



THE OFFICIAL GCIS  
**STRATEGIC INTEREST  
SCHEDULE**

REVISED JUNE 2026 |

CIVILIAN CHILD RESCUE

**GCIS**

GROUND COORDINATION INTELLIGENCE SERVICE

Office of the Director

INTELLIGENCE NETWORK

THE OFFICIAL GCIS  
**STRATEGIC INTEREST  
SCHEDULE**

REVISED JUNE 2026  
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# LETTER FROM THE **DIRECTOR OF GCIS.**



Dear Reader,

The success of any organization is measured not simply by the capabilities it possesses, but by the clarity of the purpose that guides its actions. Resources, personnel, technology, and expertise are valuable assets, yet without a clearly defined mission they become vulnerable to inefficiency, inconsistency, and fragmentation. In environments characterized by uncertainty, evolving threats, and competing priorities, organizations must maintain an unwavering understanding of what they exist to protect, what dangers they exist to confront, and how finite resources will be allocated when difficult decisions arise.

This principle is especially true for organizations operating within complex threat environments. Criminal enterprises, extremist movements, and transnational networks continually adapt their methods to exploit weaknesses within societies and institutions. Their activities undermine public safety, erode individual freedoms, destabilize communities, and inflict profound harm upon vulnerable populations. Successfully confronting such threats requires more than reactive measures; it

demands a strategic framework rooted in intelligence, coordination, discipline, and purpose.

The Ground Coordination Intelligence Service (GCIS) exists to identify, disrupt, and combat criminal and extremist actors whose actions threaten human life, personal liberty, public safety, and societal stability. Our mission is founded upon a simple but enduring belief: that timely intelligence, effective coordination, and decisive action can reduce harm, protect vulnerable populations, and prevent those who seek to exploit others from operating with impunity.

The responsibilities entrusted to GCIS personnel are significant. Every analyst who evaluates intelligence, every specialist who develops operational capabilities, every asset who pursues criminal networks, and every operator who acts in the field contributes to a larger mission that extends beyond individual assignments. Our work is not measured solely by arrests made, operations conducted, or intelligence collected. It is measured by the lives protected, the suffering prevented, and the communities strengthened through our efforts.

To ensure that these responsibilities are carried out consistently and effectively, the Strategic Interest Schedule serves as the foundational doctrine of the service. It establishes the mission categories that receive organizational focus and defines the hierarchy of priorities that guide planning, resource allocation, intelligence collection, operational deployment, and interagency cooperation. By clearly identifying the threats that demand immediate attention and the populations most in need of protection, the Strategic Interest Schedule provides a common framework through which all GCIS activities are evaluated and directed.

This document is more than an administrative guide or operational reference. It is a declaration of institutional values and organizational intent. It reflects our understanding of the threats confronting society and articulates

the principles that govern our response to those threats. It identifies the victims we are committed to protecting, the criminal systems we are determined to dismantle, and the standards of professionalism, accountability, and integrity that must define our conduct.

The priorities contained within this schedule recognize a fundamental reality: not all threats produce equal harm, and not all victims possess equal ability to protect themselves. As a result, GCIS directs its greatest attention toward those crimes and actors whose actions inflict the most severe and enduring damage upon individuals, families, and communities. This commitment requires difficult decisions, disciplined judgment, and the continual balancing of competing demands. The Strategic Interest Schedule exists to ensure that such decisions are guided by principle rather than convenience and by mission rather than circumstance.

Every investigation, intelligence collection effort, operational deployment, strategic initiative, and partnership undertaken by GCIS must ultimately serve a single objective:

**To protect human life, preserve human dignity, safeguard personal liberty, and dismantle the criminal systems that seek to exploit and destroy them.**

This objective is not merely a statement of purpose. It is the standard against which our success will be measured and the responsibility that every member of this organization shares. As threats evolve and challenges emerge, our commitment to this mission must remain constant.

The protection of human life is our highest duty.

The preservation of human dignity is our enduring obligation.

The disruption of those who prey upon others is our unwavering mandate.

Through intelligence, coordination, and decisive action, we will continue to pursue these objectives wherever the mission requires.

***Non Praevalum Valum,***

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gavin R. McCune." The signature is stylized, with a large, looped 'G' and 'M'.

**Gavin R. McCune**  
Director of Operations  
Ground Coordination Intelligence Service (GCIS)

# INTRODUCTION

Across the world, criminal organizations generate billions of dollars annually through the exploitation of vulnerable individuals and communities. Human trafficking, sexual exploitation, forced labor, child abuse, organized violence, terrorism, and other forms of criminal victimization represent some of the most severe and persistent threats facing modern society. These activities inflict profound physical, psychological, social, and economic harm upon victims while undermining the safety, stability, and resilience of communities.

The consequences of these crimes extend far beyond the immediate victims. Families are separated and traumatized. Communities experience fear, instability, and diminished trust in public institutions. Social services become strained, economic development is hindered, and entire regions can be destabilized by the influence of organized criminal enterprises. The impact of exploitation reverberates through generations, leaving lasting effects that often persist long after the criminal acts themselves have ended.

These crimes rarely occur in isolation. They are frequently facilitated by sophisticated criminal ecosystems that operate across local, national, and international boundaries. Organized criminal groups and extremist networks leverage technology, financial systems, corruption, coercion, intimidation, and violence to sustain and expand their operations. They adapt rapidly to changing conditions, exploit regulatory and jurisdictional gaps, and employ increasingly sophisticated methods to evade detection and accountability.

The digital age has further transformed the threat landscape. Advances in communication technology have provided unprecedented opportunities for legitimate social and economic development, but they have also created new avenues for exploitation. Criminal actors use digital platforms to identify and recruit victims, coordinate illicit activities, conduct financial transactions, distribute exploitative material, spread extremist ideology, and conceal their operations behind layers of anonymity and technological complexity. The speed and scale at which criminal networks can now operate present significant challenges for governments, law-enforcement agencies, intelligence services, and community organizations alike.

Yet behind every intelligence report, investigative file, operational target, or threat assessment lies a human story.

A child subjected to abuse.

A victim deprived of freedom through coercion or violence.

A family searching for answers.

A community living under the influence of organized criminal activity.

The human cost of exploitation cannot be fully measured through statistics, financial estimates, or operational metrics. Every victim represents an individual whose rights, dignity, and security have been violated. Every act of exploitation leaves consequences that extend beyond the immediate incident and affect families, communities, and institutions entrusted with their protection.

Victims lose their freedom.

Families lose loved ones.

Communities lose their sense of safety and trust.

First responders are exposed to traumatic and often dangerous environments.

Investigators confront the realities of human suffering and exploitation.

Healthcare professionals, social workers, educators, and victim advocates bear the long-term responsibility of helping survivors recover and rebuild their lives.

Recognizing these realities is essential to understanding the mission of the Ground Coordination Intelligence Service (GCIS). Criminal exploitation is not merely a law-enforcement challenge. It is a humanitarian challenge that demands a comprehensive and coordinated response. While enforcement actions remain necessary, lasting impact requires more than arrests and prosecutions alone. Effective intervention depends upon the collection and analysis of intelligence, coordinated operational planning, victim-centered approaches, interagency cooperation, strategic prevention efforts, and the sustained disruption of the criminal systems that enable exploitation to occur.

GCIS exists to support this broader mission. Through intelligence collection, threat analysis, operational coordination, strategic partnerships, and targeted disruption efforts, the organization seeks to identify those individuals and networks responsible for the greatest harm while supporting efforts to protect those most vulnerable to victimization. The objective is not only to respond to criminal activity after it occurs, but to identify threats before further harm can be inflicted and to weaken the structures that allow exploitation to persist.

The Strategic Interest Schedule serves as the framework through which these efforts are prioritized. It establishes the categories of threats that demand organizational attention, defines the populations and interests requiring the highest levels of protection, and provides a consistent methodology for allocating resources in accordance with organizational mission and values. It ensures that decisions regarding intelligence collection, investigations, operational deployments, and strategic initiatives remain focused on reducing harm, protecting human life, and disrupting the criminal systems that threaten both.

Ultimately, this document reflects a simple but fundamental principle: **the protection of human life and human dignity must remain at the center of all organizational action. The threats identified within these pages are not merely operational priorities; they are manifestations of human suffering that demand a deliberate, coordinated, and unwavering response.**

This Strategic Interest Schedule establishes the threats that warrant organizational attention, the harms that demand intervention, and the lives that merit the highest levels of protection.

# CHAPTER I | MISSION CATEGORIES.

Mission Categories define the primary threat areas that receive strategic focus, operational resources, intelligence collection, analytical support, and organizational attention within the Ground Coordination Intelligence Service (GCIS). They serve as the foundation for mission planning and provide a structured framework through which the organization identifies, evaluates, prioritizes, and responds to threats that pose significant risks to human life, personal liberty, public safety, and societal stability.

The modern threat environment is complex, dynamic, and constantly evolving. Criminal organizations, extremist movements, and other malicious actors operate across physical, digital, and geopolitical boundaries, often employing sophisticated methods designed to exploit vulnerabilities within individuals, communities, institutions, and governments. The diversity of these threats requires organizations to make deliberate decisions regarding where resources, expertise, and operational efforts will be concentrated.

No organization possesses unlimited personnel, funding, intelligence capabilities, or operational capacity. Effective mission execution therefore depends upon the establishment of clear priorities. Mission Categories provide that prioritization framework by identifying those threat areas that produce the greatest levels of harm, generate the highest degree of risk, or create the most severe consequences for victims and society as a whole.

These categories are not intended to suggest that threats outside their scope are unimportant. Rather, they represent those areas where GCIS has determined that focused attention can achieve the greatest protective effect and produce the most meaningful reduction in human suffering. They ensure that intelligence collection efforts remain purposeful, that operational resources are allocated responsibly, and that strategic initiatives remain aligned with organizational objectives.

Mission Categories also establish a common language for coordination across the service. Analysts, assets, operators, specialists, partner agencies, and supporting organizations rely upon these categories to understand service priorities, guide operational planning, develop intelligence requirements, and evaluate emerging threats. By creating a unified framework, Mission Categories promote consistency in decision-making and facilitate coordinated action across multiple operational domains.

The designation of a Mission Category reflects more than the existence of criminal activity alone. It reflects an assessment of the severity of harm associated with that activity, the vulnerability of affected populations, the scale of the threat, the capacity of offenders to cause additional harm, and the potential long-term consequences for public safety and societal stability. Mission Categories therefore serve as both operational priorities and expressions of GCIS values, identifying not only the threats that require intervention but also the populations most deserving of protection.

Within each Mission Category, GCIS may conduct a broad range of activities, including intelligence collection and analysis, threat assessments, criminal network mapping, operational coordination, investigative support, strategic disruption efforts, partner engagement, victim-focused initiatives and strategic clandestine operations. The specific methods employed may vary according to the nature of the threat, but all activities remain guided by the same overarching objective: reducing harm and protecting human life.

The categories outlined in this chapter should be understood as interconnected rather than isolated. Criminal organizations frequently engage in multiple forms of illicit activity simultaneously which is why the cartels and terrorism are strategic interests of GCID. Human trafficking networks may be linked to organized crime groups, financial crimes may support extremist operations, and digital exploitation may facilitate offenses occurring in the physical world. As a result, intelligence and operational efforts often require a multidisciplinary approach that considers the relationships between threat actors, criminal enterprises, and affected populations.

Mission Categories also provide the basis for future strategic adaptation. As new threats emerge and existing threats evolve, GCIS may revise priorities, develop additional mission areas, or adjust resource allocations in response to changing operational realities. The framework established here is therefore intended to be both enduring in principle and adaptable in practice.

GCIS recognizes six Mission Categories. Collectively, these categories encompass the primary threat areas deemed most significant to the organization's mission and represent the domains in which intelligence, coordination, and operational action can most effectively protect human life, preserve personal liberty, and disrupt systems of criminal exploitation.

The sections that follow define each Mission Category, explain its strategic significance, identify the harms associated with the threat, and establish the rationale for its inclusion within the GCIS mission framework.

## **HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

### **Strategic Importance**

Human trafficking represents one of the most pervasive and profitable forms of criminal exploitation in the modern world. It is a direct assault on personal liberty, human dignity, and fundamental human rights, reducing individuals to commodities that can be bought, sold, controlled, and exploited for financial gain. Trafficking networks generate substantial illicit revenue while inflicting severe physical, psychological, emotional, and economic harm upon victims.

Unlike many forms of criminal activity, human trafficking is inherently victim-centered. The success of trafficking organizations depends upon their ability to identify, recruit, transport, harbor, control, and exploit vulnerable individuals through coercion, deception, manipulation, intimidation, or violence. Victims are often isolated from support systems, deprived of autonomy, subjected to threats, and placed in environments where escape or self-reporting becomes exceedingly difficult.

Human trafficking affects individuals of all ages, genders, nationalities, and socioeconomic backgrounds. However, offenders frequently target those experiencing poverty, displacement, homelessness, family instability, addiction, social isolation, or other forms of vulnerability. Children, migrants, refugees, and individuals lacking social support systems often face elevated levels of risk.

The threat extends beyond individual victims. Human trafficking undermines public safety, fuels corruption, strengthens organized criminal enterprises, distorts labor markets, and places significant burdens upon social

services, healthcare systems, law enforcement agencies, and community organizations. Trafficking networks frequently operate across multiple jurisdictions and are often linked to other forms of criminal activity, including document fraud, money laundering, organized violence, narcotics trafficking, weapons offenses, financial crimes, and transnational organized crime.

