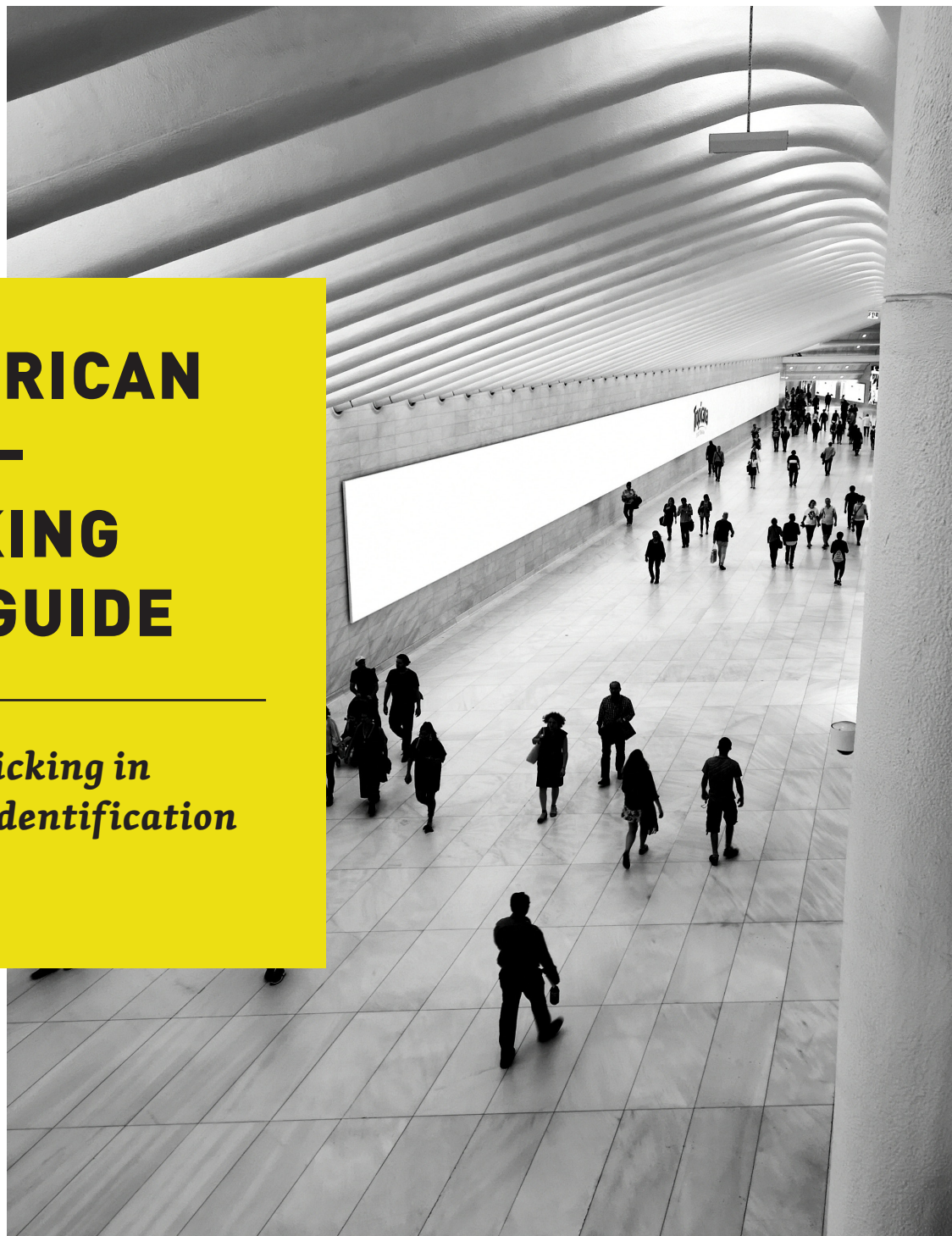


SOUTH AFRICAN COUNTER- TRAFFICKING TOOLKIT GUIDE

*Combatting trafficking in
persons through identification
and intervention*



About the Toolkit

A21's Counter-Trafficking Toolkit ('Toolkit') serves as a resource for **frontline sectors** seeking to increase their understanding of trafficking in persons (TIP) in South Africa. Frontline sectors, for purposes of this Toolkit, refer to certain industries which, by virtue of their type of work, are more likely to encounter a victim of TIP. **Frontline professionals**, as used in this Toolkit, refers to the forward-facing employees in these sectors most likely to encounter a victim of TIP.

