

Most Immediate

**No. 15011/31/2019-ATC
Government of India
Ministry of Home Affairs**

Women Safety Division, 2nd Floor
Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium
India Gate, New Delhi-110002

December 27, 2019

To

**The Principal Secretary (Home) of all State Governments
and Union Territories.**

**Sub: Setting up and strengthening Anti Human Trafficking Units in all
Districts of States and UTs under 'Nirbhaya Fund'.**

Sir/Madam,

Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children, for sexual exploitation, prostitution, forced labour, forced marriage, domestic servitude, adoption, begging, organ transplant, drug peddling, etc is an organized crime that gravely violates basic human rights of individuals. The Government of India has been supplementing the efforts of State Governments/ UT Administrations to take effective action against this crime. For strengthening the law enforcement response against trafficking in persons, the Ministry of Home Affairs had provided assistance to States for setting up 332 Anti Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs) in 50% districts of States.

2. In order to strengthen AHTUs in **all districts of States and UTs** to enable them to effectively coordinate activities to check the crime of human trafficking, the Ministry of Home Affairs has approved a scheme for setting up and strengthening Anti Human Trafficking Units in **all Districts of States and UTs** under 'Nirbhaya Fund' with special focus on crime against women & children. Under the scheme, the Ministry of Home Affairs will provide financial assistance to all States, UTs and Border Guarding forces – BSF and SSB for setting up and upgrading AHTUs. A copy of the guidelines, which inter-alia, contains objectives of the scheme, funding pattern, monitoring etc. is attached for guidance of all concerned.

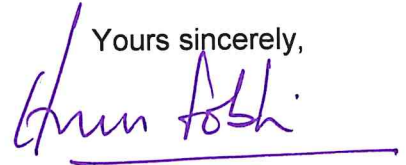
3. The following components are the permissible components under the scheme:

- (i) Office furniture (2 Office Tables and 10 Chairs)
- (ii) Almirahs for books and Records
- (iii) Three Mobile phone instruments (running expenses to be incurred by States)
- (iv) Digital Camera with memory stick for evidence collection and short video recordings

- (v) One Vehicle not to be diverted for other work for rescue of victims and their transportation etc. (Driver to be provided by the State Government)
- (vi) One/Two Motor Cycles, as per requirement, for patrolling, awareness generation etc.
- (vii) Landline Phone with broadband connection
- (viii) Two Desk-top/Laptop Computers/Tablets with latest configuration and accessories including internet connection/broadband
- (ix) Relevant legal & other Books
- (x) Publicity material for sensitizing people.

4. Funds for implementing the scheme will be released to States in next one or two months. The addressees are requested to remain in a state of readiness to make procurement of the items listed above and implement the scheme. You may like to issue suitable directions to the authorities concerned to work out the modalities required for implementation of the scheme.

Encl. as above.

Yours sincerely,


(Arun Sobti)
Deputy Secretary (PR & ATC)
Tele: 23075297
Email: dspr.atc@mha.gov.in

Copy, for similar action, to:

1. Director General, Border Security Force, BSF HQR, Block No. 10, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi with the request to issue necessary directions to the concerned officer to work out the modalities for setting up 15 Anti Human Trafficking Units in border areas patrolled by BSF.
2. The Director General, **Sashastra Seema Bal, Force Headquarters, East Block-V, R.K. Puram, New Delhi-110066** with the request to issue necessary directions to the concerned officer to work out the modalities for setting up 5 Anti Human Trafficking Units in border areas patrolled by SSB.

GUIDELINES FOR SETTING UP/ STRENGTHENING ANTI HUMAN TRAFFICKING UNITS IN ALL DISTRICTS OF STATES/ UTs

1. Background

Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children, for purposes such as sexual exploitation for prostitution, forced labour, forced marriage, domestic servitude, adoption, begging, organ transplant, drug peddling, etc is an organized crime that gravely violates basic human rights of individuals.

'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects as per Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. States/UTs concerned are competent to take steps to prevent and curb human trafficking. The Government of India has been supplementing the efforts of State Governments/ UTs through regular issue of advisories for agencies concerned to coordinate and take effective action against this crime.

For strengthening the law enforcement response against trafficking in persons, the Ministry of Home Affairs had provided assistance to States for setting up 332 Anti Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs) in various districts. These AHTUs have been able to coordinate action at the ground level to curb the menace of human trafficking. It is, therefore, considered necessary that AHTUs are established in all districts of States and UTs and existing AHTUs are further strengthened to enable wide-spread availability of AHTUs to effectively coordinate activities to check the crime of human trafficking at national level.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has taken up a project of setting up and strengthening Anti Human Trafficking Units in all Districts of States and UTs under 'Nirbhaya Fund' to address the crime of human trafficking and crime against women & children.

