



## AWARENESS OF STUDENTS ON THE PREVENTION CAMPAIGN OF INTER AGENCY COUNCIL AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

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**ABSTRACT** :*The Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2012 or otherwise known as the REPUBLIC ACT No. 10364 declared that the State shall value the dignity of every human person and guarantees the respect of individual rights. This study is designed to ascertain the level of awareness of students on the Inter-Agency Council Against Human Trafficking prevention campaign in CSU Piat Campus. Based from the findings of this study, it can be concluded that the respondents are moderately aware of the mandates of IACATs in the campaign against human trafficking utilizing the different platforms of information dissemination and conducting different activities and programs to assist the victims of human trafficking. In view of the findings from the conduct of this study, it is therefore recommended that the council may revisit its mandate and employ different media platforms to effectively disseminate its activities and projects in curbing human trafficking and may intensify its partnership with other government agencies, NGOs and POs especially in the conduct of seminars, trainings, simulations and the like on its campaign.*

**Keywords:***human trafficking, inter-agency council against human trafficking, awareness, Republic Act 10364, prevention, campaign, seminars, media programs*

### INTRODUCTION

The Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2012 or otherwise known as the REPUBLIC ACT No. 10364 declared that the State shall value the dignity of every human person and guarantees the respect of individual rights. In pursuit of this policy, the State shall give

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highest priority to the enactment of measures and development of programs that will promote human dignity, protect the people from any threat of violence and exploitation, eliminate trafficking in persons, and mitigate pressures for involuntary migration and servitude of persons, not only to support trafficked persons but more importantly, to ensure their recovery, rehabilitation and reintegration into the mainstream of society.

Human trafficking as presented in [cnrfreedomproject.blogspot.com](http://cnrfreedomproject.blogspot.com) is the recruitment and transportation of persons, which includes the use of force, abuse of power or position of vulnerability with the purpose of exploitation of the prostitution or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs. It is an important issue because more and more people (especially women and children) are being trafficked every year and many victims die each year from abuse, neglect and torture. Human trafficking as defined by [www.antislavery.org](http://www.antislavery.org) is the process of trapping people through the use of violence, deception or coercion and exploiting them for financial or personal gain. Furthermore, [humanrightsconnected.org](http://humanrightsconnected.org) also emphasized that it is a human rights issue that can be hard to place a face on – women, men, and children are trafficked in a range of industries. Most notably, labor exploitation and sexual exploitation

There are many grounds of human trafficking. Some of the explanations can be related to the countries/regions of origin and the countries/regions of destination. Despondent poverty, lack of political, social and economic stability, domestic violence and breakdown of the family structure, gender discrimination and lack of access to education and information are only a few of the whys and wherefores of human trafficking which can all be associated to the countries/regions of origin. The expense of social responsibilities that employers need to pay for the social protection of regularly employed workers, the swelling demand for low-priced and vulnerable laborers in the construction, agricultural and industrial sectors, and a rise in the demand for sex workers in a highly lucrative and globalizing sex industry can also cause human trafficking. [www.caritas.org](http://www.caritas.org) also stressed on the other causes of human trafficking such as difficulties to legal migration channels to countries with stronger economies and/or regions with better prospects, a lack of public consciousness of the

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dangers of trafficking, the high profit potential for those involved in the criminal activity and more, can all be the causes of human trafficking.

According to Dr. RaneeKhooshie Lal Panjabi, trafficking in people is a multifaceted and deeply disturbing concern that echoes on both the nature of globalization and the evolution of human rights discourse and practice. Over the last few years and with increasing occurrence and intensity, the international community and particularly certain NGOs and governments have grown increasingly concerned with the phenomenon, often arguing that human trafficking is intensifying so significantly that it has come to represent one of the world's most pressing human rights violations. At the heart of this rising concern is the profound moral claim of individuals who are forced into prostitution or made to work in difficult, dangerous and even slave-like conditions as sex workers, domestic servants, farm laborers, or sweatshop workers.

