trafficking, the actions taken by each are unique and complementary. Similarly, within stakeholder groups, such as the U.S. Government or the United Nations system, various agencies share the same goal of eradicating human trafficking. These agencies, however, strive to achieve their common goal by following the missions set forth by their agencies and using their respective responsibilities and powers within the organizational structure. Again, the complementary nature of the responsibilities within and between agencies reflects the need for a truly collaborative effort between all parties to combat trafficking in the United States and around the world.

2.A. U.S. Government Response

TVPA of 2000 (see section 3.B.i) articulated the U.S. Government response to trafficking in persons both nationally and internationally. It outlined the roles and responsibilities of various federal agencies to ensure a cohesive approach to the issue. The following list identifies the main agencies involved in the fight against trafficking in persons, and provides links to important information at office and bureau levels in each agency.

- [DOJ](#) plays several important roles in the antitrafficking effort, including [investigative and prosecutorial duties](#), and supporting services to precertified trafficking victims. DOJ also drafts two [annual reports](#) on the U.S. Government’s activities to combat trafficking—one that summarizes the prior fiscal year’s accomplishments and another that assesses our progress in meeting our goals for improvement.
 - The [Office of Justice Programs](#) (OJP) provides “federal leadership in developing the Nation’s capacity to prevent and control crime, improve the criminal and juvenile justice systems, increase knowledge about crime and related issues, and assist crime victims.” OJP is composed of five program offices, three of which are taking an active role in the Department’s antitrafficking efforts.
 - [OVC](#) supports services to precertified trafficking victims. Through cooperative agreements with nongovernmental organizations across the country (see section 3.A.i), OVC ensures that precertified victims in any location have access to services as they support the initial stages of the investigative and prosecutorial processes. OVC maintains a [Web site](#) with information on these services as well as general trafficking information.
 - The [Bureau of Justice Assistance](#) (BJA) funds antitrafficking law enforcement task forces at the state and local levels that are designed to increase identification and investigative efforts.

- The [National Institute of Justice](#) (NIJ) is the research, development, and evaluation agency of DOJ. NIJ supports research efforts to widen the scope of knowledge on the issue of human trafficking (see section 3.C).
 - The [Civil Rights Division's Criminal Section](#) has the primary responsibility for enforcing antitrafficking statutes. The Civil Rights Division maintains the Trafficking in Persons and Worker Exploitation Task Force Complaint Line (1-888-428-7581) for reporting suspected trafficking crimes in the United States and also provides training and technical assistance to prosecutors and law enforcement officials abroad. The section also has two victim witness coordinators with expertise in services to human trafficking victims.
 - The [Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section](#) in the [Criminal Division](#) of DOJ is responsible for enforcing federal statutes relating to obscenity and the exploitation of children. The agency [prosecutes offenders](#) who profit from the sexual exploitation of trafficked children or those who travel for the purpose of engaging in sex with children.
 - The [United States Attorneys](#) are the Nation's principal litigators in 93 judicial districts throughout the United States and its territories. United States Attorneys are responsible for prosecuting criminal cases brought by the Federal Government, including those that are trafficking related. Each United States Attorney's Office has one or more victim coordinators who can assist TIP victims.
 - The [Federal Bureau of Investigation](#) (FBI) plays a critical role in investigating trafficking-related crimes in the United States. The FBI is an active member of antitrafficking task forces in locations across the country and collects vital intelligence on trafficking trends in this country and abroad as well as providing services to victims.
- The [Department of State](#) (DOS), [Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons](#), provides critical resources for the fight against trafficking as it assists in coordinating antitrafficking efforts in the United States and abroad. This office also has the responsibility for drafting the annual *Trafficking in Persons Report* (see section 3.C), which discusses the actions that countries, including the United States, have taken to combat trafficking in persons.

