



WEST AND SOUTH ASIA

—Afghanistan—

The current legislation on trafficking in persons in Afghanistan covers all forms of trafficking indicated in the UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol.

Investigations and Suspects

According to the Human Rights Council, more than 60 per cent of trafficking in women and children takes place inside Afghanistan, while cross-border trafficking occurs in 40 per cent of cases.

Source: UN General Assembly.

In 2015, five cases of buying and selling of women for the purpose or under pretext of marriage were recorded under the EVAW law.

Source: Ministry of Women's Affairs.

Victims

UNAMA continued to receive reports of recruitment and use of children by Anti-Government Elements and Afghan national security forces as co-chair of the United Nations Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR). They recorded 57 incidents involving the recruitment or use of 89 boys in 2016.

CTFMR documented 64 boys recruited or used by Taliban, 10 boys recruited or used by Daesh/ISKP, and five boys recruited by unidentified Anti-Government Elements, mainly to plant IEDs, transport explosives, carry out suicide attacks, and spy.

Source: UNAMA.

–Bangladesh–

The current legislation on trafficking in persons in Bangladesh covers all forms of trafficking indicated in the UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol.

Investigation and Suspects

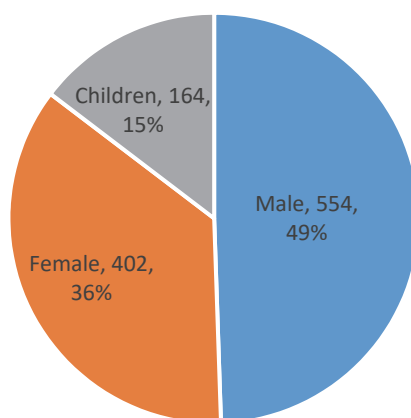
The Bangladesh Police recorded more than 1,000 cases of human trafficking between September 2016 and February 2018. A total 2,100 people were arrested, with one conviction.

Source: Bangladesh Police.

Victims

A total of about 1,100 victims were identified between September 2016 and February 2018.

Victims of Trafficking in Persons, by sex, September 2016 – February 2018



Source: Bangladesh Police

In 2014, the RRRI task Force / MoHA received applications for the repatriation of 1,821 trafficked victims from different countries, especially from India. Out of them, MoHA issued repatriation orders for 970 victims.

Source: Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

–Bhutan–

The current legislation on trafficking in persons in Bhutan defines the offence differently from the UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol, as the purpose stated in the law for the act and the mean of trafficking is “any illegal purposes”.

Investigations and Suspects

The Royal Bhutan Police registered 20 cases under “criminal attempt to trafficking of a person” in 2016. Of these, three cases were under hearing before courts.

Source: Office of the Attorney General.

–India–

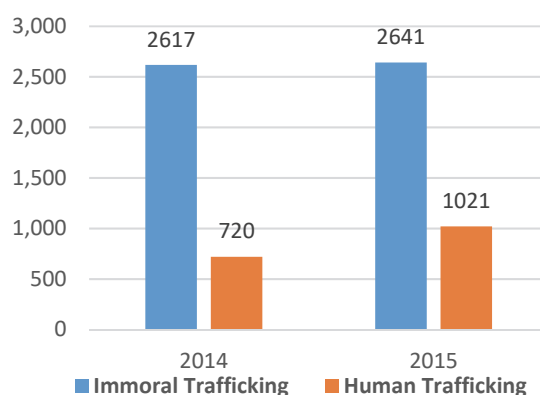
In the year 2013, India passed the Criminal Law (Amendment) -Act 2013 by substituting new sections 370 and 370A for section 370 in the Indian Penal Code, defining and criminalizing trafficking in persons according to the UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol definition. The Immoral Traffic Prevention Act (ITPA) was used, and it is still vastly used to prosecute some forms of trafficking for sexual exploitation. Other -sections of the criminal code are also used to prosecute trafficking for sexual exploitation, including ‘buying girls for prostitution,’ ‘selling of girls for prostitution,’ ‘importation of girls,’ and ‘procurement of minor girls’. Trafficking for forced labour is prosecuted under other offences, including the Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 and the laws prohibiting bonded labour.

In mid-2016 the draft ‘Trafficking of Persons (Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation) Bill, was released by the Government of India, for stakeholder consultations.

Investigations and Suspects

In 2015, a total of 6,877 cases related to human trafficking were recorded. Of these, 3,087 referred to procurement of minor girls, 6 to importation of girls from foreign countries, 111 to selling of minors for prostitution, 11 to buying of minors from prostitution, while the rest referred to Immoral trafficking and human trafficking under sections 370 and 370A, as shown below.