The increasing use of digital technologies has further expanded the capabilities of traffickers. Online platforms, encrypted communications, social media applications, digital payment systems, and international transportation networks provide offenders with new opportunities to recruit victims, coordinate operations, advertise exploitative services, conceal criminal activity, and evade detection. As a result, human trafficking represents both a physical and digital threat environment requiring sustained intelligence collection and coordinated intervention.

Because trafficking directly targets the freedom and autonomy of individuals, GCIS recognizes human trafficking as a priority threat category requiring continuous strategic attention, intelligence development, operational coordination, and victim-centered response efforts.

### **Threat Characteristics**

Human trafficking operations commonly involve one or more of the following activities:

- Forced labor
- Debt bondage
- Domestic servitude
- Commercial sexual exploitation
- Child trafficking
- Organized recruitment and transportation networks
- Fraudulent employment schemes
- Document confiscation and identity control
- Coercion through threats, violence, or psychological manipulation
- Exploitation of migrant and displaced populations
- Online recruitment and grooming operations
- Financial networks designed to conceal trafficking proceeds

Trafficking organizations may range from individual offenders exploiting a small number of victims to highly structured transnational criminal enterprises operating across multiple countries. Regardless of size or sophistication, all trafficking operations rely upon the systematic deprivation of personal freedom for financial benefit.

### **Operational Considerations**

Human trafficking investigations present unique operational challenges. Victims may be unwilling or unable to self-identify due to fear, trauma, coercion, language barriers, distrust of authorities, immigration concerns, or dependence upon their exploiters. Traffickers frequently employ methods designed to conceal victims from public view and create psychological dependencies that inhibit disclosure.

Successful intervention therefore requires more than traditional criminal investigation techniques. Intelligence collection, victim identification methodologies, interagency coordination, digital analysis, financial investigations, and survivor-centered response strategies are essential components of effective anti-trafficking operations.

Operational activities should prioritize victim safety at every stage of planning and execution. Actions that disrupt trafficking operations must be designed to minimize risks to victims while maximizing opportunities for rescue, protection, and recovery.

## **Strategic Objectives**

GCIS shall pursue the following strategic objectives in relation to human trafficking:

### Identify trafficking infrastructure.

- Map criminal organizations involved in trafficking activities.
- Identify recruitment mechanisms, safe houses, transportation routes, and exploitation sites.
- Develop intelligence regarding emerging trafficking trends and methods.

### Locate and protect victims.

- Improve victim identification capabilities.
- Support rescue and recovery operations.
- Coordinate with appropriate victim-service organizations and partner agencies.
- Ensure victim safety remains a primary operational consideration.

### Disrupt transportation and logistics networks.

- Identify movement corridors used to transport victims.
- Target logistical support systems that enable trafficking operations.
- Detect and interrupt cross-jurisdictional trafficking activities.

### Target facilitators and financial enablers.

- Investigate individuals and organizations that knowingly support trafficking activities.
- Identify financial networks used to process, conceal, or transfer criminal proceeds.
- Support efforts to seize assets derived from exploitation.

### Support long-term victim recovery and protection.

- Promote survivor-centered approaches to intervention.
- Encourage coordination with healthcare providers, social services, legal advocates, and community organizations.
- Support measures designed to reduce the likelihood of re-victimization.
- Provide security augmentation efforts

### Develop actionable intelligence.

- Produce intelligence assessments concerning trafficking organizations, emerging threats, and victimization patterns.
- Share relevant intelligence with authorized partners to enhance collective response capabilities.

### Disrupt trafficking ecosystems.

- Target not only individual traffickers but also the broader systems that enable exploitation.
- Reduce the operational capacity, profitability, and resilience of trafficking networks.

### **Intelligence Priorities (PIR's)**

Priority intelligence requirements related to human trafficking include:

1. Identification of active trafficking organizations and associated criminal networks.
2. Detection of ongoing victimization and imminent threats to life or safety.
3. Mapping of recruitment, transportation, harboring, and exploitation infrastructure.
4. Identification of facilitators, corrupt actors, and financial support networks.
5. Analysis of online platforms and technologies used to support trafficking activities.
6. Assessment of emerging trafficking methods and regional threat trends.
7. Identification of high-risk populations and environments vulnerable to exploitation.

### **Desired End State**

Human trafficking networks are systematically disrupted, degraded, and dismantled through coordinated intelligence and operational efforts. Victims are identified, removed from exploitation environments, provided access to protection and support services, and afforded opportunities for long-term recovery and stability.

Criminal actors responsible for trafficking activities are deprived of their ability to recruit, transport, control, and exploit victims. The infrastructure, financial mechanisms, and support systems that sustain trafficking operations are neutralized, reducing the capacity of offenders to generate profit through human exploitation.

Ultimately, the desired end state is an environment in which vulnerable populations are better protected, opportunities for trafficking are significantly reduced, and individuals are able to live free from coercion, exploitation, and involuntary servitude.

## **CHILD AND HUMAN EXPLOITATION**

### **Strategic Importance**

Exploitation-based crimes represent some of the most harmful and predatory offenses encountered within the modern threat environment. These crimes are characterized by the deliberate targeting, manipulation, coercion, or abuse of vulnerable individuals for the personal, financial, ideological, or sexual benefit of offenders. In many cases, victims are selected specifically because they possess limited ability to protect themselves, seek assistance, or escape exploitative circumstances.

The consequences of exploitation frequently extend far beyond the duration of the criminal act itself. Victims may experience lasting physical injuries, psychological trauma, emotional distress, social isolation, educational disruption, economic hardship, and long-term impacts on personal development and well-being. The effects often persist for years and, in some cases, throughout a victim's lifetime.

Exploitation-based crimes undermine not only individual safety but also the stability and resilience of families and communities. Trust is eroded, support systems are weakened, and institutions responsible for protecting vulnerable populations are placed under significant strain. The cumulative impact of these offenses contributes to broader social harm and can create conditions that allow further victimization to occur.

GCIS recognizes that offenders engaged in exploitation frequently employ sophisticated methods of manipulation rather than overt force alone. Grooming, deception, emotional dependency, coercive control, intimidation, blackmail, social engineering, and digital targeting are commonly used to establish and maintain influence over victims. Advances in communication technology have expanded opportunities for offenders to identify, contact, recruit, and exploit victims across geographic boundaries while minimizing direct exposure to detection.

The digital environment has become a significant facilitator of exploitation-related activity. Social media platforms, messaging applications, gaming communities, livestreaming services, online forums, and encrypted communications may be used to establish contact with victims, conduct grooming activities, distribute exploitative material (CSAM), coordinate criminal activity, and connect offenders with broader criminal networks. As a result, exploitation-based crimes increasingly require integrated physical and digital investigative approaches.

These offenses frequently intersect with other priority threat areas, including human trafficking, organized crime, child abuse, cyber-enabled offenses, violent crime, and extremist activity. Offenders may operate individually, as part of loosely affiliated networks, or within highly organized criminal enterprises that systematically facilitate exploitation for profit or other objectives.

Because exploitation-based crimes directly target human dignity, personal autonomy, and the well-being of vulnerable populations, GCIS designates these offenses as a strategic priority requiring sustained intelligence collection, proactive intervention, and coordinated protective measures.

## **Threat Characteristics**

Exploitation-based crimes may include, but are not limited to:

- Child exploitation
- Sexual exploitation
- Coercive abuse
- Grooming operations
- Organized exploitation enterprises
- Online exploitation and cyber-enabled victimization
- Production, distribution, or possession of exploitative material
- Sextortion and blackmail schemes
- Exploitation of individuals with disabilities or diminished capacity
- Institutional or authority-based abuse
- Exploitation occurring within familial, educational, religious, or caregiving environments
- Criminal enterprises facilitating repeated victimization

Offenders often exploit positions of trust, authority, influence, or perceived legitimacy to gain access to victims. In many cases, exploitation occurs gradually through a process designed to normalize abusive behavior, reduce resistance, and isolate victims from protective influences.

## **Vulnerable Populations**

While any individual may become a victim of exploitation, certain populations may face elevated levels of risk due to age, circumstance, dependency, or social vulnerability.

Particular concern may be directed toward:

- Children and adolescents
- Individuals with physical, intellectual, or developmental disabilities
- Victims of prior abuse or victimization
- Individuals experiencing homelessness or housing instability
- Persons suffering from addiction or substance dependency
- Socially isolated individuals
- Elderly populations
- Individuals experiencing family instability or neglect
- Migrants, refugees, and displaced persons
- Individuals targeted through online platforms and digital communities

The protection of vulnerable populations remains a central consideration in all exploitation-related intelligence and operational activities.

## **Operational Considerations**

Investigations involving exploitation-based crimes often present unique challenges. Victims may be unwilling or unable to report abuse due to fear, shame, trauma, dependency upon offenders, concerns regarding retaliation, or a lack of awareness that exploitation is occurring.

Offenders frequently employ deliberate strategies to conceal their activities, including:

- Psychological manipulation
- Threats and intimidation
- Isolation of victims
- Destruction of evidence
- Use of anonymous or encrypted communications
- Exploitation of institutional vulnerabilities
- Movement between jurisdictions
- Coordination with other offenders

Successful intervention therefore requires a multidisciplinary approach that combines intelligence collection, digital investigations, behavioral analysis, victim advocacy, and coordinated operational planning.

GCIS recognizes that enforcement actions must be balanced with victim safety considerations. Investigative and operational activities should seek not only to identify offenders but also to minimize further harm to victims and facilitate access to protective resources.

## **Strategic Objectives**

GCIS shall pursue the following strategic objectives regarding exploitation-based crimes:

### Identify offenders and facilitators.

- Detect individuals actively engaged in exploitation-related offenses.
- Identify criminal associates, enablers, and support networks.
- Map relationships between offenders and organized criminal enterprises.
- Develop intelligence concerning emerging exploitation methodologies.

### Protect vulnerable populations.

- Prioritize activities that reduce risks to vulnerable individuals.
- Support early identification of victimization indicators.
- Enhance awareness of threats affecting at-risk populations.
- Promote protective measures within communities and partner organizations.

### Detect recruitment and grooming activities.

- Identify behavioral patterns associated with grooming and victim targeting.
- Monitor emerging recruitment methods used by offenders.

- Detect online and offline environments associated with elevated exploitation risk.
- Develop intelligence products supporting early intervention efforts.

#### Coordinate victim-centered interventions.

- Ensure victim welfare remains a primary operational consideration.
- Support coordinated responses involving appropriate partner agencies and service providers.
- Facilitate victim identification, rescue, and protection efforts.
- Encourage trauma-informed approaches to investigative and operational activities.

#### Support prosecution and accountability efforts.

- Develop actionable intelligence supporting criminal investigations.
- Assist in identifying evidence, offender networks, and patterns of criminal conduct.
- Support efforts to hold offenders and facilitators accountable through lawful processes.

#### Strengthen long-term prevention initiatives.

- Identify environmental and systemic factors contributing to exploitation risks.
- Support educational, awareness, and prevention programs.
- Develop intelligence products that inform future protective strategies.
- Reduce opportunities for offenders to access and exploit vulnerable populations.

#### Disrupt organized exploitation enterprises.

- Target criminal organizations that facilitate or profit from exploitation.
- Disrupt infrastructure supporting victim recruitment, control, and abuse.
- Reduce the operational capacity and profitability of exploitation networks.

### **Intelligence Priorities (PIR's)**

Priority intelligence requirements include:

1. Identification of active offenders engaged in exploitation-related activities.
2. Detection of imminent threats to vulnerable individuals.
3. Identification of recruitment and grooming environments.
4. Mapping of organized exploitation networks and associated facilitators.
5. Analysis of online platforms used to support exploitation activities.
6. Identification of repeat offenders and high-risk subjects.
7. Assessment of emerging trends, technologies, and criminal methodologies.
8. Evaluation of threats affecting specific vulnerable populations.

## **Desired End State**

Exploitation networks are disrupted, degraded, and dismantled through coordinated intelligence, investigative, and operational efforts. Offenders and facilitators are identified and prevented from continuing activities that endanger vulnerable individuals.

Communities, institutions, and partner organizations possess improved capabilities to recognize indicators of exploitation, intervene effectively, and protect those at risk. Recruitment pathways, grooming operations, and criminal support structures are systematically disrupted, reducing opportunities for future victimization.

Victims receive timely protection, access to appropriate support services, and opportunities for recovery without fear of continued abuse or retaliation. Vulnerable populations benefit from strengthened protective measures, increased awareness, and reduced exposure to exploitation risks.

Ultimately, the desired end state is a safer environment in which exploitation-based crimes are actively prevented, offenders are held accountable, and every individual—particularly those most vulnerable—can live free from manipulation, coercion, abuse, and exploitation.

## **LIVE STREAMED OR IN-PERSON HUMAN ABUSE AND MURDER**

### **Strategic Importance**

Violence represents the most immediate and visible manifestation of criminal harm. Unlike many offenses whose consequences emerge gradually over time, violent criminal activity can produce irreversible outcomes within moments. Loss of life, serious bodily injury, psychological trauma, community destabilization, and widespread fear often result from acts of violence, making the prevention and interruption of such activity a core priority for the Ground Coordination Intelligence Service (GCIS).

Certain criminal actors employ violence as a deliberate tool to achieve financial, ideological, personal, or organizational objectives. Violence may be used to generate profit, enforce criminal control, intimidate victims and witnesses, eliminate rivals, promote extremist agendas, maintain territorial influence, or satisfy personal motivations. In many cases, violence serves as both a means and an end, reinforcing criminal power structures while simultaneously creating additional victims.

GCIS recognizes that violence exists across a broad spectrum of criminal activity. Acts of violence may be committed by organized criminal groups, gangs, extremist organizations, traffickers, serial offenders, domestic abusers, lone actors, or opportunistic criminals. While motivations vary, the resulting threat to human life remains consistent.

