

# HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Research Question: How prevalent is human trafficking?



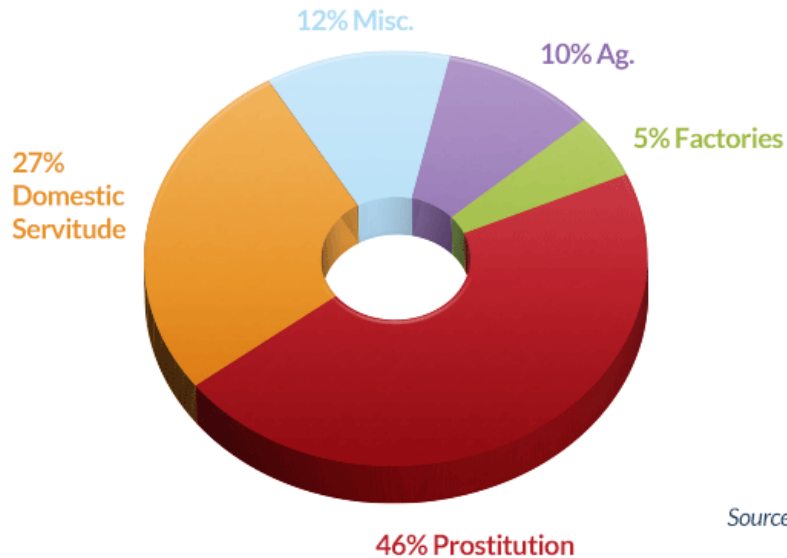
# WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

- Trafficking is a process of enslaving people, coercing them into a situation with no way out, and exploiting them.
- This can include forced labour, marriage, prostitution, and organ removal.
- Human trafficking:
  1. violates international laws
  2. undermines universally recognized human rights& individual freedoms
  3. negatively impacts families and communities
  4. fuels traffickers with billions of dollars in profits



# STATISTICS

## World Wide Human Trafficking Statistics



14,500-17,500: Estimated number of people trafficked in the United States each year.

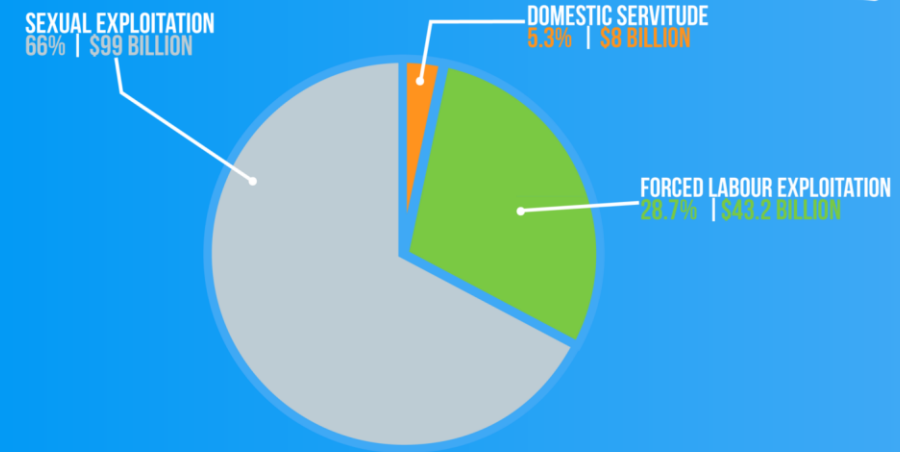
50% of people trafficked into the United States each year are children.

800,000 people are trafficked worldwide each year.

The East Asia/Pacific region accounts for the greatest number of trafficked persons into the United States.

Sources: DHHS, U.S., *Free The Slaves* It should read: U.S. DHHS, U.S., DOJ, *Free The Slaves*.

# THE PROFITS MADE FROM HUMAN TRAFFICKING

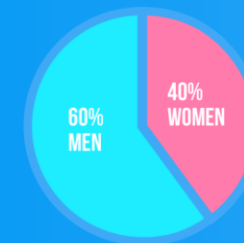


INFORMATION FROM: INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION © HUMAN TRAFFICKING CENTER 2015

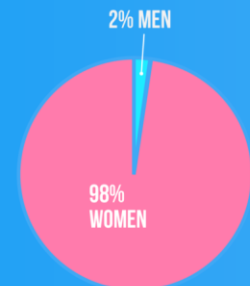
## WHO IS BEING TRAFFICKED?



LABOUR EXPLOITATION IN THE PRIVATE ECONOMY.



SEXUAL EXPLOITATION IN THE PRIVATE ECONOMY.



