



Combating Trafficking in Persons Course: Victim Identification, Investigation and Prosecution



Combating Trafficking in Persons Course: Victim Identification, Investigation and Prosecution

Introduction:

Combating trafficking in persons through victim identification, investigation and prosecution is the subject of this 1-week course for police, prosecution, labour inspection, border and social-services units, ending with a Trafficking Case Response and Referral Plan for a case organisation. Agencies that miss trafficking indicators treat victims as offenders, lose testimony through poor interviews and bring cases that collapse at trial. Nominees already handle exploitation complaints, inspections or criminal cases and work by case study on victim files and evidence bundles. CoreConcept Training Center delivers this combating trafficking in persons course.

Course Objectives:

- Apply the Palermo Protocol act, means and purpose elements to decide whether a complaint, inspection finding or arrest indicates trafficking in persons
- Screen workers, migrants and detained persons against trafficking and ILO forced labour indicators and record presumed victim decisions
- Refer identified victims through national referral mechanism pathways to shelter, health, legal and social support after a safety assessment
- Conduct victim-centred, trauma-informed interviews and gather financial, digital and documentary evidence that corroborates victim testimony
- Analyse debt bondage, wage withholding and document confiscation as evidence of labour exploitation and forced labour
- Prepare charging and courtroom protection proposals that apply the non-punishment principle and keep victims engaged through trial

Target Audience:

- Police investigation units responsible for exploitation, vice and serious crime cases involving trafficked persons
 - Prosecution units responsible for charging decisions and trial preparation in trafficking and forced labour cases
 - Labour inspection units responsible for workplace visits, wage checks and complaints from migrant workers
 - Border and immigration units responsible for screening travellers and detained irregular migrants
 - Social-services and victim support units responsible for shelter, case management and protection of victims
-

Course Outline:

Day 1: Trafficking in Persons Definitions, Forms and Response Landscape

- Palermo Protocol Act, Means and Purpose Elements Applied
- Irrelevance of Consent and the Child Victim Rule
- Distinguishing Trafficking From Smuggling and Employment Disputes
- Sexual Exploitation, Forced Labour, Servitude and Organ Removal Forms
- Agency Anti-Trafficking Response Baseline and Gap Review

Day 2: Victim Identification Indicators and the National Referral Mechanism

- ILO Indicators of Forced Labour for Workplace Screening
- General and Sector-Specific Trafficking Indicator Checklists
- National Referral Mechanism Roles, Pathways and Handover Forms
- Presumed Victim Status Decision and Assistance Entitlements
- Non-Punishment Principle Screening for Victims Facing Charges

Day 3: Victim-Centred Interviewing and Trafficking Investigation

- Trauma-Informed First Contact and Safety Assessment Procedure
- Victim Identification Interview Planning With Interpreters
- Financial, Digital and Documentary Evidence in Trafficking Cases
- Corroboration Strategy Reducing Reliance on Victim Testimony
- Joint Labour Inspection and Police Operation Planning Checklist

Day 4: Labour Exploitation, Debt Bondage and Prosecution Challenges

- Debt Bondage and Recruitment Debt Evidence Analysis
- Withheld Wages, Confiscated Passports and Movement Restriction Evidence
- Charging Choices Between Trafficking, Forced Labour and Lesser Offences
- Courtroom Protection Measures for Victim and Child Witnesses
- Victim Compensation From Confiscated Trafficking Proceeds

Day 5: Case Study on a Trafficking Case Response and Referral Plan

- Case Briefing With Inspection Report, Complaint and Statements
 - Case Indicator Screening and Presumed Victim Decision Record
 - Case Referral Pathway and Protection Measures Mapping
 - Case Evidence Matrix and Prosecution Readiness Review
 - Trafficking Case Response and Referral Plan Completion and Defence
-

Skills You Will Gain:

- Trafficking Indicator Screening
- Presumed Victim Determination
- Victim Referral Coordination
- Trauma-Informed Interviewing
- Trafficking Evidence Corroboration
- Forced Labour Inspection
- Debt Bondage Analysis
- Victim Witness Protection

Why Attend This Course:

- Present a Trafficking Case Response and Referral Plan for a case organisation to the head of the anti-trafficking unit and the partner agencies named in it
- Decide whether a person is a presumed victim, which referral pathway applies and which offence the evidence supports
- Avoid wrongful prosecution of victims, lost testimony and collapsed trials caused by uncoordinated identification and weak evidence
- Equip colleagues with the indicator checklists, referral handover forms and evidence matrix used during the course

Conclusion:

Back at work, the participant presents the Trafficking Case Response and Referral Plan to the head of the anti-trafficking or serious crime unit, the prosecutor and the labour inspection and social-services leads, who use it to agree how presumed victims are screened, referred and protected and how cases are built for court. Frontline staff apply its indicator checklists and handover forms. After the first case handled under the plan, the agencies should review referral times, victim engagement through trial, charging outcomes and evidence gaps, then update the plan.

Frequently Asked Questions FAQ:

What should participants know before a combating trafficking in persons course?

Participants should already handle exploitation complaints, labour inspections, border screening, victim support or criminal cases. Knowledge of their own agency's procedures is enough; no prior anti-trafficking training is needed. Anonymised case summaries or inspection records from their unit help during the case study.

How does this combating trafficking in persons course differ from organised crime or border management courses?

It centres on the trafficked person and the case: indicators, identification, referral, victim-centred investigation, labour exploitation evidence and prosecution with protection. Network disruption strategy, cross-border cooperation tools and crossing point operations appear only as context that practitioners connect to.

Why is consent irrelevant when combating trafficking in persons?

Under the Palermo Protocol, a victim's consent to the intended exploitation is irrelevant once any means such as threat, fraud, deception or abuse of a position of vulnerability is used. For children under eighteen, no means needs to be proven at all.

What do participants take back from the combating trafficking in persons course?

Participants return with a Trafficking Case Response and Referral Plan for a case organisation, including indicator checklists, a presumed victim decision record, a referral pathway map, an evidence matrix and courtroom protection proposals, ready to adapt to cases in their own agency.