Through the 'tools' provided, frontline sectors can apply practical strategies in employing TIP intervention efforts, such as implementing counter-trafficking policies and processes for identifying and engaging with victims and potential victims of TIP.¹

This Toolkit Guide to the Counter-Trafficking Toolkit briefly explains TIP and how frontline sectors can play their part in combatting TIP in South Africa. The Toolkit Guide also describes each 'tool' available to train a team of frontline professionals to counter TIP through identification and intervention efforts.

1. The term 'potential victims' is used to encompass those who may be victims of TIP but for whom there has not yet been a screening to determine their victim status definitively. The term can also refer to those who have not yet been exploited but are in the process of being initially approached, groomed, or recruited.

What is Trafficking in Persons?

TIP is a violation of basic human rights that centres on the exploitation of another human being through means such as force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of exploitation like forced labour, slavery or sexual exploitation. Across the world, millions of men, women, and children are being used as commodities, with their fundamental human rights stripped away for the financial gain of exploiters.

In South Africa, trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation is the most common type of trafficking identified. However, it is generally agreed that trafficking for the purposes of forced labour is prevalent but underreported.

Where does Trafficking in Persons happen?

TIP occurs both domestically, within national borders, and internationally, with few countries, if any, escaping its effects as points of departure, destination, transit, or a combination of all three. Vulnerability factors such as poverty and unemployment render many South Africans particularly vulnerable to TIP. Foreign national victims hail from a wide range of countries but most commonly, victims come from Nigeria, Thailand, Zimbabwe, Malawi and other East, Central and Southern African countries.²

TIP can occur in every system and structure globally; this can be seen in practical terms as labour exploitation in a company's supply chain or the exploitation of people in the commercial sex sector. It is considered to be 'a crime hidden in plain sight' because it often occurs in 'normal' situations within a community. For example, in South Africa, someone who appears to be a seasonal labourer on a fruit farm may be forced to live and work on the fruit farm for little-to-no pay. Alternatively, someone appearing to be a 'troubled' young woman regularly absconding from school might in fact be forced to participate in sex acts for money. It is, therefore, crucial to train frontline professionals in South Africa to recognise victims of trafficking in these everyday scenarios.

Traffickers are known to often recruit victims from poor countries and/or poor or rural areas in South Africa and transport them to urban centres, such as Cape Town, Johannesburg and Durban, for the purpose of sexual exploitation.³ Trafficking for the purpose of forced labour most commonly takes place in industries such as domestic services, mining, food services, construction, the textile industry, agriculture (particularly vineyards and fruit and vegetable farms), and the fishing sector.⁴

2. Van der Watt, M. (2022) Research into the nature and scope of trafficking in persons in South Africa: Prevalence insights from the Criminal Justice System. LASER PULSE Project, 10. http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00ZGPC.pdf

3. Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (2023) Trafficking in Persons Report: South Africa. U.S. Department of State <https://www.state.gov/reports/2023-trafficking-in-persons-report/south-africa>

4. Ibid.

What is the National Human Trafficking Hotline?

The National Human Trafficking Hotline (NHTH) is a toll-free phone and web form service operated by A21 South Africa to respond to TIP. Trained Call Specialists are available 24/7, 365 days a year and work in partnership with the government and other relevant stakeholders to ensure a rapid and effective response to TIP in South Africa.

Anyone, including potential victims or survivors of trafficking, can contact the NHTH on 0800 222 777 or via 0800222777.org.za/ to:

- ▶ Report suspected TIP.
- ▶ Request victim assistance services, such as safety planning, emotional support or a connection to emergency services.
- ▶ Request a referral to emergency services, long-term social services, shelter, transportation services, legal services, mental health and counselling services.
- ▶ Request training for their organisation.

If you or somebody else is in imminent danger, call emergency services before calling the NHTH.

 **0800 222 777**
NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE
IF YOU SUSPECT IT, REPORT IT.

How Can ‘Frontline Sectors’ Combat Trafficking in Persons?

Frontline professionals play a pivotal role in identifying and combatting TIP within their particular sector. See below for just a few examples of how different sectors can make an impact within their area of influence.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

- ▶ Law enforcement is a key frontline profession for identifying victims of trafficking. A victim-centred approach to policing can lead to trauma-informed and effective safeguarding interventions that may result in the discovery of victims, as well as the arrest of the actual perpetrators.