The emergence of digital technologies has significantly altered the modern violence landscape. Online platforms, social media services, encrypted communication channels, livestreaming technologies, the darkweb, and digital payment systems have expanded the ability of offenders to coordinate violent acts, recruit participants, glorify criminal behavior, intimidate victims, and distribute violent content to global audiences. In some cases, acts of violence are recorded, promoted, monetized, or disseminated specifically to increase notoriety, generate financial gain, inspire copycat behavior, or reinforce ideological narratives.

The digital distribution of violent content creates additional layers of harm. Victims may experience repeated victimization through the circulation of graphic material, families may be subjected to ongoing trauma, and communities may be exposed to content intended to instill fear or normalize violence. Furthermore, the widespread dissemination of violent acts can contribute to radicalization, desensitization, and the amplification of criminal influence.

Violence also serves as a force multiplier for other criminal activities. Human trafficking operations, exploitation enterprises, organized crime groups, terrorist organizations, extortion networks, and coercive criminal actors frequently rely upon violence or the threat of violence to maintain control over victims and protect illicit operations. Consequently, efforts to reduce violent crime often produce broader benefits across multiple mission areas.

Because violence presents an immediate threat to human life and frequently acts as an enabling mechanism for other forms of criminal exploitation, GCIS designates violent criminal activity as one of its highest-priority strategic interests.

## **Threat Characteristics**

Violent criminal activity may include, but is not limited to:

- Homicide and attempted homicide
- Aggravated assault
- Organized criminal violence
- Gang-related violence
- Terrorist attacks and ideologically motivated violence
- Kidnapping and unlawful detention
- Torture and severe physical abuse
- Extortion supported by threats of violence
- Targeted attacks against individuals or groups
- Mass casualty threats
- Violent intimidation campaigns
- Violence associated with trafficking and exploitation networks
- Criminal activities involving the public dissemination or monetization of violent acts
- Coordinated attacks facilitated through digital platforms

Violence may be spontaneous or highly organized. Some incidents are planned over extended periods and involve extensive preparation, while others emerge rapidly from escalating criminal behavior. Effective threat mitigation therefore requires both long-term intelligence development and the capacity for immediate operational response.

## **Operational Considerations**

The prevention of violence frequently depends upon the timely identification of indicators suggesting an imminent threat to life. Threat assessment, intelligence collection, behavioral analysis, digital monitoring, and interagency information sharing play critical roles in identifying actors who may be preparing to commit violent acts.

Operational priorities must emphasize speed, accuracy, and coordination. When credible threats to life are identified, delays in response can result in irreversible harm. Intelligence personnel, analysts, investigators, operators, emergency responders, and partner organizations must therefore maintain the ability to rapidly evaluate threat information and support appropriate intervention measures.

Violent incidents often generate complex investigative environments involving multiple victims, extensive evidence collection requirements, significant public safety concerns, and heightened media attention. Preservation of intelligence and evidentiary material is essential not only for identifying responsible actors but also for understanding broader criminal networks and preventing future incidents.

GCIS further recognizes that violence produces substantial psychological impacts on victims, witnesses, responders, and affected communities. Response efforts should account for both immediate physical safety concerns and the long-term consequences of trauma exposure.

## Strategic Objectives

GCIS shall pursue the following strategic objectives regarding violent criminal activity:

### Detect imminent threats to life.

- Identify indicators of planned or ongoing violence.
- Develop intelligence regarding individuals or groups demonstrating intent and capability to cause harm.
- Support early intervention efforts designed to prevent loss of life.
- Prioritize intelligence collection involving credible threats to public safety.

### Identify organizers, participants, and facilitators.

- Map criminal networks involved in violent activity.
- Identify leaders, recruiters, planners, financiers, and operational participants.
- Detect individuals providing logistical, technical, financial, or material support.
- Develop intelligence regarding relationships between violent actors and broader criminal enterprises.

### Interrupt ongoing criminal activity.

- Support rapid operational responses to active threats.
- Assist partner organizations in preventing escalation of violent incidents.
- Reduce opportunities for offenders to continue harmful activities.
- Disrupt operational planning and coordination efforts where lawful and appropriate.

### Coordinate emergency response when necessary.

- Facilitate information sharing with relevant authorities and response organizations.
- Support threat assessments during active incidents.
- Assist with operational coordination involving multiple agencies or jurisdictions.
- Enhance situational awareness during rapidly evolving events.

### Preserve intelligence and evidentiary material.

- Identify and secure relevant intelligence products.
- Support documentation of criminal activity and offender behavior.
- Preserve digital, physical, and testimonial evidence where appropriate.
- Maintain intelligence continuity to support investigations and future threat assessments.

### Reduce the operational capacity of violent actors.

- Disrupt networks that rely upon violence to achieve criminal objectives.
- Target enabling infrastructure supporting violent activity.
- Identify vulnerabilities within criminal organizations that can be exploited to reduce future threats.
- Support efforts to diminish offender capability and influence.

### Strengthen violence prevention initiatives.

- Identify emerging violence trends and threat indicators.
- Support intelligence-led prevention strategies.
- Develop analytical products that assist partner organizations in mitigating risks.
- Promote awareness of factors associated with violent criminal activity.

### **Intelligence Priorities**

Priority intelligence requirements include:

1. Identification of credible threats involving imminent risk to human life.
2. Detection of individuals or groups planning acts of violence.
3. Identification of organized criminal or extremist networks engaged in violent activity.
4. Analysis of online environments used to coordinate, encourage, or distribute violence.
5. Identification of facilitators, financiers, and logistical support networks.
6. Detection of emerging patterns indicating elevated violence risks.
7. Assessment of threats affecting vulnerable populations and public venues.
8. Analysis of connections between violent activity and other mission categories.

### **Desired End State**

Human life is preserved through the timely detection, disruption, and prevention of violent criminal activity. Victims and at-risk populations receive protection from immediate threats, and communities experience increased safety and stability as a result of coordinated intervention efforts.

Individuals and organizations responsible for violence are identified, investigated, and neutralized through lawful means. Criminal networks that rely upon violence as a tool of coercion, intimidation, control, or profit are disrupted and deprived of their ability to inflict further harm.

Violent incidents are prevented whenever possible, rapidly addressed when they occur, and thoroughly analyzed to reduce the likelihood of future victimization. Intelligence systems, operational capabilities, and interagency partnerships function effectively to identify emerging threats and support decisive action.

Ultimately, the desired end state is an environment in which violence is less capable of achieving criminal objectives, vulnerable populations are protected from harm, and communities are able to live free from fear, intimidation, and the threat of unlawful violence.

## ***TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL NETWORKS***

### **Strategic Importance**

Transnational organized criminal networks represent some of the most capable, resilient, and dangerous threat actors operating in the modern security environment. Unlike individual offenders or localized criminal groups, these organizations possess the ability to coordinate activities across multiple jurisdictions, exploit differences in legal and regulatory systems, leverage international transportation and financial infrastructure, and rapidly adapt to enforcement efforts. Their operations often span continents, involving interconnected networks of facilitators, financiers, recruiters, transporters, corrupt officials, technical specialists, and operational personnel.

Many of the most harmful forms of criminal activity encountered by GCIS are not isolated offenses but components of broader criminal ecosystems sustained by transnational organizations. Human trafficking enterprises, exploitation networks, organized violence, illicit financial operations, contraband smuggling, corruption schemes, and extremist support activities frequently depend upon criminal structures capable of operating beyond the boundaries of a single city, region, or nation.

These organizations often function as sophisticated enterprises rather than traditional criminal gangs. Leadership structures may resemble those of legitimate corporations, with defined roles, compartmentalized operations, financial management systems, logistical support networks, recruitment mechanisms, and strategic planning processes. Their ability to generate substantial revenue enables them to acquire resources, recruit personnel, corrupt institutions, and expand their influence into new operational areas.

The threat posed by transnational criminal organizations extends beyond the crimes they directly commit. Their activities undermine governance, weaken public trust in institutions, distort legitimate economic activity, facilitate corruption, contribute to instability, and create environments in which exploitation and violence can flourish. In some regions, organized criminal networks exercise influence comparable to that of state actors, using intimidation, bribery, coercion, and violence to maintain operational freedom.

Modern technology has significantly enhanced the capabilities of transnational criminal enterprises. Encrypted communications, digital financial services, online marketplaces, social media platforms, anonymization technologies, and global transportation networks enable criminal organizations to coordinate activities with unprecedented speed and efficiency. Geographic distance is no longer a significant barrier to criminal collaboration, allowing offenders to manage operations, transfer funds, recruit participants, and conceal illicit activity across multiple jurisdictions simultaneously.

Transnational organized crime also functions as a force multiplier for other mission categories. Human trafficking operations require transportation networks and financial infrastructure. Exploitation enterprises rely upon communication systems and recruitment channels. Violent criminal organizations depend upon logistics, financing, and support personnel. As a result, disrupting organized criminal networks often produces cascading effects across multiple threat domains.

Because these organizations facilitate and sustain a broad range of criminal activity, GCIS recognizes transnational organized criminal networks as a strategic threat requiring sustained intelligence collection, network analysis, operational coordination, and long-term disruption efforts.

## **Threat Characteristics**

Transnational organized criminal networks may engage in one or more of the following activities:

- Human trafficking
- Migrant smuggling
- Illicit commodity trafficking
- Financial crime and money laundering
- Corruption and bribery
- Organized violence
- Extortion and protection schemes
- Fraud and large-scale financial deception
- Document forgery and identity-related offenses
- Cyber-enabled criminal activity
- Criminal facilitation services
- Contraband transportation and distribution
- Criminal financing and asset concealment
- Support activities benefiting extremist or terrorist organizations

Many organizations operate across multiple criminal markets simultaneously, diversifying revenue streams and reducing dependence upon any single illicit enterprise. This flexibility increases resilience and complicates enforcement efforts.

## **Organizational Structure and Network Dynamics**

Transnational criminal organizations vary in structure, size, and sophistication. Some maintain rigid hierarchies with centralized leadership, while others operate through decentralized networks consisting of semi-independent cells connected through shared interests, financial relationships, or criminal partnerships.

Common organizational components may include:

- Leadership and command elements
- Financial management personnel
- Recruiters and facilitators
- Transportation and logistics coordinators
- Communications specialists
- Technical and cyber support personnel
- Corrupt officials or institutional insiders
- Regional operational cells
- Security and enforcement elements
- Money laundering and asset management networks

These structures are often intentionally compartmentalized to reduce organizational vulnerability. Individual members may possess limited knowledge of the broader network, making intelligence collection and network mapping critical to successful disruption efforts.

## **Operational Considerations**

Operations targeting transnational criminal networks require a long-term strategic approach. The arrest or removal of individual offenders rarely produces lasting effects unless underlying organizational capabilities are also disrupted. Effective intervention focuses on understanding the network as a system rather than merely identifying individual participants.

Network analysis, financial intelligence, communications intelligence, travel pattern analysis, digital investigations, and partner-agency coordination are essential tools for understanding how criminal organizations function. Successful disruption often depends upon identifying critical nodes within the network whose removal significantly degrades organizational capability.

Because these networks frequently operate across multiple jurisdictions, cooperation among governmental agencies, international partners, law enforcement entities, regulatory organizations, and intelligence services is often necessary to achieve meaningful outcomes.

GCIS recognizes that transnational criminal organizations possess significant adaptive capacity. Disruption efforts should therefore prioritize sustained pressure against leadership structures, financial systems, logistical infrastructure, and support networks rather than focusing exclusively on frontline participants.

## **Strategic Objectives**

GCIS shall pursue the following strategic objectives regarding transnational organized criminal networks:

### Map organizational structures.

- Identify the composition and hierarchy of criminal organizations.
- Analyze relationships between network members and affiliated groups.
- Develop comprehensive assessments of operational capabilities.
- Identify critical vulnerabilities within criminal systems.

### Identify leadership and support elements.

- Detect organizational leaders and decision-makers.
- Identify recruiters, facilitators, financiers, and operational coordinators.
- Assess the roles and influence of key personnel.
- Develop intelligence regarding succession planning and organizational resilience.

### Disrupt communication systems.

- Identify methods used to coordinate criminal activity.
- Analyze communication pathways and information-sharing mechanisms.
- Support lawful efforts to disrupt network coordination.
- Reduce the ability of criminal actors to communicate effectively across jurisdictions.

### Target logistical capabilities.

- Identify transportation, storage, distribution, and supply networks.
- Detect infrastructure supporting criminal operations.
- Disrupt movement of personnel, assets, and illicit commodities.
- Reduce organizational freedom of movement and operational reach.

### Strengthen interagency cooperation.

- Promote intelligence sharing among authorized partners.
- Facilitate coordinated operational planning.
- Support multinational and multi-jurisdictional investigations.
- Enhance collective understanding of organized criminal threats.

### Disrupt criminal financing.

- Identify revenue streams and financial support mechanisms.
- Detect money laundering operations and asset concealment strategies.
- Support efforts to seize or deny criminal assets.
- Reduce the financial viability of organized criminal enterprises.

### Degrade organizational resilience.

- Target critical nodes whose removal significantly impacts network effectiveness.
- Disrupt recruitment and personnel replacement mechanisms.
- Reduce the ability of organizations to regenerate following enforcement actions.
- Increase operational costs and risks for criminal actors.