INFORMATION FROM: INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION © HUMAN TRAFFICKING CENTER 2015

# HYPOTHESIS

1. An increase in human trafficking has become clear in conflict zones.
2. Undocumented migrants, who are unlawfully residing in a country, are more vulnerable to traffickers.



‘How Prevalent is Human Trafficking?’



Budapest Metropolitan University

15 December 2019

**Abstract**

Although slavery is illegal today, it is still practiced in the form of human trafficking. Trafficking includes, sexual exploitation, forced marriage, illegal child adoption and forced labour such as construction sites and domestic work in homes. The purpose of this research is to answer the question, “How prevalent is human trafficking?” and also understand some of the factors that make individuals more vulnerable to trafficking.

### **Introduction**

According to the United Nation's *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children*, defines human trafficking as, "The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring 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."<sup>1</sup> Today, human trafficking has been associated with forced labour, and has become a serious threat to millions of women, men and children in many countries.

### **Global Issue**

Human trafficking is a global problem, which "violates national and international laws and undermines universally recognized fundamental human rights and individual freedoms."<sup>2</sup> According to the Global Slavery Index, in 2016, an estimated 40.3 million victims were trapped in modern-day slavery. Of this 40.3 million, 24.9 million were in forced labour and 15.4 million were living in a forced marriage to which they had not consented. Asia and the Pacific had the highest prevalence of forced labour (4 victims for every 1000 people), while Africa had the highest prevalence of forced marriage. (4.8 victims for every 1000 people).<sup>3</sup> 71% of trafficking victims are women and girls, while 29% are men.<sup>4</sup>

### **Profits Earned**

According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), this hidden crime earns profits of roughly \$150 billion a year for traffickers. The following is a breakdown of profits, by sector: "\$99 billion comes from commercial sexual exploitation, \$34 billion is from construction, manufacturing, mining and utilities, \$9 billion is in agriculture, including

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<sup>1</sup> "Human Rights Commission." *What Is Human Trafficking?* | *Human Rights Commission*, 2018, [sf-hrc.org/what-human-trafficking](http://sf-hrc.org/what-human-trafficking).

<sup>2</sup> Chamie, Joseph. "Human Trafficking: A Serious Challenge to Humanity." *Great Decisions*, 2015, pp. 77–88. *JSTOR*, JSTOR, [www.jstor.org/stable/44214796](http://www.jstor.org/stable/44214796).

<sup>3</sup> "Downloads." *Global Slavery Index*, 2018, [www.globalslaveryindex.org/resources/downloads/](http://www.globalslaveryindex.org/resources/downloads/).

<sup>4</sup> "Downloads." *Global Slavery Index*, 2018, [www.globalslaveryindex.org/resources/downloads/](http://www.globalslaveryindex.org/resources/downloads/).

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forestry and fishing and lastly \$8 billion dollars is saved annually by private households that employ domestic workers under conditions of forced labour.”<sup>5</sup> Although almost every country has declared it illegal, modern slavery still exists on a shocking and unacceptable scale in these forms. This issue impacts everyone. From the food we consume to the goods we purchase, it our responsibility as a community to help eliminate this crime.

### **Underlying factors**

There are many factors that make individuals more vulnerable to trafficking and forced labour. Examples include, poverty, unemployment, gender-based violence and discrimination. Women and girls tend to be more vulnerable due to harmful social practices such illiteracy and lack of education, abandonment and child marriage. However, two major factors which contribute to modern day slavery are: highly repressive regimes and conflict situations. In highly repressive regimes, for example, in North Korea, one in ten people are forced to work by the state. As the UN Commission of Inquiry noted, “violations of human rights in North Korea are not mere excesses of the state, they are an essential component of the political system.”<sup>6</sup> Whereas in a conflict situation, there is often a breakdown of rule of law and social structures. For example, in mid-2006, during the armed conflict in Lebanon, UNODC became aware that traffickers were targeting some of the 300,000 domestic workers from Sri Lanka, Ethiopia and the Philippines who were left behind when their foreign employers were evacuated. Having abruptly lost their livelihoods and official resident status, the workers quickly became vulnerable. As embassies struggled to assist their nationals, trafficking gangs offered alternative options.<sup>7</sup>

**Misconceptions about trafficking.** There is often a misconception that sex trafficking is more prevalent than labour trafficking. According to the ILO, an estimated 16 million people were in forced labour in the private economy in 2016. More women than men are affected by privately imposed forced labour, with 9.2 million (57.6 %) being female and 6.8 million (42.4%) being male. Whereas an estimated 3.8 million adults were victims of forced

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<sup>5</sup> “Human Trafficking by the Numbers.” *Human Rights First*, 7 Jan. 2017, [www.humanrightsfirst.org/resource/human-trafficking-numbers](http://www.humanrightsfirst.org/resource/human-trafficking-numbers).

