



BELIZE Trafficking in Persons Law

Trafficking in Persons Statistics

There are an estimated
24.9
MILLION
slaves in the world today

75%
of human
trafficking
occurs within
a country's
borders

81% of victims are
forced to work outside
the commercial sex
industry

In the past five years,
89
MILLION
people have
experienced some form
of modern slavery.

ILO Global Estimate of Modern Slavery 2017

Common Types of Coercion

Physical

- Withholds food & medical care
- Isolates & speaks for victims
- Forces victims to have abortions
- Controls identification documents
- Brands victims
- Forces victims to commit crimes
- Beats & abuses victims
- Commits rape
- Manipulates addiction

Psychological

- Promises of love & a future
- Threatens family members
- Threatens to shame family members
- Warns of police misconduct
- Threatens deportation
- Uses extortion

Debunking TIP Myths

Trafficking is NOT about movement. Its essence is **COERCION**.

Individuals are not only victims of sex trafficking; a vast majority of them are **FORCED LABOUR** victims.

Traffickers are motivated by **MONEY**. It's an economic crime.

ANYONE can be a trafficking victim: children and adults, women and men.

Trafficking at its Core

Compelling someone to work or to engage in a commercial sex act

Primary Belize TIP Offence: Section 11(1)

"A person who engages in, conspires to engage in or attempts to engage in, or assists another person to engage in, or organizes or directs another person to engage in, trafficking in persons commits an offence and is liable on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term of eight years."

Versatile Offence

- Applies to All Types of Exploitation
- Adult & Child Cases
- Domestic & Transnational Cases
- Broad Range of Criminal Conduct

Penalty Structure

- No Fine Anticipated
- 8 Years Imprisonment for Primary TIP Offence
- 12 Years if Victim is a Child - Sec. 11(2)
- 25 Years if Aggravating Factor - Sec. 28(1)
- Life if the Accused had sex with the Child - Sec. 28(3)

Key Dates:

15 Nov 2000:
UN TIP Protocol Adopted



28 Jun 2003:
Belize Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Act

26 Sept 2003:
Belize Accession to UN TIP Protocol

2 Feb 2013:
Belize Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Act
Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (Prohibition) Act



BELIZE Trafficking in Persons Law

Belize TIP Definition for Adults or Minors (Sec. 2)

1. Act

Trafficking Verbs: Recruit, Transport, Transfer, Harbour, or Receipt of Persons

2. Means

Threats or Use of Force, Coercion, Abduction, Fraud, Deception, Abuse of Power or Vulnerability, Giving Payments or Benefits

3. Purpose

Exploitation*

Belize TIP Definition for Minors (Sec. 11(3))

1. Act

Trafficking Verbs: Recruit, Transport, Harbour, or Receipt of a Child, or Give Payment or Benefits to Obtain the Consent of a Person Having Control of a Child

2. Means

The child is a person below the age of 18 years

3. Purpose

Exploitation*

*Exploitation: Prostitution of Others, Any Form of Commercial Sexual Exploitation (including pimping, pandering, procuring prostitution, profiting from prostitution, maintaining a brothel, pornography, strip tease or nude dances), Forced Labour, Slavery or Similar Practices, or Removal of Organs. *TIP Act Section 2.*

Belize TIP Law Core Offences

No.	Section	Offence	Max Penalty
1	11(1)	Engage, conspire, attempt or assist to TIP	8 Years (12, 25 or Life w/ Enhancements)
2	12	Adoption for TIP	\$500 Fine and/or 10 Years (or 25 with Enhancements)
3	13(1)	Intermediary facilitation of a child for sexual activity	10 Years (or 25 with Enhancements)
4	13(2)	Child's controller TIP of child for sexual exploitation	10 Years (or 25 with Enhancements)
5	14	Facilitating and receives payment for TIP of a child	8 Years
6	15	Profiting from TIP	8 Years
7	16	Advertises for TIP	8 Years
8	17	Owner or lessee who knowing used for TIP offense	\$10,000 Fine or 5 Years
9	18	Providing services to facilitate TIP	\$10,000 Fine or 5 Years (or 25 with Enhancements)
10	19(2)(a)	Human smuggling	Individual: Fine of \$100,000 and/or 10 Years Corporate: Fine of \$250,000
11	19(2)(b)	Human smuggling for TIP	Individual: Fine of \$100,000 and/or 10 Years Corporate: Fine of \$250,000
12	21	Intentional omission of TIP information to authorities	Fine of \$5,000 and/or 3 Years
13	22	TIP offence by person in public office	15 Years and loss of public office
14	23	Unlawfully withholding identification papers	\$10,000 Fine and/or 5 Years
15	49(3)	Publishing victim Information	\$5,000 Fine and/or 3 Years

Belize Victim Protections

In Camera Testimony

- Video/Screened Testimony • Confidential Identity
- Parent/Guardian Present for Minors (Section 30)
- Victim not liable for immigration offence (Section 27)
- Immigration assistance to remain in country
- Victim restitution (Section 24)

Evidentiary Issues

- Consent to Exploitation is Irrelevant and Inadmissible (Section 25(1))
- Legal Age to Consent to Marriage is Irrelevant and Inadmissible (Section 26)
- Prior Sexual History is Irrelevant and Inadmissible (Section 25(2))
- Expect inconsistent statements