BEST PRACTICES FOR RESCUE OPERATIONS

REScue PREPARATIONS
- Ensure the confidentiality of the area, location and girls to be rescued.
- Enter information into the Station General Diary and document the reason for the warrant-less search.
- Brief the rescue team on the rescue operation plan.
- If needed, obtain a search warrant from the Magistrate.
- Inform the shelter homes in the area about the estimated number of girls to be rescued, if necessary.

REScue TEAM
- Plan an adequate number of male and female police officers, based on the location and type of rescue.
- Have one Special Police Officer (S.P.O.) present, (under SPO Notification No. PPA-0206/CR-57/SPL-6, 14th March 2006).
- Have two reputable citizens as panchas (at least one female).
- Have a counselor or social worker present.

RESOURCES
- Arrange separate vehicles and escort personnel for rescued victims and offenders.
- Arrange: writing pad, white paper, pen/pencil, box and envelope for transporting evidence, box for the safekeeping of the belongings of the rescued persons, first aid kit, torch, rope/police tape, evidence sealing material, etc.

REScue OPERATION
- Ensure to collect evidence of monetary transaction under ITPA Section 5.
- Upon entering, rescue all potential victims of sex trafficking.
- Arrest all suspects, and keep them separated from the victims.
- Complete the panchnama at the place of the rescue. If the panchnama is not recorded on the spot, the reason must be documented.

RELATING TO VICTIMS
- Gather the potential victims together in a safe location and inform them about the purpose of the search and rescue operation.
- Identify all minors (those below 18 years) rescued, as they must be produced before the CWC.
- Ensure the children of victims are rescued if they are in a vulnerable situation.
- Allow female police officers and female NGO representatives to counsel the rescued victims.
- Allow victims to take their personal belongings.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION
- Collect documents and evidence from the place of rescue immediately.
- Lodge the FIR at the local police station without delay. Add truthful first-hand information and report as it occurs.
- File chargesheet within 60/90 days as per section 167 of I.P.C.