



European Commission

Stepping up action towards the eradication of TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS



December 2018

Trafficking in human beings is an atrocious crime which goes against our core European values and principles: the right to equality, to dignity, to living without fear. It remains a highly profitable form of serious and organised crime, explicitly prohibited in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. It results in irreversible harm to its victims, our societies and economies. The EU has put in place a robust legal and policy framework to eradicate trafficking in human beings and counter impunity for its perpetrators.

The Commission's second progress report examines progress made and highlights key challenges that the EU and its Member States need to address as a priority.

WHO ARE THE VICTIMS?

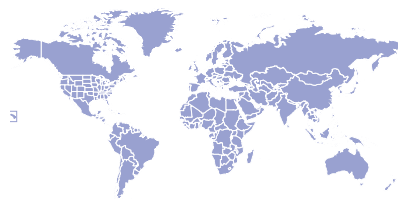
There were **20,532 registered victims** of trafficking in the EU in 2015 and 2016.

The actual number of victims is likely to be substantially higher as many of them remain undetected.



Nearly half of registered victims are EU citizens.

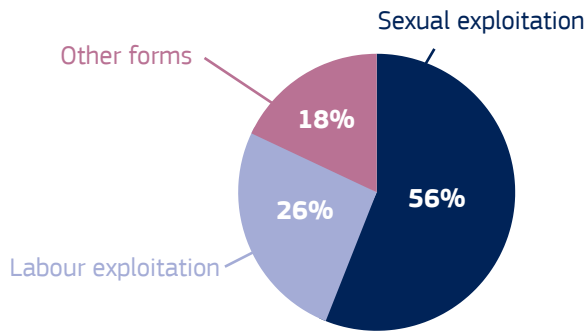
44% of victims are EU citizens, mostly from Romania, Hungary, the Netherlands, Poland and Bulgaria



56% of victims are non-EU citizens, mostly from Nigeria, Albania, Vietnam, China and Eritrea.

FORMS OF TRAFFICKING (2015-2016)

Trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation remains by far the most widespread form of trafficking in the EU.



Trafficking for sexual exploitation disproportionately affects **female victims** (95%). Sectors: sex and entertainment industry, including street prostitution, prostitution in private flats and through escort agencies and internet platforms.

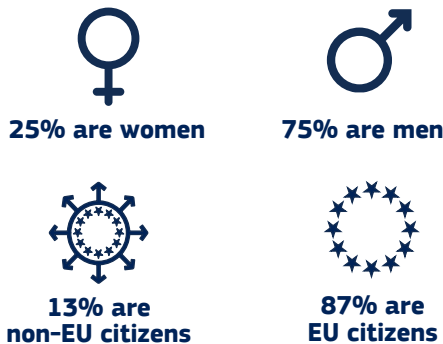
Trafficking for labour exploitation mostly affects mostly **male victims** (80%). Sectors: construction, agriculture and forestry, manufacturing, the catering industry, care services, cleaning services and domestic work, entertainment, fishing, hospitality, retail and transportation.

Other forms of trafficking include **forced marriage, forced begging and forced criminality**.

UK data significantly influences the total share of trafficking for labour exploitation at EU level as 61% of labour exploitation victims are found in the UK. If the UK data is not included, the relative shares change to 65% for sexual exploitation, 20% for other forms, 15% for labour exploitation.

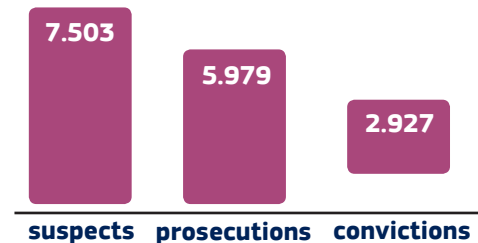
WHO ARE THE TRAFFICKERS?

Individuals prosecuted for trafficking in the EU (2015-2016)



Are the traffickers brought to justice?

While progress is noted, the level of prosecutions and convictions remains low, showing that trafficking in human beings remains characterised by **impunity** for the perpetrators and for those who exploit the victims.



A CONSTANTLY EVOLVING FORM OF CRIME

Traffickers keep adapting their modus operandi; and the profile of victims and the context in which they are trafficked are changing. Emerging trends include:



Trafficking and migration:

Criminal networks take advantage of migration challenges, disproportionately targeting women and girls trafficked through the Central Mediterranean route for sexual exploitation. Traffickers are reported to abuse asylum systems.



Role of the Internet:

Trafficking for sexual exploitation is increasingly characterised by the use of live web cameras and live distant child sexual abuse. Traffickers use the Internet and social media to recruit and exploit victims.



Internal trafficking:

Trafficking within the territory of a Member State is also reported to be on the rise, with 22% of victims being EU citizens registered as victims in their own country.



Trafficking of children:

Younger victims are increasingly targeted.



Exploitation of persons with disabilities:

Traffickers increasingly target people with developmental and physical disabilities, often trafficked for forced begging or sexual exploitation.

TOWARDS THE ERADICATION OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

The **EU's resolute action** against trafficking in human beings has already brought **good results**, notably with improvements in:



STEPPING UP ACTION

Member States should:

- ▶ **Criminalise those who knowingly use services provided by victims of trafficking**, in order to counter impunity by ensuring that those who exploit and abuse victims are brought to justice.
- ▶ Take measures that tackle **all aspects of the trafficking chain**.
- ▶ Address **all forms of exploitation** and ensure that all categories of victims are placed at the forefront of action and receive equal attention.
- ▶ Ensure that **awareness-raising** and **training measures** are targeted and achieve concrete results, especially on prevention.
- ▶ Enhance **transnational law enforcement and judicial cooperation**, within the EU and beyond.
- ▶ Boost capacity for **identification of victims**.
- ▶ Provide victims with **gender and age specific assistance** and protection.
- ▶ Ensure tools are in place for victims to access **compensation**.
- ▶ Address trafficking in human beings in the context of migration, including by addressing **special needs of women and girls trafficked for sexual exploitation** in the EU.
- ▶ Allocate **sufficient resources**, using to the maximum extent the funding available at EU level.
- ▶ Improve **data collection** for better monitoring and policy-making.

The Commission will continue to:

- ✓ Monitor the implementation of the Anti-Trafficking Directive and the Employers' Sanction Directive.
- ✓ Support Member States in improving the efficiency and effectiveness of investigations and prosecutions, allowing them to follow the money and the profits from trafficking, and encourage them to criminalise those who use the services of victims.
- ✓ Support Member States in improving the quality and comparability of statistical data on trafficking.
- ✓ Provide financial support to ensure the development of policy and operational measures to eradicate trafficking in human beings in line with EU priorities.
- ✓ Coordinate and ensure coherence in the EU's response, both within and outside the EU.