## **Intelligence Priorities (PIR's)**

Priority intelligence requirements include:

1. Identification of active transnational criminal organizations.
2. Mapping of leadership, command, and support structures.
3. Detection of financial systems supporting criminal activity.
4. Identification of logistical and transportation infrastructure.
5. Analysis of communication methods and coordination mechanisms.
6. Detection of corruption facilitating criminal operations.
7. Assessment of relationships between criminal organizations and other threat actors.
8. Identification of emerging criminal markets and operational trends.
9. Evaluation of organizational vulnerabilities suitable for disruption efforts.

## **Desired End State**

Transnational organized criminal networks are systematically degraded through coordinated intelligence, investigative, and operational efforts. Leadership structures are disrupted, support networks are dismantled, and critical infrastructure enabling criminal activity is neutralized.

Organizations lose their ability to coordinate operations efficiently, move personnel and resources across jurisdictions, conceal financial activity, recruit participants, and sustain long-term criminal enterprises. Criminal influence over institutions, communities, and economic systems is reduced through sustained pressure against key operational capabilities.

Intelligence-sharing mechanisms and interagency partnerships function effectively to identify emerging threats, support coordinated responses, and prevent criminal organizations from exploiting jurisdictional gaps. Disruption efforts produce lasting effects that reduce organizational resilience and inhibit reconstitution.

Ultimately, the desired end state is an environment in which transnational criminal networks are unable to effectively coordinate, finance, expand, or sustain operations, resulting in reduced criminal influence, diminished opportunities for exploitation, and enhanced protection of human life, public safety, and societal stability.

## **CARTELS & CRIMINAL SYNDICATES**

### **Strategic Importance**

Cartels and large-scale criminal syndicates represent some of the most powerful and resource-rich criminal organizations operating within the global threat environment. Through the accumulation of substantial financial resources, sophisticated operational capabilities, extensive logistical networks, and a demonstrated willingness to employ violence, these organizations are capable of exerting significant influence over communities, institutions, economies, and criminal markets.

Unlike smaller criminal groups, cartels often function as complex enterprises capable of sustaining operations across multiple jurisdictions and criminal sectors simultaneously. Their influence frequently extends beyond individual criminal activities and into broader systems of corruption, intimidation, financial manipulation, and organized violence. In some environments, cartel organizations possess the ability to challenge governmental authority, undermine public institutions, and exert substantial control over local populations through coercion and fear.

Cartels derive power not only from the illicit goods and services they control but also from their ability to maintain interconnected networks of facilitators, financiers, recruiters, transporters, corrupt officials, enforcers, and affiliated criminal organizations. These networks allow them to adapt rapidly to enforcement pressure, replace disrupted personnel, diversify revenue streams, and expand into new criminal markets.

The activities of cartels frequently intersect with numerous GCIS mission categories. Human trafficking operations often rely upon cartel-controlled transportation corridors and smuggling routes. Exploitation enterprises may benefit from criminal protection or logistical support. Organized violence is frequently used to enforce territorial control, eliminate rivals, intimidate witnesses, and protect criminal interests. Corruption schemes enable criminal organizations to evade detection and maintain operational freedom, while illicit financial networks allow proceeds from criminal activity to be concealed and reinvested.

The capacity for violence distinguishes cartels from many other criminal actors. Violence is often employed strategically to influence behavior, maintain organizational discipline, enforce territorial claims, deter competition, and suppress resistance. Such violence may be directed against rival criminal organizations, public officials, community leaders, journalists, witnesses, victims, or members of the general public. The resulting threat extends beyond immediate victims and contributes to long-term instability, fear, and erosion of public trust.

Modern technologies have further enhanced cartel capabilities. Secure communications platforms, encrypted services, financial technologies, surveillance tools, social media platforms, and sophisticated transportation networks provide criminal organizations with unprecedented opportunities to coordinate operations, manage resources, recruit personnel, and conceal illicit activities.

Because cartels possess the capability to facilitate and sustain a wide range of criminal activities while generating substantial threats to human life, public safety, and institutional stability, GCIS recognizes cartel organizations and criminal syndicates as a strategic priority requiring sustained intelligence collection, operational coordination, and long-term disruption efforts.

## **Threat Characteristics**

Cartels and criminal syndicates may engage in one or more of the following activities:

- Human trafficking
- Migrant smuggling
- Organized exploitation
- Large-scale contraband trafficking
- Money laundering and financial crime
- Extortion and protection schemes
- Corruption and bribery
- Organized violence
- Criminal enforcement operations
- Weapons trafficking
- Fraud and financial deception
- Criminal infiltration of legitimate businesses
- Territorial control and criminal governance
- Cross-border criminal coordination

These organizations frequently diversify criminal activities to increase profitability, reduce vulnerability, and maintain operational resilience. Consequently, intelligence regarding cartel activity often reveals links to multiple criminal sectors simultaneously.

## **Organizational Structure and Operational Capabilities**

Cartels typically maintain highly structured organizational frameworks designed to support long-term operations and organizational survival. While structures vary, many organizations incorporate centralized leadership, regional management, logistical support systems, financial operations, intelligence-gathering functions, and enforcement elements.

Common organizational components may include:

- Executive leadership and command personnel
- Financial management and money laundering networks
- Transportation and logistics coordinators
- Recruiters and personnel managers
- Communications and technical specialists
- Corrupt institutional contacts
- Enforcement and security elements
- Regional operational cells
- Intelligence collection and counter-surveillance personnel
- Affiliated criminal organizations and contractors

Many cartel organizations employ compartmentalization strategies to limit exposure and reduce vulnerability to investigative efforts. Individual members may possess only limited knowledge of broader organizational activities, increasing the importance of network analysis and intelligence development.

### **Territorial Influence and Criminal Governance**

A defining characteristic of many cartel organizations is their pursuit of territorial influence. Control of geographic areas may provide access to transportation routes, criminal markets, recruitment pools, strategic infrastructure, and revenue-generating opportunities.

Territorial influence may be maintained through:

- Violence and intimidation
- Corruption of public officials
- Criminal taxation and extortion
- Control of transportation corridors
- Influence over local economic activity
- Manipulation of community perceptions
- Restriction of reporting and cooperation with authorities

In some environments, cartels may establish parallel systems of authority designed to influence or replace legitimate governance structures. Such influence significantly complicates enforcement efforts and increases risks to affected populations.

### **Operational Considerations**

Efforts targeting cartels require a comprehensive understanding of the organization as a dynamic criminal system rather than merely a collection of individual offenders. While arrests and prosecutions remain important, lasting impact is typically achieved through sustained pressure against leadership structures, financial systems, logistical capabilities, and support networks.

Successful operations often require:

- Long-term intelligence development
- Financial investigations
- Network analysis
- Multi-jurisdictional coordination
- Interagency cooperation
- Strategic targeting of critical organizational functions

Because cartels possess substantial resources and adaptive capabilities, disruption efforts should prioritize the identification of vulnerabilities capable of producing enduring operational degradation rather than temporary disruption alone.

GCIS further recognizes that cartel activities frequently generate secondary threats affecting victims, communities, investigators, and partner organizations. Operational planning should therefore account for public safety considerations, victim protection requirements, and the potential for retaliatory actions by criminal actors.

## **Strategic Objectives**

GCIS shall pursue the following strategic objectives regarding cartels and criminal syndicates:

### Identify leadership structures.

- Detect organizational leaders and decision-makers.
- Map command relationships and succession pathways.
- Identify individuals responsible for strategic planning and operational oversight.
- Develop intelligence regarding leadership vulnerabilities.

### Monitor territorial influence.

- Assess areas subject to cartel control or influence.
- Identify transportation corridors and operational strongholds.
- Evaluate expansion efforts and emerging areas of criminal activity.
- Monitor indicators of criminal governance and community intimidation.

### Disrupt revenue streams.

- Identify primary and secondary sources of criminal income.
- Detect financial support mechanisms and laundering activities.
- Support efforts to seize criminal assets and deny financial resources.
- Increase the operational costs associated with criminal activity.

### Support partner investigations.

- Facilitate intelligence sharing with authorized agencies and organizations.
- Contribute analytical support to ongoing investigations.
- Enhance situational awareness regarding cartel activities and trends.
- Promote coordinated responses to emerging threats.

### Reduce operational capabilities.

- Target logistical infrastructure supporting criminal activity.
- Disrupt transportation and communication systems.
- Identify and neutralize critical organizational nodes.
- Reduce the ability of organizations to recruit, coordinate, and sustain operations.

### Disrupt corruption networks.

- Identify individuals facilitating cartel operations through corruption.

- Analyze relationships between criminal actors and institutional insiders.
- Support efforts to strengthen institutional resilience against criminal influence.
- Reduce opportunities for criminal organizations to exploit public systems.

#### Degrade organizational resilience.

- Identify mechanisms enabling rapid recovery following enforcement actions.
- Target recruitment and personnel replacement systems.
- Disrupt partnerships and alliances that strengthen cartel capabilities.
- Reduce long-term organizational adaptability.

#### **Intelligence Priorities (PIR's)**

Priority intelligence requirements include:

1. Identification of active cartel organizations and criminal syndicates.
2. Mapping of leadership, command, and decision-making structures.
3. Assessment of territorial influence and operational expansion.
4. Identification of financial networks and revenue-generating activities.
5. Detection of corruption facilitating criminal operations.
6. Analysis of transportation and logistical infrastructure.
7. Identification of enforcement elements and violent actors.
8. Assessment of relationships with other organized criminal networks.
9. Evaluation of vulnerabilities suitable for strategic disruption.
10. Monitoring of emerging trends affecting cartel capabilities and operations.

#### **Desired End State**

Cartel organizations and criminal syndicates experience sustained degradation of their operational capabilities, influence, and ability to generate criminal profit. Leadership structures are disrupted, logistical networks are weakened, financial resources are restricted, and organizational resilience is diminished through coordinated intelligence and operational efforts.

Territorial influence is reduced as criminal organizations lose their ability to intimidate populations, control strategic infrastructure, corrupt institutions, and maintain operational freedom. Revenue-generating activities become increasingly difficult to sustain, reducing the capacity of criminal enterprises to recruit personnel, finance violence, and expand operations.

Partner agencies possess improved intelligence regarding cartel activities, enabling more effective investigations and coordinated responses. Communities affected by cartel influence experience increased security, reduced criminal intimidation, and enhanced confidence in legitimate institutions.

Ultimately, the desired end state is an environment in which cartel organizations no longer possess the capacity to exert significant criminal influence, sustain large-scale illicit enterprises, or threaten public safety through organized violence, corruption, and exploitation. Their associated criminal networks are weakened, their operational reach is reduced, and their ability to cause harm is substantially diminished.

# **TERRORISM**

## **Strategic Importance**

Terrorism and violent extremism represent among the most significant threats to human life, public safety, political stability, and social cohesion. Unlike many forms of criminal activity that are primarily motivated by financial gain, terrorist organizations and violent extremist actors often pursue ideological, political, religious, or social objectives through the deliberate use or threatened use of violence. Their activities are designed not only to harm immediate victims but also to generate fear, influence behavior, undermine institutions, and destabilize communities on a broader scale.

The defining characteristic of terrorism is its psychological impact. Terrorist acts are intended to extend beyond the physical consequences of an attack by creating widespread fear, uncertainty, and disruption. A single incident may affect thousands or millions of people through media coverage, public reaction, economic consequences, and societal disruption. As a result, even relatively small extremist organizations may exert influence disproportionate to their size.

Terrorist organizations may operate as highly structured networks with centralized leadership and international reach, or they may function through decentralized cells, affiliated groups, or self-directed individuals inspired by extremist ideologies. Modern extremist movements frequently employ a combination of physical and digital methods to recruit supporters, disseminate propaganda, radicalize individuals, coordinate activities, raise funds, and encourage acts of violence.

The contemporary threat environment is characterized by increasing accessibility to extremist content, global connectivity, and rapid information dissemination. Digital platforms allow extremist actors to communicate across borders, distribute ideological material, identify potential recruits, and cultivate online communities that reinforce radical beliefs. Individuals may be influenced or mobilized without direct contact with a formal organization, creating complex challenges for detection and prevention efforts.

The consequences of terrorist activity extend beyond immediate casualties and property damage. Attacks can disrupt critical infrastructure, undermine public confidence in institutions, exacerbate social divisions, influence political processes, and generate long-term psychological trauma among affected populations. Repeated exposure to extremist violence may also contribute to societal polarization and increased tensions between communities.

GCIS recognizes that terrorism frequently intersects with other priority threat areas. Extremist organizations may engage in financial crimes, trafficking activities, organized violence, cyber-enabled operations, illicit fundraising, propaganda dissemination, and transnational criminal partnerships to support their objectives. Understanding these connections is essential to developing a comprehensive picture of the threat environment.

Because terrorist activity directly threatens human life while seeking to undermine the stability and security of society, GCIS recognizes terrorism and violent extremism as a strategic priority requiring proactive intelligence collection, early threat identification, coordinated intervention, and sustained disruption efforts.

## **Threat Characteristics**

Terrorist and violent extremist threats may include:

- Planned acts of violence against civilians
- Attacks targeting government institutions
- Ideologically motivated violence
- Mass casualty threats
- Assassination plots
- Infrastructure sabotage
- Recruitment and radicalization activities
- Extremist propaganda dissemination
- Online mobilization efforts
- Criminal fundraising operations
- Cross-border extremist coordination
- Support networks facilitating terrorist activity
- Violent extremist cells and affiliated organizations
- Lone-actor mobilization inspired by extremist ideologies

Threat actors may operate independently, as members of formal organizations, or as participants in loosely connected ideological movements. The level of organizational structure can vary significantly, requiring flexible intelligence and analytical approaches.

## **Radicalization and Recruitment**

A critical component of the modern terrorism threat landscape is the process through which individuals are exposed to, adopt, and act upon extremist beliefs. Radicalization pathways vary widely and may involve personal grievances, social influences, ideological narratives, identity-based motivations, perceived injustices, or exposure to extremist communities.

