

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL

STATEMENT ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS A HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE

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EMPOWERING WOMEN
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Trafficking in persons is a violation of human rights

Trafficking in persons (also known as human trafficking) is a heinous crime and an abuse of human rights. It is commonly defined as the use of violence, deception or coercion to transport, recruit or harbor people in order to exploit them for purposes such as forced prostitution, forced labor, criminality, marriage or organ removal.

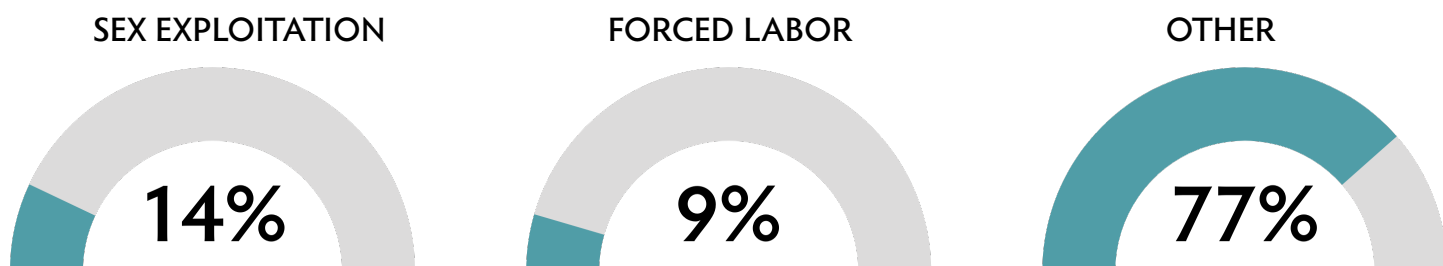
Each year, thousands of women, men and children (victims) fall into the hands of traffickers in their own countries and abroad.

Every country in the world is affected by human trafficking and migrant smuggling, either as a country of origin, transit or destination for victims, depending on diverse economic, cultural and historical factors including, but not limited to, gender discrimination, poverty and lack of education.

Perpetrators of human trafficking target the marginalized and the impoverished, entrapping victims, the majority of whom are women and girls, for sexual exploitation, forced labor, domestic service, and other forms of exploitation.

Migrants account for a significant share of the detected victims in most regions. Undocumented migrants and people who are in desperate need of employment are also vulnerable. Traffickers often present an opportunity to transport someone into a country but then force the person into an exploitative situation.

SHARE OF FORMS OF EXPLOITATION AMONG ADULT WOMEN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS



Source: Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2020 UNDOC Research



TRAFFICKING DEFINED

The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons defines trafficking in persons as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery, or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.

*Palermo Protocol, Council of Europe, United Nations 2000
Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings*



HUMAN SMUGGLING

The Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized crime defines smuggling of migrants to mean 'procurement, in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit, of the illegal entry of a person into a State Party of which the person is not a national or permanent resident'.

Annex II, Article 3 United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

Human smuggling is commonly defined as the facilitation, transportation, attempted transportation, or illegal entry of a person(s) across an international border, in violation of one or more countries laws, either clandestinely or through deception, such as the use of fraudulent documents.

Human smuggling generally involves the consent of the person(s) being smuggled, who often pay large sums of money.

Human smuggling is sometimes used interchangeably with human trafficking but the two are distinct criminal activities.

A person(s) being smuggled may at any point become a trafficking victim.





Trafficking in persons is a lucrative business

The vast majority of trafficking in persons is aimed at obtaining economic benefit from the labor and services extorted from victims. Studies estimate that human trafficking is a multi-billion-dollar global business. Most of this revenue is generated from trafficking for sexual exploitation, including prostitution. But other purposes of human trafficking such as forced labor/modern slavery, domestic service, begging, and selling of organs, all generate significant revenue for individuals or territorial and transnational organized crime groups.

Internet technologies are increasingly being used for the facilitation of trafficking in persons. The use of social media channels and online classified, or free-standing websites has increased significantly in recent years. These channels are being used to recruit younger victims and facilitate criminal business activity to generate more revenue from human trafficking.

“Modern slavery and human trafficking is, unfortunately, a very lucrative business. By exploiting children, women and men, the ultimate objective of the criminals involved is to profit financially. In order to tackle human trafficking, we need to find solutions that will disrupt this business model.”

H.E. Stef Blok
Minister of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands

“Human trafficking is a \$150 billion a year global industry and can't be fully addressed without businesses taking active and effective measures to reduce the potential for exploitation within their own systems.”