2. Objectives of the project

- (i) Setting up dedicated Anti human trafficking Units in all districts of States and UTs under Police and strengthening the existing AHTUs.
- (ii) Each AHTU will be empowered to take action against human trafficking, particularly against women and children, by creating an institutional mechanism and working in coordination with other stakeholders i.e. prosecution, line departments, NGOs and experts in the field for:
 - (a) Coordinating action for rescue of victims of human trafficking, especially women and children.
 - (b) Provide suitable post rescue care and counseling to victims rescued, especially women and children.
 - (c) Regular visit of shelter homes housing victims of trafficking within the jurisdiction of districts concerned.
 - (d) Conducting regular training courses for sensitizing and capacity building of police & other officials concerned.

- (e) Maintaining data base of trafficking in human beings in the district.

3. Components of Anti Human Trafficking Unit:-

AHTUs are nodal and integrated task forces Units with the mandate to prevent and combat trafficking in persons. The Unit shall be headed by trained officials of Police and shall comprise of officers from Women and Child Welfare Department in the District and/or other relevant line departments. It may also include reputed local NGOs and experts in the field of human trafficking. AHTUs may also engage the services of legal counselors or associate District/State Legal Service Authority for legal counseling of victims.

4. Outcomes of AHTU:-

The AHTU will attend to all the three aspects of trafficking viz. prevention, protection and prosecution. They will also develop database of traffickers, network with all concerned agencies as and when required. AHTU will thus be the field level functional unit to address human trafficking in a holistic manner.

5. Implementation of Anti Human Trafficking Unit project:-

The scheme will be implemented by the Home Department concerned in the State/UT. The States and UTs shall notify a Nodal Officer at State/UT level who will coordinate the implementation of the project on strengthening/setting up Anti Human Trafficking Units at district level.

6. Funding of Anti Human Trafficking Units Project

Funding for AHTUs in districts shall be done on one-time basis in the manner indicated below:

- (a) New AHTUs will be funded @ Rs 15 lakh per unit
- (b) AHTUs funded during 2010-2015 shall be provided further grant of Rs 12 lakh per unit to upgrade the unit.
- (c) AHTUs funded during 2018-2019 shall be provided funding of Rs 8 lakh.
- (d) In addition to strengthening /setting up AHTUs at district level, financial support will be provided at the rate of Rs 15 lakh to SSB and BSF for setting up Special AHTUs in border areas for rescuing cross border victims of trafficking.

7. Funding under the project is to be utilized for following items:

- (xi) Office furniture (2 Office Tables and 10 Chairs)
- (xii) Almirahs for books and Records
- (xiii) Three Mobile phone instruments (running expenses to be incurred by States)
- (xiv) Digital Camera with memory stick for evidence collection and short video recordings
- (xv) One Vehicle not to be diverted for other work for rescue of victims and their transportation etc. (Driver to be provided by the State Government)

- (xvi) One/Two Motor Cycles, as per requirement, for patrolling, awareness generation etc.
- (xvii) Landline Phone installation with broadband connection
- (xviii) Two Desk-top/Laptop Computers/Tablets with latest configuration and accessories including internet connection/broadband
- (xix) Relevant legal & other Books
- (xx) Publicity material for sensitizing people.

State Government agencies would bear all recurring costs including cost of manpower, police personnel and other officials from the departments concerned of the State deputed for manning and managing the AHTUs.

States/UTs shall ensure that all procurement shall be made, to the extent possible, from GeM portal. However, where the same is not possible, it may be procured in terms of codal formalities as required under GFR, 2017 or equivalent codal requirements as prescribed in the State/UT concerned.

8. Monitoring of Anti Human Trafficking Units

Nodal Officer for Anti Human Trafficking Units at State/UT level will monitor the functioning of AHTUs set up at district level by holding meetings with District level AHTU officials on quarterly basis. Half yearly meeting will be convened by the Anti Trafficking Cell of the Ministry of Home Affairs with the Nodal Officers for Anti Human Trafficking Units of all States/UTs.

Home Department in the State/UT concerned shall furnish Utilization Certificate for the project fund received from the Central Grant in aid on an annual basis in format GFR-12-C in terms of Rule 239 of GFR 2017.

9. Audit

The Accounting Records and related documents pertaining to the project may be subject to statutory audit by CAG as well as audits by the Internal Audit Party of MHA. State Government will provide all information and records for such audit, if necessary.