- The [Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Refugee Resettlement](#) (ORR), is responsible for certifying identified adult victims of trafficking and issuing eligibility letters for minors, as well as supporting [services to both potential and certified victims](#), through its refugee programs and contract with USCCB (see section 3.A.i). ORR funds services to trafficked children through its [Unaccompanied Refugee Minors Program](#) (see section 3.A.v). ORR also supports a significant public awareness effort through the [Rescue and Restore Campaign](#).
- Agencies within the [Department of Homeland Security](#) (DHS) investigate trafficking crimes as well as contributing intelligence on criminal patterns and trends to help create a more defined picture of how the crime of trafficking proliferates.
 - The [U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services](#) (USCIS) arm of DHS is responsible for the administration of immigration and naturalization adjudication functions. Most notable in terms of trafficking, USCIS is responsible for [adjudicating T-Visa claims](#) and other trafficking-related immigration relief (see section 3.B.ii).
 - The U.S. [Immigrations and Customs Enforcement](#) (ICE) branch of DHS has a number of duties, including enforcing customs and immigration laws. ICE plays a critical investigative role in [trafficking-related cases](#) when the victims are known to be foreign nationals. ICE is an active member of antitrafficking task forces in locations across the United States.
 - ICE currently holds directorship of the [Human Smuggling and Trafficking Center](#), whose creation was mandated by the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004. Human smuggling and trafficking are transnational crimes that represent a threat to national security, and the Center integrates the U.S. Government's enforcement and response efforts.
- The [Department of Labor](#) (DOL) fosters and promotes the welfare of workers, job seekers, and retirees. One of DOL's main functions is to enforce federal labor laws, which protect workers from unfair labor practices.
 - The [Wage and Hour Division](#) (WHD) in the [Employment Standards Administration](#) is the enforcement arm of DOL. WHD administers and enforces such laws as the Fair Labor Standards Act (minimum wage, overtime, and child labor provisions), the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act, and others. WHD inspectors play an important role in identifying

trafficking victims through their inspections of places of employment, and they are members of antitrafficking task forces around the country.

- The [Women's Bureau](#) (WB) promotes the well-being of wage-earning women. This bureau developed a [guide for non-governmental organizations](#) on trafficking in 2002.
- The [Bureau of International Labor Affairs](#) (ILAB) provides technical assistance in support of U.S. foreign labor policy objectives, which includes promoting and protecting safe workplaces for all. The [International Child Labor Program](#) provides funding to NGOs in numerous countries to support antitrafficking efforts through the provision of educational opportunities.
- The [Legal Services Corporation](#) (LSC) is a private, nonprofit corporation established by Congress in 1974. LSC makes grants to independent local programs across the country to provide civil legal services to Americans without considerable financial means. TVPA granted LSC the responsibility to extend program services to those eligible for T- and U-Visas (see section 3.B.ii).
- The [United States Agency for International Development](#) (USAID) provides humanitarian and economic assistance to countries around the world. Antitrafficking efforts conducted by this agency are elements of larger development objectives. USAID published a report titled [Trafficking in Persons: USAID's Response](#), which provides information on its antitrafficking activities from 2001 to 2005.

2.B. International Community Response

The international community, which includes international, regional, and inter-governmental organizations, provides a global view of the trafficking issue. Many of these organizations support regional and country-specific programs that contribute to antitrafficking efforts directly or indirectly.

- The [United Nations](#) (U.N.) is an organization considered to be at the center of efforts to solve global problems. Composed of 192 nations, the U.N. works to resolve issues that threaten collective security. The following U.N. offices, institutes, and affiliated agencies are active participants in the global movement against trafficking.
 - The [United Nations International Children's Fund](#) (UNICEF) is mandated to advocate for the rights of the world's children, expand their opportunities, and help meet their basic needs. The Child

Protection Section of UNICEF maintains a [Web site](#) on child trafficking and published a [fact sheet](#) that provides basic information and facts and figures. UNICEF also operates the [Innocenti Research Centre](#), which conducts research initiatives to inform policy and strengthens UNICEF's ability to fulfill its mission (see section 3.C).

- The [United Nations Development Programme](#) (UNDP) connects countries to the resources that help people build better lives. The UNDP supports antitrafficking efforts through its [field offices](#) around the world.
 - The [United Nations Development Fund for Women](#) (UNIFEM) provides funding and technical support to those working for women's empowerment and gender equality. UNIFEM published a fact sheet titled [Facts & Figures on Violence Against Women: Trafficking in Women and Girls](#), which briefly describes UNIFEM's antitrafficking activities.
- The [International Labor Organization](#) (ILO) is a specialized U.N. agency that works to mandate minimum standards of basic labor rights. The ILO operates the [Special Action Programme to Combat Forced Labor](#), which spearheads ILO activities on forced labor and trafficking. The ILO also houses the [International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labor](#) (IPEC), which takes action toward the progressive elimination of the worst forms of child labor.
- The Office of the [United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees](#) (UNHCR) leads international actions to protect and support refugees around the world. The UNHCR Secretary-General reports to the U.N. General Assembly on refugee-related issues, such as trafficking and unaccompanied refugee children. UNHCR also supports research initiatives through its working paper series (see section 3.C).
- The [United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime](#) (UNODC) is the Department of the U.N. Secretariat charged with fighting international crime. Human trafficking, which is often a transnational crime, falls under its purview. Its work is primarily conducted under the auspices of the [U.N. Global Programme Against Trafficking in Persons](#) (GPAT), which is a joint initiative between UNODC and UNICRI (see below). GPAT focuses on the link between organized crime and human trafficking and assists agencies, institutions, and organizations to design [effective antitrafficking measures](#).

