



Human Trafficking – The Basics

Human Trafficking is:¹

- Modern day slavery
- Exploiting a person through force, fraud or coercion
- Sex trafficking, forced labor and domestic servitude
- Happening everywhere, even in the United States and trafficked people can be US citizens or of any nationality, age, socioeconomic status or gender
- Any person under the age of 18 involved in a commercial sex act

Human Trafficking Takes Many Forms:²

- Sexual exploitation
- Forced labor
- Debt bondage
- Domestic servitude
- Organ removal
- Forced begging
- Child soldiers
- Forced marriage

Human smuggling and human trafficking are different crimes. Smuggling is the illegal movement of someone across a border. Trafficking is the illegal exploitation of a person.

Statistics

UNODC's Global Report on Trafficking in Persons³ reports that:

Trafficked Persons	Forms of Exploitation
65% of trafficked persons are female with 46% women and 19% girls	50% Trafficked for sexual exploitation
35% of trafficked persons are male with 20% men and 15% boys	38% Trafficked for forced labor
One in every three individuals is a child	12% Trafficked for other purposes

¹ <https://www.dhs.gov>

² <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/crime.html>

³ <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/crime.html>

According to the Report, over the past 15 years, the percentage of children “detected” as trafficked persons has tripled and the percentage of boys has increased five times.

The Report also noted that its statistics “may be the result of statistical bias. By and large, the exploitation of women tends to be visible, in city centres or along highways. Because it is more frequently reported, sexual exploitation has become the most documented type of trafficking, in aggregate statistics. In comparison, other forms of exploitation are under-reported: forced or bonded labour; domestic servitude and forced marriage; organ removal; and the exploitation of children in begging, the sex trade and warfare.”

The magnitude of human trafficking and its ripple effects are unquestioned. The hard statistics can be harder to come by.

The International Labor Organization numbers differ somewhat, yet are expansive. The ILO⁴ estimates that 40.3 million people are enslaved: 20.1 million in forced labor, 4.8 million in forced sexual exploitation, and 15.4 million in forced marriage.

- 5.4 out of every 1000 people are victims/survivors of modern slavery
- Children make up 25% of people who are trafficked
- Over 70% of those trafficked globally are women and girls

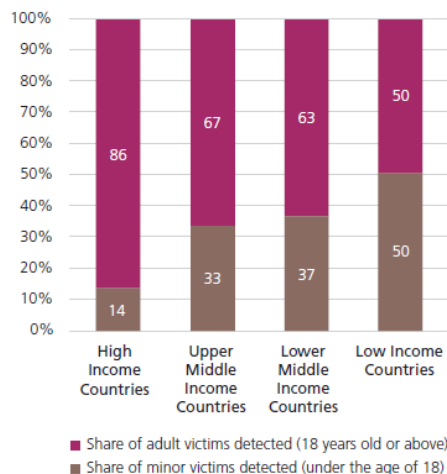
Globally, according to the ILO, 16 million people are exploited in the private sector (domestic work, construction, agriculture) and 4 million people are trapped in forced labor imposed by foreign governments.

The forced labor industry sectors⁵ most frequently documented are agriculture / horticulture, construction, garments and textiles under sweatshop conditions, catering and restaurants, domestic work, entertainment and the sex industry. Human trafficking also affects food processing, healthcare and contract cleaning.

The U.S. State Department and ILO also report that 77% of trafficked persons are exploited in their countries of residence.

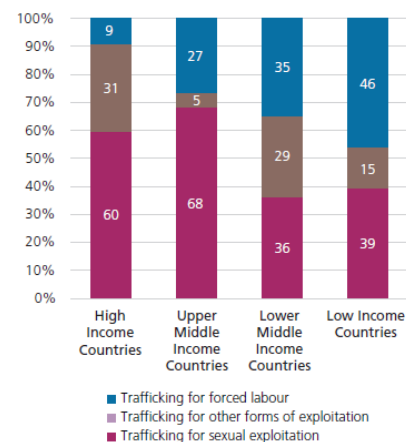
The United States 2019 Trafficking in Persons Report⁶ states that “[I]n the United States, traffickers prey upon children in the foster care system. Recent reports have consistently indicated that a large number of victims of child sex trafficking were at one time in the foster care system.”

FIG. 49 Shares of detected victims of trafficking, by age group and national income,* 2018 (or most recent)



Source: UNODC elaboration based on national data on detected trafficking in persons and World Bank data on income levels.

FIG. 50 Shares of detected child victims of trafficking, by form of exploitation and national income, 2018 (or most recent)



Source: UNODC elaboration based on national data on detected trafficking in persons and World Bank data on income levels.

⁴ <https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/forced-labour/lang--en/index.htm>

⁵ <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/faqs.html>

⁶ <https://www.state.gov/reports/2019-trafficking-in-persons-report/>

Human Trafficking is Big Business⁷

Human trafficking earns profits of roughly \$150 billion a year for traffickers, according to the ILO report from 2014. The following is a breakdown of profits, by sector:

- \$99 billion from commercial sexual exploitation
- \$34 billion in construction, manufacturing, mining and utilities
- \$9 billion in agriculture, including forestry and fishing
- \$8 billion dollars is not spent annually by private households that employ domestic workers under conditions of forced labor

While only 19% of victims are trafficked for sex, according to the ILO, sexual exploitation earns 66% of the global profits of human trafficking.

Trafficking is an Injustice

Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd Position Paper⁸ on the Trafficking of Women and Girls states that “Trafficking is an injustice rooted in dynamics of our global world and current global economy. Structures and systems that intensify social inequality, support patriarchal power, prioritize economic profit above the value of the human person, and diminish the value of social relationships render untold women and children vulnerable to being trafficked for labor, human organ harvesting, surrogate pregnancy, and/or sexual exploitation. Trafficking is congruent with all forms of gender discrimination and gender-based violence, including the industries and governments that sustain prostitution and pornography. OLCGS stands with all persons who condemn this phenomenon and work to eradicate it and its systemic roots. ...

“The phenomenon of trafficking converges with current global flows of migration, patterns of armed conflict and war, climate induced displacement and economic supply chains of consumer goods. In all our work, we seek to analyze and address root causes, examining and unmasking links between trafficking and policies of economic injustice, violence against women, discrimination of the girl child, militarization, inadequate migration support, and the social acceptance of the prostitution of women and girls. We encourage participation ... that support an end to trafficking and promote full empowerment of women and girls in all spheres of activity.”

⁷ <https://www.humanrightsfirst.org/resource/human-trafficking-numbers>

⁸ https://www.gsadvocacy.org/uploads/5/5/6/0/55602515/trafficking_paper.pdf