**Trafficking in Children**

**Recommendations for effective protection in the best interests of the child**

1. **“First and foremost, I’m a child!”**
   - Ensure that child trafficking is addressed as a child protection issue within a child protection framework.

2. **“Keep me safe!”**
   - From the moment a child is first identified, initiate action to keep the child safe, including active, appropriate to the child’s age and gender, to prevent sexual abuse.

3. **“Who will take care of me?”**
   - Ensure that children who may have been trafficked are provided with a temporary guardian as soon as possible after they are identified and that a child legal advocate and guardian are involved in decisions concerning a comprehensive solution for the child.

4. **“Who will nurse me back to health?”**
   - Ensure that child victims of HT treatment are provided with proper care and rehabilitation programmes and that re-victimization of any kind is avoided.

5. **“Act in my best interest”**
   - Ensure that a framework or procedures are in place to involve a multidisciplinary and systematic approach in assessing and determining the best interests of the individual child.

6. **“What if I cannot go back home?”**
   - Trafficked children who are deemed unable to return home should be provided with specialized safe accommodation from the moment of first identification.

7. **“What if I come from another country?”**
   - **RETURN REPATRIATION**
     - Before taking a decision on the return of a trafficked child to their country, risk and security assessment must be carried out.
   - Food points to deal with social enquiries about trafficked children should be appointed in a central government agency.
   - Adequate resources should be provided to respond promptly to requests for a social inquiry about a trafficked child.

8. **“I’m the victim, not the offender”**
   - Ensure that trafficked children are not delinked; restrictions should only be imposed on a child as a last resort.