- The [United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute](#) (UNICRI) assists organizations in formulating and implementing improved policies in the field of crime prevention and administration. Besides conducting research (see section 3.C), UNICRI operates the [Action Programme Against Trafficking in Minors for Sexual Purposes](#).
- The [World Health Organization](#) (WHO) is the specialized U.N. health agency. WHO aims to ensure that all people experience complete well-being. The Pan-American Health Organization, a regional office of WHO, published a [fact sheet](#) regarding the potential health impacts of trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation, and WHO published a guide regarding ethical and safe interviewing techniques with trafficked women (see section 3.A.ii).
- The [Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe](#) (OSCE) is the world's largest regional security organization. The 56 represented states (including the United States) work together on the issues of early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management, and postconflict rehabilitation. The [OSCE Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings](#) oversees OSCE antitrafficking activities and supports the formulation of antitrafficking policies in OSCE member countries.
- [Interpol](#) is the world's largest law enforcement organization. It is composed of 184 member countries (including the United States) and supports all organizations whose mission is to prevent or combat international crime. Trafficking is currently one of Interpol's [five priority crime areas](#).
- The [International Organization for Migration](#) (IOM) is an inter-governmental organization focused on the orderly and humane management of migration. The IOM supports a number of [awareness-raising and technical cooperation projects](#) around the world related to trafficking. They recently developed some training modules for use around the world. They also received funds from the U.S. State Department to repatriate/reunite victims and their families.
- The [International Centre for Migration Policy Development](#) (ICMPD) is an intergovernmental organization that supports orderly migration regimes. Trafficking in persons is a [priority area](#) for the ICMPD, which oversees a number of [capacity-building projects](#) that supports governments seeking to combat trafficking in persons.

2.C. Nongovernmental Response

Nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), consortiums, professional associations, and independent research institutes have been leaders in the antitrafficking movement, from raising awareness of the issue, to assisting victims, to lobbying in their locations for tougher laws and penalties for offenders. The following is a list of organizations known in the United States and abroad for their ongoing dedication and action in support of ameliorating trafficking. (Please note that this list is by no means inclusive. Further note that all organizations with an asterisk are current OVC comprehensive service grantees.)

- [Arizona League to End Regional Trafficking](#) (ALERT),* Phoenix, AZ
- [Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach](#) (APILO),* San Francisco, CA
- [Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking](#) (CAST),* Los Angeles, CA
- [Coalition of Imokalee Workers](#), Imokalee, FL
- [International Rescue Committee](#) (IRC),* New York, NY
- [Safe Horizon](#),* New York, NY
- [Mosaic Family Services, Inc.](#),* Dallas, TX
- [Tapestri, Inc.](#),* Atlanta, GA
- [The Salvation Army](#),* Washington, DC
- [Florida Freedom Partnership](#),* Miami, FL
- [World Relief](#),* Baltimore, MD
- [United States Conference of Catholic Bishops](#) (USCCB),* Washington, DC
- [International Institute of Boston](#),* Boston, MA
- [International Institute of Connecticut](#),* Bridgeport, CT
- [International Institute of Metropolitan St. Louis](#),* St. Louis, MO
- [Civil Society](#),* Saint Paul, MN
- [Heartland Alliance for Human Needs and Human Rights](#),* Chicago, IL
- [Human Rights Watch](#), Washington, DC
- [Save the Children](#), Westport, CT
- [Shared Hope International](#), Washington, DC
- [Anti-Slavery](#), Great Britain
- [Coalition Against Trafficking in Women](#), N. Amherst, MA
- [Global Rights.org](#), Washington, DC
- [Prevent Human Trafficking Institute](#), Washington, DC
- [End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes-USA](#) (ECPAT-USA), Brooklyn, NY
- [The Asia Foundation](#), San Francisco, CA
- [Vital Voices Global Partnership](#), Washington, DC
- [Freedom Network \(USA\)](#)
- [The Protection Project](#), Washington, DC
- [The American Bar Association Central European and Eurasian Law Initiative](#), Washington, DC

3. Resources and Information

Participating in the response to human trafficking requires knowledge and resources. This section is divided into three parts: Resources for Service Providers, Legal Information and Resources, and Research Assistance. Although this is not an inclusive list of all available resources, it should be an excellent starting point for anyone seeking to identify information and sources on the topic of human trafficking.