TRANSPORTATION

- ▶ At times, the transportation sector can unknowingly play a role in the facilitation of a victim’s movement from origin to destination locations. With appropriate training and the right procedures in place, the transportation sector can play a vital role in raising public awareness, identifying trafficking situations, and safeguarding victims in transit who may be in various stages of the trafficking process.

HEALTHCARE

- ▶ Victims have limited, if any, time apart from the perpetrator. However, such occasions may arise when victims require medical care as a result of ongoing exploitation. Healthcare workers in hospitals, urgent care facilities, and sexual health clinics are in a unique position to observe, identify, and engage with potential victims of trafficking.

HOSPITALITY

- ▶ The hospitality industry often unwittingly harbours victims in transit or being actively exploited. With increased training on recognising potential key indicators, along with established protocols and resources to assist trafficking victims once encountered, the hospitality industry can help safeguard victims.

IMMIGRATION

- ▶ Both documented and undocumented migrants can be victims of trafficking. Immigration officials are in a key position to be able to interview and identify potential victims of trafficking crossing the border.

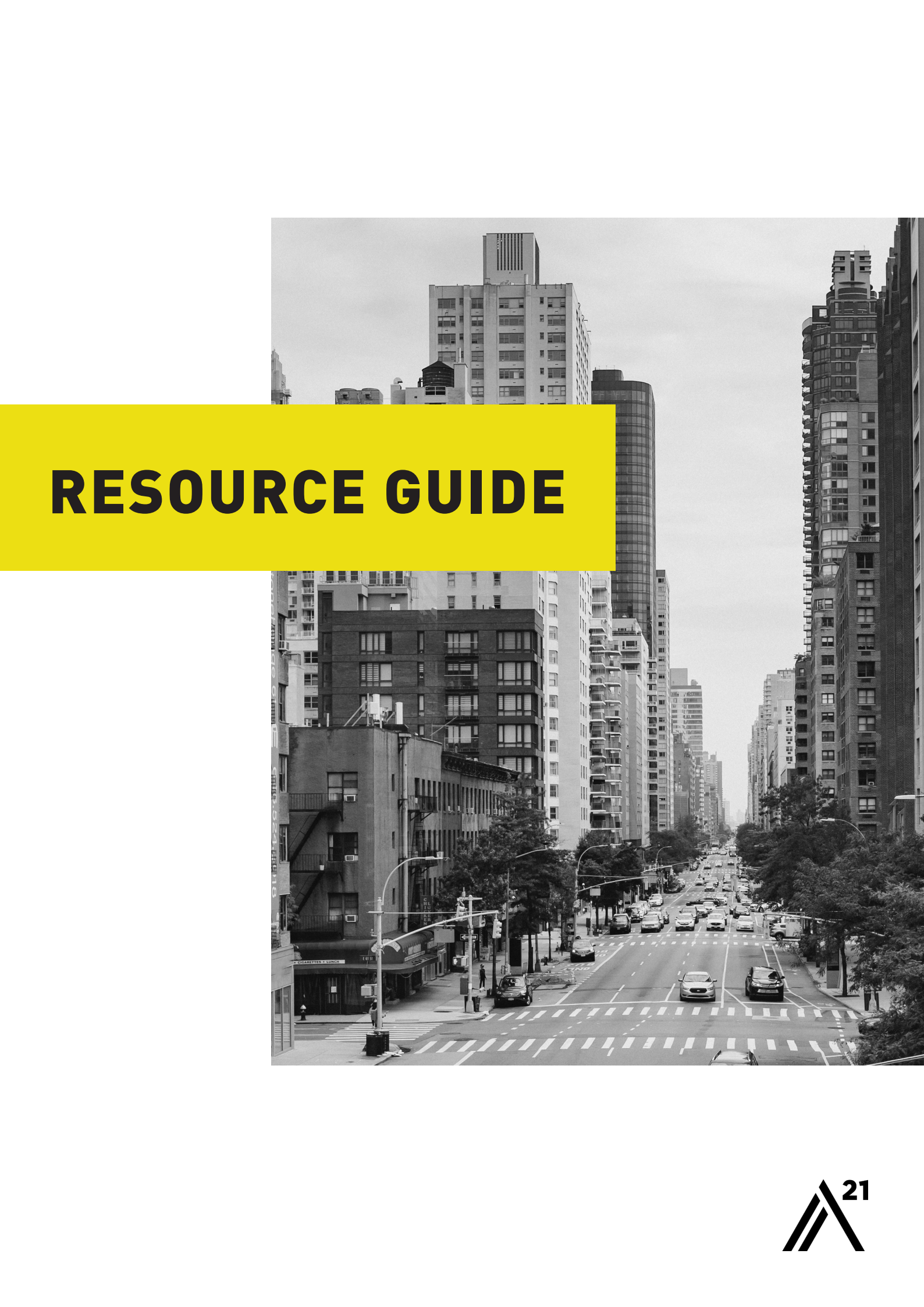
FINANCE

- ▶ Banks can unknowingly facilitate the financial exploits of trafficking. Traffickers often use the credentials of victims to open bank accounts or access credit cards to launder money and avoid detection. Through closer monitoring of financial transactions and increased training on TIP and fraud detection, the banking sector can stop the monetary profit that is the core motive of TIP.

EDUCATION

- ▶ Educators often have the best insight into the well-being of students in their classrooms, including potential changes in behaviour that signal the existence of a possible exploitative situation. As educators have the unique ability to observe students almost daily, those in the education system may be able to identify and intervene to assist a student who is being groomed or actively being exploited.

The list above is not exhaustive, but merely highlights the multiple industries that might encounter a potential victim of trafficking.

A black and white photograph of a city street, likely in New York City, showing tall buildings, cars, and a crosswalk. A yellow banner is overlaid on the left side of the image.

RESOURCE GUIDE

Core Resources

The resources in this category provide an in-depth understanding of TIP in South Africa, victim identification, responding to and reporting suspected TIP and the basic foundations of a counter-trafficking strategy. This includes the importance of incorporating a trauma-informed, victim-centred approach when creating a strategy for your organisation.

→ **TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS IN SOUTH AFRICA:**

A strategic counter-trafficking effort requires a clear understanding of TIP laws in South Africa. This resource clearly sets out what TIP is, the most prevalent types of TIP in South Africa and an explanation of concepts such as recruitment and consent.

