

Human Trafficking & Modern Slavery

Information sheet



What is Human Trafficking and what is Modern Slavery?

Human Trafficking is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, and/or obtaining of a person. This is a form of modern slavery.

Modern slavery is the use of force, fraud, or coercion to control a victim for the purposes of engaging in:

- commercial sex acts
- forced labor or criminality
- domestic servitude
- organ harvesting
- child exploitation

Why is this a shared social concern?

Human trafficking is the **fastest growing criminal enterprise** and the second largest criminal industry globally, after drug dealing.

Anyone can be a victim of human trafficking, anywhere in the world. It happens in all of our countries.

Trafficking has tremendous **physical and mental consequences** for victims.

Because of abuse they can be seriously injured, keep chronic pain and they have higher risks on getting diseases. Most trafficking survivors have persistent health problems, included serious mental health consequences.

It's still a mainly hidden crime, the estimated **numbers** are:

- **20 million to 40 million** people are caught in modern slavery today
- **600,000 to 800,000** victims annually are trafficked across international borders
- **\$150 billion** is the amount of profit that human traffickers every year
- **\$90** is the average price of a slave in today's market
- **2/3** of the total victims of human trafficking are women
- **95%** of the victims of sexual exploitation are women

Vulnerable people we work with are also vulnerable to get caught in trafficking:

- Homeless
- Minors
- Young adults
- Women
- Migrants
- People working in prostitution
- People belonging to ethnic minorities



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How can we make a difference?

The OSCE, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, writes in her report *The critical role of civil society in combating trafficking in human beings* that **NGO's are of big importance** in dealing with trafficking. We can be of service with:

- Appropriate and safe accommodation
- Material assistance
- Medical treatment
- Psychological assistance
- Counselling
- Information

Be aware of **signals** that indicate that someone is a victim of trafficking:

- Behavior: person looks anxious, fearful or lonely; gives extreme reactions.
- Physical: signs of injuries or branding.
- Deception or coercion: under control of someone.
- Legal documents: no sign of passport or ID.
- Money: the person seems to have no money of itself; no access to money he/she earns.
- Living conditions: living at place of work, or in overcrowded or degrading conditions
- Social and family contact: limited or no social and family contact.
- Medical: ill, unhealthy or injured.

Furthermore, there are **local anti-trafficking networks** in many towns and cities: working groups that are led by the police, local authorities within the statutory structure, by faith groups or community groups. Check out if there's a network in your city and, if not, if you can start one.

Please join our international [Shared Social Concern workgroup](#) on human trafficking and modern slavery. Let's connect and make a change!

