



NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR
COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN
HUMAN BEINGS

**2008 NATIONAL PROGRAMME
FOR PREVENTION AND COUNTERACTION OF
TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS AND PROTECTION OF THE VICTIMS**

Worldwide trafficking in human beings is recognised as a serious violation of human rights. Human trafficking impairs the honour and dignity of the victims and, in some cases, their right to life. As a form of organised crime, trafficking in human beings undermines the basic principles of the law order and the democratic standards in the society. The transnational character of the phenomenon requires joint efforts of all institutions working against human trafficking on regional, national and international levels.

The National Programme for Prevention and Counteraction of Trafficking in Human Beings and Protection of the Victims for 2008 is adopted as part of the implementation of the Combating Trafficking in Human Beings Act. The National Programme corresponds to the international standards and obligations of the Republic of Bulgaria regarding the membership in the European Union.

SECTION I

“INSTITUTIONAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL MEASURES”

MAIN GOAL: Build the administrative structures provided for in the Combating Trafficking in Human Beings Act on national and local levels and ensures their effective functioning.

ACTIVITIES:

1. Development of the activity of the Local Commissions for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (LCCTHB) in Varna, Burgas, Pazardjik and Sliven.

Responsible institution: National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (NCCTHB), Local Commissions for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (LCCTHB).

Partners: Regional units of the institutions represented by the NCCTHB, International Organization for Migration (IOM) and non-governmental organizations=

Funding: NCCTHB budget and funds from related projects and programmes.

Deadline: December 2008.

2. Creation and structuring of at least two Local Commissions for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (LCCTHB) in the risk municipalities of Montana, Vratsa, Vidin, Dobrich, Veliko Tarnovo, Blagoevgrad and Haskovo.

Responsible institution: National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (NCCTHB), the mayors of the respective municipalities.

Partners: Regional units of the institutions represented by the NCCTHB, IOM and non-governmental organisations.

Funding: NCCTHB budget and funds from related projects and programmes.

Deadline: December 2008.

3. Creation of a shelter for temporary accommodation and centres for protection and support of victims of trafficking in human beings within the Local Commissions under item 1.

Responsible institution: NCCTHB, LCCTHB.

Partners: Respective municipalities, IOM and NGOs.

Funding: NCCTHB budget and funds from related projects and programmes.

Deadline: December 2008.

4. Creation of a crisis centre in Sofia for temporarily accommodation of children victims of trafficking in human beings.

Responsible institution: Sofia Municipality.

Partners: State Agency for Child Protection, Agency for Social Support, NCCTHB, Central Commission for Combating Juvenile Delinquency and IOM.

Funding: Sofia Municipality.

Deadline: August 2008.

5. Creation of an organization within the NCCTHB for research, analysis and reporting of statistical data related to trafficking in human beings.

Responsible institution: NCCTHB.

Partners: Ministry of Interior, State Agency for National Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Supreme Prosecutor's Office of Cassation, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, State Agency for Child Protection, Central Commission for Combating Juvenile Delinquency and NGOs.

Funding: Funds from trafficking related projects and programmes.

Deadline: Permanent.

6. Development of a National Referral Mechanism for victims of trafficking in human beings.

Responsible institution: NCCTHB.

Partners: Ministry of Interior, State Agency for National Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Supreme Prosecutor's Office of Cassation, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, State Agency for Child Protection and NGOs.

Funding: Funds from trafficking related projects and programmes.

Deadline: December 2008.

SECTION II **“PREVENTION”**

MAIN GOAL: Raise public awareness of the problem of trafficking in human beings and develop mechanisms for its limitation. Create public intolerance to this phenomenon.

ACTIVITIES:

1. Embrace the risk groups of the population (women, children and ethnic minorities) and inform them about the risks and consequences of human trafficking.

1.1. Expand the training on human and children's rights in secondary schools and in pre-school preparation by using school and out-of-school activities.

Responsible institution: Ministry of Education and Science.

Partners: LCCTHB, Central Commission for Combating Juvenile Delinquency, Regional Inspectorates of Education and IOM.

Funding: Budgets of the Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Culture, State Agency for Child Protection, Central Commission for Combating Juvenile Delinquency and funds from related projects and programmes.

Deadline: Permanent.

1.2. Develop, spread and popularise educational modules and models of local and school policies, information materials and tools on the topics of sexual exploitation and trafficking of human beings to teachers, secretaries and members of the LCCTHB, students and parents.

Responsible institution: Ministry of Education and Science.

Partners: Regional Inspectorates of Education, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Health, State Agency for Child Protection, Central Commission for Combating Juvenile Delinquency, NCCTHB, LCCTHB, Ministry of Interior, State Agency for National Security, IOM and NGOs.

Funding: Budgets of the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Culture, State Agency for Child Protection, Central Commission for Combating Juvenile Delinquency, Ministry of Interior; funds from related projects and programmes.

Deadline: Permanent.