→ **IDENTIFYING TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS:**

Effective counter-trafficking training for frontline professionals should include guidance on identifying a possible trafficking situation and the potential victims being exploited. In addition to covering the indicators of trafficking, this resource addresses the nuances and complexities of a victim's self-identification process, vulnerability factors, and barriers to identification.

→ **VICTIM-CENTRED APPROACH:**

A victim-centred approach to engaging with potential victims of trafficking is a vital component of any effective counter-trafficking strategy. This resource details using a trauma-informed perspective to support victims of trafficking, ensuring their needs and concerns are prioritised.

→ **RESPONDING, REPORTING AND RECOVERY:**

Knowing how to respond to and report TIP appropriately is crucial to any counter-trafficking strategy. This document provides guidance on the practical steps to take if you encounter potential trafficking and insight into a survivor's recovery process.

→ **DEVELOPING A COUNTER-TRAFFICKING STRATEGY:**

Producing a counter-trafficking strategy for your organisation can ensure the practical implementation of the resources in this Toolkit. This document provides an overview of best practices in adopting a holistic counter-trafficking approach, which includes awareness, training and implementing policies and procedures to respond to potential trafficking.

These documents are accompanied by the following resources which will enable you to train your colleagues and/or staff:

→ **SLIDE DECK:**

A presentation which provides key training material and is designed to last approximately two hours. If you are considering providing training to your colleagues, it is advised that you first contact A21 South Africa (info.sa@a21.org) to request a 'train the trainer' session.

→ **STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES:**

The South African Government has developed Standard Operating Procedures to enable key stakeholders to understand their role, and work together with other key stakeholders, when responding to both adult and child victims of TIP. Refer to these documents if you would like to understand the agreed process to follow for a victim of trafficking, from the point of identification onward.

Resources for Victim Identification and Potential Victims

The resources in this category are designed for frontline professionals who might encounter a potential victim of trafficking.

→ INDICATORS OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS:

These indicator cards provide guidance on some of the key indicators that might suggest a potential trafficking situation. They can be placed in easily-accessible locations to act as a quick reference guide for frontline professionals and are currently available for the following industries:

- ▶ Law Enforcement
- ▶ Healthcare
- ▶ Aviation
- ▶ Hospitality
- ▶ Rideshare
- ▶ Bus

→ LAW ENFORCEMENT RESOURCES

Specific resources to support a victim-centred approach in investigations concerning trafficking in persons for the purpose of forced labour and sexual exploitation. These resources are only available for those working in law enforcement.

