

1st Report

Human Trafficking

MEXICO ²⁰¹⁹₂₀₂₀



NATIONAL LINE AND CHAT AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

800 5533 000

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MEXICO 2019
2020



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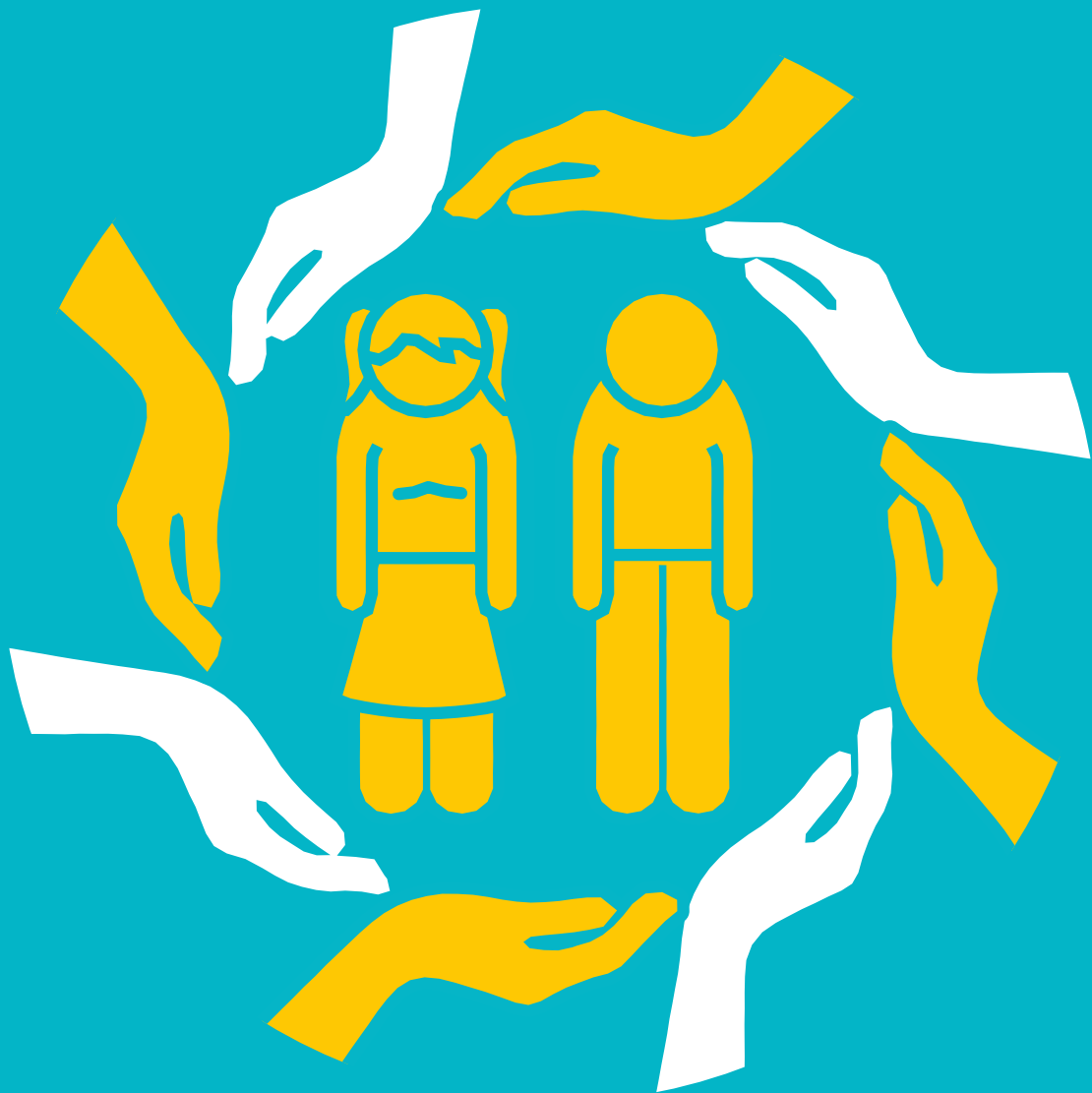


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Presentation

The contribution
against impunity





JOINT EFFORTS TO FACE TRAFFICKING

During the past two years, one of the main goals of the Citizen Council for Safety and Justice in Mexico City has been to contribute in the fight against impunity.