Recruitment efforts may occur through:

- Online forums and social media platforms
- Encrypted communications applications
- Ideological publications and media
- Personal relationships and social networks
- Extremist gatherings and events
- Targeted propaganda campaigns
- Influence operations directed at vulnerable individuals

Extremist actors often seek to identify individuals who may be susceptible to recruitment and gradually encourage increased ideological commitment, isolation from opposing viewpoints, and acceptance of violence as a legitimate means of achieving objectives.

The identification of recruitment and radicalization activities remains an important component of threat prevention efforts.

## **Operational Planning and Capability Development**

Terrorist organizations and violent extremist actors frequently engage in extensive planning prior to conducting operations. Such planning may involve target selection, reconnaissance, communications, logistical preparation, fundraising, personnel recruitment, operational security measures, and coordination with other actors.

Indicators of operational planning may include:

- Surveillance of potential targets
- Acquisition of resources necessary for an attack
- Increased communication among network members
- Travel associated with extremist activity
- Financial transactions supporting operational preparation
- Attempts to recruit participants or facilitators
- Dissemination of operational guidance or encouragement

The ability to detect these indicators early is often critical to preventing attacks and protecting potential victims.

## **Operational Considerations**

Counterterrorism efforts require a proactive approach centered on prevention rather than post-incident response alone. Once a terrorist attack occurs, opportunities to prevent harm have largely passed. Consequently, intelligence collection, threat assessment, behavioral analysis, and interagency coordination play essential roles in identifying risks before violence occurs.

Effective counterterrorism operations frequently require cooperation among intelligence organizations, law enforcement agencies, emergency management authorities, community partners, infrastructure operators, and international counterparts. Information sharing and coordinated analysis are particularly important when addressing transnational extremist networks.

GCIS further recognizes the importance of distinguishing between constitutionally protected beliefs, lawful political activity, and indicators of violent extremist mobilization. Organizational efforts focus on threats involving violence, criminal activity, or preparation for unlawful acts rather than the lawful expression of opinions or beliefs.

## **Strategic Objectives**

GCIS shall pursue the following strategic objectives regarding terrorism and violent extremism:

### Detect emerging threats.

- Identify individuals, groups, and networks demonstrating indicators of violent extremist activity.
- Monitor developments that may increase the likelihood of terrorist violence.
- Produce intelligence assessments regarding emerging extremist trends.
- Support early-warning capabilities designed to identify threats before attacks occur.

### Identify operational planning activities.

- Detect indicators associated with attack preparation.
- Identify reconnaissance, logistical planning, and support activities.
- Monitor communications and behavioral patterns suggesting mobilization toward violence.
- Develop intelligence regarding capability, intent, and target selection.

### Protect potential targets.

- Identify individuals, facilities, events, and infrastructure at elevated risk.
- Support threat assessments and protective planning efforts.
- Facilitate intelligence sharing with appropriate stakeholders.
- Reduce opportunities for extremist actors to conduct successful attacks.

### Support prevention and intervention efforts.

- Promote intelligence-led prevention strategies.
- Support initiatives designed to interrupt mobilization toward violence.
- Identify opportunities for lawful intervention before attacks occur.
- Enhance awareness of emerging threats among relevant partners.

### Disrupt extremist networks.

- Identify organizational structures and support systems.
- Target facilitators, recruiters, propagandists, and operational personnel.
- Disrupt communication, coordination, and resource-sharing activities.
- Reduce the ability of extremist organizations to sustain operations.

### Disrupt financing and logistical support.

- Identify funding sources and financial facilitators.
- Detect methods used to acquire resources and operational support.
- Support efforts to deny extremist actors access to financial and logistical capabilities.
- Increase the operational costs associated with extremist activity.

### Strengthen intelligence and information sharing.

- Enhance cooperation among authorized partners.
- Improve situational awareness regarding evolving threats.
- Facilitate coordinated assessments of emerging risks.
- Support comprehensive understanding of extremist ecosystems.

## **Intelligence Priorities**

Priority intelligence requirements include:

1. Identification of credible threats involving potential acts of terrorism or extremist violence.
2. Detection of individuals or groups mobilizing toward violent activity.
3. Identification of recruitment and radicalization efforts.
4. Analysis of extremist propaganda and influence operations.
5. Mapping of organizational leadership, support networks, and facilitators.
6. Detection of operational planning, reconnaissance, and attack preparation activities.
7. Identification of financial and logistical support mechanisms.
8. Assessment of threats to critical infrastructure, public venues, and vulnerable populations.
9. Analysis of relationships between extremist actors and transnational criminal networks.
10. Evaluation of emerging ideological trends and threat indicators.

## **Desired End State**

Terrorist threats are identified at the earliest possible stage and disrupted before violence can occur. Individuals, groups, and networks engaged in planning or facilitating acts of terrorism are detected through coordinated intelligence efforts and prevented from carrying out attacks through lawful intervention measures.

Extremist organizations experience sustained degradation of their operational capabilities, recruitment efforts, communications systems, financial resources, and support networks. Their ability to radicalize individuals, coordinate activities, and influence vulnerable populations is significantly reduced.

Potential targets—including civilian populations, public institutions, critical infrastructure, and community gatherings—benefit from enhanced protection, improved situational awareness, and effective threat mitigation measures. Partner organizations possess the intelligence necessary to respond rapidly to emerging risks and coordinate preventative actions.

Communities remain resilient against efforts to spread fear, division, and intimidation. Public confidence in protective institutions is strengthened, and opportunities for extremist actors to achieve strategic objectives through violence are diminished.

Ultimately, the desired end state is an environment in which terrorist threats are detected early, extremist networks are unable to effectively organize or operate, and acts of terrorism are prevented before harm occurs, preserving human life, protecting public safety, and safeguarding societal stability.

## CHAPTER II | PRIORITIES OF LIFE INTERESTS (PLI'S).

The *Priorities of Life Interests (PLI's)* establish the order in which the Ground Coordination Intelligence Service (GCIS) values and protects human life during intelligence collection, operational planning, resource allocation, threat assessment, crisis response, and strategic decision-making. They provide a structured framework for determining where organizational attention, protective efforts, and operational resources should be concentrated when competing demands, limited capabilities, or rapidly evolving situations require difficult choices to be made.

At its core, the mission of GCIS is the protection of human life and the preservation of human dignity. While all human life possesses inherent value, operational realities often require organizations to prioritize limited resources toward those individuals and populations facing the greatest levels of risk, vulnerability, or harm. The *Priorities of Life Interests (PLI's)* exist to ensure that such decisions are guided by clearly established principles rather than subjective judgment, institutional convenience, or situational pressure.

The modern threat environment presents an array of challenges that frequently compete for attention. Intelligence personnel may be required to evaluate multiple threats simultaneously. Operational planners may face circumstances in which available resources cannot address every identified risk. Operators and assets may encounter situations where immediate intervention in one area necessarily limits action in another. During crisis events, emergency circumstances may demand rapid decisions with significant consequences for public safety and human welfare.

Without a clearly defined framework, such decisions can become inconsistent across personnel, departments, or operational environments. Inconsistent prioritization risks misallocation of resources, reduced operational effectiveness, and potential harm to those most in need of protection. The *Priorities of Life Interests (PLI's)* provide a common standard through which personnel can evaluate competing demands while maintaining alignment with organizational mission and values.

These priorities are founded upon several fundamental principles.

First, the preservation of human life remains the highest objective of the service. Every intelligence product, operational activity, investigative effort, and strategic initiative should ultimately contribute to reducing harm and protecting individuals from victimization, exploitation, injury, or death.

Second, vulnerability increases priority. Individuals who possess diminished ability to protect themselves, seek assistance, escape dangerous circumstances, or recover from victimization require heightened organizational attention. The degree of risk faced by a person is often influenced not only by the threat itself but also by their capacity to resist or mitigate that threat.

Third, imminent threats to life require immediate consideration. Situations involving credible and immediate danger to human life generally warrant greater urgency than threats whose consequences remain speculative, distant, or less severe. The framework recognizes that opportunities to prevent loss of life are often limited and that delayed action may result in irreversible harm.

Fourth, the scale and severity of potential harm influence prioritization. Threats capable of affecting large numbers of individuals, producing catastrophic consequences, or causing lasting societal damage may require substantial organizational focus even when the immediate risk to specific individuals is not yet fully realized.

Finally, the framework recognizes that protection and prevention are interconnected objectives. Saving lives requires more than responding to crises after they emerge. It also requires identifying threats before harm occurs, protecting vulnerable populations from victimization, disrupting criminal systems that create future victims, and reducing opportunities for exploitation and violence to take root.

The *Priorities of Life Interests (PLI's)* are not intended to diminish the value of any individual life. Rather, they acknowledge the reality that certain populations face elevated risks, heightened vulnerability, or more severe consequences when exposed to criminal activity. The framework therefore serves as a mechanism for directing protective efforts toward those who face the greatest danger while maintaining the overarching commitment that all human life is worthy of protection.

These priorities influence organizational activities across every level of GCIS operations. They inform intelligence requirements, guide analytical assessments, shape strategic planning, influence operational recommendations, support resource allocation decisions, and provide a common reference point during crisis response. They also assist personnel in balancing competing operational demands while remaining faithful to the service's mission and ethical obligations.

Importantly, the *Priorities of Life Interests (PLI's)* should not be interpreted as rigid rules that eliminate professional judgment. Every operational environment presents unique circumstances that may require flexibility and adaptation. Rather, the framework serves as a guiding doctrine that establishes baseline principles for evaluating risk, vulnerability, and human impact. Personnel are expected to apply these principles alongside available intelligence, operational realities, legal authorities, and professional expertise.

The framework further reinforces a central organizational belief: that the value of an intelligence service is ultimately measured not by the quantity of information it collects, the number of investigations it supports, or the scale of its operational activities, but by its ability to protect people from harm. Intelligence, coordination, and operational capability possess little meaning if they are not directed toward the preservation of life and the reduction of human suffering.

Accordingly, the *Priorities of Life Interests (PLI's)* establish a hierarchy of protection that identifies those populations and individuals warranting the highest levels of organizational concern. The categories that follow reflect GCIS's assessment of vulnerability, risk, and potential harm, and provide the ethical foundation upon which mission priorities, operational decisions, and protective actions are based.

In every circumstance, the purpose of this framework remains constant:

**To ensure that when difficult decisions must be made, the protection of human life remains the guiding principle behind every action undertaken by GCIS.**

## PRIORITY ONE: VICTIMS

### **Principle**

Individuals experiencing exploitation, abuse, coercion, captivity, trafficking, unlawful confinement, or any immediate threat to their safety receive the highest level of protection under the Priorities of Life framework. Victims are the central reason for the existence of GCIS and represent the population for whom all intelligence collection, operational coordination, investigative activity, and strategic planning are ultimately conducted.

A victim is not merely an individual who has suffered harm. Within the GCIS mission framework, a victim is a person whose freedom, dignity, security, autonomy, or well-being has been compromised through the actions of another. Victims may be subjected to physical violence, psychological manipulation, sexual exploitation, forced labor, coercive control, trafficking, intimidation, neglect, extortion, or other forms of criminal victimization. Many are unable to protect themselves, escape their circumstances, or seek assistance without external intervention.

Because victims are the individuals most directly affected by criminal exploitation and because they often possess the least capacity to protect themselves, they occupy the highest position within the *Priorities of Life Interests (PLI's)* hierarchy.

### **Strategic Importance**

The placement of victims as the highest protected category reflects the fundamental purpose of the service.

GCIS does not exist solely to identify criminals, collect intelligence, conduct investigations, or support enforcement actions. Those activities are important only insofar as they contribute to the protection of people who are being harmed. The mission is not centered upon offenders; it is centered upon victims.

Every criminal enterprise identified by GCIS ultimately derives its significance from the human suffering it produces. Human trafficking is harmful because it exploits victims. Organized exploitation networks are harmful because they abuse victims. Violent criminal actors are dangerous because they create victims. Terrorist organizations threaten society because they seek to produce victims on a mass scale.

Without victims, there would be no humanitarian justification for intervention.

As a result, every operational objective must remain subordinate to the protection of those experiencing harm. Intelligence collection, investigations, prosecutions, organizational reputation, financial considerations, operational convenience, and even strategic objectives must never be allowed to supersede the immediate safety and welfare of victims.

This principle ensures that the service remains mission-focused and does not lose sight of the human consequences behind operational decisions.

### **Why Victims Hold the Highest Priority**

Victims occupy the highest position in the Priorities of Life because they possess the **greatest combination of vulnerability, risk, and moral claim to protection**.

Unlike first responders, operators, or service assets, victims generally did not voluntarily assume the risks associated with their circumstances. Their exposure to harm is imposed upon them by criminal actors. Many victims have been deprived of the ability to make meaningful choices regarding their own safety, movement, communication, employment, relationships, or living conditions.

In trafficking and exploitation environments, victims are frequently subjected to:

- Physical violence
- Sexual abuse
- Psychological coercion
- Threats against family members
- Deprivation of basic necessities
- Financial control
- Isolation from support systems
- Forced criminal activity
- Medical neglect
- Prolonged captivity

The longer victimization continues, the greater the likelihood of severe physical, emotional, psychological, and social harm. In some cases, delayed intervention may result in irreversible trauma, permanent injury, or death.

For this reason, whenever competing interests must be weighed against one another, the protection of victims takes precedence.

This prioritization also recognizes a critical reality: victims are often unable to advocate for themselves. They may be isolated, intimidated, manipulated, traumatized, or physically prevented from seeking help. Consequently, the responsibility for their protection falls upon those capable of acting on their behalf.