The following resources are meant to be handed out to Potential Victims of Trafficking:

→ PREVENTATIVE FORCED LABOUR PASSPORT:

This 'passport' can be handed to potential victims of trafficking. It includes a list of indicators of forced labour and provides the National Human Trafficking Hotline number.

→ CAN YOU SEE ME? FLYERS

These flyers define TIP, highlight indicators of different types of trafficking and contain the National Human Trafficking Hotline number.

See below for more information on the *Can You See Me?* Campaign.

Public Awareness Campaign Resources - Can You See Me?

Can You See Me? is a global awareness campaign that can be seen across transportation hubs, healthcare facilities and other public spaces around the world. The resources in this section provide information regarding the campaign and examples of TIP. The resources can be used to implement the campaign or as training materials.

→ RESOURCE OVERVIEW OF THE CAN YOU SEE ME? AWARENESS CAMPAIGN:

This presentation provides an overview of the purpose and the methodology of A21's *Can You See Me?* Awareness campaign. It also provides guidance on how to implement the campaign to spread awareness and support intervention efforts.

→ CAN YOU SEE ME? SCENARIO GUIDE:

Use this guide to train your team in more depth on each of the specific types of TIP depicted in the *Can You See Me?* trafficking scenarios.

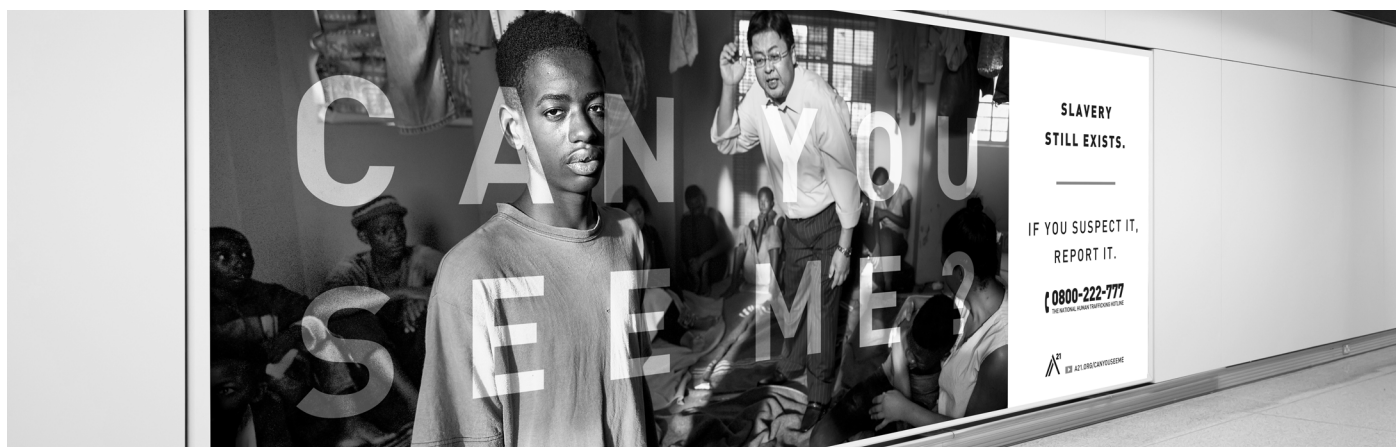
→ CAN YOU SEE ME? AWARENESS POSTERS:

These posters highlight the key signs of trafficking illustrated in the campaign scenarios; they can be placed in strategic locations to be viewed by the public, such as on the back of toilet stall doors or in a healthcare facility waiting room. These posters can also be used for training your team.

- ▶ Story-Telling Posters: These posters highlight the key signs of different types of trafficking in the format of a story.
- ▶ Exploitation Type Posters: These posters highlight the key signs of different types of trafficking whilst also providing more detailed information about the type of trafficking.

→ ONLINE CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION GUIDES:

- ▶ Adult Guide: Information about online child sexual exploitation and safeguarding methods for adults such as parents or frontline professionals.
- ▶ Youth Guide: Age-appropriate information about online child sexual exploitation for youths.



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