This objective has led the work of the National Line Against Human Trafficking (LNCTP), whose reports allowed the organization to contribute, in 2019, with 11% of the total number of investigation files that were opened nationwide, and 8% in 2020.

The LNCTP operated by the Council since 2013 has become a reference in the fight against this modern form of slavery.

Through the Line they've strengthened their support in favor of victims of Trafficking, training people to face and confront the crime, working with other public and civil organisms, participating in the creation of work plans and exclusive data analysis presented in real time.

Throughout these two years, the Citizen Council promoted the LNCT as a fundamental tool to raise awareness about the victims, considering the urgent need to inform people and share information about this crime.

This first biannual report 2019-2020 of the Line reflects the efforts to consolidate a culture of prevention and the promotion of denunciation.

It's important to offer people information, to warn families about Trafficking, for victims to acknowledge themselves as such, for end

victims of exploitation to be aware of what they cause.

The more people talk about Trafficking, more effective the fight against this crime will be, a fight that requires the perfect union and synchronicity between the "virtuous triangle": citizens, authorities and businessmen.

Reports from the LNCTP identified that the pandemic due to COVID-19 modified the hooking strategies traffickers use, and that the one they use the most is offering doubtful job opportunities.

Even though they're not the one they use the most, it's important to mention that after the contingency measures were established, traffickers use social networks and internet websites to seek potential victims.

The Biannual Report (2019-2020) shows important findings based on the analysis of the reports that were received and in which new forms of Trafficking, such as forced marriage, that hadn't been presented were registered.

The LNCTP is a necessary tool that also offers victims counseling during the psychological recovery, denunciation and the consequent legal processes.

The 24/7 operation model from the call center of the Citizen Council offers continuous, specialized and free psychological attention and legal counseling.

**It's important to
inform people and
to warn families
about Trafficking.**



The Council's outreach capacity is not limited by geography, as seen in a call for help that was received from Malta, in the European Mediterranean.

This report raises awareness about a crime that, in order to fight against it, it requires the full identification of all its actors, acknowledging that behind flirting at parks, malls or online, an unbelievable job offer and the American dream, there is deceit and exploitation.

Traffickers are criminals who exploit their victims' dreams and desires to have a better life.

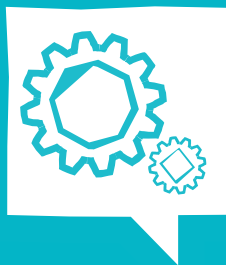
Salvador Guerrero Chiprés PhD

*President Council
of the Citizen Council
for Safety and Justice
in Mexico City*



Prologue

Honesty, efficiency,
inclusion and
transparency





HUMAN TRAFFICKING: ONE OF THE MOST HEARTRENDING CRIMINAL PHENOMENA

I've known about the work made by the Citizen Council for Safety and Justice in Mexico City for years. Honesty, efficiency, inclusion and transparency are some of the values that have led this Institution.

For this reason, on July 12th 2020, the Financial Intelligence Unit (UIF) that I'm head of, and the Citizen Council in the fight against Human Trafficking with Salvador Guerrero Chiprés as president, signed a collaboration agreement on this matter.

Thanks to the agreement, the Citizen Council offer information through denounces presented at its National Line Against Trafficking 800 55 33 000. Its purpose is to offer information that helps identify operations that are carried out with illicit resources linked with Human Trafficking and that the UIF helps identify, and its latter follow-up by taking the cases to court.

In attention to the denounces the National Line Against Trafficking receives, the Citizen Council uses an evaluation guide provided by the UIF that helps gather information about the way, time and place that the authority needs to investigate criminal operations, safeguarding the victims' personal data, considering its confidential quality and with the purpose of not re-victimizing people.

Cooperation between both instances implies the use of a reference and counter-reference model through which the Citizen Council provides data and alerts while the UIF assesses and investigates the movement of resources in order to find

national and international criminal networks in order to prevent more people from falling victims of Human Trafficking.