3.A. Resources for Service Providers

Trafficking victims have a number of needs throughout the rescue and restoration process. Victims, particularly those from foreign countries, often have few or no ties to the communities in which they are found, limited language proficiency, and difficulty trusting law enforcement, advocates, and service providers who seek to help them. Victims may also have experienced extreme violence and trauma while trafficked and thus have highly specialized needs to be met for their emotional and psychological well-being. Serving trafficking victims, therefore, presents unique challenges to organizations, whether they specialize in providing these services or have a different focus.

Since trafficking can present in various ways, including sexual assault and domestic violence, it is becoming increasingly important to engage all victim service providers to assist in the identification of and service to victims. This section is organized in topics, but be aware that many of the listed resources cover multiple topic areas. The topics are Funding Mechanisms for Federally Supported Service Providers, Guidelines for Working With Victims, Identifying Victims and Next Steps, Service Benefits for Victims, and Child Victims.

3.A.i. Funding Mechanisms for Federally Supported Service Providers

- As discussed in section 2.A, OVC provides funding to NGOs across the country to support comprehensive services to precertified trafficking victims. The [OVC Grantees Matrix](#) provides the contact and service coverage information for OVC's current NGO partners in the comprehensive service program.
- As also discussed in section 2.A, ORR provides funding for services to precertified adult victims in locations without an OVC grantee, certified adult victims across the country, and child victims. ORR signed a contract with USCCB to provide a mechanism for funding NGOs serving adult and minor victims on a per capita, reimbursement basis. Agencies willing to provide services to victims can apply to be subcontractors of USCCB. Once a subcontract is signed with qualified applicants, agencies will receive cost reimbursement on a monthly basis for approved victims, with amounts differing for precertified versus certified victims. Time limits may apply. For further information on this program and how to become a

subcontractor, contact USCCB at mrstvics@uscbb.org or 202–541–3357. ORR also funds services to child trafficking victims who must be matriculated before they turn 18 through the [Unaccompanied Refugee Minor Program](#) (URM). This program is operated by [USCCB](#) and [Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service](#) (LIRS). Trafficking victims under the age of 18 receive refugee foster care and other services and benefits.

3.A.ii. Guidelines for Working With Victims

- The Attorney General of the United States published the [Attorney General Guidelines for Victim and Witness Assistance](#) in May 2005, which includes guidance on assisting victims of human trafficking.
- The National Victim Assistance Standards Consortium, with funding from OVC, published [Standards for Victim Assistance Programs and Providers](#), which identifies competency and ethical standards for those working with crime victims.
- WHO issued [WHO Ethical and Safety Recommendations for Interviewing Trafficked Women](#) in 2003. This is an in-depth guide on how to approach an interview with a trafficking victim. The guide also discusses issues to consider, such as risk assessment, anonymity and confidentiality, and informed consent.
- The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights developed the [Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking](#), covering topics such as the primacy of human rights, trafficking prevention, protection and assistance for victims, and punishment of offenders.
- The Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women, Foundation Against Trafficking in Women, and Global Rights published [Human Rights Standards for the Treatment of Trafficked Persons](#), which are drawn from internationally recognized human rights standards and legal norms.

3.A.iii. Identifying Victims and Next Steps

- The Women’s Bureau of DOL, the DOJ, HHS, DOS, and ODS jointly produced [Trafficking in Persons: A Guide for Non-Governmental Organizations](#), which describes what trafficking is, identifies sources of help for victims, and explains how the U.S. Government can assist NGOs in serving trafficking victims. Copies are available through the Civil Rights Division by calling 1–888–428–7581.

