HUMAN TRAFFICKING: THE FACTS

The headline facts

- An estimated **2.5 million people** are in forced labour (including sexual exploitation) at any given time as a result of trafficking\(^1\)
  
  Of these:
  - **1.4 million** – 56% - are in Asia and the Pacific
  - **250,000** – 10% - are in Latin America and the Caribbean
  - **230,000** – 9.2% - are in the Middle East and Northern Africa
  - **130,000** – 5.2% - are in sub-Saharan countries
  - **270,000** – 10.8% - are in industrialized countries
  - **200,000** – 8% - are in countries in transition\(^2\)

- **161 countries** are reported to be affected by human trafficking by being a source, transit or destination count\(^3\)

- People are reported to be trafficked from **127 countries** to be exploited in **137 countries**, affecting every continent and every type of economy\(^4\)

The Victims

- The majority of trafficking victims are **between 18 and 24 years** of age\(^5\)

- An estimated **1.2 million children** are trafficked each year\(^6\)

- **95% of victims experienced physical or sexual violence** during trafficking (based on data from selected European countries)\(^7\)

- 43% of victims are used for **forced commercial sexual exploitation**, of whom 98 per cent are women and girls\(^8\)

- 32% of victims are used for **forced economic exploitation**, of whom 56 per cent are women and girls\(^9\)

- Many trafficking victims have at least **middle-level education**\(^10\)

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\(^3\) United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Trafficking in Persons: Global Patterns* (Vienna, 2006)
\(^7\) The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, *Stolen smiles: a summary report on the physical and psychological health consequences of women and adolescents trafficked in Europe* (London, 2006)
The Traffickers

- 52% of those recruiting victims are men, 42% are women and 6% are both men and women\(^{11}\)
- In 54% of cases the recruiter was a stranger to the victim, 46% of cases the recruiter was known to victim\(^{12}\)
- The majority of suspects involved in the trafficking process are nationals of the country where the trafficking process is occurring\(^{13}\)

The Profits

- Estimated global annual profits made from the exploitation of all trafficked forced labour are US$ 31.6 billion\(^{14}\)
  
  Of this:
  - US$ 15.5 billion – 49% - is generated in industrialized economies
  - US$ 9.7 billion – 30.6% is generated in Asia and the Pacific
  - US$ 1.3 billion – 4.1% is generated in Latin America and the Caribbean
  - US$ 1.6 billion – 5% is generated in sub-Saharan Africa
  - US$ 1.5 billion – 4.7% is generated in the Middle East and North Africa\(^{15}\)

Prosecutions

- In 2006 there were only 5,808 prosecutions and 3,160 convictions throughout the world\(^{16}\)
- This means that for every 800 people trafficked, only one person was convicted in 2006\(^{17}\)

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\(^{13}\) United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Trafficking in Persons: Global Patterns* (Vienna, 2006)