### **Organizational Commitment**

GCIS recognizes that the successful disruption of criminal enterprises is only meaningful if it results in improved outcomes for victims. Accordingly, **every reasonable action shall be taken to preserve victim life, safety, dignity, and recovery.**

The service is committed to:

- Protecting victims from immediate harm.
- Preventing further victimization.
- Preserving the dignity and humanity of survivors.
- Supporting long-term recovery and stabilization efforts.
- Promoting trauma-informed operational practices.
- Reducing the risk of re-victimization.
- Facilitating access to appropriate support services.
- Encouraging survivor-centered intervention strategies.

The treatment of victims serves as a reflection of GCIS values. All members are expected to recognize that victims are not evidence, intelligence sources, operational assets, or investigative tools. They are human beings deserving of protection, respect, and compassion.

## **Operational Considerations**

Victim protection considerations shall influence every stage of intelligence collection, operational planning, and field activity.

Operational actions that increase unnecessary risk to victims should be avoided whenever possible. Decisions regarding surveillance, intelligence exploitation, intervention timing, investigative strategy, and enforcement coordination should continually account for potential impacts upon victim safety.

Key operational considerations include:

### Immediate Rescue Considerations

When victims face imminent danger, immediate intervention may become necessary to prevent serious injury, continued exploitation, or loss of life.

Operational planners should evaluate:

- The severity of immediate threats.
- The likelihood of escalating violence.
- Opportunities for safe extraction.
- Potential risks associated with delayed intervention.
- Availability of emergency support resources.

Rescue efforts should prioritize victim safety above intelligence collection opportunities or investigative convenience.

### Medical and Psychological Support

Victims emerging from exploitation environments often possess significant physical and psychological needs.

These may include:

- Emergency medical treatment.
- Treatment for injuries or illness.
- Psychological crisis intervention.
- Trauma-informed support services.
- Substance abuse treatment.
- Nutritional and housing assistance.
- Ongoing healthcare access.

Personnel should recognize that trauma responses vary significantly between individuals and that victim behavior following rescue may not always conform to expectations.

### Long-Term Safeguarding Measures

The conclusion of an operation does not necessarily end the risks facing a victim.

Many survivors remain vulnerable to:

- Retaliation from offenders.
- Re-trafficking or re-exploitation.
- Homelessness.
- Financial instability.
- Social isolation.
- Ongoing psychological trauma.

Whenever possible, protective efforts should extend beyond immediate rescue and support long-term stabilization and recovery.

### Family Reunification

Criminal exploitation frequently separates victims from family members and support networks.

When safe, lawful, and in the best interests of the victim, efforts should be made to facilitate family reunification and restoration of legitimate support systems.

Particular consideration should be given to:

- Victim safety.
- Family suitability.
- Risk of continued victimization.
- Cross-jurisdictional considerations.
- Child welfare requirements.

Family reunification should always be guided by the victim's well-being rather than administrative convenience.

### **Decision-Making Guidance**

When competing priorities exist, personnel should ask a fundamental question:

**"Which course of action provides the greatest protection to the victim?"**

If a choice exists between preserving an investigation and preserving a victim's safety, victim safety takes precedence.

If a choice exists between gathering additional intelligence and preventing immediate harm to a victim, preventing harm takes precedence.

If a choice exists between operational convenience and victim welfare, victim welfare takes precedence.

While long-term investigations and strategic objectives remain important, they derive their legitimacy from the protection they provide to those who suffer under criminal exploitation.

### **Desired Outcome**

The ultimate objective of Priority One is not simply the rescue of victims but the restoration of safety, dignity, autonomy, and opportunity.

Success is achieved when victims are removed from harmful environments, protected from further victimization, provided access to necessary support services, and empowered to rebuild their lives free from coercion, violence, and exploitation.

Every other priority within this framework exists, directly or indirectly, to support this outcome.

Victims occupy the highest position within the Priorities of Life because they are the individuals the organization was created to protect. Their safety, dignity, and recovery remain the foremost measure of mission success.

## *PRIORITY TWO: **BYSTANDERS***

### **Principle**

Individuals who are not directly involved in criminal activity, but who may be exposed to danger as a result of criminal conduct, law-enforcement action, emergency response activities, or operational intervention, shall receive protection *from foreseeable harm whenever reasonably possible*.

GCIS recognizes that innocent persons often become unintended victims of criminal activity despite having no involvement in the events that place them at risk. Members of the public may be exposed to violence, coercion, hazardous environments, transportation incidents, criminal retaliation, or other dangers simply because they are present in the vicinity of criminal operations or emergency incidents.

The protection of innocent bystanders is therefore a fundamental organizational responsibility and a core consideration in all intelligence, planning, and operational activities.

### **Strategic Importance**

Criminal organizations rarely operate in isolation from the communities around them. Human traffickers exploit victims within residential neighborhoods, commercial districts, transportation hubs, hospitality venues, workplaces, and public spaces. Organized criminal groups often establish operations within populated environments specifically because such locations provide concealment, access to potential victims, and opportunities to blend into legitimate activity.

As a result, criminal activity frequently places innocent civilians at risk even when they are not the intended targets of offenders.

Violence associated with trafficking organizations, organized crime groups, exploitation networks, and extremist actors can have consequences extending far beyond the immediate participants. Family members, neighbors, customers, employees, travelers, students, healthcare workers, and other members of the public may become exposed to danger through proximity alone.

GCIS recognizes that the service's mission is not solely to identify victims and disrupt offenders. It is also to reduce the broader human harm caused by criminal activity. Every successful operation should seek not only to protect direct victims but also to safeguard the communities in which those victims live.

Failure to adequately consider bystander safety can undermine public trust, increase community harm, complicate emergency response efforts, and create additional victims. Accordingly, the protection of innocent civilians remains a critical operational priority.

### **Rationale for Priority Placement**

Bystanders occupy the second position within the Priorities of Life framework because they possess no voluntary role in the criminal activity or operational environment that places them at risk.

Victims remain the highest priority because they are the direct targets of exploitation, coercion, abuse, or violence and are often unable to remove themselves from danger without intervention. Their immediate protection represents the central purpose of GCIS operations.

Bystanders follow immediately thereafter because they are innocent parties who may suffer harm despite having no involvement in criminal conduct and no responsibility for creating the threat environment. Unlike first responders and GCIS operators/assets, bystanders have generally not accepted occupational risks associated with dangerous situations and may possess little awareness of the threats surrounding them.

First responders and GCIS operators and assets knowingly undertake duties that involve exposure to risk in service of protecting others. While their safety remains critically important, the ethical foundation of public service requires that operational decisions prioritize those whom responders are sworn to protect before prioritizing themselves.

The placement of bystanders above organizational members reflects the principle that the purpose of intervention is the protection of the public. Operations exist to safeguard innocent life, not merely to preserve institutional capability.

This priority framework does not imply that responder safety is unimportant. Rather, it acknowledges that organizations entrusted with public protection have a responsibility **to place innocent civilians ahead of themselves whenever reasonably possible.**

## **Organizational Commitment**

GCIS is committed to minimizing danger to innocent civilians during all intelligence, investigative, and operational activities.

Personnel shall consider the potential impact of operations upon surrounding populations and incorporate public-safety considerations into every phase of planning and execution. Operational success shall not be measured solely by investigative outcomes, arrests, intelligence gains, or disruption of criminal activity, but also by the degree to which harm to innocent persons is prevented.

Whenever possible, operational approaches should be selected that reduce unnecessary risk to surrounding communities while preserving mission effectiveness.

GCIS further recognizes that public confidence is strengthened when organizations demonstrate a consistent commitment to protecting innocent life. Safeguarding bystanders is therefore both an operational necessity and an expression of organizational values.

## **Operational Considerations**

### Public Safety

Protection of the public shall remain a primary consideration during operational planning and execution.

Personnel should assess potential risks to nearby civilians, evaluate likely consequences of operational actions, and implement measures designed to reduce exposure to foreseeable harm.

Particular attention should be given to environments involving:

- Residential populations
- Schools and childcare facilities
- Medical facilities
- Transportation hubs
- Public gatherings
- Commercial centers
- Vulnerable community populations

### Evacuation Planning

Where circumstances indicate a credible threat to public safety, planners should consider methods for safely removing civilians from areas of elevated risk.

Evacuation planning should account for:

- Safe movement routes
- Accessibility requirements
- Transportation considerations

- Crowd management concerns
- Communication procedures
- Coordination with partner agencies

The ability to rapidly relocate civilians from dangerous environments may significantly reduce casualties during emergency situations.

### Risk Mitigation

Operational plans should seek to identify and mitigate foreseeable threats to innocent persons.

Risk mitigation measures may include:

- Intelligence-driven planning
- Threat assessments
- Environmental analysis
- Operational timing considerations
- Perimeter establishment
- Traffic and crowd management
- Information-sharing with relevant authorities
- Protective measures for vulnerable populations

Reducing unnecessary exposure to danger remains preferable to responding after harm has occurred.

### Community Protection

Criminal activity frequently affects entire communities rather than isolated individuals.

Operational planning should therefore consider broader community impacts, including:

- Public safety concerns
- Potential displacement effects
- Secondary victimization risks
- Community stability
- Public confidence in protective institutions

Whenever feasible, actions should contribute not only to immediate threat reduction but also to the long-term safety and resilience of affected communities.

### **Desired Outcome**

Innocent civilians remain protected from foreseeable harm arising from criminal activity, emergency incidents, or operational intervention. Communities experience reduced exposure to violence, exploitation, and criminal threats, while public confidence in protective institutions is strengthened.

GCIS personnel consistently evaluate operational decisions through the lens of public safety, ensuring that efforts to protect victims and disrupt offenders do not unnecessarily endanger those whom the organization ultimately exists to serve.

The preservation of innocent life remains a defining measure of operational success.

### ***PRIORITY THREE: FIRST RESPONDERS***

#### **Principle**

First responders serve as the immediate protective barrier between criminal threats and the public. Law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical personnel, search-and-rescue teams, crisis intervention personnel, and other emergency responders routinely place themselves in dangerous and unpredictable environments to protect the lives of others. Their willingness to enter situations involving violence, exploitation, medical emergencies, hazardous conditions, and active threats makes them an essential component of public safety and emergency response systems.

GCIS recognizes that responder safety is not merely a workforce protection issue—it is a life-preservation issue. The ability of first responders to safely perform their duties directly affects the survival of victims, the protection of bystanders, the containment of threats, and the successful resolution of critical incidents.

For this reason, first responders occupy a distinct position within the Priorities of Life framework. They are afforded a higher level of priority than organizational members and other non-civilian interests because their continued operational effectiveness enables the protection of numerous lives simultaneously. However, they remain subordinate to victims and uninvolved civilians because the primary purpose of emergency response is the preservation of those directly endangered by criminal activity.

#### **Rationale for Priority Placement**

GCIS places first responders third within the Priorities of Life hierarchy because of the unique role they serve during emergencies and critical incidents.

Victims remain the highest priority because they are the individuals directly subjected to harm, coercion, exploitation, injury, or imminent threat. Their safety and survival represent the central objective of any intervention.

Bystanders occupy the second priority position because they are innocent individuals who may be exposed to danger despite having no role in the incident itself. Protecting uninvolved civilians from becoming victims remains a critical responsibility during any operation or emergency response.

First responders follow immediately thereafter because they are the individuals actively engaged in protecting victims and bystanders. While responders knowingly accept certain occupational risks, they should never be

regarded as expendable resources. Every injured, incapacitated, or killed responder reduces the capacity of the response effort and may increase danger for everyone involved.

A single responder casualty can produce cascading consequences:

- Reduced rescue capability.
- Delayed medical intervention.
- Decreased situational awareness.
- Reduced operational effectiveness.
- Diversion of resources toward responder recovery.
- Increased risks to victims and civilians.
- Increased likelihood of mission failure.
- Another “gun” or asset out of the fight

The preservation of responder safety therefore serves both humanitarian and operational purposes. Protecting responders helps ensure that they can continue protecting others.

This placement also reflects the principle that responder safety and victim protection are not competing objectives. Effective operations seek to maximize both. Reckless actions that unnecessarily endanger responders often reduce the likelihood of successfully protecting victims and resolving incidents.

### **Strategic Importance**

Criminal organizations involved in trafficking, exploitation, organized violence, and other high-priority GCIS threat categories frequently present significant dangers to emergency personnel. Offenders may employ weapons, booby traps, surveillance systems, intimidation tactics, violent resistance, or deliberate deception designed to delay or obstruct intervention efforts.

Trafficking operations may be conducted within unfamiliar environments, isolated locations, heavily secured properties, or jurisdictions where intelligence is incomplete. Rescue operations can evolve rapidly, and threat conditions may change without warning. First responders are often required to make critical decisions with limited information while operating under significant physical and psychological stress.

In addition to physical threats, responders routinely encounter severe emotional and psychological challenges. Exposure to exploitation, abuse, violence, fatalities, and traumatic environments can produce cumulative stress and long-term psychological impacts. Sustaining responder wellness is therefore an essential component of maintaining operational readiness and effectiveness.

The protection of emergency personnel is particularly important because they represent a limited and highly specialized resource. Training, experience, institutional knowledge, and operational capability cannot be rapidly replaced. The loss of experienced responders can significantly reduce an organization's ability to respond effectively to future incidents.

## **Organizational Commitment**

GCIS is committed to supporting measures that preserve responder safety, enhance operational effectiveness, and reduce unnecessary exposure to risk.

This commitment extends to all personnel and partner organizations engaged in emergency response, investigative activity, victim recovery operations, intelligence-supported interventions, and crisis management efforts.

