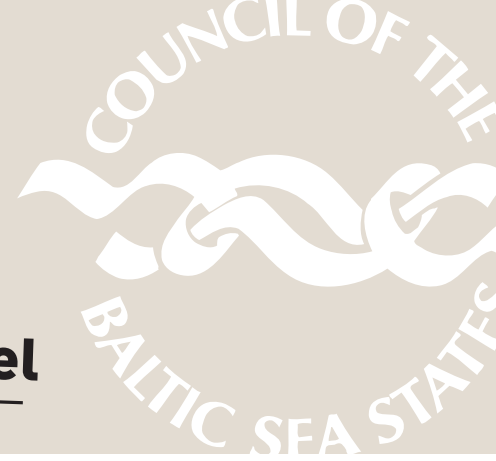


Trainings on Human Trafficking for Diplomatic and Consular Personnel



In line with the objectives of prevention and protecting victims of human trafficking the Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings (TF-THB) puts a strong emphasis on the Training of Diplomatic and Consular Personnel

Why Trainings for Diplomatic and Consular Staff?

Inadequate identification of victims of trafficking still remains one of the biggest obstacles to effectively fight human trafficking.

Law enforcement agencies and government offices often lack the expertise, experienced personnel or the sensitivity to ensure that victims can be properly identified. As a result, many victims of human trafficking do not receive the essential support needed to prevent or put an end to their exploitation. Furthermore, without adequate identification of cases of human trafficking, the law cannot be fully enforced to prosecute traffickers and deter future exploitation and abuse.

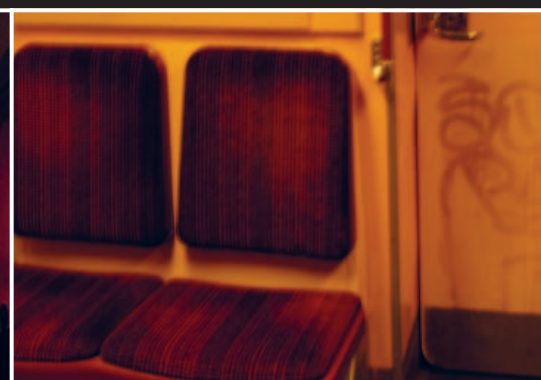
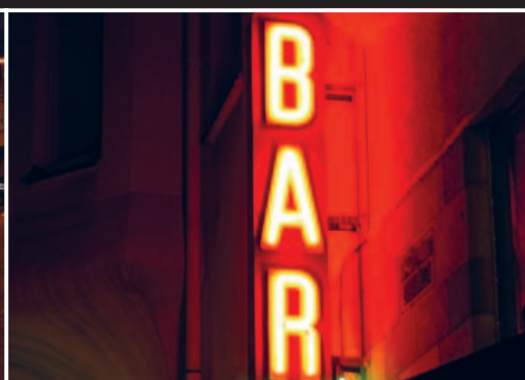
Therefore, broadening of the relevant actors' knowledge of human trafficking will directly assist in the identification and protection of victims of trafficking.

Since consular staff are often the first contact point between the victims of human trafficking and the home country, the TF-THB puts a strong focus on training diplomatic and consular personnel to provide timely and essential support.

If provided with the right tools, consular staff can act as a first filter against human trafficking when processing visa applications. Early identification of potential victims is a key **prevention** mechanism. Consular staff can provide essential **protection** to identified victims by offering legal advice and assisting victims of trafficking to receive specialised health, social or psychological care from governmental or nongovernmental organisations. In cases of repatriation, consular staff can also fulfil an important role in assisting the safe return of identified victims.

The seminars deliver tools to these personnel on how to best respond to suspicions of such cases and discoveries. Specifically, it provides consular staff with instruments to assist victims through cooperation with social services, support organisations, police, immigration authorities, customs, labour inspectors and other relevant actors.

The overall aim of the training program is to increase knowledge about trafficking in human beings among consular staff and by doing so strengthen their capacity to assist victims.





Our Training Seminars

The Training Seminars are carried out in all of the countries of the Baltic Sea Region. Every CBSS Member and Observer State can send diplomatic and consular staff as well as representatives from government ministries to each of the training seminars. Furthermore, depending on the trafficking situation in each country, representatives from other relevant embassies, such as countries of origin, transit or destination, are also invited.

The trainings are usually undertaken during one full day and a common curriculum is used for each seminar. A team of consultants from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) conducts the trainings together with TF-THB representatives and governmental and non-governmental experts from the country hosting the seminar. Additionally, a representative from the Expert Group for Cooperation on Children at Risk (EGCC) gives information on the special needs of child victims.

A handbook for diplomatic and consular staff to use when dealing with trafficking cases will be developed by the TF-THB and the IOM. This will be distributed to the CBSS embassies in the region.

The Training Schedule for the current Training Programme of the TF-THB:

2008

Denmark

2009

Estonia
Iceland
Lithuania
Finland
Brussels

2010

Germany
Poland
Sweden
Norway
Russia
Latvia

OUR TRAINING PROVIDES PARTICIPANTS WITH:

1. An understanding of the nature of human trafficking
2. Information regarding flows of human trafficking to, from and within the CBSS Region
3. An overview of the national and international legal framework
4. Specific instructions regarding victims of trafficking to increase comprehension of their vulnerable situation and to enhance the support provided to them
5. Knowledge about how to handle suspicious and actual cases of human trafficking and about cooperating with authorities in line with international human rights standards
6. An opportunity to exchange experiences and best practices with other professionals and to establish contact points
7. A clear understanding of the role of diplomatic and consular staff in identifying, assisting and safely repatriating victims of human trafficking



IOM International Organization for Migration