Polaris,
US-based national anti-trafficking hotline,
nonprofit organization





Women and girls are disproportionately impacted by trafficking in persons

For every 10 victims of trafficking in persons detected globally, five are adult women and two are girls.

Studies have found that trafficked women and girls encounter high rates of physical and sexual violence, including homicide and torture, psychological abuse, poor working and living conditions, and extreme deprivation while in transit.

Women and girls are then exploited through sexual exploitation and forced labor.

Zonta International is an organization pledged to empowering women at global and local levels, and to promoting justice and universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. Eliminating human trafficking is therefore critical to enabling women to achieve their full potential and live in a world without fear of violence.

There is no typical case of human trafficking, which often overlaps with other closely related crimes, such as human smuggling, prostitution, intimate partner violence, and child abuse.

Report of the Task Force on
Trafficking Women and Girls
American Psychological Association



Eliminating trafficking is a global issue



The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a “blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all.” Key to this is achieving Gender Equality (Goal 5), Decent Work and Economic Growth (Goal 8) and Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (Goal 16). Each of these Goals include specific measures to enable countries to eliminate/eradicate trafficking in persons:

- SDG 5.2: Eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls in the public and private spheres, **including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.**
- SDG 8.7: Take immediate and effective measures to **eradicate forced labor, end modern slavery and human trafficking** and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labor, including the recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labor in all its forms.

SDG 8.8: Protect labor rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, **in particular, women migrants, and those in precarious employment.**

SDG 16.2: End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against, and torture of, children.



“Human trafficking is a prominent concern in countries where the rule of law is weak. It has been nearly two decades since the enactment of the Palermo Protocol and various anti-trafficking legislations, but the crime still remains.

Target 16.3 calls to “Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all.” Hopefully more traffickers and organized crime groups will be prosecuted as countries work to meet this target.

These goals specifically address human trafficking and call for countries to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, forced labor, and modern slavery. However, in order to achieve the anti-trafficking goals, all stakeholders need to collaborate and examine the current preventative initiatives and protections available to victims of trafficking.”

Winnie Wei-en Chu
Human Trafficking Summit
East Asia Summer Fellow



Zonta International calls upon governments to:



- Adopt and adhere to:
 - UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons.
 - UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), Article 6.
 - UN Convention on the Right of the Child.
 - Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (CETS No. 197).
 - Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention, CETS No. 210).
 - Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse Lanzarote Convention, CETS No. 201).
- Monitor and involve like-minded NGOs and civil society actors in monitoring both efforts and results to effectively implement the relevant requirements and measures.
- Take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to suppress all forms of trafficking in women and girls (within or across borders) and to prevent exploitation of women and girls in accordance with Sustainable Development Goals 5.2 and 8.7.
- Support a stronger role for women in leadership and decision-making roles, which will contribute to better and more peaceful societies that are less prone to the threats posed by trafficking in persons and exploitation and shift the paradigm from women as victims, to women as powerful agents of change.
- Train police and criminal justice personnel on the proper procedures to guarantee the safety of victims, protect their privacy and make it safe for them to testify.





- Establish specialized national anti-trafficking agencies with multidisciplinary expertise to address the multifaceted crime of trafficking in persons and focus on crime prevention as a key pillar of anti-trafficking strategies, and to ensure that women's rights are recognized as human rights.
- Involve civil society, businesses and trafficked persons in the development of national plans of action.
- Support business to develop initiatives to address supply chain risks.
- Address the risk of trafficking in persons facilitated by the use of the internet.
- Ensure victims are protected and not punished for acts they commit because of human trafficking but that the perpetrators are punished.
- Engage with local communities and grass-root organizations to raise awareness and prevent trafficking in persons in local communities.

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL CALLS ON ITS MEMBERSHIP TO:

- Increase their own awareness of trafficking in persons and raise awareness locally.
- Follow the monitoring reports of their governments and the monitoring committees of the Conventions and urge their government to implement the requirements and report on the measures.
- Include trafficking in persons advocacy actions in their advocacy plans.
- Advocate for national policies and local policies and legislation that take steps to prevent trafficking in persons, protect victims and punish perpetrators.
- Include anti-trafficking efforts through service to local communities.
- Develop partnerships/collaborations with other civil society organizations who are active in working to eliminate trafficking in persons.

Together, we can take steps to prevent trafficking in persons.