# ACTION FRAMEWORK & POLICY GUIDANCE

**For Government, NGOs, and Diaspora Stakeholders on Counter-Trafficking and Modern Slavery in Mauritania**

# ARAC International

## I. STRATEGIC OVERVIEW

Mauritania faces systemic challenges around hereditary slavery, forced labor, and trafficking in persons (TIP), despite formal laws and institutions established to address these crimes. Reports from the U.S. State Department TIP Report (2024), the OSAC CSR, and the BTI confirm that governance limitations, social stratification, and legal inconsistencies significantly impede victim protection and effective prosecution.

This framework builds upon the USIDHR Anti-Trafficking Consultant model and contextualizes its application for Mauritania using the full risk picture, policy environment, and civil society constraints outlined in the ARAC PESTELS Analysis.

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## II. STEP-BY-STEP ACTION PLAN

### STEP 1: CONTEXTUAL RISK ASSESSMENT & THREAT MAPPING

- Identify trafficking vectors specific to Mauritania: descent-based slavery, forced begging, labor exploitation (e.g. domestic work), smuggling convergence zones (e.g. Nouadhibou, border towns).
- Use existing national data (INCHTMS reports, ACLED, OSAC, TIP 2024) to build regional heatmaps of TIP hotspots.
- Conduct vulnerability mapping of affected groups:
  - **Haratin population** (hereditary slavery)
  - **Malian refugee communities** (170,000+)
  - **Children in Quranic schools**
  - **Women in informal sectors**
  - **Migrants in transit corridors**

### STEP 2: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTANT NETWORKS

- Mobilize diaspora professionals as certified anti-trafficking consultants.
- Establish diaspora working groups to fund and implement awareness campaigns locally.
- Support Mauritanian NGOs through diaspora-led grant writing and policy advocacy partnerships.

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## STEP 3: TRAINING & CAPACITY BUILDING

- Launch standardized **training modules** in Arabic, French, and Pulaar for:
  - Police, gendarmerie, and border patrol
  - Prosecutors, anti-slavery court officials
  - Social workers and civil society monitors
- Training Content:
  - TIP law (2015 and 2020)
  - National Referral Mechanism (NRM)
  - Anti-slavery jurisprudence and evidence standards
  - Rights-based victim care protocols

## STEP 4: POLICY & LEGAL INTEGRATION SUPPORT

- Draft revised policy guidance aligning existing national laws with international instruments (Palermo Protocol, UN Slavery Conventions).
- Advocate for:
  - **Full implementation of the National Action Plan (NAP)**
  - **Mandatory use of the NRM**
  - **Elimination of settlements outside formal court systems**
  - **Repeal of laws punishing victims for adultery/fornication**

## STEP 5: VICTIM SUPPORT SYSTEMS & COMMUNITY AID

- Scale victim funds and partner with INCHTMS and NGOs to:
  - Provide shelter, legal aid, civil registration
  - Protect witnesses participating in trials
  - Distribute survivor toolkits and psychosocial aid
- Establish safe reporting channels (diaspora hotlines, encrypted digital forms)

## STEP 6: MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND REFORM

- Develop a TIP Watch Dashboard with:
  - Case reporting statistics by region
  - Referral and prosecution outcomes
  - Budget allocation & resource tracking (e.g. for anti-slavery courts)
- Conduct quarterly diaspora-led audits with civil society partners to ensure accountability

## III. GOVERNMENT & NGO PARTNERSHIP ROLES

| Stakeholder | Role |
|---|---|
| INCHTMS (Mauritania) | Lead coordination body for trafficking prevention & NAP oversight |
| Ministry of Justice | Oversight of anti-slavery courts, training prosecutors |
| Diaspora Consultant Network | Training, technical guidance, fundraising, and advocacy |
| NGOs (e.g., SOS Esclaves, IRA) | Case support, community outreach, survivor aid |
| Donors (USAID, EU, UNODC) | Resource mobilization, program design, third-party monitoring |

## IV. CROSS-SECTORAL POLICY PRIORITIES

- Enact reforms outlined in **HR 7034** to recognize systemic instability justifying TPS designation for Mauritanians abroad.
- Integrate trafficking prevention in **migration and border control policy** without criminalizing victims.
- Address root causes through **Positive Peace** programs focusing on inclusion, equity, and rule of law.

## V. KEY METRICS FOR SUCCESS

- % of hereditary slavery cases referred to anti-slavery courts
- Number of frontline actors trained and certified
- Victims identified and referred through NRM
- Convictions secured under 2015 & 2020 laws
- Budget allocation increases to anti-slavery enforcement

## VI. FINAL NOTE

This framework enables a multi-level, inclusive response to trafficking and slavery in Mauritania, grounded in victim-centered justice, diaspora leadership, and structural reform. It can be scaled across other Sahelian states with similar challenges.