- ORR produces the [*Rescue and Restore Campaign Tool Kits*](#), which contain information for social service organizations, health care providers, and law enforcement officers. The kits include fact sheets on such topics as “Understanding the Mindset of a Trafficking Victim,” “Communicating with Victims of Human Trafficking,” “Health Problems Seen in Trafficking Victims,” and “Tips for Identifying and Interacting With Victims of Human Trafficking.”
- OVC funded Safe Horizon, an NGO with extensive experience working with trafficking victims, to develop tools for OVC grantees. These products include the following: [*Safety Planning Standards for Trafficked and Enslaved Persons: A Guide for Service Providers and Attorneys*](#) and [*Tips for Trainers: A Manual for Providing Training on the Subject of Human Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery*](#). Safe Horizon also developed sample forms for [confidentiality](#), [screening and referral](#), and [client assessment](#).
- The Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence published two handbooks of information. The [*Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Advocate Handbook on Human Trafficking: Collaborating to End Modern Slavery*](#) provides information for advocates, including questions to determine if a person is eligible for benefits, and a service provider protocol checklist. The [*Human Trafficking Service Provider Manual for Certified Domestic Violence Centers*](#) provides information on how trafficking and domestic violence can intersect and the role domestic violence advocates and shelters can play in assisting trafficking victims.

3.A.iv. Service Benefits for Victims

- ORR produced a fact sheet titled [*Certification for Victims of Trafficking*](#), which describes the eligibility requirements and process for certification.
- USCCB produced a [concise list of the benefits](#) that are available to trafficking victims once they receive certification.

3.A.v. Child Victims

- As mentioned in section 2.A, ORR funds services for trafficked children through the URM program. The process for a child victim to receive federally funded services is different from that for adult victims, and providers who encounter child victims should be aware of these differences and the resources to help them. USCCB and LIRS have produced several fact sheets on child trafficking victims: [*Guidance for Identifying a Child Victim of Trafficking*](#), [*Child Trafficking Victims’ Routes to Federal Benefits*](#), [*Frequently Asked Questions About Services to*](#)

[Trafficked Children, Requesting a Letter of Eligibility for a Trafficked Child, and Care for Trafficked Children.](#)

3.B. Legal Information and Resources

Although each trafficking victim is unique, resulting in different required services and outcomes, legal assistance is the universal need that all foreign-born trafficking victims share. All victims brought into the United States need assistance to access the immigration relief available to them, and some have other legal needs that must be attended to. Attorneys therefore play a vital role in terms of advocating on behalf of their clients, filing for immigration relief, and advising victims of the many rights afforded to them under the law. This section identifies the protocols and laws in place to protect victims, the immigration relief available for victims in the United States, and resources for attorneys and other legal professionals.

3.B.i. Protocols and Laws

- There are a number of [international conventions](#) against slavery, including trafficking in persons. The most notable is the [Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#). This protocol is a supplement to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Convention) and produced the first internationally recognized definition of human trafficking. UNODC published a [fact sheet](#), which provides information about the background and importance of the protocol.
- Under the [1951 Convention](#) and/or the [1967 Protocol](#) relating to the Status of Refugees, UNHCR has a responsibility to ensure that victims of trafficking who fall within the refugee definition are recognized as refugees and receive the international protections to which they are entitled. UNHCR published guidelines about the [relationship of trafficking to the 1951 Convention and/or 1967 Protocol](#) in 2006.
- The United States was the first country to develop a comprehensive antitrafficking law. The [Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000](#), the [Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2003](#), and the [Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005](#) are the legislative tools with which the U.S. combats trafficking in persons.
 - Besides the federal law, many states are pursuing the enactment of their own antitrafficking laws. This initiative is supported by the Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, which developed a [model state law](#) that could be used as a foundation upon which states can build their own laws.

- A number of countries around the world are enacting laws to protect trafficking victims and strengthen enforcement mechanisms. The European Commission and OSCE sponsor a [Web site](#) that tracks the progress of antitrafficking legislation.