Cases Registered for Immoral Trafficking and Human Trafficking, 2014 – 2015



Source: National Crime Records Bureau.

A total of 824 cases under 370 and 370A of the criminal code ended in convictions. 1,497 people, (1,331 males and 166 females) were charged for human trafficking, while 7601 people (5380 males and 2221 females) were charged for immoral trafficking during 2015.

221 cases (about 20% of the total) of child trafficking under section 370 and 370A of the Indian Penal Code were registered in the country during 2015. Out of 5,003 cases relating to child trafficking, trials have been completed in 384 cases during 2015. A total of 55 cases under child trafficking ended in conviction, and a total of 95 persons have been convicted under various crimes relating to child trafficking.

Source: National Crime Records Bureau.

–Maldives–

In December 2013, national authorities introduced the offence of trafficking in persons in the Maldives. The Anti-Trafficking Bill criminalizes sexual exploitation and forced labour. Previously, the Maldives did not have an anti-trafficking legislation in place. Article 25 (a) of the Constitution prohibits slavery, servitude, and forced labour. Article 3(a) of the Employment Act (2008) prohibits forced labour.

Investigations and Suspects

Between June 2016 and May 2017, there were eight registered human trafficking cases in the Maldives. Out of 17 offenders, 10 were charged and three were convicted. 11 offenders were from Bangladesh and five from the Maldives.

Source: Prosecutor Generals' Office, Maldives.

Victims

Between June 2016 and May 2017, 12 victims were identified: three females and nine males mainly from Bangladesh and a smaller number from Kenya.

Source: Prosecutor Generals' Office, Maldives.

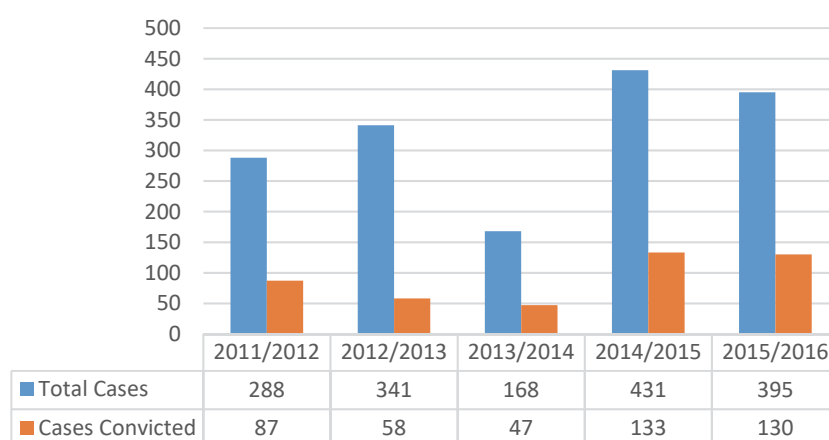
–Nepal–

The definition of exploitation under Human Trafficking and Transportation Control Act (HTTCA) 2007 does not cover cases of trafficking for forced labour or services. These are normally treated under the Foreign Employment Act, which has lighter implications in terms of criminal punishment. In addition, the HTTCA does not include the harbouring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation as a form of trafficking. Nepal has not ratified the Palermo Protocol.

Investigations and Suspects

Between 2015 and 2016, the police recorded 395 cases of trafficking in persons, 130 of which ended in convictions.

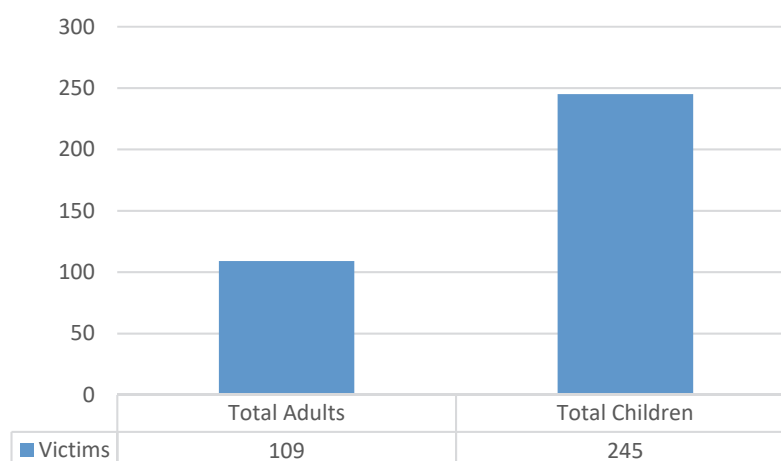
Trafficking in Persons Cases and Convictions, 2011 – 2016



Source: Nepal Police.