GCIS recognizes that responder safety begins long before an operation commences. Effective intelligence collection, threat assessment, planning, coordination, and information sharing are among the most effective tools for reducing operational risk.

The organization therefore supports:

- Intelligence-led operational planning.
- Threat-informed deployment decisions.
- Comprehensive risk assessments.
- Appropriate safety and medical contingencies.
- Interagency communication and coordination.
- Continuous situational awareness during operations.
- Post-incident responder support and wellness initiatives.

Responder protection is viewed as an operational necessity rather than an administrative consideration.

## **Operational Considerations**

### Situational Awareness

Maintaining situational awareness is essential to responder survival and mission success.

Personnel should continuously evaluate:

- Threat indicators.
- Environmental hazards.
- Potential escape routes.
- Changes in offender behavior.
- Presence of weapons or dangerous materials.
- Emerging risks to victims, civilians, and responders.

Intelligence updates should be communicated rapidly to ensure personnel possess the most accurate operational picture possible.

### Threat Intelligence Sharing

Timely intelligence sharing significantly improves responder safety.

Relevant information may include:

- Known criminal affiliations.
- History of violence.
- Presence of weapons.
- Threats against responders.
- Security measures employed by offenders.
- Surveillance activity.
- Environmental and infrastructure hazards.

Operational partners should receive actionable intelligence necessary to make informed decisions regarding risk management and response activities.

### Protective Equipment Considerations

Appropriate protective equipment reduces vulnerability and enhances responder survivability.

Operational planning should consider:

- Environmental conditions.
- Nature of the threat.
- Known offender capabilities.
- Duration of operations.
- Medical contingencies.
- Specialized equipment requirements.

Protective measures should be proportional to identified risks while supporting mission effectiveness.

### Medical Support Planning

Rapid access to medical care remains a critical component of responder protection.

Operational plans should account for:

- Emergency medical response capabilities.
- Casualty evacuation procedures.
- Nearest appropriate medical facilities.
- Communication protocols for medical emergencies.
- Mass-casualty contingencies when applicable.

Medical planning should be integrated into all significant operational activities rather than treated as a secondary consideration.

### Psychological and Wellness Considerations

Responder safety extends beyond physical injury prevention.

Personnel exposed to traumatic environments may experience:

- Acute stress reactions.
- Compassion fatigue.
- Burnout.
- Secondary trauma.
- Long-term psychological impacts.

Organizations should promote wellness resources, peer support mechanisms, and appropriate recovery opportunities to preserve long-term responder effectiveness and resilience.

### **Desired Outcome**

First responders are able to perform their duties safely, effectively, and sustainably while maintaining the capacity to protect victims and the public. Operational decisions consistently balance mission objectives with responder safety considerations, ensuring that emergency personnel are neither unnecessarily exposed to danger nor treated as expendable assets.

By protecting responders, GCIS preserves critical operational capability, strengthens emergency response effectiveness, and ultimately enhances the organization's ability to save lives, protect vulnerable populations, and disrupt criminal activity.

The protection of first responders is therefore not only an obligation owed to those who place themselves in harm's way—it is an investment in the continued protection of every life they are called upon to defend.

## *PRIORITY FOUR: GCIS PERSONNEL*

### **Principle**

GCIS personnel represent the operational capability, institutional knowledge, and mission effectiveness of the service. Every analyst, asset, intelligence specialist, operator, technical expert, coordinator, and support professional contributes directly to the service's ability to identify threats, protect vulnerable populations, and disrupt criminal networks.

Personnel are not merely organizational assets; they are individuals who voluntarily assume significant responsibilities and risks in service of the mission. They are routinely exposed to dangerous environments, traumatic subject matter, operational uncertainty, and sustained psychological stress. The organization therefore bears an ethical and professional obligation to safeguard their health, safety, and well-being.

The protection of GCIS personnel is essential not only because of their intrinsic value as human beings, but also because the organization's ability to protect others depends upon their continued effectiveness. Every injured, incapacitated, or lost member reduces the service's capacity to prevent future harm and protect future victims.

### **Strategic Importance**

The success of any counter-trafficking or criminal intelligence organization depends upon the capabilities of its personnel. Intelligence systems, technology, equipment, and operational resources possess little value without trained individuals capable of employing them effectively.

Human trafficking investigations, exploitation cases, organized crime intelligence operations, and threat assessments frequently require highly specialized expertise developed through years of training and operational experience. The loss of experienced personnel can significantly degrade organizational effectiveness and may create long-term capability gaps that cannot be immediately replaced.

Furthermore, personnel operating within counter-exploitation environments face unique occupational hazards. Unlike many professions, they are regularly exposed to evidence of severe abuse, exploitation, violence, and human suffering. This exposure creates cumulative risks that extend beyond physical safety and include psychological injury, operational fatigue, burnout, secondary trauma, and diminished resilience.

Protecting personnel is therefore both an ethical responsibility and an operational necessity. A damaged workforce cannot effectively protect vulnerable populations, conduct complex investigations, or sustain long-term disruption efforts against sophisticated criminal organizations.

### **Position Within the Priorities of Life Framework**

GCIS personnel occupy the fourth position within the Priorities of Life framework.

This placement reflects two equally important realities.

First, GCIS exists primarily to protect others. Victims of exploitation, trafficking, abuse, and violence occupy the highest priority because they are the individuals the service exists to serve. Bystanders occupy the second

priority because they face potential harm despite having no involvement in criminal activity or operational response. First responders occupy the third priority because they frequently place themselves in immediate danger while acting to protect victims and the public during active incidents.

For these reasons, GCIS personnel do not occupy the highest position within the framework. The mission exists to protect vulnerable populations, ***and organizational members knowingly accept certain risks as part of their professional responsibilities.***

However, GCIS personnel remain above animals and criminal actors because they are essential participants in the protection of human life. Their safety directly influences the service's ability to conduct investigations, rescue victims, gather intelligence, and disrupt criminal enterprises. A preventable loss of assets or operators not only harms the individual involved but may also reduce the service's ability to protect countless others in the future.

The placement of GCIS members within the framework therefore reflects a balance between mission responsibility and organizational stewardship. Members accept risk in service to others, but they are never regarded as expendable.

## **Organizational Commitment**

GCIS maintains that no mission objective outweighs the obligation to responsibly manage risk to personnel.

The pursuit of criminal actors, intelligence objectives, operational opportunities, or strategic gains does not justify unnecessary exposure to avoidable hazards. While certain risks are inherent to mission execution, personnel should never be placed in danger without clear operational necessity, appropriate safeguards, and a reasonable expectation that the anticipated benefit justifies the risk involved.

The organization is committed to:

- Protecting personnel from unnecessary harm.
- Providing appropriate training and preparation.
- Ensuring access to protective equipment and resources.
- Supporting physical and psychological wellness.
- Monitoring operational stress and fatigue.
- Promoting resilience and long-term health.
- Encouraging responsible risk management practices.
- Maintaining accountability for personnel safety.

Leadership at all levels shares responsibility for creating an environment in which mission success and personnel protection are mutually reinforcing objectives rather than competing priorities.

## **Operational Considerations**

### Force Protection

Personnel safety must remain a consideration throughout all phases of planning and operations.

Force protection measures should seek to identify, mitigate, and manage threats before they result in harm. Operational plans should account for environmental hazards, hostile actors, intelligence gaps, logistical challenges, and foreseeable threats to personnel.

Considerations may include:

- Threat assessments.
- Protective equipment requirements.
- Communication and accountability procedures.
- Emergency response planning.
- Medical support availability.
- Operational security measures.
- Transportation and movement safety.
- Contingency planning for adverse events.

Personnel should not be exposed to foreseeable risks without adequate mitigation strategies and command awareness.

### Wellness and Resilience

Counter-trafficking and exploitation-related work places significant psychological demands upon personnel.

Repeated exposure to traumatic material, victim accounts, violence, exploitation evidence, and high-stress operational environments can contribute to:

- Compassion fatigue.
- Secondary traumatic stress.
- Burnout.
- Anxiety and depression.
- Sleep disruption.
- Emotional exhaustion.
- Reduced operational effectiveness.

GCIS recognizes psychological health as a mission-critical component of operational readiness. Personnel wellness programs, peer support systems, resilience training, mental health resources, and leadership engagement should be considered essential components of organizational capability.

Protecting personnel includes protecting their long-term mental and emotional well-being.

### Operational Risk Assessment

All significant activities should be informed by structured risk assessment processes.

Risk assessments should evaluate:

- Threat severity.

- Likelihood of harm.
- Mission necessity.
- Resource availability.
- Operational alternatives.
- Potential impact on personnel safety.

Decision-makers should seek to achieve mission objectives while minimizing unnecessary exposure to danger. Acceptance of risk should be deliberate, informed, and proportional to anticipated operational benefits.

Effective risk management is not risk avoidance. Rather, it is the disciplined application of judgment to ensure that risks are understood, justified, and responsibly managed.

### Resource Allocation

Personnel protection requires the allocation of sufficient organizational resources.

Training, equipment, staffing, medical support, wellness programs, technology, and operational planning capabilities all contribute to personnel safety and effectiveness. Resource decisions should recognize that investments in personnel protection produce long-term benefits across the entire mission spectrum.

Organizations that fail to invest in personnel safety often experience reduced operational effectiveness, increased turnover, diminished morale, and weakened mission outcomes.

Protecting personnel is therefore not a cost separate from mission success; it is a prerequisite for mission success.

### **Desired Outcome**

GCIS personnel operate within an environment that balances mission effectiveness with responsible risk management. Individuals are properly trained, equipped, supported, and protected while carrying out organizational responsibilities.

Operational decisions reflect the understanding that personnel are neither expendable resources nor obstacles to mission accomplishment. They are essential contributors to the protection of victims, the disruption of criminal networks, and the fulfillment of the organization's mission.

By safeguarding the health, safety, resilience, and effectiveness of its personnel, GCIS preserves its ability to protect vulnerable populations, sustain long-term operations, and continue the fight against trafficking, exploitation, and organized criminal activity.

## *PRIORITY FIVE: ANIMALS*

### **Principle**

Animals affected by criminal activity, trafficking operations, exploitation environments, neglect, abuse, abandonment, or violence deserve humane consideration and protection. While the primary mission of GCIS is

the protection of human life and human dignity, the service recognizes that animals are capable of experiencing suffering, injury, fear, and neglect and should be treated with compassion whenever operational circumstances permit.

Criminal enterprises frequently expose animals to dangerous and inhumane conditions. Animals may be used as tools of intimidation, subjected to neglect by offenders, abandoned during law-enforcement actions, injured during criminal activity, or maintained in environments that fail to meet basic standards of care. In some cases, the treatment of animals may also serve as an indicator of broader patterns of violence, exploitation, coercion, or criminal behavior.

The unnecessary suffering of animals is inconsistent with the humanitarian principles that guide GCIS operations. Accordingly, members should take reasonable measures to ensure that animals encountered during intelligence, investigative, or operational activities are treated humanely and referred to appropriate care resources whenever feasible.

### **Strategic Importance**

The inclusion of animals within the Priorities of Life framework reflects the organization's broader commitment to reducing suffering wherever it is encountered. Although animals are not the primary beneficiaries of GCIS operations, they are often indirect victims of the same criminal environments that produce human victimization.

Trafficking compounds, exploitation sites, organized crime safe houses, illicit production facilities, and other criminal locations frequently contain animals living in unsafe, neglected, or abusive conditions. In some circumstances, offenders intentionally use animals to control victims, threaten families, enforce compliance, or discourage reporting to authorities. Victims may remain in dangerous situations due to fear for the safety of pets or other animals under their care.

Animal welfare concerns can therefore possess both humanitarian and operational significance. Protecting animals may contribute to victim cooperation, facilitate safe extractions, strengthen community trust, and support broader efforts to address criminal harm.

Furthermore, numerous studies and investigative experiences have demonstrated a relationship between severe animal abuse and other forms of violence. Individuals who engage in cruelty toward animals may also demonstrate a willingness to inflict harm upon vulnerable people. As a result, the presence of animal neglect or abuse may provide valuable intelligence regarding offender behavior, risk factors, and the overall severity of a criminal environment.

### **Position Within the Priorities of Life**

Animals occupy the fifth position within the GCIS Priorities of Life hierarchy.

This placement reflects two equally important principles.

First, all human life receives priority over animal welfare concerns. Victims, innocent bystanders, first responders, and GCIS personnel face risks that involve the direct preservation of human life and safety. During

emergencies, resource limitations, or rapidly evolving incidents, the protection of human beings must remain the overriding operational priority.

Second, animals are afforded greater consideration than criminal offenders whose actions have created or sustained the threat environment. GCIS recognizes that animals lack agency in criminal conduct and are often involuntary victims of circumstances created by others. Unlike traffickers, exploiters, violent offenders, and other criminal actors, animals do not choose to participate in criminal activity and frequently suffer as a result of it.

For this reason, when operational decisions require prioritization between the welfare of innocent animals and the comfort, convenience, or interests of criminal offenders, humane consideration for affected animals shall take precedence whenever lawful and operationally feasible.

This hierarchy reinforces the organization's core values: human life remains paramount, innocent suffering warrants protection, and those responsible for creating harm assume responsibility for the consequences of their actions.

### **Organizational Commitment**

GCIS recognizes animal welfare as an important humanitarian concern and commits to incorporating humane considerations into operational planning whenever practical and consistent with mission requirements.

The organization acknowledges that many animals encountered during investigations and operations are themselves victims of neglect, abuse, abandonment, or criminal exploitation. Accordingly, personnel should seek to minimize unnecessary suffering and support efforts to secure appropriate care for affected animals.