Human Trafficking is always related with operations that use resources of an illicit origin. For this reason, it's fundamental to work on a financial and economical perspective of Human Trafficking in order to spot transactions, suspicious financial operations and the use of bitcoins, among others, and fight the criminals' financial structure. When the ordinary flux of resources is contained, the criminal organizations' operational capacity is reduced.

The information that results from this perspective allows the dissemination of typologies that show the methods that are commonly used by traffickers to access the financial system, the resources of illicit origin that come from sexual and labor exploitation, organ trafficking, and other modalities. Also, it enables the creation of intelligence notes and, given the case, denounces that help fight Human Trafficking and money laundering.

The development of typologies has been considerable at the UIF, and one of them is related with Human Trafficking. Said typology was mentioned by the State Department of the United States. According to its Annual Report on Human Trafficking (2020), the work made by Mexican authorities enabled the localization of a network of Human Trafficking that used bitcoins to launder money related with this illicit activity.

“ Networks profit from ignorance, marginalization, poverty or need”

Now, in order to fully understand the financial and economical perspective, it's necessary to understand the conditions in which Human Trafficking takes place. On many occasions, networks profit from ignorance, marginalization, poverty or need. For this reason, training, workshops, recommendations and reports on this matter constitute very useful tools to update what we know about Human Trafficking, one of the most lucrative crimes and considered the third most lucrative worldwide, only after firearms dealing and illicit drugs dealing.

According to the Citizen Council's mission, which is to "contribute to the recovery of safety and the promotion of justice procurement," this civil organization created this report that contains original research and analysis about a relevant but complex topic in Mexico: Human Trafficking.

This report presents in an actual, profound and illustrative manner one of the most heartrending criminal phenomena from a substantially practical basis, so its findings are twice as worthy. One regretful finding is the identification of a greater participation of women in the operative bases of networks that commit the crime of Human Trafficking.

The following report presents allows us to present a series of reflections and conclusions of legal, sociological, political, financial and economical nature based on direct sources. For example, it says that in 2020 there was a substantial change in the mechanics employed by traffickers in order to hook their victims. The promise of a job offer became the main method they employed, greatly due to the employment crisis caused by the pandemic for COVID-19 in Mexico and around the world.

This finding is coherent with what the Global Report of Human Trafficking 2020 declared, when it identified that the recession caused by COVID-19 had a direct

impact on the risk of falling victim of Human Trafficking mainly because there were people with economical needs that derived from an increase in unemployment.

It's important to say that, in response to this, the International Financial Action Group (GAFI) published the document "Money Laundering and Financing Terrorism Related with covid-10. Risks and Political Responses." On the other hand, the UIF and the supervising authorities made several declarations in which they exhorted entities of the Financial System and those who practice Vulnerable Activities to report and warn in case of having information about irregularities related with COVID-19. Hence, the UIF identified an increase in Human Trafficking crimes in Mexico.

Now, Human Trafficking, a transnational crime, derives from diverse parts of the world. This report mentions South America, North America, the coasts of Northern Africa, Malta, Dubai and the Philippines, among other places. This information allows to identify and select with which countries it's urgent to consolidate an international cooperation.



In this report, apart from establishing the victims' profile, there's an analysis about people who participate in Human Trafficking. The crime requires the participation of an organized criminal structure with defined roles that are linked with drug cartels and even local authorities. This information allows to identify the size of

the traffickers' financial structure.

On the other hand, the report identifies consumers who, regretting their actions, share the contact information and location of traffickers, as well as payment media or websites as a fundamental actor to fight against Human Trafficking. Without doubt, the collaboration of these consumers helps prevent criminal trends based on traffickers' operations as well as those of the people who are related with them.

Many findings and statistics contained in this report open the door to new financial and patrimonial analysis that identify risk factors according to the site's characteristics and its geographical location.

In addition, the reports serves as a base to generate, in great scale, public policies meant to prevent and investigate crimes in terms of Human Trafficking as well as crimes related with money laundering.

It's important to say that public policies can only fulfill their objective when there is a strong bond between diverse institutions and society. The materialization of human rights depends on Mexican's legal and political culture.

