BELIZE Trafficking in Persons Law

Trafficking in Persons Statistics

There are an estimated

24.9

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

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)

Human Trafficking Institute

Key Dates:

15 Nov 2000:

UN TIP Protocol Adopted

28 Jun 2003:

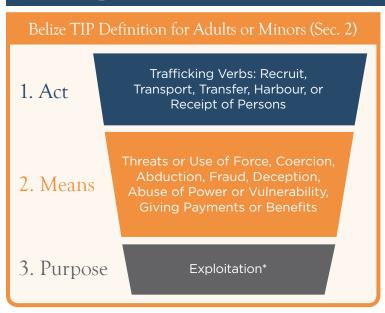
Belize Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Act

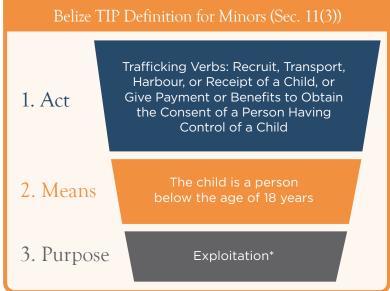
26 Sept 2003:

Belize Accession to UN TIP Protocol

2 Feb 2013:

Belize Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Act Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (Prohibition) Act





*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

The Human Frafficking Institute