



Irish Government's Response to Human Trafficking

Legislative

- The Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008 was enacted in June 2008. Under this legislation, trafficking of human beings for the purposes of sexual exploitation, labour exploitation or removal of organs is a crime with penalties of up to life imprisonment.
- Administrative arrangements of 60 days' permission to remain lawfully in the State (recovery & reflection period) for alleged victims of trafficking and 6-month periods of residence, renewable, where the person wishes to assist the Gardaí or other relevant authorities in any investigation or prosecution related to the alleged trafficking have been put in place since June 2008.

Administrative

- The Minister for Justice and Law Reform set up the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) to co-ordinate the government response to human trafficking. The Unit interacts with Government Departments, public sector agencies (including the Garda Síochána and the Health Service Executive), non-governmental organisations and international organisations in its efforts to put in place the most effective systems to combat the trafficking of human beings and to protect victims.
- The National Action Plan to Prevent and Combat Trafficking of Human Beings in Ireland 2009-2012 was published in June 2008 and can be viewed at www.blueblindfold.gov.ie
- The State and the Garda Síochána are committed to ensuring that no person who is potentially a victim of human trafficking will be removed from the State while the investigation into the circumstances of the person's arrival into the State, including the identification of the person as a victim, is ongoing.
- Services provided to victims of trafficking include the provision of accommodation and material assistance; counselling; medical treatment; access to translation and interpretation services; access to legal aid and advice; access to the labour market and vocational training (or education), as appropriate.
- Since its establishment, the AHTU has undertaken a number of awareness raising and training initiatives including the placing of advertisements and articles in various publications, distributing leaflets and bookmarks, training representatives from a number of State organisations and the development of a Facebook page on the popular social networking website. For more information on these and other initiatives, visit: www.blueblindfold.gov.ie.
- The AHTU developed a data collection strategy in January 2009, based on systems being developed at EU level. In 2009, a total of 66 alleged victims of trafficking (including 17 minors) were referred to the Garda Síochána for investigation, 35 of whom were referred by NGOs.