<sup>6</sup> “Downloads.” *Global Slavery Index*, 2018, [www.globalslaveryindex.org/resources/downloads/](http://www.globalslaveryindex.org/resources/downloads/).

<sup>7</sup> “United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.” *Integrity in the Criminal Justice System*. 2018. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/prevention.html>.



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sexual exploitation and 1 million children were victims of sexual exploitation in 2016. The vast majority of victims (99 %) were women and girls.<sup>8</sup>

### **Forced labour in agriculture**

Today, forced labour is prevalent in cocoa agriculture. Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire are the world's two largest cocoa producers, with their combined production contributing 60% of the world's annual supply of cocoa.<sup>9</sup> According to the Global Slavery Index, in Ghana between 2016 and 2017, 1.1 million adults and 708 000 children worked in cocoa agriculture. Of the million, 3 700 adults had been forced to work, while of the 708 000 children, 1000 of them were victims of child labour. In Côte d'Ivoire the numbers are slightly higher. Between 2016 and 2017, 2.3 million adults and 891 000 children worked in cocoa agriculture. Out of the adults, 10000 experienced forced labour while 2000 children were victims of child labour. Labour exploitation on these cocoa farms continue to exist due to many reasons. Firstly, the average cocoa farmer earns around 50 cents (US\$) a day in Côte d'Ivoire and 84 cents (US\$) a day in Ghana, well below the extreme poverty line of US\$1.25 per day.<sup>10</sup> Although there are increasing profits in this sector, the profits do not reach the farmers. Therefore, this drives demand for cheap labour, allowing an environment where labour exploitation and modern slavery can exist. Secondly, west Africa has some of the lowest literacy rates in the world. Lack of access to quality education means that cocoa farmers and adults in cocoa growing communities remain uneducated and unskilled. Thirdly, given that most cocoa is grown on independent smallholder plots and most farmers are not part of larger farmer organisations, there is a clear lack of governance structures. Lastly, cases of exploitation are rarely reported to the authorities. This is due to difficulties in being able to reach police stations from remote communities to and from which there is no easy means of transport.

### **Effectively addressing human trafficking**

So how do we eliminate modern slavery in agriculture? Some initiatives include: the implementation of monitoring systems for child labour, community education to increase

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<sup>8</sup> "ILO." *Forced Labour, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking*, 2018, [www.ilo.org/global/topics/forced-labour/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/forced-labour/lang--en/index.htm).

<sup>9</sup> "Downloads." *Global Slavery Index*, 2018, [www.globallslaveryindex.org/resources/downloads/](http://www.globallslaveryindex.org/resources/downloads/).

<sup>10</sup> "Downloads." *Global Slavery Index*, 2018, [www.globallslaveryindex.org/resources/downloads/](http://www.globallslaveryindex.org/resources/downloads/).

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awareness of the dangers of child labour among citizens and farmer cooperatives to reduce farmer costs, and set and maintain payment standards. One major step was made at the at the 2017 UN Climate Change Conference. The governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana along with leading chocolate companies, announced the "Frameworks for Action" to eliminate illegal cocoa agriculture.<sup>11</sup> While these are promising efforts, eliminating modern slavery from cocoa agriculture is a long-term challenge and will require cooperation by companies, governments and the farmers themselves.

**Involving schools to help combat trafficking.** Often, the burden of eliminating human trafficking is placed only on the countries where the crime is committed. They certainly have a responsibility, but they are not alone in this regard. Human trafficking requires a global response from governments, businesses and citizens. We all need to work together to end slavery and human trafficking once and for all. According to Moore, while governments, international law enforcement agencies and human rights organizations have a responsibility to end human trafficking, so do schools and educators. He believes that, "social studies education offers the most appropriate national venue for educating young citizens and motivating them to become actively engaged in fighting trafficking."<sup>12</sup> He suggests that teachers must create a classroom atmosphere "characterized by honesty, civility, respect and tolerance and should support any ideas and statements with accurate information and data."<sup>13</sup> Furthermore, Moore states that by incorporating social studies into the curriculum, it will help "cultivate young citizens who will work towards the abolition of human trafficking and other human rights abuses."<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> "Downloads." *Global Slavery Index*, 2018, [www.globalslaveryindex.org/resources/downloads/](http://www.globalslaveryindex.org/resources/downloads/).

