

# The 2017-2018 Amendments to the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA)\*

The TVPA is designed to address three broad goals:

The **PROSECUTION** of traffickers  
The **PROTECTION** of trafficking victims; and  
The **PREVENTION** of trafficking.

Signed into law by the beginning of 2019, each of the TVPA amendments detailed below focuses on the implementation of these goals.

The TVPA was first enacted in 2000.

Since then, the TVPA has been reauthorized six times.

Each reauthorization adds amendments that reflect a better understanding of how to address the crime of human trafficking.

## Prosecution

Focuses on decreasing the demand for commercial sex by requiring research on reeducation strategies.

Authorizes the DOJ to bring civil actions to stop or prevent criminal offenses related to sexual exploitation, forced labor, and trafficking.

Ensures defendants pay restitution to victims.

Enhances penalties for human trafficking, child exploitation, and repeat offenders.

Focuses on demand centered investigations geared toward targeting sex buyers and third-party facilitators as traffickers.

## Protection

Expands grant programs to facilities providing trauma-informed care.

Implements trafficking screening procedures that minimize secondary trauma and re-victimization.

Avoids arresting victims for crimes related to trafficking by using better strategies for detecting victims.

Requires research study on the psychological impact of trafficking to improve victim services.

## Prevention

Makes it easier to determine if other countries are meeting their anti-trafficking goals.

Details how to create a plan to improve the efforts of other countries.

Advises the President to work with private organizations to combat human trafficking and child sexual exploitation.

Mandates multilateral development banks safeguard against trafficking.

Expands grant programs to schools to educate children on prevention.

Improves analysis of international progress and brings attention to child sexual assault by Afghan forces.

Improves ability to detect trafficking during immigration.

Ensures United States agencies to do not fund human trafficking.

Adds emphasis on child victim identification.

Improves trainings with a victim-centered approach.

Enhances data collection to improve knowledge of trafficking in each state.

Creates the Public-Private Partnership Advisory Council to End Human Trafficking.

Formally ends government partnerships with commercial sex industry. There can be no federal funding from adult entertainment and no derivation of profit from the commercial sex trade.

S. 1862

H.R. 2200

S. 1312

S. 1311

2017 - 2018 Amendments