

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 trafficking¹
 - 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 transition²
- **161 countries** are reported to be affected by human trafficking by being a source, transit or destination count³
- People are reported to be trafficked from **127 countries** to be exploited in **137 countries**, affecting every continent and every type of economy⁴

The Victims

- The majority of trafficking victims are **between 18 and 24 years** of age⁵
- An estimated **1.2 million children** are trafficked each year⁶
- **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 girls⁸
- 32% of victims are used for **forced economic exploitation**, of whom 56 per cent are women and girls⁹
- Many trafficking victims have at least **middle-level education**¹⁰

¹ International Labour Organization, *Forced Labour Statistics Factsheet* (2007)

² International Labour Organization, *Forced Labour Statistics Factsheet* (2007)

³ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Trafficking in Persons: Global Patterns* (Vienna, 2006)

⁴ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Trafficking in Persons: Global Patterns* (Vienna, 2006)

⁵ International Organization for Migration, *Counter-Trafficking Database, 78 Countries, 1999-2006* (1999)

⁶ UNICEF, *UK Child Trafficking Information Sheet* (January 2003)

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)

⁸ International Labour Organization, *Forced Labour Statistics Factsheet* (2007)

⁹ International Labour Organization, *Forced Labour Statistics Factsheet* (2007)

¹⁰ International Organization for Migration, *Counter-Trafficking Database, 78 Countries, 1999-2006* (1999)

The Traffickers

- 52% of those recruiting victims are men, 42% are women and 6% are both men and women¹¹
- In 54% of cases the recruiter was a stranger to the victim, 46% of cases the recruiter was known to victim¹²
- 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 Africa¹⁵

Prosecutions

- In 2006 there were only **5,808 prosecutions** and **3,160 convictions** throughout the world¹⁶
- This means that **for every 800 people trafficked, only one person was convicted** in 2006¹⁷

¹¹ International Organization for Migration, *Counter-Trafficking Database, 78 Countries, 1999-2006* (1999)

¹² International Organization for Migration, *Counter-Trafficking Database, 78 Countries, 1999-2006* (1999)

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

¹⁴ Patrick Besler, *Forced Labour and Human Trafficking: Estimating the Profits*, working paper (Geneva, International Labour Office, 2005)

¹⁵ Patrick Besler, *Forced Labour and Human Trafficking: Estimating the Profits*, working paper (Geneva, International Labour Office, 2005)

¹⁶ US State Department, *Trafficking in Persons Report* (2007) p.36

¹⁷ US State Department, *Trafficking in Persons Report* (2007) p.36