3.B.ii. Immigration Relief

- Victims who meet the trafficking definition set forth by TVPA are eligible for immigration relief under the law. [Continued Presence](#) (CP) allows individuals who have been determined by federal law enforcement to be victims of severe forms of trafficking in persons, and who are also potential witnesses, to remain in the U.S. in order to help effectuate investigation and prosecution of traffickers. CP must be requested on behalf of a victim by a federal law enforcement agency and is awarded by DHS. It is granted for 1 year and can be renewed if necessary. Note that although there is no cooperation standard for a victim of trafficking to receive CP, a victim must be cooperating with law enforcement in order to receive a certification for public benefits by HHS.
- The T-1 Visa, established by TVPA of 2000, as amended, allows victims to stay in the United States for 4 years. Victims are eligible for T-Visas if they are all of the following: a victim of a severe form of trafficking persons, physically present in the U.S. on account of the trafficking, cooperate with law enforcement, and would suffer severe and unusual harm if returned to their home country. After 3 years, T-Visa holders are permitted to apply for permanent residence in the U.S. USCIS processes T-Visa applications, and its Web site outlines the [application process](#) as well as provides the [application form](#). Certain family members, such as spouses and children, are eligible for derivative or family visas (called T-2 and T-3 Visas). Parents and unmarried siblings under the age of 18, or trafficking victims under the age of 21, are also eligible for visas (T-4). Information on these visas can be found on the [USCIS Web site](#).
- The [Violence Against Women Act of 2000 \(VAWA 2000\)](#) created the U-Visa for immigrant victims of specific criminal activities. The U-Visa offers temporary lawful status if the victim has suffered substantial physical or mental abuse as a result of the crime. Recipients must be willing to cooperate with law enforcement, and visa holders can apply for permanent residency after 3 years. Spouses, children, unmarried siblings under the age of 18, and parents of victims under 21 years of age are also eligible for derivative visas. DHS recently published the U-Visa regulations, [New Classification for Victims of Criminal Activity; Eligibility for “U” Nonimmigrant Status; Interim Rule](#).
- Under TVPA, the LSC has a responsibility to serve victims of trafficking-related crimes. Although LSC funds are generally reserved for serving

clients with legal status in the United States, recent guidance supports programs using their LSC grants to assist victims applying for [T-](#) and [U-Visas](#).

3.B.iii. Resources for Attorneys and Legal Professionals

- The [Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.](#) (CLINIC), [Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles](#) (LAFLA), and USCCB published [A Guide for Legal Advocates Providing Services to Victims of Human Trafficking](#) in 2004. This guide includes information on visas, continued presence, benefits, and many other topics of interest for legal and social service providers alike.
- The NYC Antitrafficking Network Legal Subcommittee published [Identification and Legal Advocacy for Trafficking Victims, 2nd Edition](#) in 2005. This document provides guidance on the T-Visa process, including assessing if a client is eligible for the visa, and completing the application.
- LAFLA developed a guide titled [Civil Litigation on Behalf of Victims of Human Trafficking](#). The reauthorization of TVPA in 2003 gave victims the right to take civil action against their trafficker(s). As a result, this guide was developed to introduce attorneys to the litigation tools that can be used for this purpose.

3.C. Research Assistance

The topic of trafficking in persons has gained greater recognition in recent years, which has led to an increase in trafficking-related research. Although it would be impossible to provide a complete list of publications, this section highlights some research products from U.S. Government agencies, international organizations, and developed bibliographies.

- The Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons at the Department of State is responsible for producing the annual [Trafficking in Persons Report](#). The TIP Report discusses efforts by countries to address trafficking through protective, prosecutorial, and preventative measures as well as identifying international best practices.
- NIJ (in OJP and DOJ) supports and oversees the Department's research efforts. NIJ published several nationally based research initiatives: [Needs Assessment for Service Providers and Trafficking Victims](#), [Trafficking in Persons in the United States](#), and [The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in the U.S., Canada and Mexico](#). NIJ also sponsored several research projects abroad, including [Trafficking in Women From Ukraine](#), and [Characteristics of Chinese Human Smugglers](#).

- U.N. agencies publish a number of reports that focus on, or include references to, trafficking in persons. UNODC released [Trafficking in Persons: Global Patterns](#) in April 2006 and publishes [other documents](#) regarding trafficking in persons. UNHCR also published a report in April 2006 titled [The State of the World's Refugees: Human Displacement in the New Millennium](#). This report discusses developments in refugee security in the years 2001–2005 and includes a discussion on [trafficking in the refugee context](#). UNHCR also publishes a [working paper series](#), which has included efforts with regards to trafficking. UNICEF's Innocenti Research Center conducts research on child trafficking, particularly as it relates to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Its [Web site](#) includes a search engine to locate specific research initiatives and products. The IPEC office of the ILO publishes information regarding the worst forms of child labor, including [child trafficking](#).
- IOM publishes a variety of [reports, bulletins, and briefing notes](#) on the topic of trafficking in persons. One publication of particular note is [Data and Research on Human Trafficking: A Global Survey](#), which provides information on research efforts to date and also discusses the inherent challenges in trafficking-related research.
- Bibliographies and literature reviews developed by organizations can provide a useful starting point for those researching the topic of trafficking in persons. The National Criminal Justice Resource Service recently created a [bibliography](#) on its Web site as part of its "In the Spotlight" feature. UNICRI hosts a [Trafficking in Human Beings Database](#), which includes a substantial bibliography. The Web site [humantrafficking.org](#), which is supported by the Department of State, maintains a list of publications by topic and country.