Meanwhile, UNODC mentioned that the suffering named by the moral, legal and advocacy discourse regarding human trafficking is real, the growing global concern with this issue presents a number of serious contradictions and uncertainties. Some of the fundamental tensions within the debate are factual and result from a basic lack of knowledge as to the actual volume, nature, structure and impact of trafficking, while others are conceptual, bound to moral or other beliefs, and to social policy goals and strategies. Much of this uncertainty derives from the fact that the debate is relatively new and in a process of gaining a clear definition. Consequently, the international legal regime and domestic enforcement mechanisms evidence lack of focus, and depending upon one's appraisal of the phenomenon, gaps in the overall legal scheme.

In the report of the US Department St. office to monitor and combat human trafficking emphasized the definitional uncertainty regarding trafficking, especially how the term is used in practice for research and policy-making, is reflected in the widely diverse and sometimes unsupported estimates of the prevalence of the practice advanced by governments, IGOs, and NGOs. Many sources exist for statistics on trafficking, although the



numbers presented are often inconsistent and based on different understandings of the phenomenon. For example, many human trafficking statistics refer only to international trafficking, while others reference only trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation. This leads to wide variation of the numbers of individuals trafficked globally, regionally and between specific countries. Furthermore, most statistics do not refer to internal trafficking, *i.e.*, the coercive movement of people within national borders. To confuse matters even more, the numbers widely presented, repeated, and even accepted globally are largely anecdotal and often have virtually no basis in actual field research.

While Perkins (n.d., p.3) argues antitrafficking campaigns only increase the exploitation of sex workers and add to the discrimination against them. She suggests decriminalizing sex work and making it a legitimate profession would reduce the exploitation factor greatly by empowering those who choose sex work and highlighting those who do not. Parmentier (2010, p.99) echoed this idea, but warned such legislation could have unintended consequences. MoshoulaCapousPallaver, Ph.D. (2007) is a renowned scholar at a faculty at California State University in Social Work and Social Research from Portland University in the year 2010. She specializes in feminist theories, anti-oppression, social justice, sex work and immigration among others. In one of her works, "A Critique of the Global Trafficking and Global Policy," she talks about the features that the TVPA emphasizes, which are prevention, protection, and prosecution or the three Ps. She focused on the feature of prevention where she discusses how the US demands from other countries to make preventive actions to end human trafficking. Furthermore, she discussed that the US observed and assessed the countries on their respective human trafficking campaigns. These assessments are then published annually through their TIP report. She further stated that these assessments are ranked into a Tier system, which significantly shows the effectiveness of the strategies that the various nations have taken up. Also, she discusses that these rankings highlight the US as an imperialist and a hegemonic power not just with the issue of human trafficking but, in other areas as well. This is highlighted especially on the trend that the countries placed on the Tier 3 ranking of the TIP report are those that have fewer interactions or are not in "good terms" with the country. From her study, it is clear



that the US is the dominant power in the international sphere. She mentions that it regulates the activities of other countries especially if it affects their own security or self-interest.

### **STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

This study is designed to ascertain the level of awareness of students on the Inter-Agency Council Against Human Trafficking prevention campaign in CSU Piat Campus. Specifically, the study sought to answer the following questions:

1. What is the profile of the respondents in terms of:
  - 1.1 Age
  - 1.2 Sex
  - 1.3 Civil Status
2. What is the level of awareness of the students on the IACAT's prevention campaign on Human Trafficking in terms of:
  - 2.1 Seminars
  - 2.2 Media programs
  - 2.3 Publication
3. How effective are the programs of the IACAT along Human Trafficking in terms of their activities and projects based on student's perception?
  - 3.1 Activities
  - 3.2 Projects

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

The descriptive-quantitative research design was used in the study where the students of the College of Criminal Justice Education were randomly chosen as the primary respondents. The data gathering tool was patterned from the study of Agustin et.al. The data obtained were treated, presented and analyzed using frequency counts, percentage and weighted mean.

Weighted mean was further interpreted using the 3-point Likert scale below.

