



Combating Human Trafficking



Diplomatic Security Service (DSS) special agents, investigators, and analysts work in over 270 U.S. embassies and consulates in more than 170 countries, frequently putting DSS at the epicenter of transnational criminal investigations, including those involving human trafficking. These crimes often involve some aspect of passport, visa, or travel document fraud, which is DSS' investigative specialty. In a growing number of instances, foreign law enforcement agencies seek DSS' assistance in their own efforts to combat human trafficking.

Located in 29 domestic offices across the country, DSS partners with U.S. federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to investigate these crimes within the United States. DSS participates in multi-agency anti-trafficking task forces and coordination teams in several U.S. cities.

Some of the international trafficking cases that DSS has supported include:

- A Texas couple who [enslaved a young West African girl](#) for 16 years, forcing her to take care of their children and house without pay.
- An investigation in Lima, Peru, in which DSS partnered with the Peruvian National Police to disrupt an international human smuggling and trafficking network.
- A case in Bucharest, Romania, involving a transnational criminal organization that was involved in multiple crimes, including human smuggling and trafficking.
- Operation "[Curry in a Hurry](#)," in which a naturalized citizen in Oregon threatened to deport and seriously harm financially four individuals unless they worked long hours for minimal pay.
- Operation "[Cinderella Story](#)," which dismantled an international human trafficking and money laundering ring operating in South Korea and New York City.

A crucial part of the DSS human trafficking effort is to assist victims through its Victims' Resource Advocacy Program (VRAP), which provides tailored support such as safe housing and medical care.

For more information, please contact Diplomatic Security Public Affairs at ds-press@state.gov.

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