



Preventing human trafficking by empowering aircraft cabin crew

For immediate release

Montréal and Geneva, 28 May 2018 – Aircraft cabin crew will now have better tools to help them prevent human trafficking on commercial flights after the launch today of new *ICAO-OHCHR Guidelines for Training Cabin Crew on Identifying and Responding to Trafficking in Persons*.

The new guidelines were unveiled this morning at an ICAO-OHCHR Forum taking place in Geneva, and are seen as timely and essential given that 1-in-200 people worldwide are still being forced into work and living conditions resulting from human trafficking, a practice considered akin to modern slavery ([statistical source](#): ILO).

Air transport's essential role in linking global destinations means that modern aircraft are a primary mobility option for international traffickers. This increases the likelihood that airline personnel will come face-to-face at some point with human trafficking victims and perpetrators.

Cabin crew especially are in a unique position to observe passengers over the duration of their flights, and therefore to identify and assist potential victims. But to do so more effectively their instincts must be reinforced through greater awareness and skills, a key focus of the new ICAO-OHCHR publication.

“The development of these joint ICAO-OHCHR guidelines will help improve the awareness of cabin crew concerning the various types of trafficking they may encounter, who the victims and perpetrators are, and the signals to be looked for to confirm a trafficking incident,” remarked ICAO Secretary General Dr. Fang Liu. “Critically, this document will also provide cabin crew with the reporting and response procedures should they find themselves confronting a potential trafficking situation.”

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein said the jointly produced guidelines were a powerful tool to protect and help victims of human trafficking.

“By coming together, the UN Human Rights Office, ICAO and the wider aviation sector now have the means to play a significant role in ending a despicable crime that uses and abuses people and crushes their human rights. Together, we can make a real difference in standing up for the rights of victims trapped in modern-day slavery,” he said.

More information on the new publications can be found on the ICAO Cabin Safety Website, at: www.icao.int/cabinsafety.



Resources for Editors

About ICAO

A specialized agency of the United Nations, ICAO was created in 1944 to promote the safe and orderly development of international civil aviation throughout the world. It sets standards and regulations necessary for aviation safety, security, efficiency, capacity and environmental protection, amongst many other priorities. The Organization serves as the forum for cooperation in all fields of civil aviation among its 192 Member States.

[ICAO's Cabin Safety Website](#)

Contacts

Anthony Philbin

Chief, Communications

aphilbin@icao.int

+1 514-954-8220

+1 438-402-8886 (mobile)

Twitter: [@ICAO](#)

William Raillant-Clark

Communications Officer

wraillantclark@icao.int

+1 514-954-6705

+1 514-409-0705 (mobile)

Twitter: [@wraillantclark](#)

LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/in/raillantclark/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/raillantclark/)