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Numerical Value	Nominal	Descriptive Scale
3	2.34 - 3.00	Fully Aware/ Very Effective
2	1.67 – 2.33	Moderately Aware/ Effective
1	1.0 – 1.66	Not Aware/ Not Effective

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

**Table 1.a: Frequency and Percentage Distribution of Respondents as to Age**

AGE	Frequency	Percentage
16-18	62	18.24
19-21	245	72.06
22-24	23	6.76
25 and above	10	2.94
<b>Total</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The data on the table showed the frequency and percentage distribution of the respondents as top age. Most of the respondents with a frequency of 245 or 72.06 percent belong to the age bracket of 19-21 years' old which is called the late adolescence stage. This stage in the life of individuals as explained in [exploringyourmind.com](http://exploringyourmind.com) manages to create a personal identity (the result of the integration of his previous being with his new and free personal choices), create new social relationships and internalize moral and ethical values that will determine progressive entry and functioning in the adult world. This means that the individual starts the ability to make independent decisions while taking full responsibility of the consequences of their actions.

**Table 1.b: Frequency and Percentage Distribution of Respondents as to Sex**

Sex	Frequency	Percentage
Male	251	73.82
Female	89	26.18
<b>Total</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>100.00</b>



The table showed the frequency and percentage distribution of respondents as to sex. As shown from the table, the males outnumbered the females which manifests the nature of the program where there are more male students than female. This finding contradicts the study conducted by Kevin Williamson published in Wall Street Journal report who stressed that college attendance by men, and by white men in particular, has declined steeply relative to attendance by women. He further stressed that men today make up only two out of five college students, and the men who do enroll are less likely to graduate than the women.

**Table 1.c: Frequency and Percentage Distribution of Respondents as to Civil Status**

Civil Status	Frequency	Percentage
Single	318	93.53
Married	22	6.47
<b>Total</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Most of the respondents are single with a frequency of 318 or 93.53 percent. This data reveals that there are more single college students than married who are enrolled in the program. This data is supported by the discussion presented by Bella de Paulo on psychologytoday.com where lifelong single people do better than married people in a variety of ways that don't get all that much attention. This means according to her, that single individuals can do more to maintain their ties to friends, siblings, parents, neighbors, and coworkers than married people do. They do more than their share of volunteering and helping people, such as aging parents, who need a lot of help. They experience more autonomy and self-determination, and more personal growth and development.

**Table 2.a: Level of Students' Awareness on IACAT's campaign on human trafficking as to seminar**

Items	Mean	Description
IACAT intensifies the seminars it conducts purposely to disseminate information that pertains Human Trafficking	2.13	Moderately aware
IACAT conducts group dynamics in the seminar among participants for them to have strong feel on the existence of human trafficking	2.11	Moderately aware
IACAT conducts open forum to disseminate information on human trafficking	2.07	Moderately aware



situations.		aware
IACAT conducts follow-through seminar to fulfill the promise of answering the unanswered questions	2.03	Moderately aware
IACAT conducts simulation of cases of Human Trafficking.	2.00	Moderately aware
<b>Weighted Mean</b>	<b>2.07</b>	<b>Moderately aware</b>

The data revealed that respondents are moderately aware of the seminars being conducted by the council in the campaign against human trafficking. Though the data provides a positive impression as to the promotion of the council through seminars, there is still a room for improving the mechanism of dissemination and its conduct to increase the level of awareness of students into a higher level possible especially in terms of intensifying information dissemination. This finding is supported by the study conducted by Nocete and Enteria who stressed a similar discussion.

**Table 2.b: Level of students' awareness on IACAT's campaign on human trafficking particularly through media programs**

Items	Mean	Description
IACAT uploads Investigative Reports on cases of Human Trafficking on: a) Television	2.14	Moderately aware
b.) Radio	2.05	Moderately aware
c.) IACAT's Website	1.97	Moderately aware
d.) Social Media applications	2.08	Moderately aware
IACAT conducts film making contest regarding Human Trafficking.	1.93	Moderately aware
The Campaign Activity of IACAT using fliers distributed to the students regarding Human Trafficking.	1.95	Moderately aware
<b>Weighted Mean</b>	<b>2.02</b>	<b>Moderately aware</b>

The table showed that the respondents expressed their moderate awareness on the media programs of the Inter-Agency Council against Human Trafficking. Though the data manifests





a positive impression that the respondents are moderately aware of the media programs, there should be other means to raise the awareness of the respondents to a higher degree of potential awareness of the campaign through other social media platforms.

