

2017 WORLD DAY AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS



30 JULY
WORLD
DAY
AGAINST
TRAFFICKING
IN PERSONS



www.endht.org



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



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THE DEFINITION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING:

Human trafficking involves the act of recruiting, transporting, transferring, harbouring or receiving a person through the use of force, deception or other means for the purpose of exploiting them.

This year on the World Day the UN Office on Drugs and Crime highlights one of the most pressing topics of our time – the large mixed migration movements of refugees and migrants. This is why UNODC in 2017 calls for **action to protect and assist trafficked persons**. At the same time it puts the spotlight on the significant impact of conflict and natural disasters, as well as the resultant, multiple risks of human trafficking that many people face. Most trafficking victims are never identified as such and therefore have no access to protection and assistance, which are key responses to this heinous crime.

Anyone can potentially become a victim of human trafficking, no matter whether well-educated or illiterate, old or young, man or woman, national or foreigner. Given that almost every country has some form of national human trafficking law in line with the UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol, the emphasis of a global response should be on implementation of international standards and norms, and enhancing the enforcement of existing national frameworks. What is frequently missing in many responses is the ready availability and application of practical protection and assistance measures to, for example, provide ready and unconditional access to services to help a person recover, to ensure trafficking victims are not treated as criminals, and to provide access for victims to compensation.

There is a need to “Act now” to enhance protection and assistance, not only at the international, or Member State level, but it is also a moral imperative for all people to take urgent expedient action to protect and assist individuals who are currently in a trafficking situation.

THE BLUE HEART CAMPAIGN

www.unodc.org/blueheart

The Blue Heart represents the sadness of those who are trafficked, while it also reminds of the cold-heartedness of those committing such heinous crimes. The global awareness-raising campaign with the same name encourages involvement and inspires action by utilizing what is increasingly recognized as the international symbol against human trafficking. More importantly, for the thematic focus of the World Day 2017, it not only allows people to show solidarity, but it is also a symbol for the moral imperative for all to take action to protect and assist individuals who are currently in a trafficking situation.

UNODC is assisting States to develop comprehensive and sustainable responses to trafficking in persons. Such responses include prosecution of perpetrators, protection and assistance of victims and, most importantly, prevention measures. It seeks to build the cooperation, support and partnership between States to achieve these goals; it provides a secretariat to the multi-lateral discussions and decision-making on these issues; and it manages a UN facility to directly support trafficking victims.

¹ The UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children.

UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTARY TRUST FUND FOR VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, ESPECIALLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN

www.unodc.org/humantraffickingfund

The UN Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons facilitates effective, on-the-ground assistance and protection to victims of trafficking, through grants to specialized NGOs. Grantees identify the most vulnerable victims and provide essential services and remedies, with an emphasis on direct assistance, including shelter, food, medical care, legal aid, access to justice, and psychosocial support. In the coming years, the Fund aims to prioritize victims coming from a context of armed conflict and those identified among large refugee and migration flows. The Fund will also focus its assistance on victims trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation, organ removal, forced begging, forced criminality and emerging exploitative purposes (e.g. skin removal, online pornography).

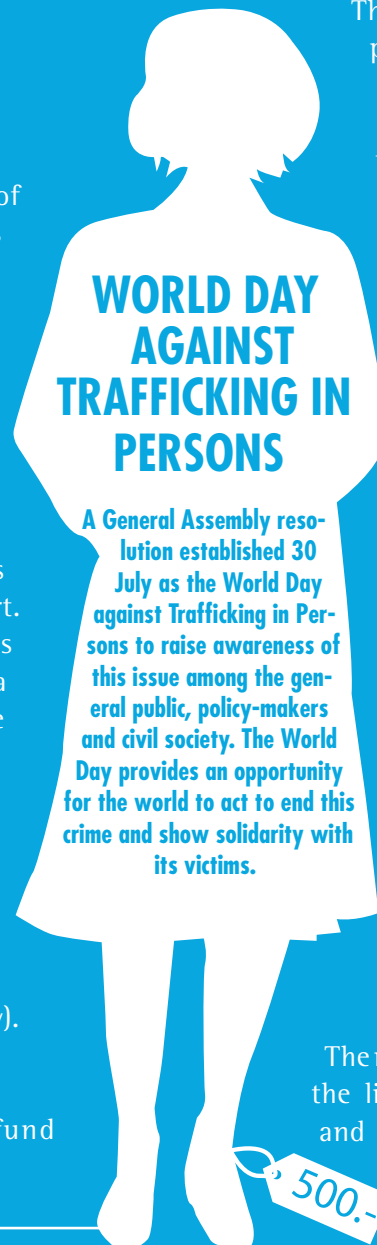
More information is available at www.unodc.org/humantraffickingfund where donations can also be made.

GLOBAL REPORT ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

www.unodc.org/unodc/data-and-analysis/glotip.html

The UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) published its biannual Global Report on Trafficking in Persons at the end of 2016. The Report highlights that children make up almost a third of all human trafficking victims worldwide. What's more, women and girls comprise 71 per cent of human trafficking victims. It also found that while women and girls tend to be trafficked for marriages and sexual slavery, men and boys are typically exploited for forced labour in the mining sector, as porters, soldiers and slaves. This time the report also includes a thematic chapter focusing on the connections between trafficking in persons, migration and conflict. According to data, trafficking in persons and regular migration flows broadly resemble each other for some destination countries in different parts of the world. It also contains information on the multitude of trafficking flows, including within countries, between neighbouring countries or even across different continents.

The report covers 136 countries and it reinforces the link between tackling this heinous crime and achieving the 2030 Agenda's Sustainable Development Goals.



The World Day provides an opportunity to reflect on our shared responsibility and show solidarity with and seek to empower the victims. It is clear that what lies at the core of human trafficking is the exploitation of vulnerability.

An appeal, therefore, to the international community and civil society, on the World Day is to reflect on what each of us could do to contribute to decreasing these vulnerabilities or the risks that follow from vulnerabilities including, but not limited to, age, gender, disability or a lack of legal status.

In the global context of mixed migration flows and the large scale movement of refugees and migrants, no region or country is untouched by trafficking in persons, whether for sexual exploitation, forced labour or a host of exploitative practices. Traffickers continue to deceive and control victims and the underlying challenge for us all, as individuals and members of the international community, remains the same: we need to redouble our efforts to identify and protect victims as well as to disrupt the criminal networks who commit these crimes.



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