Victims

Victims of Trafficking in Persons, by age, 2015 – 2016



Source: Nepal Police.

Overall, 350 victims were identified to be female, and two to be male.

Source: Nepal Police.

–Pakistan–

The parliament of Pakistan has recently approved two new laws, “The Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act 2018” and “The Prevention of Smuggling of Migrants Acts 2018”. The laws safeguard the rights of victims of human trafficking and address the needs of smuggled migrants respectively.

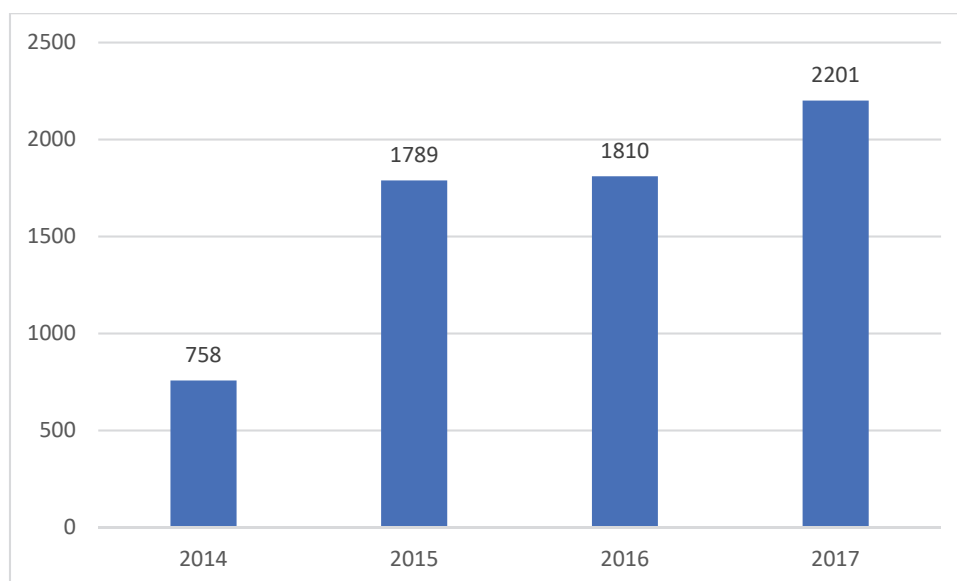
Both the laws are in-line with international standards and are based on United Nations model laws on Trafficking in Persons (TIP) and Smuggling of Migrants (SOM). The Trafficking in Persons law specify imprisonment and substantial fine for traffickers and their accomplices.

Prior to enactment of these laws, “The Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking Ordinance (PACHTO) 2002” was used to prosecute some forms of international trafficking. In addition, the authorities made use of other laws to prosecute some trafficking cases.

Investigations and suspects

The Federal Investigation Agency of Pakistan recorded 4384 human smuggling and human trafficking arrests between 2014 and 2017.

Number of Human Smuggling/Trafficking Arrests, 2014 – 2017



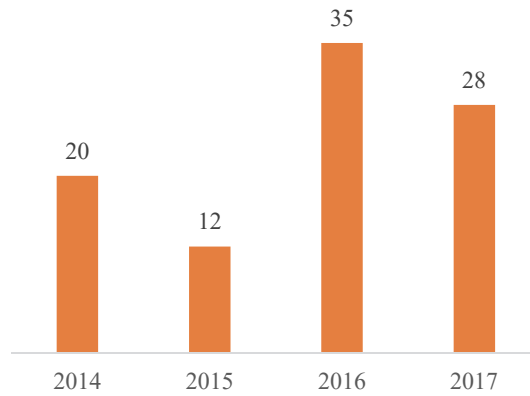
Source: Federal Investigation Agency.

–Sri Lanka–

The current legislation on trafficking in persons in Sri Lanka, section 360 C of the Penal Code covers all forms of trafficking indicated in the UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol and also buying, selling and bartering for consideration.