1.3. Explanatory activities on the rights of victims of human trafficking and the opportunities for assistance and protection among representatives of the vulnerable groups, especially ethnic minorities.

Responsible institution: LCCTHB.

Partners: Ministry of Interior, State Agency for National Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, State Agency for Child Protection, Ministry of Education and Science, IOM and NGOs.

Funding: From the budgets of the respective institutions and funds from related projects and programmes of partner organizations.

Deadline: Permanent.

2. Conduct studies and organise information campaigns.

2.1. Develop two reference books (including one in electronic form): one with information about the national and international legislation and the institutional framework for prevention and counteraction of trafficking in human beings, and one with internet addresses of state and non-governmental organizations that provide information about the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings and the opportunities for action in the event of presumed trafficking as well as information on available healthcare services to the victims of human trafficking.

Responsible institution: NCCTHB.

Partners: All institutions represented by the NCCTHB, IOM and NGOs.

Funding: NCCTHB budget; funds from related projects and programmes.

Deadline: July 2008.

Popularise the specialised websites of the State Agency for Child Protection (www.stopech.sacp.government.bg), the NCCTHB (www.antitraffic.government.bg) and the Central Commission for Combating Juvenile Delinquency.

Responsible institution: NCCTHB;

Partners: Ministry of Interior, State Agency for National Security, State Agency for Child Protection, Central Commission for Combating Juvenile Delinquency, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Ministry of Education and Science.

Funding: Budgets of the NCCTHB, State Agency for Child Protection and Central Commission for Combating Juvenile Delinquency; funds from related projects and programmes.

Deadline: December 2008.

2.3. Conduct an information campaign for raising society's awareness of the problem of trafficking in human beings.

Responsible institution: NCCTHB.

Partners: State Agency for Child Protection, Ministry of Education and Science, Central Commission for Combating Juvenile Delinquency, LCCTHB, National Employment Agency, IOM, international organisations and NGOs.

Funding: Budgets of the respective institutions, funds from related projects and programmes.

Deadline: December 2008.

2.4. Conduct an information campaign for raising awareness among groups vulnerable to human trafficking.

Responsible institution: NCCTHB.

Partners: State Agency for Child Protection, Ministry of Education and Science, Central Commission for Combating Juvenile Delinquency, LCCTHB, National Employment Agency, IOM, international organisations and NGOs.

Funding: Budgets of the respective institutions; funds from projects and programmes.

Deadline: December 2008.

2.5. Conduct joint initiatives with the media to cover the problems of trafficking in human beings.

Responsible institution: NCCTHB.

Partners: All institutions represented by the NCCTHB and NGOs.

Funding: Budgets of the NCCTHB and partner organizations;

Deadline: Permanent.

SECTION III

“TRAINING AND QUALIFICATION OF STAFF”

MAIN GOAL: Initial training in the newly-created structures under the Combating Trafficking in Human Beings Act and improving the qualification of the staff within the institutions working on the problems of trafficking. Building the capacity of the NCCTHB for application and participation in European projects.

ACTIVITIES:

1. Training of NCCTHB and LCCTHB employees as well as of the experts from the Permanent Working Group within the NCCTHB.

Responsible institution: NCCTHB.

Partners: Institutions represented by the NCCTHB, IOM, NGOs and international donor organisations.

Funding: NCCTHB budget and funds from related projects and programmes.

Deadline: December 2008.

2. Training of magistrates in the area of prevention and counteraction of trafficking in human beings.

Responsible institution: Ministry of Justice, National Institute of Justice.

Funding: Budgets of the Ministry of Justice and National Institute of Justice; funds from related projects and programmes.

Deadline: Permanent.

3. Improvement of the qualification of the Ministry of Interior staff working on cases of trafficking in human beings, the staff of the Academy of the Ministry of Interior and its centres for specialisation and professional preparation.

Responsible institution: Ministry of Interior, State Agency for National Security.

Funding: Ministry of Interior budget.

Deadline: Permanent.

4. Training of investigation organs on the methodologies of investigation of human trafficking crimes.

Responsible institution: Ministry of Interior, State Agency for National Security, National Investigation Service, Supreme Prosecutor's Office of Cassation.

Funding: Ministry of Interior budget.

Deadline: Permanent.

5. Include training module "Human trafficking: root causes, identification and protection of victims" in the curriculum of the Diplomatic Institute of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Responsible institution: NCCTHB, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Diplomatic Institute of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Funding: Ministry of Foreign Affairs budget.

Deadline: Permanent.

6. Organise and conduct training for journalists on the issues of prevention and counteraction of trafficking in human beings.

Responsible institution: NCCTHB.

Partners: State Agency for Child Protection and NGOs.

Funding: NCCTHB budget, funds from related projects and programmes.

Deadline: Permanent.

7. Organise and conduct training for social workers and specialists working on the Hot Line for children, victims of violence and human trafficking.

Responsible institution: NCCTHB.

Partners: State Agency for Child Protection, Agency for Social support and NGOs.