GCIS further recognizes that effective animal welfare responses often require coordination with external partners possessing specialized expertise. The organization therefore supports collaboration with veterinary professionals, animal welfare organizations, rescue groups, emergency management agencies, and other appropriate entities capable of providing care and protection.

While animal welfare considerations shall not supersede the protection of human life, they remain an important component of responsible and ethical operational conduct.

### **Operational Considerations**

#### Rescue Coordination

Personnel should identify animals requiring assistance during operational activities and coordinate with appropriate agencies or organizations capable of providing care, transportation, shelter, or emergency support.

Where operational conditions permit, efforts should be made to ensure that animals are not unnecessarily abandoned, exposed to hazardous conditions, or left without access to food, water, shelter, or medical attention following enforcement actions.

### Veterinary Support

Animals suffering from injury, illness, neglect, or abuse should be referred to qualified veterinary professionals whenever feasible.

Operations involving large numbers of animals, evidence of prolonged neglect, or indications of organized animal abuse may require specialized veterinary assessment to address immediate welfare concerns and support investigative requirements.

### Humane Handling Procedures

Personnel should employ humane handling practices appropriate to the circumstances and consistent with available training and resources.

Animals encountered during operations may be frightened, stressed, injured, defensive, or disoriented. Actions taken by personnel should prioritize both human safety and animal welfare while minimizing unnecessary distress.

When specialized handling is required, assistance from trained professionals should be requested whenever operationally feasible.

### **Desired End State**

Animals affected by criminal activity, exploitation environments, neglect, abuse, or violence receive appropriate protection, care, and humane treatment. Operational activities are conducted in a manner that minimizes unnecessary animal suffering while preserving the organization's primary commitment to protecting human life.

Affected animals are removed from dangerous environments when appropriate, connected with qualified care providers, and safeguarded from further harm. Animal welfare concerns are recognized as both a humanitarian responsibility and a potential indicator of broader criminal activity.

Ultimately, GCIS seeks to ensure that innocent suffering—whether human or animal—is addressed with professionalism, compassion, and respect for life, while maintaining the clear priority that human life and safety remain the organization's foremost responsibility.

## ***PRIORITY SIX: CRIMINAL PREDATORS AND TRAFFICKERS***

### **Principle**

All persons possess inherent human value and remain entitled to fundamental legal protections regardless of their actions, status, or criminal history. The principles of due process, lawful treatment, and respect for human rights apply to every individual encountered during GCIS-supported operations, including those suspected, accused, or convicted of criminal conduct.

However, the Priorities of Life framework exists to guide decision-making when competing interests require difficult choices. Within that framework, individuals actively engaged in predatory criminal activity receive the lowest priority for protective consideration when their interests are weighed against the lives, safety, and well-being of victims, innocent civilians, first responders, GCIS personnel, and dependent animals.

This position is not a statement that offenders possess less human worth than others. Rather, it reflects the reality that predatory criminal actors have knowingly chosen to create, facilitate, or profit from conditions that endanger and exploit others. While GCIS remains committed to lawful and professional treatment of all persons, organizational resources and protective efforts are directed first toward those who are threatened by criminal conduct rather than those responsible for creating that threat.

The Priorities of Life framework therefore recognizes a distinction between the inherent value of a human being and the operational priority assigned to competing interests during crisis response, intelligence operations, and victim protection efforts.

### **Strategic Importance**

Human trafficking, organized exploitation, child victimization, violent criminal activity, and other GCIS mission categories are driven by individuals and organizations that deliberately target vulnerable populations for personal gain. These offenders often employ deception, coercion, intimidation, violence, psychological manipulation, and systematic abuse to achieve their objectives.

The consequences of their actions are measured not only in criminal profits but in human suffering.

Victims lose freedom.

Families lose loved ones.

Communities lose safety and stability.

Children lose opportunities for healthy development.

Survivors may carry the effects of exploitation for years or decades.

Because GCIS exists primarily to prevent and reduce such harm, GCIS's ethical obligations require that protective efforts be directed first toward those facing victimization rather than those perpetrating it.

In practical terms, this means that when operational decisions involve competing risks, the safety of innocent persons takes precedence over the comfort, convenience, or operational interests of offenders. Intelligence collection efforts prioritize identifying victims before protecting criminal secrecy. Operational planning prioritizes victim rescue before preserving offender freedom. Crisis response prioritizes the protection of innocent life before consideration of the welfare of those creating the threat.

The placement of criminal predators and traffickers at the lowest position within the Priorities of Life hierarchy reflects the mission of GCIS itself. GCIS exists to protect people from exploitation, not to protect exploiters from accountability.

## Rationale for Placement Within the Priority Structure

The Priorities of Life hierarchy is built upon three primary factors:

- Vulnerability
- Innocence
- Exposure to involuntary risk

Victims occupy the highest position because they are directly subjected to exploitation and frequently possess limited ability to protect themselves.

Bystanders receive elevated priority because they may be exposed to danger despite having no involvement in criminal activity.

First responders and GCIS personnel receive priority because they voluntarily place themselves in harm's way to protect others and fulfill public responsibilities.

Animals receive protection because they are entirely dependent upon human care and incapable of understanding or avoiding many threats.

Criminal predators and traffickers occupy the final position because they are the source of the threat environment itself. Their exposure to risk frequently arises from their voluntary participation in activities that place others in danger.

This placement does not authorize unnecessary harm, retaliation, neglect, or abuse. Rather, it establishes that when competing protective obligations exist, the interests of those creating victimization cannot supersede the interests of those suffering from it; However, if an individual involved in perpetrating or otherwise inflicting violence upon another person results in serious bodily harm against them via hand-to-hand combat, blunt objects, tasers, or firearms, **care must be administered in order to still maintain their life.**

## Organizational Commitment

Despite their placement within the Priorities of Life framework, criminal offenders remain entitled to lawful treatment and procedural protections.

GCIS is committed to the principles of professional conduct, accountability, due process, and respect for human rights. The organization rejects vigilantism, retaliation, collective punishment, and extrajudicial action in all forms.

The legitimacy of anti-trafficking and public safety efforts depends upon adherence to the rule of law. Every successful operation must not only protect victims but also preserve the integrity of the justice process. Failure to maintain professional standards undermines public trust, jeopardizes prosecutions, and risks creating additional harm.

Accordingly, GCIS personnel and partner organizations shall:

- Treat all detained persons professionally and lawfully.

- Respect constitutional, statutory, and human-rights protections.
- Preserve the dignity of individuals regardless of criminal status.
- Support fair and impartial legal proceedings.
- Document actions and decisions in accordance with applicable policy and law.
- Ensure accountability for misconduct occurring during operations.

Professionalism is not reserved for interactions with victims and partners; it must also govern interactions with offenders.

## **Operational Considerations**

### Lawful Detention and Handling

Individuals suspected of trafficking, exploitation, organized violence, or related offenses shall be handled in accordance with applicable laws, policies, and procedural safeguards.

The use of detention, restraint, transportation, questioning, and evidence collection procedures must remain consistent with legal requirements and professional standards. Operational personnel should seek to maintain control of situations while minimizing unnecessary risks to all involved parties.

### Preservation of Evidence

Successful disruption of criminal enterprises depends upon the collection and preservation of reliable evidence.

Offenders must be viewed not only as subjects of enforcement action but also as sources of intelligence regarding broader criminal networks, victimization patterns, organizational structures, financial systems, and operational methodologies.

Evidence preservation serves multiple purposes:

- Supporting criminal prosecution.
- Identifying additional victims.
- Mapping criminal organizations.
- Disrupting future offenses.
- Strengthening long-term prevention efforts.

Professional evidence handling therefore contributes directly to both accountability and victim protection.

### Protection of Constitutional and Human Rights

The protection of rights remains a fundamental organizational obligation regardless of an individual's criminal status.

GCIS recognizes that adherence to legal and ethical standards strengthens investigations, protects institutional legitimacy, and reinforces public confidence in anti-trafficking efforts.

Personnel should ensure that actions remain consistent with:

- Applicable laws.
- Constitutional protections.
- Human-rights principles.
- Organizational policies.
- Professional ethical standards.

Respect for rights is not incompatible with effective enforcement; it is essential to it.

### Accountability Measures

Accountability is a cornerstone of organizational integrity.

Individuals responsible for trafficking, exploitation, organized violence, and other serious offenses should be identified, investigated, and subjected to lawful accountability measures. Equally important, GCIS personnel and partner organizations must remain accountable for their own conduct.

Oversight mechanisms, reporting requirements, evidence review processes, and professional standards exist to ensure that operations remain lawful, effective, and consistent with organizational values.

The pursuit of justice must never compromise the principles upon which justice depends.

### **Desired End State**

Criminal predators, traffickers, and other exploitative offenders are identified, investigated, disrupted, and held accountable through lawful means. Their ability to recruit victims, generate profit, exercise coercive control, and sustain criminal operations is systematically reduced through coordinated intelligence, operational, and prosecutorial efforts.

At the same time, professional standards, due process protections, and human-rights principles remain preserved throughout every stage of intervention. The organization maintains its commitment to lawful conduct while ensuring that protective efforts remain focused on those most vulnerable to harm.

Ultimately, the placement of criminal predators and traffickers at the lowest position within the Priorities of Life hierarchy reflects a simple principle:

**When difficult decisions must be made, the interests of those who exploit others shall never take precedence over the lives, safety, dignity, and freedom of those they seek to exploit.**

# CONCLUSION

The Strategic Interest Schedule serves as the foundational doctrine of the Ground Coordination Intelligence Service (GCIS). It provides the framework through which the organization identifies threats, establishes priorities, allocates resources, develops intelligence requirements, coordinates operational activities, and evaluates mission effectiveness. More than a planning instrument, it is a statement of institutional purpose and a reflection of the values that guide every aspect of organizational decision-making.

In an increasingly complex threat environment, organizations face constant demands for attention, resources, and action. Criminal enterprises, traffickers, exploiters, violent offenders, extremist organizations, and transnational networks operate across physical and digital domains, often adapting more rapidly than traditional systems designed to counter them. Effective responses require more than capability alone; they require clarity of purpose, consistency of effort, and a disciplined understanding of what matters most.

The Strategic Interest Schedule exists to provide that clarity.

The Mission Categories define the threats that warrant organizational focus. They identify the criminal actors, systems, and activities that generate the greatest harm to individuals, communities, and society. By establishing clear threat priorities, GCIS ensures that intelligence collection, analytical efforts, operational planning, and strategic initiatives remain directed toward areas where intervention can achieve the greatest protective impact.

The Priorities of Life Interests define those whom the organization is ultimately committed to protecting. They establish an ethical framework for decision-making and provide guidance during situations where competing interests, limited resources, or rapidly evolving circumstances require difficult choices. The framework recognizes that while all human life possesses inherent value, certain individuals and populations face heightened vulnerability and therefore warrant elevated protective consideration.

Together, the Mission Categories and Priorities of Life Interests form a unified doctrine centered on the protection of vulnerable populations, the preservation of human life, the defense of human dignity, and the disruption of criminal systems that rely upon exploitation, coercion, violence, and fear. They ensure that organizational efforts remain focused not merely on criminal activity itself, but on the human consequences of that activity.

This doctrine acknowledges a fundamental reality: behind every intelligence assessment, investigative file, operational target, or strategic initiative are real people whose lives are affected by criminal conduct. Every trafficking network dismantled represents victims freed from exploitation. Every act of violence prevented represents lives preserved. Every exploitation enterprise disrupted represents opportunities restored to individuals who might otherwise have suffered harm.

The success of GCIS is therefore measured not solely by arrests, investigations, intelligence products, or operational statistics. These outcomes are important, but they are means rather than ends. The true measure of success lies in the reduction of human suffering, the protection of vulnerable individuals, the disruption of predatory systems, and the prevention of harm before it occurs.

The Strategic Interest Schedule further establishes a common standard for organizational unity. Regardless of assignment, specialty, geographic location, or operational function, all GCIS personnel share responsibility for advancing the objectives contained within this document. Analysts, investigators, intelligence specialists, operational personnel, technical experts, support staff, and partner organizations each contribute to a broader mission whose purpose extends beyond any single operation or investigation.

The principles contained herein are intended to remain durable even as threats evolve. Criminal methodologies will change. Technologies will advance. New forms of exploitation, violence, and extremism will emerge. Operational environments will continue to grow more complex. Yet the core mission of GCIS remains constant: to identify threats, protect those most at risk, and disrupt the systems that seek to profit from human suffering.

Accordingly, every intelligence requirement, investigative effort, operational deployment, partnership initiative, resource allocation decision, and strategic objective undertaken by GCIS shall be evaluated against the standards established by this schedule.

Does it contribute to the protection of human life?

Does it reduce vulnerability and prevent harm?

Does it disrupt systems of exploitation, violence, or extremism?

Does it advance the mission of protecting those who cannot adequately protect themselves?

If the answer is yes, the effort aligns with the purpose of this organization.

Ultimately, the Strategic Interest Schedule is not simply a document of priorities. It is a declaration of responsibility. It affirms that the protection of human life is the highest organizational obligation, that human dignity must remain central to every action, and that those who exploit, abuse, traffic, terrorize, or prey upon others will remain the focus of sustained intelligence and operational attention.

Every GCIS mission, regardless of scale, complexity, or location, shall be guided by these principles.

Every decision shall be informed by these priorities.

Every action shall serve the mission.

And every effort shall be directed toward a single enduring objective:

**To protect human life, preserve human dignity, defend the vulnerable, and dismantle the systems of exploitation, violence, and extremism that threaten communities throughout the world.**



**GROUND COORDINATION INTELLIGENCE SERVICE**

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