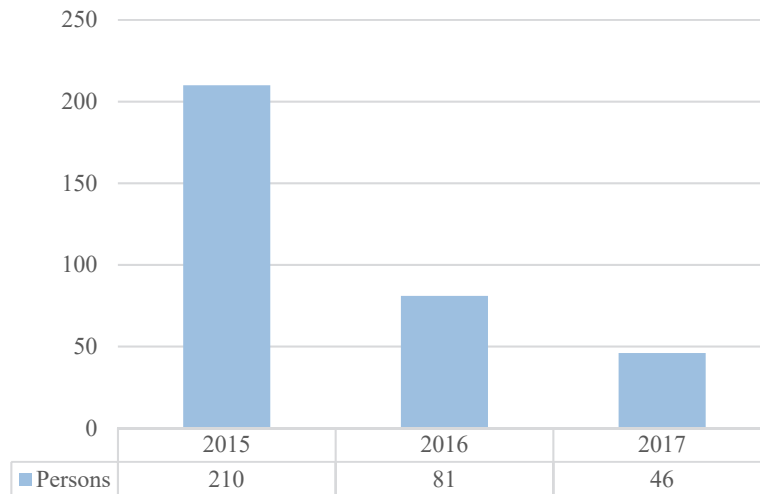
Investigations and suspects

Number of cases of trafficking in persons recorded, 2014 – 2017



Source: Sri Lanka Ministry of Justice

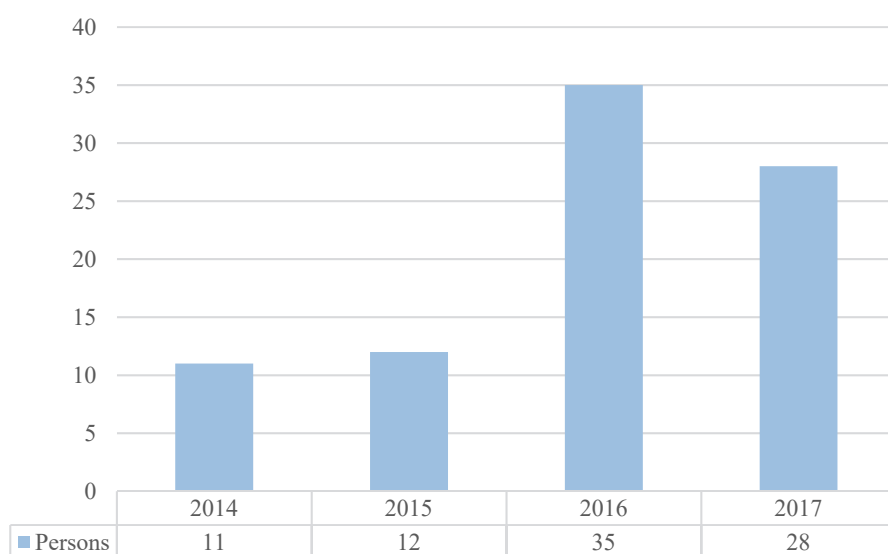
Number of persons brought into formal contact with the police and/or criminal justice system because they have been suspected of, arrested for or cautioned for trafficking in persons, 2014 – 2017**



Source: Sri Lanka Ministry of Justice

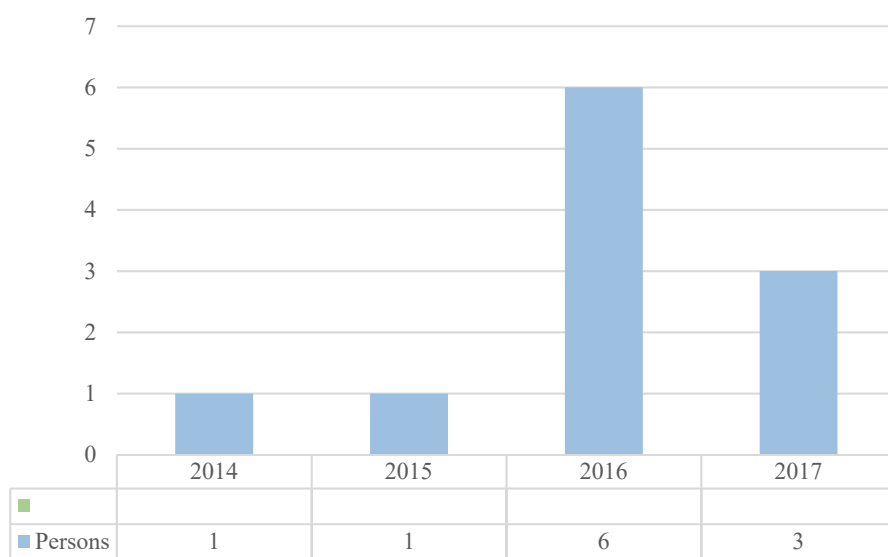
**Note: Formal contact with the police and/or criminal justice system may include persons suspected, arrested, or cautioned at the national level.

Number of persons prosecuted for trafficking in persons, 2014 – 2017



Source: Sri Lanka Ministry of Justice

Number of persons convicted of trafficking in persons, 2014 – 2017



Source: Sri Lanka Ministry of Justice