Funding: NCCTHB budget, funds from related projects and programmes.

Deadline: December 2008.

8. Acquainting the investigation authorities with the “Manual of good practices for police officers, preliminary investigators and investigators when carrying out procedural activities with children who are victims of sexual exploitation”.

Responsible institution: Ministry of Interior, State Agency for National Security.

Funding: Ministry of Interior budget.

Deadline: Permanent.

SECTION IV

“PROTECTION, REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION OF VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS”

MAIN GOAL: Assistance and support to the victims of human trafficking and protection of their rights. Overcoming the consequences of trafficking and reintegration of the victims in the society.

ACTIVITIES:

1. Update the Coordination mechanism for referral, care and protection of repatriated Bulgarian UAM and children victims of trafficking returning from abroad.

Responsible institution: State Agency for Child Protection, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Agency for Social Support, Central Commission for Combating Juvenile Delinquency, State Agency for National Security.

Partners: NCCTHB, Central Commission for Combating Juvenile Delinquency, IOM, International Labour Organization, International Social Service and NGOs.

Funding: Budgets of the respective institutions; funds from related projects and programmes.

Deadline: May 2008.

2. Develop measures to limit and prevent the use of the Internet to recruit potential victims of trafficking in human beings.

Responsible institution: Ministry of Interior, State Agency for National Security.

Partners: NCCTHB, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, State Agency for Child Protection, NGOs, Ministry of Defence and internet providers.

Funding: Ministry of Interior budget.

Deadline: October 2008.

3. Ensure a mechanism to provide medical and psychological assistance in the Centres for Protection of Victims of Trafficking with the LCCTHB.

Responsible institution: NCCTHB.

Partners: Ministry of Health, LCCTHB.

Funding: NCCTHB budget.

Deadline: Permanent.

4. Inclusion of the victims of trafficking in appropriate forms of training and qualification.

Responsible institution: Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, National Employment Agency and respective municipalities.

Partners: LCCTHB, Central Commission for Combating Juvenile Delinquency and NGOs.

Funding: Budgets of the Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, the National Employment Agency; funds from related projects and programmes.

Deadline: Permanent.

5. Support the participation of victims of human trafficking in projects, programmes and measures under the terms and procedures of the Encouragement of Employment Act.

Responsible institution: Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Employment Agency.

Partners: NCCTHB and LCCTHB.

Funding: Budgets of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, the National Employment Agency; funds from related projects and programmes.

Deadline: Permanent.

SECTION V

“INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION”

MAIN GOAL: Broaden the international activities of the NCCTHB; develop international cooperation and exchange of best practices in the fields of prevention and counteraction of trafficking in human beings.

ACTIVITIES:

1. Establish bilateral contacts, exchange of experience and best practices between the NCCTHB and similar structures and state institutions working on the issues of combating and preventing trafficking in human beings in the European Union member states, member states of the Council of Europe and third countries.

Responsible institution: NCCTHB.

Partners: All institutions and organizations represented by the NCCTHB, IOM and NGOs.

Funding: NCCTHB budget and funds from related projects and programmes.

Deadline: Permanent.

2. Present the Bulgarian legislation and practice in combating trafficking in human beings per the bilateral relations and multilateral cooperation.

Responsible institution: NCCTHB.

Partners: All institutions and organizations represented by the NCCTHB.

Funding: NCCTHB budget and funds from related projects and programmes.

Deadline: Permanent.

3. Conduct an international round table for the purpose of sharing experience and best practices in the counteraction of trafficking in human beings.

Responsible institution: NCCTHB.

Partners: All institutions represented by the NCCTHB.

Funding: NCCTHB budget and funds from related projects and programmes.

Deadline: October 2008.

4. Establish a network of dependable partners on an international level for the purpose of cooperation, assistance and coordination in the field of service provision for victims of trafficking.

Responsible institution: NCCTHB.

Partners: International and non-governmental organizations.

Funding: NCCTHB budget and funds from related projects and programmes.

Deadline: Permanent.

SECTION VI: **LEGISLATIVE MEASURES**

ACTIVITIES:

1. Prepare a proposal for the amendment and completion to the Penalty Code concerning the execution of Bulgaria's obligations to Art.19 from the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings for criminalisation of the intentional use of services from victims of human trafficking.

Responsible institution: Ministry of Justice.

Expert assistance: Supreme Court of Cassation.

Funding: Ministry of Justice budget.

Deadline: December 2008.

2. Formulation of a request to the Supreme Court of Cassation for the issuing of an interpretative decision on the contradictory court practices related to criminal cases of human trafficking and, specifically, the contradiction between Art.159a (3) and Art.182b of the Penalty Code.

Responsible institution: Supreme Court of Cassation.

Expert assistance: Supreme Cassation Prosecutor's Office.

Funding: Not needed.

Deadline: September 2008.

ANNEX

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

IOM	International Organisation for Migration
LCCTHB	Local Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings
NCCTHB	National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings
NGO	Non-governmental organisations