



13 SEP 10 P3:14

SENATE  
S. No. 1623

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Trafficking in persons is a serious crime and a grave violation of human rights. Every year, thousands of men, women and children fall into the hands of traffickers, in their own countries and abroad. Almost every country in the world is affected by trafficking, whether as a country of origin, transit or destination for victims.\* As a third world country, the Philippines is one of the most vulnerable areas for trafficking.

As provided in the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law of 2003, we have a multi-fronted approach against trafficking. In order to stay ahead, we must be able to identify the best practices and implement the same across the system, whenever applicable.

This bill mandates the Department of Justice to identify these best practices and, with such practices as basis, to provide for guidelines for all implementing agencies.

*Miriam Defensor Santiago*  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

*MS*

\* <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/what-is-human-trafficking.html>

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1 AN ACT  
2 PROVIDING FOR BEST PRACTICES GUIDELINES IN THE EFFORTS AGAINST  
3 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

*Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:*

4 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This act shall be known as “Best Practices Against  
5 Trafficking in Persons Act.”

6 SECTION 2. *Best Practices for Implementing Anti-Trafficking in Person Act.* – Within  
7 one (1) year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Justice, acting as Chair  
8 of the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (Council), as provided under Republic Act No.  
9 9208, otherwise known as the “Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act,” shall develop and publish  
10 guidelines to assist all agencies included in the Council in efforts to improve the implementation  
11 of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act. In developing the guidelines, the Secretary shall consult  
12 with the members of the Council, the judiciary, and non-government organizations involved in  
13 efforts against trafficking in persons. The Secretary should also utilize multi-disciplinary  
14 research, evidence-based, and promising models and programs; and is encouraged to include  
15 input from agencies that have developed trafficking-specific programs, courts, law enforcement  
16 agencies with anti-human trafficking protocols in place, anti-human trafficking nonprofit  
17 organizations, and human trafficking survivors. The guidelines shall include sections on the  
18 following:

- 19 A. PERSONNEL RESOURCES- Sample training materials, protocols, and screening  
20 tools that prepare implementing agencies to identify and serve victims of trafficking  
21 or are at-risk of becoming such a victim.

1 B. COLLABORATION- Sample protocols for effective, cross-system collaboration  
2 between implementing agencies and non-profit organizations, including, but not  
3 limited to, social welfare, medical and health professionals, local police, detention  
4 centers and courts, and runaway and homeless youth programs, schools, and  
5 organizations already serving victims of trafficking.

6 C. RESIDENTIAL PLACEMENT- A list of recommendations to establish safe  
7 residential placements for victims of trafficking in persons.

8 D. DOCUMENTATION AND DATA- Sample protocols and recommended strategies in  
9 order to identify victims as well as collect, document, and share data across systems.  
10 Recommendations should be designed to help agencies better understand the type of  
11 trafficking involved, the scope of the problem, the specific needs of the population to  
12 be served, and the degree of victim interaction with multiple systems.

13 E. PREVENTION- Recommended actions for implementing agencies and personnel that  
14 will help to prevent citizens at risk of becoming victims of trafficking in persons from  
15 being trafficked.

16 SECTION 3. *Submission to Congress.* – A copy of the Best Practices in the  
17 Implementation of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act, as provided in the next preceding  
18 section, shall be submitted to the appropriate committees of the House of Representatives and the  
19 Senate.

20 SECTION 4. *Appropriations.* – Such amount as may be necessary for the implementation  
21 of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

22 SECTION 5. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive  
23 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary to or inconsistent  
24 with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

1           SECTION 6. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
2 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,