This report is proof that society's work is fundamental. Success cases described in this report bring hope, help create prevention strategies against Human Trafficking and safe and change lives. I insist on the fact that it is a contribution for the better functioning of society and the Mexican State. I am sure that its dissemination will promote an exchange of information and dialogue. Above all, in these times of change.

Finally, the report opens questions and problems that will require future reflections. One topic that we need to keep an eye on is the financial and economical perspective of Human Trafficking.

Santiago Nieto Castillo

*Head of the Financial Intelligence Unit
of the Department
of Finance and Public Credit*



Introduction

Effectiveness in
the war against crimes



TIMELY AND QUALITY INFORMATION



Effectiveness in the war against crimes, particularly against those that relate with Human Trafficking, require at least two central elements: timely and quality information and the promotion of denunciation.

Having precise and updated data is fundamental to make decisions and prevent crimes both in direct and indirect victims.

Promoting denunciation and opening investigation files allows authorities in charge of public safety and the procurement of justice to learn the way in which criminals operate and design strategies to prosecute and detain them.

The complexity of Human Trafficking is huge, from its conception, planning and organization to its execution by criminal networks. As is known, and as will be seen throughout this report, the participation of people organized for such purposes is necessary.

The Biannual Report 2019-2020 of the National Line Against Human Trafficking (LNCTP) presents exclusive information generated by the Citizen Council from reports that are made at the number or Whatsapp chat at 800 5533 000.

Reports reflect what goes on in the country in relation with Human Trafficking and allow, given the quality of their data, to identify new forms of operation criminal networks use, as can be seen in the recent increase in the use of job offers as a method to hook victims or the participation of women in the networks' structures, mainly occupying roles of hookers or being the victims' care-takers.

In 2019, the National Commission of Human Rights presented its Diagnostic about the situation of Human Trafficking and it said that

40.3 million people around the world were victims of Trafficking, and among them, 24.9 million were victims of forced labor and 15.4 million of forced marriages.

This report was made with data gathered between 2012 and July 2017 and it points out that during this period they opened 1,932 pretrial investigations and investigations files related with the crime of Human Trafficking.

In 2019, the LNCTP contributed with the integration of 11% of the investigation files and in 2020 with 8%. These denunciations emerged from reports made through the Line.

The Global Report on Human Trafficking by UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) points out that, according to data gathered between 2016 and 2018, 77% of the victims come from the same country in which they are exploited.

Data from the Citizen Council, corresponding with the years 2019-2020 are similar two years later: 75% of the victims come from Mexico.

Reports allow establishing a profile of victims of Trafficking, aggressors and the means and methods they use to hook, transport and exploit their victims.

Having updated information allows authorities and civilians to make the best decisions and support public policies.



An outstanding contribution



ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION



The Citizen Council for Safety and Justice in Mexico City, in its quality of member of the Interministerial Commission to Prevent, Sanction and Eradicate Crimes on Matters of Human Trafficking and for the protection and aid of victims of these crimes, has collaborated actively in the following Work Groups of the Interministerial Commission: Elaboration of the Annual Work Program of the Interministerial Commission; Update of the National Training Program on matters of Human trafficking; Prevention Campaigns, Dissemination Strategies and Attention to Forced Labor.

Its main and most outstanding contributions are related with the National Line Against Human Trafficking 800 5533 000, which is nestled in the Citizen Council in Mexico City and through which they provide legal counseling and psychological aid, 24/7.

Also, they have made information and dissemination campaigns meant for all audiences with the purpose of informing about crimes related with Human Trafficking, preventive measures and the institutions in which people can find help and protection, offering the community the use of the National Line, promoting the Campaign “Can you see me?” together with the A21 civil organization that focuses on raising awareness about the situation millions of women, men, teenagers, girls and boys face as victims of Trafficking in its different forms.

As a result, they have shared with this organism information regarding the advances and derived actions, and about reports from the National Line, all of which has contributed with the Interministerial Commission’s mission on matters of Human Trafficking.

Félix Santana Ángeles

*Technical Secretary
at the Interministerial Commission
to Prevent, Sanction and Eradicate Crimes
on Matters of Human Trafficking
Government Ministry*

