



## United States Mission to the OSCE

# **Release of the 2008 U.S. Trafficking in Persons Report**

As delivered by Ambassador Julie Finley  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
June 5, 2008

Mr. Chairman,

On June 4, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice released the eighth annual Department of State Trafficking in Persons Report. The 170-country report is the most comprehensive worldwide report on the efforts of governments to combat severe forms of trafficking in persons, a modern-day form of slavery.

Its findings are intended to raise global awareness and spur countries to take effective actions to counter trafficking in persons. The United States estimates that each year, approximately 800,000 people are trafficked across national borders, which does not include millions trafficked within their own countries. Human trafficking victims can be subjected to labor exploitation or sexual exploitation, or both.

This year's report includes a particular focus on issues related to forced labor - a form of trafficking in persons - including efforts to prosecute such crimes. Modern-day slavery, involving millions of people every year, continues to be a problem in nearly every country in the world and traffickers continue to search for new opportunities to exploit men, women, and children.

The United States certainly is not immune from the crime of human trafficking; in fact, we estimate that between 14,500 and 17,500 victims are trafficked into the United States each year. To fight modern-day slavery, 10 federal agencies are working on the U.S. anti-TIP campaign, and many local government agencies are involved. We are pleased that, according to the U.S. Department of Justice, criminal prosecution of human traffickers has increased sharply in the United States, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has dramatically increased our public awareness efforts. Despite a tremendous amount of positive action, there is more we must do to accelerate our anti-human trafficking efforts at home. Since Fiscal Year 2004, the U.S. Government has spent over \$96 million for domestic anti-trafficking programs.

We are proud to partner with other countries, international organizations, and NGOs to fight human trafficking. In Fiscal Year 2007, the U.S. Government spent approximately \$79 million to fund 180 projects in about 90 countries to support foreign government and NGO efforts to combat human trafficking. Since Fiscal Year 2001, the USG has funded more than

\$528 million for anti-TIP projects outside the United States. Moreover, U.S. Government efforts to promote the rule of law and economic reforms in many countries help reduce the conditions which facilitate trafficking.

The full text of the Report is available on the State Department's website,

<http://www.state.gov/g/tip>.

Thank you Mr. Chairman