



# The Need for **Policy**

## Policy is a key part of ending sex trafficking and exploitation.

Everything we do hinges on the laws that protect, empower, structure and give meaning to our work. Policy touches all areas of trafficking; without the right policies in place, people continue to be exploited without protection, prevention, or intervention from the law.

Atlas Free keeps a pulse on the global legal status of trafficking, and identifies gaps and weaknesses in policy by:

1. Assessing the policy arena globally and identifying areas that offer the most significant opportunities and the greatest threats.
2. Forming coalitions of like-minded agencies to work on policy initiatives together.
3. Participating in academic research in partnership with other organizations and universities.
4. Finding ways to involve partners in meaningful policy work.

We advocate for change and set strategies in motion to create opportunities for strengthening weak laws and building new initiatives in places where there are none. We work closely with our local partners, regional experts, survivor leaders, allied organizations, committed legislators, community leaders, and people raising their voices against trafficking. By uniting experts, communities, and passionate individuals, we are able to take incredible strides towards freedom from exploitation through policy.

## Why Policy?

Democratic governance and human rights are critical components for sustainable development and lasting peace. Countries with weak government institutions, rampant corruption, and a weak rule of law have a 30–45 percent higher risk of civil war and extreme criminal violence than developing countries. It is in these countries with weak rule of law is weak that the business of buying and selling human beings and exploitation thrives.

## Who?

When we seek justice in human trafficking cases, we work against a human adversary: a human trafficker, who has schemed and exploited the vulnerable and concealed the crime. **Perpetrators deliberately work against justice because they profit from this unjust status quo.**



Ending human trafficking is possible through effective policy combined with a focused intentional governmental approach. Stopping poverty may appear overwhelming, and ending a drought may be beyond human control, but arresting an individual trafficker is doable.

## **Effective justice systems know how to stop traffickers.**

They have done it before, and they can do it again. But police, prosecutors, and judges cannot send traffickers to jail if they are never equipped with the skills to do so. These ineffective justice systems must be transformed through proven strategies so that they can join the fight.

At Atlas Free, our Policy department explicitly focuses on global policy initiatives. We are committed to supporting local partners who train, empower, and equip their local police forces and judicial systems and push legislation to prevent people from being viewed as commodities.

**Our goal: make sex trafficking and exploitation illegal, implementing strong policy legislation, that condemns the trafficking and exploitation of human life, in every nation.**



## **Become a part of the solution**

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