**Table 2.c: Level of students' awareness on IACAT's campaign on human trafficking particularly through publication**

Items	Mean	Description
IACAT publishes news articles on: a) Professional Magazine	1.96	Moderately aware
b) Newspapers	2.60	Moderately aware
c.)News Letters	1.93	Moderately aware
IACAT uses tarpaulins for its campaigns against Human Trafficking	2.00	Moderately aware
IACAT uses stickers that are posted on public utility vehicles.	2.02	Moderately aware
IACAT encourages students to write articles pertaining issues, concerns, and problems on Human Trafficking.	1.99	Moderately aware
<b>Weighted Mean</b>	<b>2.08</b>	<b>Moderately aware</b>

A moderately aware response is revealed in the table as the respondents expressed a moderate awareness of the campaign of the Inter-Agency Council against Human Trafficking through the mechanism of publication. The use of newspaper garnered the highest mean of 2.60 which shows that though generation today is already in the modern technology stage, the newspaper is still the predominant kind of publication being read by individuals due to its easy accessibility and cheaper cost compared to some other forms of published print media materials.



**Table 3.a: Effectiveness of the programs of the IACAT along Human Trafficking in terms of their activities**

Items	Mean	Description
Conduct of seminars, symposia and training for students on human trafficking.	2.10	Effective
Conduct of joint-partnership of IACAT with the government agencies like DOJ, POEA, DFA.	2.12	Effective
Implementation of Provisions of support/assistance for the: a) Victims and Witnesses of Human Trafficking cases.	2.08	Effective
Cost of Medico Legal	1.97	Effective
Education of unschooled victim	2.02	Effective
Seed Financial Capital for the victims.	2.02	Effective
Conduct of free cost Legal Assistance for the victims of Human Trafficking	2.02	Effective
<b>Weighted Mean</b>	<b>2.05</b>	<b>Effective</b>

The conduct of joint-partnership of IACAT with other government agencies is the item with the highest mean of 2.12 or effective activity of the council which the respondents have seen as the operative way to combat human trafficking. This finding is supported by the report conducted by Stop the Traffik based in UK which stressed on the importance of partnering with IGOs, NGOs and partner agencies to curb human trafficking.

**Table 3.b: Effectiveness of the programs of the IACAT along Human Trafficking in terms of their project**

Items	Mean	Description
Surveillance operation for human trafficking	2.07	effective
Rescue operation of the victims of human trafficking	2.13	Effective
Resettlement for the witness under Witness Protection Program on human trafficking.	2.07	Effective
Information Education Campaign (IEC) materials for Human Trafficking	2.06	Effective
<b>Weighted Mean</b>	<b>2.09</b>	<b>Effective</b>

Respondents perceived that the conduct of “rescue operation of the victims of human trafficking” is an effective project to curb the occurrence of the crime. This implies that the respondents believe that the council is committed to its mandate of rescuing and providing assistance to the victims of human trafficking. Aligned with this finding are reports and



activities all over the world to conduct rescue operations and provide assistance to victims like the campaign of Blue Campaign of the US department of Homeland Security.

## **CONCLUSION**

Based from the findings of this study, it can be concluded that the respondents are moderately aware of the mandates of IACATs in the campaign against human trafficking utilizing the different platforms of information dissemination and conducting different activities and programs to assist the victims of human trafficking.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

In view of the findings from the conduct of this study, it is therefore recommended that

1. The council may revisit its mandate and employ different media platforms to effectively disseminate its activities and projects in curbing human trafficking.
2. The council may intensify its partnership with other government agencies, NGOs and POs especially in the conduct of seminars, trainings, simulations and the like on its campaign against human trafficking.
3. A similar study may be conducted to cover other variables or aspect not included in the present study.

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