<sup>12</sup> Moore, James. "I'm Not for Sale: Teaching About Human Trafficking." *Social Studies*, vol 109, no. 2, March 2018, pp. 74-78. *EBSCOhost*, doi:10.1080/00377996.2018.1451982.

<sup>13</sup> Moore, James. "I'm Not for Sale: Teaching About Human Trafficking." *Social Studies*, vol 109, no. 2, March 2018, pp. 74-78. *EBSCOhost*, doi:10.1080/00377996.2018.1451982.

<sup>14</sup> Moore, James. "I'm Not for Sale: Teaching About Human Trafficking." *Social Studies*, vol 109, no. 2, March 2018, pp. 74-78. *EBSCOhost*, doi:10.1080/00377996.2018.1451982.

### **Methodology**

Before beginning, it is worth acknowledging some issues in researching human trafficking. According to Cockbain & Kleemans, “trafficking is not a neat and precise phenomenon that can be consistently identified and readily counted.” Instead, it is a “fuzzy social construct that exists upon what is increasingly recognised as a ‘continuum of exploitation’ running from decent conditions through to severe abuses.”<sup>15</sup> Therefore, more high-quality empirical research is needed in this field.

The best way to conduct this study on human trafficking would be using qualitative research. For example, in 2017, the Scottish government conducted a study, in an attempt to tackle human trafficking and increase awareness. The research was conducted using a face-to-face, in-home, Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) Omnibus survey - the Scottish Opinion Survey (SOS) - as the method for data collection. A sample of 1,025 adults aged 16 and above were interviewed across Scotland between the 1st and 26th March 2017.<sup>16</sup>

### **Main Findings**

When asked what they understand by the term “human trafficking”, respondents were most likely to say, “transporting/recruiting people for purposes of prostitution / sexual exploitation.” (40%)<sup>17</sup> Respondents were then asked the extent to which they believe human trafficking is an issue in a number of places. (See the table below)

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<sup>15</sup> Cockbain, Ella, and Edward R. Kleemans. “Innovations in Empirical Research into Human Trafficking: Introduction to the Special Edition.” *SpringerLink*, Springer Netherlands, 25 July 2019, <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10611-019-09852-7>.

<sup>16</sup> “Human Trafficking Research: Summary of Findings.” *Scottish Government*, 16 June 2019, [www.gov.scot/publications/human-trafficking-research-summary-of-findings/](http://www.gov.scot/publications/human-trafficking-research-summary-of-findings/).

<sup>17</sup> “Human Trafficking Research: Summary of Findings.” *Scottish Government*, 16 June 2019, [www.gov.scot/publications/human-trafficking-research-summary-of-findings/](http://www.gov.scot/publications/human-trafficking-research-summary-of-findings/).

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Table 1: Percentages stating that Human Trafficking is a problem ‘to a great extent’ in each area.

	<b>Percentage of respondents (2017)</b>
Europe	53%
Rest of the world (not including Europe)	63%
The UK	30%
Scotland	14%
Your local area of Scotland	5%

Source: [www.gov.scot/publications/human-trafficking-research-summary-of-findings/](http://www.gov.scot/publications/human-trafficking-research-summary-of-findings/).

Respondents were then prompted with a list of possible industries and asked which they thought applied to **adults** who are victims of trafficking. The top six industries included:<sup>18</sup>

- Sex industry/prostitution 84%
- Drugs 69%
- Manual labour 57%
- Begging 54%
- Benefit fraud 47%
- Working in private houses 47%

The same questions were asked about **children** who are victims of trafficking, and the top four answers respondents gave were:<sup>19</sup>

- Child sexual exploitation/sex industry 59%
- Drugs 24%
- Manual labour 22%
- Begging 22%

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<sup>18</sup> “Human Trafficking Research: Summary of Findings.” *Scottish Government*, 16 June 2019, [www.gov.scot/publications/human-trafficking-research-summary-of-findings/](http://www.gov.scot/publications/human-trafficking-research-summary-of-findings/).

<sup>19</sup> “Human Trafficking Research: Summary of Findings.” *Scottish Government*, 16 June 2019, [www.gov.scot/publications/human-trafficking-research-summary-of-findings/](http://www.gov.scot/publications/human-trafficking-research-summary-of-findings/).

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In order to further evaluate human trafficking and develop anti-trafficking measures, these studies should be repeated on a yearly basis. Rather than focusing on a certain country, this research should be undertaken on a global as well as a comparative level.

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