



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

August 28, 2009

Dear Esteemed Colleague:

Today I am pleased to join the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in the launch of the *United Nations Anti-Human Trafficking Manual for Criminal Justice Practitioners*. The public release of this manual comes at a critical time as we grapple with a downturn in the global economy that is increasing the vulnerability of people at the hands of human traffickers.

I would like to thank UNODC for spearheading a two-year effort to develop this manual. UNODC convened over 45 judges, prosecutors, investigators, academics, and representatives from non-governmental and international organizations from around the world to help craft this important document. It was an honor for me to have been part of this group of experts in my previous capacity as the Chief Counsel of the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit.

The *Anti-Human Trafficking Manual for Criminal Justice Practitioners* is unique in several ways. First, its foundation is the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its supplementary Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. Second, it seamlessly incorporates a victim-centered approach into effective law enforcement responses. Third, the content of the modules is not theoretical, but based rather on the real-life experiences of the practitioners who participated in UNODC's group of experts. Fourth, the tools in the manual can readily be applied in both Civil Law and Common Law countries. Fifth, the entire manual or relevant modules can be used to address a country's criminal justice response to human trafficking cases.

Over half of the world's countries now have enacted criminal legislation prohibiting all forms of human trafficking, but that is only the first step. Effective *implementation* of anti-trafficking legislation is critical to ending the abhorrent practice of enslaving people for the purpose of extracting their services for profit. Sadly, our collective efforts to put trafficking offenders behind bars and protect trafficking victims remain modest at best. Human trafficking is a multi-dimensional crime and human rights issue that requires a comprehensive law enforcement response.

I encourage all anti-trafficking actors to take time to review this manual, share it with colleagues and superiors, and put it into practice. Innovative training and increased capacity will enable us to meet the universal goals of Prosecution, Protection, and Prevention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Luis CdeBaca".

Ambassador Luis CdeBaca

Director, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons