HUMAN TRAFFICKING TOOLKIT FOR JOURNALISTS

The Arab Initiative to Build National Capacities to Combat Human Trafficking in the Arab Countries
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List of abbreviations

CPJ: Committee to Protect Journalists
GCC: Gulf Cooperation Council
ILO: International Labour Organization
IOM: International Organization for Migration
LAS: League of Arab States
MENA: Middle East and North Africa
OHCHR: Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
RSF: Reporters Without Borders
SPJ: Society of Professional Journalists
UAE: United Arab Emirates
UN: United Nations
UNAOC: United Nations Alliance of Civilizations
UNDP: United Nations Development Programme
UNGC: United Nations Global Compact
UN.GIFT: United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking
UNHCR: United Nations High Commissioner For Refugees
UNIAP: United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking
UNICEF: United Nations Children’s Fund
UNODC: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UN WOMEN: United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
WHO: World Health Organization

Subregions

The Mashreq: Jordan, Lebanon and Syria
The Maghreb: Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria
The Arab Initiative to Build National Capacities to Combat Human Trafficking in the Arab Countries

The Arab Initiative to Build National Capacities to Combat Human Trafficking in the Arab Countries was launched in 2012, with the collaboration of the League of Arab States (LAS), the State of Qatar, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

The aim of the Initiative is to build the capacity in the 22 member countries/territories of the League of Arab States to effectively combat human trafficking by providing technical assistance in:

(i) establishing national and regional coalitions to fight human trafficking
(ii) promoting the ratification and implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children (Trafficking in Persons Protocol)
(iii) strengthening the institutional and human capacities of criminal justice systems
(iv) improving mechanisms for the appropriate identification, referral, support, and protection of trafficked victims and
(v) raising awareness of the crime and its devastating consequences on individuals and societies at large.

Since the launch of the Initiative, UNODC has been activating national and regional networks of human trafficking experts, authorities, journalists and other concerned members of the civil society to enhance cooperation against trafficking. These networks are the building stones of the national, sub-regional and regional networks that will ensure the sustainability of the results of this Initiative.

The media: key partner in the Arab Initiative

The Arab Initiative is an opportunity to involve the media in the global and regional dialogue taking place to address human trafficking.

The Initiative seeks to provide journalists and other members of the media with tools that will support their efforts to report on human trafficking.
Foreword

Human trafficking is a crime that exploits humans in the most heinous manner. It is, without a doubt, one of the big challenges of humanity. Millions of people are trafficked all over the world, yet we still know too little about it. Bringing an end to it will be possible only with a concerted and coordinated effort between international organizations, the private sector, governments, civil society and the media, in particular.

The “Arab Initiative to Build National Capacities to Combat Human Trafficking in the Arab Countries” is a clear example of the will in the Arab region to work together against human trafficking. This Initiative aims to build networks that will strengthen anti-human trafficking actions locally, regionally and nationally, thus contributing to the global efforts against human trafficking.

In this context, the role of the media attains a special significance. The United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and The Arab Initiative have identified the media as an important player in the fight against organized crime and human trafficking.

Professional reporting of human trafficking is much needed, not only to learn more about a crime that is obscure by nature; but most importantly, to prevent those who are vulnerable from becoming victims.

We hope this Human Trafficking Toolkit for Journalists offers the media a valuable instrument that helps them portray the complex nature of human trafficking in a fair, balanced and ethical manner.

This toolkit focuses on human trafficking in the Arab region, a region where the lack of sufficient official data, as well as the complicated nature of migration flows and labour markets make it an issue that is especially challenging for journalists.

The following sections aim to provide basic tools for journalists to report on human trafficking with integrity and comprehensiveness. Each section was designed to inspire dialogue and reflections, and to be the seed for new knowledge.

This toolkit aims to be the beginning of many stories that need to be urgently told. We hope it becomes a reference in newsrooms and a guide for professional journalists and students of journalism in the region.

Hatem Aly
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This is a selection of terms from Migration Glossary for Middle East Media developed by the ILO Regional Fair Migration Project in the Middle East (FAIRWAY).

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SECTION 1

THE HUMAN TRAFFICKING STORY
WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

According to the United Nations Trafficking in Persons Protocol, human trafficking is:

The **action** of recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, or receipt of persons by the **means** of threat or the use of force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or vulnerability, or payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person, for the **purpose** of exploitation.
WHERE DOES HUMAN TRAFFICKING HAPPEN?

Everywhere.

The crime of trafficking in persons affects virtually every country in every region of the world.

Between 2010 and 2012, victims with 152 different citizenships were identified in 124 countries across the globe.
HOW DOES HUMAN TRAFFICKING HAPPEN?

Most trafficking situations start with the promise of a better life, some also begin with the abduction of the victims and other forms of violence.

Often, the victims are tricked to willingly accept situations that lead them to human trafficking.

Sometimes those that lure them in are people they trust or people who have promised to help or to protect them or their families.
WHEN DOES HUMAN TRAFFICKING HAPPEN?

Human trafficking is a complex phenomenon that results when a variety of factors push people into vulnerable positions, while others pull them into exploitative situations.
**PUSH FACTORS**

- Lack of employment or education options
- Lack of systems and institutions to support and protect families and individuals at risk
- Urgent need of money and/or shelter
- Discrimination or exclusion from one’s own community or society
- Lack of appropriate regulations for adoptions or donation of organs
- Ignorance of how human trafficking operates
- Lack of legal migration channels
- Gender discrimination
- Political instability, milita

**PULL FACTORS**

- Relentless demand for cheap labour
- Illicit recruitment of people for criminal activities and/or exploitative practices
- More and better paid jobs elsewhere
- Demand for infants or babies to adopt
- Growing global demand for organs
- The work of the global trafficking networks and syndicates
- The greed of criminals and society at large
- Existing cultural practices that allow child/forced marriages
- Wish for a better life
WHO ARE THE PEOPLE INVOLVED?

Human trafficking affects the lives of millions of women, men and children all over the world.

But beyond traffickers, victims, and intermediate players, the global dialogue on human trafficking has to involve government bodies, NGOs, international organizations, the private sector, human rights advocates, academic and research institutions, and finally, YOU, the Media.
- Government bodies to prevent, legislate, implement, protect and prosecute violations
- Non-governmental organizations to provide support to victims, advocate for their rights and contribute to the existing knowledge base
- International organizations such as United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to research, build capacity of governments to address human trafficking and provide a platform for global dialogue
- The private sector that can create job opportunities for survivors of trafficking and also promote and enforce ethical labour practices
- Human rights advocates to help prevent violations and stand up for victims’ rights
- Academic and research institutions to analyze trends and provide recommendations to policymakers

And finally YOU, the Media.
WHY IS THE MEDIA SO IMPORTANT?

AWARENESS: Although human trafficking happens everywhere in the world, most people don’t know about it. The media can help raise global awareness about human trafficking.

PREVENTION: Information can empower people at-risk, and warn them about dangers and threats. The media can help to empower vulnerable populations.

KNOWLEDGE: Human trafficking is an undercover story. We only know little about it. Journalism can throw light into the factors, parties, and networks involved. The media can help to increase our knowledge about human trafficking to find better solutions.

HOPE: The only hope we have is to do this together. We need to get everybody on board if we want to end human trafficking.
LET’S CHANGE THE STORY OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING...

...INTO A STORY OF HOPE
SECTION 2

HUMAN TRAFFICKING DEFINITIONS, CONCEPTS AND DISTINCTIONS
The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, is the first global legally binding instrument with an agreed definition on trafficking in persons. It entered into force on 25 December 2003:

2.1 THE UN HUMAN TRAFFICKING DEFINITION

Article 3, paragraph (a) of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons defines Trafficking in Persons 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. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.

2.1.1 THE UN HUMAN TRAFFICKING DEFINITION

MODERN SLAVERY

The term modern slavery has recently been used in the context of different practices or crimes such as trafficking in persons, forced labour, slavery, but also child labour, forced marriages and others. The common denominator of these crimes is that they are all forms of exploitation in which one person is under the control of another. The term has an important advocacy impact and has been adopted in some national legislation to cover provisions related to trafficking in persons, however the lack of an agreed definition or legal standard at the international level results in inconsistent usage.

THE ISSUE OF CONSENT

Article 3(b) of the Trafficking Protocol states that the consent of a victim of trafficking in persons to the intended exploitation is irrelevant once it is demonstrated that deception, coercion, force or other prohibited means have been used. Consent, therefore, cannot be used as a defence to absolve a person from criminal responsibility.

THE TRAFFICKING PROTOCOL

The Trafficking Protocol, which supplements the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime - also known as the Palermo Convention - is the only international legal instrument addressing human trafficking as a crime and falls under the jurisdiction of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).
### 2.2 THE ELEMENTS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

On the basis of the definition given in the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, it is evident that trafficking in persons has three constituent elements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>THE ACT</th>
<th>THE MEANS</th>
<th>THE PURPOSE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What is done</td>
<td>How it is done</td>
<td>Why it is done</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recruitment</td>
<td>Threat or use of force</td>
<td>Exploitation, including:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>Coercion</td>
<td>Prostitution of others</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer</td>
<td>Abduction</td>
<td>Sexual exploitation</td>
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<td>Harbouring</td>
<td>Fraud</td>
<td>Forced labour</td>
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<tr>
<td>Receipt of</td>
<td>Deception</td>
<td>Slavery or similar practices</td>
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<tr>
<td>persons</td>
<td></td>
<td>Removal of organs</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* To ascertain whether a particular circumstance constitutes trafficking in persons also consider the definitions included in domestic legislation.

The purposes of the Trafficking Protocol are:
- To prevent and combat trafficking in persons
- To protect and assist victims of trafficking, and
- To promote cooperation among States Parties in order to meet these objectives.

The Trafficking Protocol advances international law by providing, for the first time, a working definition of trafficking in persons and requires ratifying States to criminalize such practices.
**CHILD TRAFFICKING**

Human trafficking, whether of children or of adults, is a gross violation of human rights. In the case of people who have not yet attained the age of majority, it additionally violates their rights as children, in particular their right to be protected from exploitation.

Threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud or deception, or the abuse of power or a position of vulnerability at any point of the recruitment and movement do not need to be present in case of children (other than with adults), but are nevertheless strong indications of child trafficking.

From ILO, UNICEF, UN.GIFT, Training manual to fight child trafficking in children for labour, sexual and other forms of exploitation, 2009

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING: The Dynamics of Control**

(Modus operandi used by traffickers / recruiters / employers)

- Isolation from family, members of own (ethnic/ religious) community, limiting/monitoring contact with outsiders.
- Confiscating passports and/ or other identification documents.
- Use or threat of violence towards victims and/ or family members.
- Threat of shaming victims by exposing circumstances (physical, sexual abuse, etc.) to family and/ or public.
- Debt bondage, financial obligations or honour bound to satisfy debt. Debt bondage commonly includes the initial transportation fee, charges for food, housing, clothing, medical expenses or fines for failing to meet daily quota of production, services and is recurring and multiplying - increasing with time. The victim can never get out.
- Telling victims they will be imprisoned or deported if they contact authorities.
- Control of victims’ money and other personal belongings.
- Victims are often moved from location to location, or traded from one establishment to another resulting in a situation where victims may not know which town/ city/ state they are in and are thus unable to seek help.
- Create a dependency using tactics of psychological and emotional abuse.

The rationale for using such techniques is to instill fear in victims. Victims’ isolation is further exasperated because they do not know whom to contact for help. REMEMBER: An individual need not be beaten or restrained physically to be a victim.

Exercise

Find the definition used for human trafficking in your country’s national legislation or as it is specified by local laws.

How is this definition similar to or different from the United Nations definition?
Exercise

Write in your own words how you understand the issue of consent in human trafficking? What happens if somebody initially agreed to conditions that resulted in human trafficking?

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How is the definition of child trafficking different from human trafficking? How is child trafficking defined in your local/national law?

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Exercise

Find the minimum age of consent in your country and an example of child trafficking in the news. Reflect on the issues surrounding news coverage of child trafficking.

What special considerations must you have when talking about the trafficking of children? (More about this in Section 4)
THE DIFFERENT FORMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Human trafficking often takes place in the shadows of other criminal activities, e.g., people can be trafficked to commit other crimes. But human trafficking is also present in situations that may appear licit, in different economic sectors. The most frequently documented are agriculture or horticulture, construction, garments and textiles under sweatshop conditions, assembling of electronics, catering and restaurants, domestic work, mining and logging, entertainment and the sex industry.

WHAT IS THE MOST COMMONLY IDENTIFIED FORM OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

Because it is more frequently reported, sexual exploitation has become the most documented type of trafficking in aggregate statistics. In comparison, other forms of exploitation are under-reported: forced or bonded labour; domestic servitude and forced marriage; organ removal; and the exploitation of children in begging, the sex trade and warfare.
Other examples of trafficking in persons, as identified by the Trafficking Protocol:

• Forced (child) marriages may involve an act, means and purpose that fit the definition of trafficking as defined in the Protocol. The act may be transfer or receipt of a person; the means will include force, threats, coercion or abduction; the purpose may be sexual exploitation and/or servitude.

• In some societies where a member of a family commits a crime, a young female from the offenders’ family may be sent to live in servitude with a priest or with the victim’s family to “repay” the crime. The act may be receipt or harbouring; the means may be coercion, abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability; the purpose may be sexual or labour exploitation, servitude or slavery.

• Diplomatic staff frequently employ servants. In a number of cases around the world some of these servants have been recruited and forced to provide labour within the households.

• Forcible abduction and conscription of children and adults into armed forces during times of conflict can also be prosecuted as a trafficking crime. Children are especially vulnerable to military recruitment due to their emotional and physical immaturity. The act may be recruitment, transporting, or receiving a child or adult, the means (in the case of adults) may be the use or threat of use of force, or the abuse of a position of vulnerability and the purpose may be servitude, forced labour, or sexual exploitation.

• In some countries, particularly those with an already established adoption market, illicit adoption practices are becoming more common and can be prosecuted under the umbrella of trafficking crimes. Children may be forcibly separated from their mothers who were coerced into signing blank documents that were later made into illegal contracts. The act may be transporting or receiving a child and the purpose may be slavery or sexual exploitation. It is unnecessary to establish a means when the trafficking victim is under 18 years of age, however coercion, fraud and deception are commonly used on the mother to provide signatures, blood samples and birth certificates.

• Peacekeeping and post-conflict operations create circumstances in which trafficking in persons, mainly women for sexual exploitation, has flourished in the past. The act may be recruiting, transferring or receiving, the means may be coercion, deception or abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability and the purpose may be sexual exploitation, servitude, or forced labour.
Exercise

What are the forms of trafficking that you see reported in the media most often? Do you think there are forms of trafficking that might go underreported?

Why do you think some forms of trafficking might get reported in the media more often than others?
FORCED LABOUR AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Not all forced labour is a result of human trafficking. However, almost all cases of human trafficking result in forced labour (an exception being trafficking for the removal of organs).

From an ILO point of view, it is important to distinguish between, on the one hand, forced labour where forms of coercion and deception are used to recruit and retain a worker against their free will, and, on the other, sub-standard working conditions. The lack of viable economic alternatives can oblige people to stay in an exploitative work situation but does not in itself constitute forced labour.

However, if a recruiter or employer deliberately takes advantage of a lack of alternatives to exploit the worker, this may constitute abuse of a position of vulnerability as specified in the Palermo Protocol. External constraints that can have an impact on free consent by the worker should therefore be taken into account when assessing whether or not a situation amounts to trafficking for forced labour.

Exercise

Write in your own words how forced labour relates to human trafficking? Do some research on recent media coverage of forced labour in your country. Analyze how the issue was covered in its relation to human trafficking.
2.4 CAN THIS BE A CASE OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING? WHEN TO INVESTIGATE: HUMAN TRAFFICKING INDICATORS

Not all the indicators listed below are present in all situations involving trafficking in humans. Although the presence or absence of any of the indicators neither proves nor disproves that human trafficking is taking place, their presence can be a starting point for an investigation.

People who have been trafficked may:

- Believe that they must work against their will
- Be unable to leave their work environment
- Show signs that their movements are being controlled
- Be subjected to violence or threats of violence against themselves or against their family members and loved ones
- Suffer injuries or impairments typical of certain jobs or control measures
- Be threatened with being handed over to the authorities
- Be afraid of revealing their immigration status
- Not be in possession of their passports or other travel or identity documents, as those documents are being held by someone else
- Have false identity or travel documents
- Allow others to speak for them when addressed directly
- Act as if they were instructed by someone else
- Receive little or no payment
- Have no access to their earnings
- Do not know the address of where they live
- Work excessively long hours over long periods without days off
- Have had the fees for their transport to the country of destination paid for by facilitators, whom they must payback by working or providing services in the destination
Because human trafficking happens everywhere, you may come across situations that can launch a human trafficking investigation. Look around your community, think about the people you see around, where they work, where they live.

Ask yourself if you spot any signs of human trafficking. How about the factories near you or the restaurants that you may visit? There may be potential stories there. What red flags should a journalists be on the lookout for to find a potential story?
2.5
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND MIGRATION

People are constantly moving. All around the world people travel, relocate, go back and forth. They move to find better work, to study, to start new families, to escape violence; to return or to never go back. They always move, they always have.

• We call it regular migration when people move using the regular routes and following the established laws.
• Such migration is a human right. Migration for the purposes of working in another country is considered a labour right.

Migration is a controversial topic. The local perception of “the outsiders” can be politicized and exploited to instigate fear amongst particular communities. Stereotypes and false assumptions like “foreigners steal our jobs” or “foreigners are a threat to our values and customs”, obscure the fact that migration makes economies and cultures thrive. The world is full of inspiring stories about migrants and their contributions to society. What are those stories in your local context? Are there any generalized assumptions about migrants? Can you identify any stereotypes in the media?

Human trafficking can happen within a country’s borders, or even within in the same neighbourhood. But migrants, and smuggled migrants in particular, are often vulnerable to human trafficking.

When are they most vulnerable?
• If they’re not familiar with local languages and customs
• When they are afraid of police/authorities
• When their communities of origin have been a target of discrimination and attacks
• If they don’t have a social support network
• If they have just come out of a traumatic situation
• When they are economically marginalized
• When there are no institutions to support them
• When they do not know where to turn to for help or assistance
Exercise

Think about the migrants in your community.

What other situations would make them vulnerable to human trafficking? What are the most common stories the media covers about migrants? Do certain types of migrants get more positive coverage than others (expatriates vs. refugees, for example)?

How does the media coverage impact the perceptions of the different types of migrants in your community?
2.6 HUMAN TRAFFICKING VS. MIGRANT SMUGGLING

Although often used interchangeably by the media, the terms human trafficking and migrant smuggling do not mean the same thing.

What is Migrant Smuggling?

The Smuggling of Migrants Protocol supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime defines the smuggling of migrants as the “procurement, in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit, of the illegal entry of a person into a State Party of which the person is not a national or a permanent resident.”

(Article 3, Smuggling of Migrants Protocol)

There are four main differences between human trafficking and migrant smuggling:

- **Consent** - migrant smuggling, while often undertaken in dangerous or degrading conditions, involves consent. Trafficking victims, on the other hand, have either never consented or if they initially consented, that consent has been rendered meaningless by the coercive, deceptive or abusive action of the traffickers.

- **Exploitation** - migrant smuggling ends with the migrants’ arrival at their destination, whereas trafficking involves the ongoing exploitation of the victim.

- **Transnationality** - smuggling is always transnational, whereas trafficking may not be. Trafficking can occur regardless of whether victims are taken to another state or moved within a state’s borders.

- **Source of profits** - in smuggling cases profits are derived from the transportation or facilitation of the illegal entry or stay of a person into another county, while in trafficking cases profits are derived from exploitation.
The distinctions between smuggling and trafficking are often very subtle and sometimes they overlap. Identifying whether a case is one of human trafficking or migrant smuggling and related crimes can be very difficult for a number of reasons:

Some trafficked persons might start their journey by agreeing to be smuggled into a country illegally, but find themselves deceived, coerced or forced into an exploitative situation later in the process (e.g. by being forced to work for extraordinarily low wages to pay for the transportation).

Traffickers may present an ‘opportunity’ that sounds more like smuggling to potential victims. They could be asked to pay a fee similar to other people who are smuggled. However, the intention of the trafficker from the outset was the exploitation of the victim. The ‘fee’ was part of the fraud and deception and a way to extra money.

Smuggling may be the planned intention at the outset but a ‘too good to miss’ opportunity to traffic people presents itself to the smugglers/traffickers at some point in the process. Criminals may both smuggle and traffic people, employing the same routes and methods of transporting them.

It is important to understand that the work of migrant smugglers often results in benefit for human traffickers. Smuggled migrants may be victimized by traffickers and have no guarantee that those who smuggle them are not in fact traffickers.

In short, smuggled migrants are particularly vulnerable to being trafficked - combating trafficking in persons requires that migrant smuggling be addressed as a priority.

So, what happens when migrant smuggling and human trafficking get mixed up in the media?

The confusion may cause audiences to misunderstand the facts. It may also divert attention from the real issues and be used to justify the wrong response. For example, incorrectly labelling smugglers as traffickers can translate into ineffective law enforcement approaches that disregard the rights of asylum seekers.

What other consequences do you think this confusion might have? Are there any recent examples of this that you have seen in the media?
Exercise

List the differences between human trafficking and migrant smuggling. Do a news search using both “human trafficking” and “migrant smuggling”. Select two sample stories and compare how the two different issues are represented. Determine whether the terms were used appropriately.

Explain how the two terms are different according to the stories and explore how the framing of the concepts might affect people’s understanding of the issue.
2.7 HUMAN TRAFFICKING & GENDER

An overwhelming majority of the victims of human trafficking are women. According to the latest UNODC report, of the total victims of trafficking in the world – children and adults, 70 per cent are female. This compels us to look at the issue from the lens of gender.

A gender perspective looks at human trafficking within the framework of the hierarchical and asymmetrical relationships between men and women, the stereotypes of the feminine and masculine and the judgements and prejudices that translate into forms of discrimination against those who do not fit the form.

While “sex differences” refer to those biological characteristics that distinguish men and women; “gender differences” are social constructs, based on particular perceptions of what a society perceives as the capabilities of men and women.

Gender differences tend to be fluid and vary between cultures. Gender biases establishing that women are merely reproductive beings, inferior to men and therefore should be subservient to men and the state, allow the perpetration of injustices against women. When these biases are rooted in old cultural traditions, women become more vulnerable to human trafficking, exploitation and other types of abuse.

Adopting a gender perspective in the media coverage of human trafficking means to take into account the factors that produce inequality between men and women, including the traditional social roles. From this perspective, a journalist must think about the division of labour, the inclusion of women in the economy and their access to education, and how these factors translate into the context of human trafficking.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>Boys</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: UNODC elaboration on national data

Human trafficking is not a gender issue. Men, women and transgender people all get trafficked. Human trafficking is a gendered issue meaning that it affects genders differently.
Exercise

What are the traditional roles of men and women in your culture/country/community? Can you identify gender differences in your culture? How do you think these biases reflect human trafficking in your country? Are there any cultural traditions related to gender that hinder the implementation of anti-trafficking laws?
2.8 THE COMMON MYTHS ABOUT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

**MYTHS**

- Human trafficking does not happen in my country.
- Human trafficking is all about the sex trade.
- Human trafficking involves long travelling and crossing borders.
- It only affects women.
- Human trafficking starts with a kidnap or violent act.
- Human trafficking involves violence.
- Trafficking in persons is the same as smuggling migrants.
- If the victim consented then it is not trafficking.
- Human trafficking is the same as prostitution.

**FACTS**

- Human trafficking affects every country of the world, as countries of origin, transit or destination – or even a combination of all.
- It occurs both across borders and within a country. Most trafficking is national or regional, but there are also notable cases of long-distance trafficking.
- It is for a range of exploitative purposes, not just sexual exploitation.
- It victimizes everyone – children, women and men.
- Although trafficking is almost always a form of organized crime, it does not necessarily involve organized criminal gangs.
- Most trafficking for the purpose of forced labour affects people working at the margins of the formal economy, with irregular employment or migration status.
SECTION 3

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE ARAB REGION
The Arab region is a culturally rich and diverse area stretching from the Atlantic Ocean in the west to the Arabian Sea in the east, and from the Mediterranean Sea in the north to the Horn of Africa and the Indian Ocean in the southeast. A great variety of traditions, historic influences and geographical environments, as well as different social, economic and political realities add to the complexity of the Arab world.

It would be futile to generalize on anything about the Arab region, and particularly impossible to do about human trafficking. In this region, we find extreme wealth right next to extreme poverty; prosperity and war; freedom and slavery, and many more clashing dichotomies.

Today, the influx of migrants in some countries is greater than ever, while other countries are producing an ever increasing number of asylum-seekers and internally displaced people. These coexisting paradoxes have created ‘source,’ ‘transit,’ and ‘destination’ countries within the same region.

The existing data on human trafficking in the region, as in the rest of the globe, is too sparse to put together a comprehensive view of human trafficking in the Arab world. There is no single picture that can explain this region and its multiple stories. The present section will help you launch your own search for the facts in your own stories about human trafficking.

3.1 MIGRATION IN THE ARAB REGION

Migration has been shaping the Arab World for thousands of years. The Middle East connects Asia, Africa, and Europe, thus offering a strategic location for regular and irregular migration.

Currently, the Middle East hosts millions of migrant workers and in some cases, they even outnumber the indigenous population of some countries. The numbers of migrants have significantly increased in the last ten years and it is expected that the migrant population in the wealthier countries of the region will continue to grow over the next decade. The economic growth of the Arab region is undeniably linked to its migrant workers.

According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), ongoing conflict, economic stagnation, and political turmoil are the main drivers of migration within and out of the Arab region. Irregular migration, especially of vulnerable social groups, exposes migrants to an increased risk of human trafficking.
Exercise

In your particular country, where do most migrants come from? Why are migrants coming? What economic sectors employ migrant workers? Why are people migrating out of the country? Where do they go?

_________________________

_________________________

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Find the official data on migration, including numbers of refugee settlements, temporary visas, etc. Think about these migration flows. Can there be any human trafficking stories related to them?

_________________________

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The Kafala System

The Kafala or sponsorship system governs the lives of most migrant workers in the Mashreq and GCC countries, where their immigration status is specifically tied to an individual sponsor for their contract period.

The ILO Committee of Experts has noted that the Kafala system in certain countries in the Middle East may be conducive to the exaction of forced labour. There is a prevailing practice of kafeels (sponsors) recruiting foreign workers for non-existent jobs and then auctioning off their visas to the highest bidder. The sponsor makes a considerable profit for himself, while the worker finds himself stranded in the destination country, often in debt, with no job, and forced to look for irregular work. These workers are left in very precarious working and living situations, and have limited recourse to support mechanisms and justice.

(From ILO. Tricked and Trapped: Human Trafficking in the Middle East, 2013)

Exercise

How do you think the Kafala system is affecting human trafficking in your country? Are there any actions being taken by authorities or other organizations to deal with the challenges of the Kafala system? Think about reporting about the Kafala system. What positive and negative elements would you include? Who would you interview? Are there any good examples to illustrate your story?
3.2 REGIONAL OVERVIEW

Human trafficking in the Arab region can not be understood as a monolithic trend, but as a multifaceted phenomenon where a variety of local, regional and global factors can push and pull migrants into slavery-like conditions.

On one hand, we have the increasing influx of migrant workers drawn by the wealth of some nations, and on the other the increasing number of displaced populations, forced out of their communities by violence and poverty. The young population of Arab countries (more than half is under 25) also face the pressures of scarce resources, volatile political stability and growing unemployment. The socio-economical conditions that eventually open the business for human traffickers are actually unraveling throughout the Arab region.
The countries of the Arab region are very diverse in terms of their governments, development, population size and labour markets. These particularities are what makes human trafficking take different forms.

Here are a few examples of human trafficking in the Arab region:

- **Egypt**, as the most populous country of the region faces unique challenges regarding human trafficking. Egyptian authorities have identified international organ trafficking networks operating in the country. Human trafficking also takes place in the context of short-term marriages, child marriages, forced labour (especially in the cotton industry) and sexual exploitation.

- In **Yemen**, there have been documented cases of children being trafficked into **Saudi Arabia** for the purpose of begging, particularly during Hajj.

- **Libya, Yemen, Syria, Iraq** present cases of trafficking into armed forces, including minors, as well as for the purposes of forced labour and child marriages.

- **In Morocco and Tunisia** human trafficking commonly takes the form of forced labour and sexual exploitation. Authorities identified cases of trafficked children in **Tunisia** who are forced to beg in major cities.

- **Lebanon** and **Jordan** see trafficking of people into domestic servitude and for sexual exploitation. Trafficking for forced labour also takes place in Jordan’s manufacturing sector. In recent years, both Lebanon and Jordan have been receiving a significant number of **refugees** from neighboring countries, thus hosting a large at-risk population.

- **Women trafficked** into sexual exploitation often come from areas affected by armed conflict within the same region, but also from **Eastern Europe** and **Central Asia**.

- The United Nations Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, has highlighted the trafficking of persons into **conflict zones** to provide services at military worksites, for example, in the case of **Asian** workers trafficked to conflict areas in the Middle East.

- **GCC countries** have been quite determined in fighting the trafficking of children exploited as camel jockeys. On the other hand, recent stories in global media have shed light on the increase in human trafficking in the **construction, manufacturing and services industries**. Cases of trafficking in persons for exploitation in **domestic servitude** is also an issue of great concern.
MARRIAGES AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Although an important cultural and legal institution throughout the region, marriage can under certain circumstances turn into human trafficking. In some traditional societies, custom may allow the practice of forced marriages. These may fit all the characteristics of human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation and/or servitude.

Forced marriage can translate into the practice of “compensatory marriage” that forces girls into marriages as compensation for crimes or debts of the families.

Another form is the “dowry contract” in which the bride has a price and is practically bought and sold through an economic transaction.

Temporary marriage (Al-Mutah) is a form of marriage which is practiced in some Muslim countries and which can, under certain circumstances, lend itself to trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

Transactional marriages are common in some countries, in which a foreigner finds a wife through a marriage broker, then takes her back to his home country where he may exploit her.

Are there any similar practices taking place in your culture? Who is at risk of becoming a victim? Who are the perpetrators? What are the laws in this regard in your country? Are there any measures in place to protect women within the marriage institution? Are there any possible news stories?

For more information on the marriage institution, human trafficking and the Islamic Law consult: Combating Trafficking in Persons in Accordance with the Principles of Islamic Law: https://www.unodc.org/documents/humantrafficking/UNODC_Trafficking_and_Islamic_Law_-_Amended.pdf
Painting a picture of human trafficking in the Arab region is a monumental task, but you can start gathering the elements that can help you understand how human trafficking takes place in your own country.

Find official statistics and other information available about the different forms of trafficking that may be taking place in your country and start filling out the spaces below.

**Human Trafficking in ____________________ (NAME OF COUNTRY)**

Is this a source, destination or transit country? ____________________________

The most common forms of human trafficking taking place are:

________________________________________________________________________

Most of the victims come from: ____________________________________________________________________________

The economic sectors most affected by human trafficking are:

________________________________________________________________________

How does human trafficking affect men vs women?

________________________________________________________________________

What are the forms of trafficking affecting children?

________________________________________________________________________

Are people from this country being trafficked to another country? How are they trafficked? Who are the vulnerable populations?
3.3 OVERVIEW OF LATEST TRENDS

As per the UNODC Global Report on Human Trafficking 2014, the Middle East experiences relatively limited intraregional and domestic trafficking as opposed to other parts of the world.

Sixty-five per cent of detected victims were from outside the region, while 35 per cent were trafficked within the region.
About the UNODC Global Report 2016

- Provides an overview of patterns and flows of trafficking in persons at global, regional and national levels, based on trafficking cases detected between 2014 and 2016
- It highlights the role of the recent massive migratory movements in trafficking in persons, and includes an analytical chapter on how human trafficking relates to migration and conflict.
- The findings are based on official data reported to UNODC by national authorities and represent only what has been detected.

Core Results

1. A total of 63,251 victims were identified in 106 countries and territories between 2012 and 2014
2. More than 500 trafficking flows have been detected.
3. The share of men among detected trafficking victims is increasing. In 2014, men comprised 21 per cent of detected victims.
4. 51 per cent of detected victims are adult women.
5. In 2014, children comprised 28 per cent of detected victims.
6. Most traffickers are male but ...but the share of female offenders is increasing. Some 63 per cent of convicted traffickers are men, and 37 per cent are women.
Most of the victims detected in the Middle East are Asians, followed by victims from Sub-Sahara Africa. In addition, 31 per cent of the victims in the Middle East are victims trafficked from within the region (North Africa, Syrian and others nationalities) into the richer countries of the Middle East.

Origins of trafficking victims detected in North Africa and the Middle East by subregion, 2014 (or most recent)

Source: UNODC

100% is equivalent to 825 detected victims
Beware of human trafficking statistics.

Across your journalistic research you may encounter reports with contradicting information. It is important to remember that standalone figures rarely reflect the whole reality of human trafficking.

Human trafficking is a crime, it is elusive and secretive by nature. It often carries shame and trauma for its victims and it goes largely unreported. So it is hard to find accurate statistical data. It is important to find information from multiple sources, like healthcare centers, charities, criminal courts, border police, trade unions, labour inspectors, religious associations, etc.

Exercise

Which organizations could provide you with recent information on human trafficking? Are there any reports by NGOs that have produced country-specific reports? Make a list of the organizations that could be dealing with human trafficking victims/survivors in your country. Find out if they have any reports that may help you form a more complete panorama of human trafficking in your community/country.
**KEY REGIONAL FINDING**

2016 UNODC Report

- Most frequently detected victim profile: Women, 38%
- Most frequently detected form of exploitation: Forced labour, 44%
- Gender profile of convicted offenders: 75% males
- Share of national citizens among offenders: 3%
- Summary profile of trafficking flows:
  - Destination for transregional trafficking (Middle East).
  - Origin for domestic and intraregional trafficking (North Africa).
- Emerging issue: Conflict and persecution-driven trafficking along some migration routes.
Domestic work and human trafficking

Domestic workers are often subjected to exploitative practices that include working excessive hours as well as physical and sexual abuse. They usually come from Asia (India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Philippines, Sri Lanka) or Africa (Kenya, Senegal, Madagascar, Ethiopia, Cameroon, Burkina Faso) through recruitment agencies that promise a decent job and charge them excessive fees. Upon arrival they find themselves trapped in slavery-like work conditions and unable to leave. The problem is so prevalent that the origin countries of migrant domestic workers are taking measures like banning their citizens from accepting work in certain Arab countries or asking employers for a security bank deposit as a guarantee.

In some countries of the region it is not rare to see stories about domestic workers in the media. Unfortunately, reporting on cases related to human trafficking and/or physical abuse often lacks depth and most importantly, sensitivity.

Journalists may tend to fall into the trap of sensationalizing the crime and focusing on salacious details. Victims become re-victimized as they become objectified in news stories that carry graphic details of abuse.

Stay away from this type of reporting. It is crucial that media portrayals of human trafficking are accurate, free from judgment, and compassionate yet ethical. In the next section you will find more useful tools for telling human trafficking stories.
3.4 RESPONSES TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING

All the countries in this region that have legislation on trafficking in persons introduced it after the entry into force of the UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol. More than half of the countries did so after 2008. With some exceptions, countries in the region did not previously consider trafficking in persons as an offence, and a few countries criminalized either only child trafficking or trafficking for sexual exploitation.

A number of countries now have National Committees to address human trafficking and other dedicated departments within labour and law enforcement institutions.

It is also important to note the recent outreach and advocacy programs carried out throughout the region, as well as other research initiatives with the involvement of multiple stakeholders.

Additionally, UNODC and its partners in the Arab region have carried out a series of capacity building and training workshops to improve the response of Arab societies to trafficking in persons.

At the regional level, the League of Arab States has developed a Model Law on Trafficking in Persons. Under the Arab Initiative, experts from different countries have been meeting to develop a regional forum for the regular exchange of knowledge and experiences.

Universities and legal clinics across the region are participating in the on-going discussions and setting up new anti-trafficking networks.

Nevertheless, information on the criminal justice response is still limited. Very few countries can provide specific data on the number of convictions, and when such figures are available, they are generally very low, with a couple of exceptions.
The National Action Plan

Usually the cornerstone of a country’s strategy against human trafficking is its National Action Plan or National Plan of Action. The drafting of this document is the result of a serious assessment of the issue and wide consultations involving different sectors of society, including the media.

These documents are also a great source of stories since they outline the main challenges in combating trafficking and the main actors involved. They should give you an indication of where your country stands and where it is going.

The National Action Plan is a great way to begin to understand human trafficking at the national level. Find out about the National Action Plan for your country and investigate whether the media has any role in it. Do you think the Plan is adequate for your country? Are there any important issues left out? How about the resources to implement the plan—have they been allocated? What about results? How do you think the Plan can improve?

Think of more hypothetical questions like the previous ones. The list may get you some story ideas.
Exercise

Investigate how the legislation enacted in your country to combat trafficking is implemented on the ground level. What data is available regarding convictions, criminal investigations, labour and migration statistics, and health indicators?

Is the implementation of legislation a problem? How are the results of actions against human trafficking being measured?
3.5 LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE ARAB REGION

• In 2004 the Arab League adopted the Arab Charter on Human Rights, which prohibits all forced labour and human trafficking:
  • Article 9 prohibits trafficking in human organs and trafficking for the use of “medical experimentation.”
  • Article 20 prohibits “all forms of slavery and trafficking in human beings.
• The Arab Convention on Combating Transnational Organized Crime of 2012 also addresses human trafficking and calls upon States to take the necessary measures in their domestic laws to criminalize any act committed by an organized criminal group including the act of human trafficking (Article 11) and trafficking in human organs (Article 12).
• The Council of the Arab Ministers of Justice in 2005 and the Council of the Arab Ministers of Interior in 2006, adopted the Arab Guiding Law on Human Trafficking (Model Law to Combat the Crime of Trafficking in Persons), which follows the definition of trafficking contained in the Palermo Protocol and provides principles and assistance to countries in drafting national anti-trafficking legislation.

Human Trafficking and Islamic Law

Islamic law, though it does not specifically prohibit trafficking in persons, explicitly prohibits many of the acts and elements that constitute trafficking in persons. Islam is particularly explicit on the prohibition of slavery. Similarly, Islam prohibits sexual exploitation for profit. Likewise, the institution of domestic service is common in many Muslim countries and, though not prohibited per se, may constitute a form of trafficking for the purpose of labor if it entails exploitation under the sponsorship rule, as Islam is deeply respectful of the rights of the worker, and emphasizes the centrality of honoring contracts, the breach of which is considered a grave offense.

From Combating Trafficking in Persons in Accordance with the Principles of Islamic Law: https://www.unodc.org/documents/humantrafficking/UNODC_Trafficking_and_Islamic_Law_-_Amended.pdf
EXERCISE: Check if/when your country ratified the UN Human Trafficking Protocol. If your country has ratified the Protocol what actions have followed?

How is your country translating international law into national legislation? Are there any discrepancies? How do they reflect the reality of human trafficking in your country?
3.6
THE ARAB INITIATIVE: MORE ACTIONS AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE REGION

- UNODC in collaboration with the league of Arab states and the state of Qatar launched the “Arab Initiative for Building National Capacities to Combat Human Trafficking” in March 2010.

- Since the launch of the Arab Initiative, UNODC has organized sixteen capacity-building activities with the participation of more than 800 people, including professionals from law enforcement agencies, criminal justice practitioners, members of national committees to combat human trafficking, legislators, social workers and media representatives from the entire Arab region.

- A series of research projects have also been launched under the Initiative to assess the current state of services available for victims and witnesses of trafficking. These studies will help highlight useful best practices on victim care and protection, to improve the legal and regulatory framework on combating human trafficking in the Arab region.

- The partners of the Arab Initiative work in close collaboration with various specialized UN agencies and international organizations to collect and share best practices, lessons learnt, methodologies and tools available.
Exercise

Prepare a list of the relevant government bodies/ initiatives/committees in your country that are dedicated to the fight against human trafficking. Find out about their objectives and activities.

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Choose one project in particular and outline different ways you could turn this into a news story.

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SECTION 4

TELLING STORIES ABOUT HUMAN TRAFFICKING
Storytelling is sort of a special human super power. When used properly, it becomes a powerful tool that helps us understand each other better. The power of storytelling can strengthen our communities and restore the dignity of those who may have been abused. Stories can be excellent vehicles to give a voice to the most vulnerable, and to break the misconceptions and stereotypes that dehumanize people and perpetuate human trafficking.

The media mirror societies and carry their stories. In the story of human trafficking, the media are more than just the observers. They are also the protagonists that can change its course. The media can definitely propagate messages to increase public support and involvement to fight human trafficking. But beyond spreading the news and building mass awareness, the media can also help gather data on human trafficking. Effective reporting on trafficking in persons is critical to uncover a crime that is usually hidden.

Today, more than ever, data is needed to understand the full scope of human trafficking in the region. More and better information is necessary to coordinate and improve the anti-trafficking programmes taking place regionally and globally. The more we know, the better we can respond. Information is key. Information can indeed help prevent human trafficking.

### 4.1 SOURCES GUIDELINES: FINDING AND HANDLING SOURCES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRIMARY SOURCES</th>
<th>SECONDARY SOURCES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Information Officers/ Spokespeople</td>
<td>United Nations documents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experts/Academics</td>
<td>Government department reports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activists/ Civil Society Organization representatives/advocates</td>
<td>News archives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Witnesses</td>
<td>Press releases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alleged Perpetrators</td>
<td>Publications from relevant NGOs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survivors of trafficking</td>
<td>Specialized books and academic journals</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• **Interviews** are the primary source and main tool for a journalist, offering first hand information. Rather than relying on secondary sources such as a press release or report, journalists should attempt to conduct interviews whenever possible.

• **Comprehensive reporting** on human trafficking puts together all the pieces of the story and it has to take into account all the different actors. Interviews with all the stakeholders may be necessary for the complete picture, although not always possible. Use your journalistic judgment to go as far as possible.

• **Accurate and complete data** on human trafficking, especially in the Middle East, is elusive. Secondary sources of data should be independently verified. Take advantage of experts and knowledgeable professionals in the field to cross check secondary sources.

• **Find out more about your sources.** In the case of primary sources, the more you know about somebody you interview, the better the quality of the questions you can ask. When dealing with secondary sources it is advisable to find information about the publisher and/or authors, in order to assess the quality of their data.

• Sources should be handled in an open and **respectful manner**, irrespective of personal opinion, who they are or what they may have done.

• Stories should always be **corroborated**. Official sources usually speak on behalf of institutions, giving the official line, which can be one-sided. Solely relying on official sources is inadvisable.

• **Non-governmental organizations (NGOs)** are a vital part of the fight against human trafficking, and a good source of ground-level knowledge. However, it is important to detect any biases, and to examine agendas in relation to their funding models.

• A list of reliable secondary sources is provided in the ‘Resources’ section of this toolkit.

**DATA IN CONTEXT**

People are impacted by stories about other people, stories they can relate to. When working on a story about human trafficking, it is very important to search for **reliable statistics** and to **gather accurate data**. However, the actual numbers may be irrelevant to the impact of the story. It seems that audiences “do not register numbers”, but rather respond to the **emotional impact** of the context of those numbers. Keep this in mind when using information from statistical reports, and other official and legal documents.
4.2
How to interview victims / survivors

Victims or Survivors?

Those who have been trafficked have been the victims of the worst of crimes and have suffered a gross violation of their human rights. But not all of them wish to be forever called victims. They may rather be called survivors.

Their personal story is not defined by what happened to them, but by how they overcame it. Breaking away from the victim narrative, the stories about survivors can be empowering and inspiring. There are survivors who, after enduring the most tragic circumstances have recovered and regained their power by speaking publicly against human trafficking.

Not sure whether to call your interviewee victim or survivor? Often survivors will refer to themselves as such. It is always advisable to refer to someone however they may prefer. When in doubt, ask and discuss with your peers and editors.

Always make sure to protect the anonymity of survivors, unless you are interviewing a public advocate who may have chosen to reveal their identity. These cases are exceptional.
INTERVIEWING GUIDELINES FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS

Personal interviews with human trafficking victims/survivors are rare but when conducted should be done with the utmost respect and sensitivity.

- Always begin by introducing yourself and explaining why you are telling their story and how their story will be used.

- Even if they do not expressly ask for anonymity, explain to them that the story may be widely publicized and talk to them about the reasons to protect their anonymity and the possible risks. You must protect their name and appearance, as well as any other details that may identify them.

- Some trafficked persons may be survivors of rape or torture. Maintain extra sensitivity and prepare yourself in advance.

- Never interview someone who is evidently in shock or hysterical. If someone seems too fragile or emotional during an interview, make pauses whenever you think is needed and restart if/when conditions allow.

- Always remain calm and present, as your own emotions may trigger memories. When phrasing your questions, be aware of any expressions or attitudes that may seem judgmental.

- Start with an open-ended question, such as “Tell me about your experience,” to give them the opportunity to steer the conversation towards what they are comfortable with.

- Let them know and feel that is ok to decline to answer questions they are not comfortable answering. Do your research to avoid unnecessary questions.

- Do not record conversations without obtaining consent and explain that only those parts of the story will be published that they’re comfortable with.
OTHER CASES FOR ANONYMITY

Witnesses who are afraid to denounce a crime, alleged criminals who may explain their modus operandi, a government official keen to expose systemic faults, a whistleblower...they may all request anonymity for a valid reason such as to protect their own lives, their reputations or their jobs.

If you chose to use these kind of sources, take in to account that you will have to independently corroborate the information provided and the authenticity of documents and other evidence received.

Keep in mind they are placing their trust in you and their identities must be protected, unless doing so would result in the commission of a crime, injury or death. If you have any doubts about how safe you can keep their identity, let them know at the outset to see if they still agree to this limitations, or avoid offering anonymity at all.

It is also advisable to be cautious when identifying suspects of crime. This is particularly sensitive in cases involving minors and/or cases of sexual abuse. Suspects may be innocent after all. Outing them as criminals may cause long lasting harm to their reputations. Calling someone a criminal who has only been accused of a crime but not actually charged in a criminal court, may even lead to libel and/or slander lawsuits against you or your news organization.

Keep these issues in mind and discuss the current practices with your peers and editors.
4.3 HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND CHILDREN

Reporting on human trafficking stories involving children and young people presents special challenges for journalists. In fact, unethical or inappropriate coverage places children at great risk. The identification of children as victims of trafficking may result in the stigmatization of the children and their communities. Furthermore, it may even put them at risk of physical harm.

Working with issues around children is always a sensitive task. Be extra careful when choosing images to illustrate a story. Make sure the children portrayed are done so with dignity. Always ask yourself if and how the images help the understanding of the issue? And how the story and the image may affect the children involved and their families?

Guidelines for reporting on children

When covering human trafficking, it is important to keep in mind the best interest of the children involved, and to protect their dignity and rights at all times. UNICEF, the UN agency mandated with the protection of children’s rights has issued the following ethical guidelines for the reporting on children:

1. Do not further stigmatize any child; avoid categorisations or descriptions that expose a child to negative reprisals - including additional physical or psychological harm, or to lifelong abuse, discrimination or rejection by their local communities.

2. Always provide an accurate context for the child’s story or image.

3. Always change the name and obscure the visual identity of any child who is identified as:
   - A victim of sexual abuse or exploitation,
   - A perpetrator of physical or sexual abuse,
   - HIV positive, or living with AIDS, unless the child, a parent or a guardian gives fully informed consent,
   - Charged or convicted of a crime.

4. In certain circumstances of risk or potential risk of harm or retribution, change the name and obscure the visual identity of any child who is identified as:
   - A current or former child combatant,
   - An asylum seeker, a refugee or an internal displaced person.

5. In certain cases, using a child’s identity - their name and/or recognizable image - is in the child’s best interests. However, when the child’s identity is used, they must still be protected against harm and supported through any stigmatization or reprisals.
4.4 GUIDELINES FOR SELF-PROTECTION AND DATA-PROTECTION

Journalism remains a dangerous profession in many countries where organized crime and corrupt authorities threaten the life and the work of those who seek to uncover the truth. Human trafficking is a crime and investigative reporting into the issue can sometimes be risky. Adequate measures should be taken to ensure personal safety and to protect one’s information and sources.

The Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime lists the following guidelines for investigative journalists covering organized crime, corruption and governance that may be applicable to reporting on human trafficking:

**Work in collaboration**

It’s a classic case of ‘safety in numbers’ where journalists from different media outlets working together in collaboration helps minimize danger, not just at the time of reporting but also after publishing.

**Do a basic risk assessment beforehand**

Extensive research must be carried out before conducting the story to assess the risks involved, and to formulate a safety plan in case things go wrong. Journalists should always consult their editors for advice on safety concerns for a potentially dangerous story.

**Make links with law enforcement**

Journalists should establish link with law enforcement personnel at the start of a story, with the exception of cases where there is suspicion that law enforcement may be corrupt or complicit in trafficking.

**Research the environment**

Journalists should know the best (safest) locations to meet sources, and should research crime rates and safe routes in the area they are conducting their investigation in.

**Know the relevant laws**

Journalists should be well versed with laws regarding freedom of expression, privacy, and press rights.
Establish clear channels of communication

Proper and reliable channels of communication between journalists and their editors should be clearly discussed and established while reporting from dangerous locations.

Sources

A credible document goes a long way as evidence. Wherever possible, documentation must be collected to bolster the story. Documents should be collected from as many different sources as possible so as not to put any one particular person in danger.

Approaching unfriendly individuals

Sometimes a journalist might be attempting to establish contact with a person or group suspected of organized trafficking. In such situations it is imperative to take precautions while meeting them. They should be met in public spaces, preferably with a colleague, and it should be made clear that several different reporters are working on the story.

Dealing with threats and surveillance

Threats should be taken seriously and immediately reported to the editor, trusted colleagues and to law enforcement agencies. In case of serious threats to life, temporary relocation may be advisable.

Be stringent with Internet security

Journalists should be well versed with the basics of password security. Access to the identity of sources should also be safely guarded, and if necessary, encryption technology should be used.

Know when to back off or even abandon the story

Always know when to abandon a story if it is clear that someone’s life, including your own, is in jeopardy.
WOMEN IN JOURNALISM

Although an increasing number of women are adding their voices to the media in the Arab world, journalism is still a profession dominated by men. Women are also underrepresented in the news globally. Most news sources are men and the stories about women are often accompanied by gender stereotypes. Given that human trafficking affects a large number of women, it is of particular importance to strive for the fair and balanced inclusion of women in the media.

Unfortunately, in some parts of the world it can be extremely difficult for women to work as journalists. For example, they are more vulnerable to sexual assault and news organizations may be reluctant to expose their female reporters to harassment or abuse, therefore limiting their assignments.

But being a woman can be an advantage when covering human trafficking. Women who have suffered abuse may be more willing to open up to somebody of the same gender. Female journalists can enter places where men usually are not allowed to search for the untold stories of women and children, like women’s shelters and other organizations providing victims services.
Exercise

What other security measures would you add that apply to your particular environment? Are there any specific security recommendations to add for women working on human trafficking stories?

Specify the measures you would take to protect yourself, your information and your sources when working on a dangerous assignment.
The Code of Ethics of the Society of Professional Journalists lists the following ethics guidelines. Keep them in mind when addressing human trafficking.

**SEEK TRUTH AND REPORT IT** – Journalists should be honest, fair and courageous in gathering, reporting and interpreting information.

**MINIMIZE HARM** – Ethical journalists treat sources, subjects and colleagues as human beings deserving of respect.

**ACT INDEPENDENTLY** – Journalists should be free of obligation to any interest other than the public's right to know

**BE ACCOUNTABLE** – Journalists are accountable to their readers, listeners, viewers and each other.

The conversation around human trafficking is a sensitive one, involving real people who have suffered great trauma. There many misconceptions and infinite factors and actors involved. It is especially vital that journalists covering human trafficking follow an ethical process of investigating and reporting. Keep these considerations in mind:

1. **CHOOSE YOUR WORDS AND LANGUAGE CAREFULLY:**

   As a journalist, it is necessary to recognize the power of words. It is imperative to choose terms and language carefully. The differences between issues like migrant smuggling and human trafficking can be subtle, but the words can be charged to shift political agendas, news cycles or simply lead to people's misunderstanding of your story.

   Use clear, simple language specially around issues you are not familiar with. **Stay away from clichés and loaded adjectives.**

2. **BE AWARE OF SENSATIONALISM AND STEREOTYPES:**

   Human trafficking by its very nature is a traumatic, sometimes violent crime. It is imperative that journalists present the facts of the case and avoid speculation. It is unnecessary and unethical to focus excessively on gruesome/sexually explicit details for the purpose of shocking an audience. Similarly, any tone of judgment regarding the victims and perpetrators should be strictly avoided.
Stereotyping is often present in news coverage of migrants. The media tend to make conjectures about people on the basis of nationality, ethnicity and gender. Check your own biases, self awareness can be a useful tool to avoid unethical practices in journalism.

Especially in the context of graphic crimes such as sexual assault, the International NGO Internews suggests you consider the following questions while drafting your story:

- Are graphic details about the nature of the rape and injuries necessary to tell the story?
- Will graphic details of violence and injury help the community?
- Will the rape survivors suffer more because of the details?
- Will this detail help police in solving the crime? Is it your duty to help?

3. STAY IMPARTIAL AND BE THOROUGH:

Personal opinions should only be used in editorial pieces and it should be clear to the audience that what is expressed is an opinion and not a fact.

In case of heinous crimes like human trafficking, it’s possible to let a sense of outrage blind proper investigative practice. Reflect on your own motives for writing the story. Examine your biases and stay professional.

4. PROTECT ANONYMITY:

A strong journalistic training emphasizes identifying sources for the purpose of accountability. However, in the coverage of human trafficking it is mandatory to protect the victim’s identity. There are other situations when you may choose to use anonymous sources (see 4.3 above). Protecting the anonymity of your sources is an ethical responsibility.
*The images of human trafficking: the use of photographs and video material*

Journalists and editors, particularly in broadcasting, also struggle with issues of ‘taste and decency’, or how much they can show in their news and features without either insulting or alienating their audiences. Members of the sensationalist press, furthermore, sometimes deliberately exaggerate to sell stories. In the context of human trafficking, the overall aim should be to avoid stereotypes of any kind and/or deliberate exaggeration. Viewers often have preconceived ideas about the topic of human trafficking, which tend to correspond to common-place stereotypes about a phenomenon that is perceived as ‘inhuman’ and very distant from their daily lives (e.g., “human trafficking happens to prostitutes and to children in Africa”). Journalists are tempted to play up these preconceived ideas in order to gain viewers’ attention, however, by doing so they may end up indirectly harming the victim further and reinforcing a skewed perception among viewers. Images that indulge in exaggerated horror, moreover, may alienate viewers who tend to perceive the depicted reality as belonging to “a world that is not theirs”. In these cases, only superficial sympathy is triggered by the images, but not real empathy – or full understanding – and helps create distance from the subject.

Another area that deserves caution is the random use of archive photographs and video images to illustrate a story. Images accompanying human trafficking news often demonstrate a lack of sensibility to the victims and reduce them to stereotypes. When dealing with trafficking in women, for example, photos of naked or half-naked girls dancing do little to elucidate the issue and its complexity and simply causes the reader to equate human trafficking with prostitution, which are different issues.

From The Vienna Forum to fight Human Trafficking, 13-15 February 2008, Austria Center Vienna, Background Paper, 012 Workshop: The Role of the Media in Building Images, United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UNGIFT), 2008
5. EXPAND THE CONVERSATION AROUND HUMAN TRAFFICKING:

Positive coverage related to issues about human trafficking is also possible. It can also help build awareness in a way that is more accessible to broader audiences.

Successful media coverage of human trafficking can highlight the efforts being made against human trafficking, the partnerships in place working to stop the crime and the success stories of survivors, social workers, law enforcers and many other people doing tremendous work. The stories that can inspire people to focus on solutions rather than problems are a powerful way to reach the public.

### Information to prevent and protect

Without information about solutions, audiences are left with a sense of hopelessness. The media has the potential to educate people about human trafficking and to empower them to take actions to prevent it and to protect those who have been victimized.

The media can contribute to the solution by taking the following actions:

- **Give practical advice.** After learning about human trafficking, most people will feel outraged and will want to know how they can help. Everybody can do something, at some level. Journalists can guide people towards specific actions. For example, joining specific campaigns, signing a petition, donating to a charity or foundation, telling others about human trafficking. When researching a particular story, find out how you can involve the audience. Ask yourself how your particular viewer/read/listener can help, so you can suggest something concrete for them to do.

- **Point to protection resources.** When relevant, include in your human trafficking stories the contact information of the organizations and/or authorities that can adequately identify and help potential victims and people at risk of human trafficking. Think that a victim or someone who knows a victim may be hearing or reading your story. Ask yourself how your story can help them.

- **Highlight prevention efforts and resources.** Do your research and find out about successful anti-trafficking initiatives that can relate to your story. Be prepared to offer your audiences more resources about the prevention of human trafficking and the protection of victims.
Exercise

Find out if the organization you work for has code of ethics. How does this code apply to the reporting of human trafficking stories?

Use the guidelines described in this chapter to make your own code for reporting on human trafficking stories.
SECTION 5

RESOURCES
5.1 More statistics and country profiles

**Global Report on Trafficking in Persons.** *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), 2016*

The Global Report 2016 provides an overview of patterns and flows of trafficking in persons at global, regional and national levels, based on trafficking cases detected between 2012 and 2014 (or more recent).


The Country Profiles of the Global Report present a national level analysis for each of the 128 countries covered by this edition of the report.


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**Tricked and trapped: Human trafficking in the Middle East.** *International Labour Organization (ILO), 2013*

This publication sheds light on the situation of trafficked adult workers in the Middle East, both women and men. Apart from comprehensive regional information on human trafficking and the complex processes by which migrant workers are trapped into different forms of forced labour, it is also highly detailed in listing the responses of various governments to the crime and recommendations for improvement.


[Arabic](http://www.ilo.org/beirut/publications/WCMS_246417/lang--ar/index.htm)

Apart from being a repository of information on the activities of the International Organization for Migration in the region, this report contains valuable examples of the progress made to eliminate migrant exploitation and human trafficking in the Middle East and North Africa.

English: http://publications.iom.int/books/middle-east-and-north-africa-annual-report-2013

Arabic: http://publications.iom.int/books/middle-east-and-north-africa-annual-report-2013-arabic-0

U.S. Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report, U.S Department of State, 2017

A comprehensive resource of governmental anti-human trafficking efforts, this yearly report is the U.S. Government’s principal diplomatic tool to engage foreign governments on human trafficking. The Department of State places each country onto one of three tiers based on the extent of their governments’ efforts to comply with the “minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking”.

http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/

5.2
More human trafficking guides for journalists

Training Modules on Trafficking for Journalists in the Middle East and Source Countries of Trafficking into the Region, International Labour Organization (ILO)

Elaborated by the ILO regional Office for Arab States for MAGNET, Migration and Governance Network, an initiative of the Swiss Development Cooperation, this documents contains very useful and up-to-date information on human trafficking in the Arab region. These training modules outline the essential issues about covering human trafficking in the media and provides opportunities to develop your own story ideas.

Model Curricula for Journalism Education, UNESCO, 2013

This publication offers a framework for a comprehensive journalism education that can be adapted to specific needs, and includes a complete chapter on human trafficking.

English: http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0015/001512/151209E.pdf

The Global Investigative Journalism Casebook, UNESCO, 2012

The Casebook contains more than 20 recent investigative stories from around the world. Each article is accompanied by an explanation of how the authors conducted their research and wrote their pieces, working as a highly useful resource for journalists on the end to end process of reporting and writing an investigative story. It includes a chapter with human trafficking case studies for the media.


Although the manual focuses on trafficking in women in Serbia, it offers helpful ethical guidelines for journalists that can be applied to other human trafficking contexts, especially while reporting on trafficking for sexual exploitation.

Media friendly Glossary on Migration, Panos Europe Institute, UNAOC, 2014

A scientific committee composed of eight international and civil society organizations was involved in the development of this glossary, which serves as a ready reckoner for important terms associated with human trafficking. (More on this publication in the Glossary section of this toolkit).


5.3
UNODC Advocacy material

Ready to use images and information on human trafficking to launch your own campaign, illustrate a human trafficking story or spread awareness in the newsroom.

The Blue Heart Campaign

The Blue Heart Campaign against Human Trafficking is an initiative by UNODC that works to raise awareness of the plight of victims and to build political support to fight the criminals behind trafficking. Several countries across the world have adopted the Blue Heart Campaign, launching national campaigns to encourage action to combat human trafficking. This campaign is for everyone, any organization or group can join in. The website offers guidelines and material to support the launch of an awareness raising campaign.

http://www.unodc.org/blueheart/
Affected For Life – Training Film

Affected for Life is a training film that promotes awareness of human trafficking by illustrating the elements and different forms of human trafficking. It is available in Arabic and English.

Arabic:
Full length: https://www.unodc.org/documents/humantrafficking/video/affected_for_life_ar.flv

English:


UNODC Leaflets

These easy to print pdf leaflets provide crisp, summarised information and statistics on various aspects of human trafficking

Leaflet about Trafficking in Persons

Leaflet (pdf) about Human Trafficking Indicators

Leaflet (pdf) about Smuggling of Migrants
5.4  
Other UNODC Publications available in Arabic

**Combating Trafficking in Persons in Accordance with the Principles of Islamic Law**, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2010

This paper addresses principles on the prohibition of exploitation and slavery in both International and Islamic law, as well as principles providing protection for its victims. The paper is targeted both at Islamic practitioners who want to learn more about combating human trafficking and also at anti-trafficking practitioners wanting to learn more about Islamic law.


The International Framework for Action is a technical assistance tool that supports United Nations Member States in the effective implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. This is a useful resource for journalists to gauge how individual countries in the region are responding to human trafficking, using this framework for reference.


Model Law against Trafficking in Persons, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2010

The Model Law against Trafficking in Persons was developed to assist States in implementing the provisions contained in the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, supplementing that Convention. It aims to facilitate the amendment of existing legislation as well as the adoption of new legislation, providing journalists with a benchmark against which to evaluate the legislative action taken by the respective government of the country they are reporting on.


As elected representatives, parliamentarians are entrusted with the responsibility and the power to ensure that laws and other measures are put in place and implemented to end human trafficking. The Handbook is a useful tool to understand the main aspects of human trafficking.


**Toolkit to Combat Trafficking in Persons, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2nd edition, 2008**

The 123 tools contained in the Toolkit offer guidance, recommended resources, and promising practices to policymakers, law enforcers, judges, prosecutors, victim service providers and members of civil society who are working in interrelated spheres towards preventing trafficking, protecting and assisting victims and promoting international cooperation.


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### 5.5
**Human Trafficking Case Law Database, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime**

UNODC developed an online database to collect and disseminate information on human trafficking prosecutions and convictions. This case law database enables judges, prosecutors, policy-makers, media, researchers and other interested parties to have access to court decisions related to human trafficking cases around the world. This is an excellent tool if you want to understand more about the legal and judiciary aspects of the anti-human trafficking fight globally.

http://www.unodc.org/cld/index.jspx

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### 5.6
**Human trafficking in the Arab region**

**LEBANON**

* Trafficking in Lebanon, Republic of Lebanon, Ministry of Justice, Assistance of UNODC in collaboration with UNICEF, 2008


This investigative report looks at the conditions of Nepali domestic workers in Lebanon and makes recommendations to prevent human trafficking.


**OMAN**

*I Was Sold*: Abuse and Exploitation of Migrant Domestic Workers in Oman, *Human Rights Watch (HRW), 2016*


**TUNISIA**

Baseline Study of Trafficking in Persons in Tunisia. Assessing the scope and manifestations. *IOM and Government of Tunisia, 2013*

https://tunisia.iom.int/sites/default/files/resources/files/IOMTunisia_BaselineStudyTrafficking_English_LR.pdf

**OTHER:**

*Claiming Rights: Domestic Workers’ Movements and Global Advances for Labour Reform, Human Rights Watch, 2013*

This report covers the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Lebanon and it contains information about advocacy and communications efforts to prevent the exploitation of domestic workers.

www.hrw.org/reports/2013/10/27/claiming-rights
MIGRANT-RIGHTS.ORG

This Qatar-based NGO monitors media coverage of issues affecting migrant workers in the Middle East. It offers journalists useful information on the current issues related to human trafficking and labour exploitation.

http://www.migrant-rights.org/campaigns/

5.7 Videos

**Human Trafficking in the Middle East, International labour Organization (ILO)**

This video was produced by the ILO project “Improving Labour Migration Governance and Combating Human Trafficking in the Middle East” to give more information about labour migration and human trafficking in the region.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tqccxepL-wQ&app=desktop

**ILO’s Approach to Labour Migration and Human Trafficking in the Middle East, International Labour Organization**

Published under MAGNET, the ILO’s regional migration and governance network, this video is a summary of migration and trafficking issues in the region as well as the associated activities of the ILO

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kMMXCUyh-yM

**Maid in Lebanon**

A film directed by Carol Mansou, it depicts the gamble that domestic workers take when they decide to leave their families and go to work in Lebanon.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3rY91LCyY4s
**Maid in Lebanon II: Voices from Home**

A follow up to its predecessor, this documentary film delves further into exploring the complexity of the relationship between migrant domestic workers and the Lebanese households that play a double role as employers and immigration sponsors. Shot on location on Lebanon and Sri Lanka.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=94rO242G6dY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=94rO242G6dY)

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**Anti-Trafficking Campaign (IOM): The Story of Fatma**

This video is part of the campaign about human trafficking prevention organized by IOM Tunisia in 2013.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rKoKfU4zuMM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rKoKfU4zuMM)

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**TED talks**

- **Noy Thrupkaew: Human trafficking is all around you. This is how it works**
  [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oIGBBPspTKM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oIGBBPspTKM)

- **Combating Human Trafficking (AnnJannette Alejano-Steele)**
  [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wo-HI5Z4b6Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wo-HI5Z4b6Y)

- **Human Trafficking - 21st Century Slavery (Faridoun Hemani)**
  [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cWcVPpxezE0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cWcVPpxezE0)

- **Human Trafficking (Rachel Lloyd)**
  [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ij_6iMi9gA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ij_6iMi9gA)

- **Human Trafficking - Dreams and Realities (Diep Vuong)**
  [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k6Lq3M2ullQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k6Lq3M2ullQ)

- **How to Combat Modern Slavery (Kevin Bales)**
  [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HUM2rClUdeI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HUM2rClUdeI)

- **The Fight Against Sex Slavery (Sunitha Krishnan)**
  [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jeOumyTMCI8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jeOumyTMCI8)

- **Photos That Bear Witness to Modern Slavery (Lisa Kristine)**
  [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9TPFLHvn024](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9TPFLHvn024)
5.8 Reporting, investigating and journalism education

Reporting on Corruption: A Resource Tool for Governments and Journalists, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), 2013

This tool showcases examples of the finest investigative reporting on corruption, and explains how the stories were produced. It strives to encourage investigative reporting on corruption, its causes, the challenges faced by specific groups—such as women, children or marginalized groups—or sectors and on anti-corruption efforts of the government. Considering how state complicity and corruption are sometimes part of the story on human trafficking, this is a useful repository of information for journalists covering the crime.


This manual provides a guide to basic methods and techniques of investigative journalism, which can be applied to reporting on human trafficking as well.


This toolkit was produced through Internews’ Global Human Rights Program, which works to strengthen the capacity of media to report on human rights issues. The manual is full of useful exercises and examples for journalists working on topics related to human rights.

**Code of Ethics, Society of Professional Journalists**

Widely used in newsrooms and classrooms as a guide for ethical behavior, this set of guidelines acts as a succinct resource for journalists in the process of ethical decision-making.

[https://www.spj.org/pdf/ethicscode.pdf](https://www.spj.org/pdf/ethicscode.pdf)

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**Journalist Security Guide: Covering the News in a Dangerous and Changing World, Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), 2012**

Addressing the increasing danger faced by journalists in the course of their work, this guide details what they need to know in this changing environment. It covers guidelines for journalists working in areas from armed conflict to organized crime and corruption.


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**Handbook for Journalists, Reporters Sans Frontiers, 2006**

Reporters Without Borders (with UNESCO) compiled a Handbook for Journalists going to dangerous parts of the world, listing international norms protecting them and containing practical advice on how to stay alive and safe.


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**Journalist Survival Guide, Samir Kassir Foundation**

Produced by the Beirut-based Samir Kassir Foundation, this animated guide is designed to primarily aid journalists and activists working in war zones and conflict areas, but also includes tips on digital security and covering your tracks.


SECTION 6

DIRECTORY
Build your own directory of contacts.

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SECTION 7

GLOSSARY
Migration Glossary for Middle East Media

The following terms were selected from the Migration Glossary for Middle East Media developed by the ILO Regional Fair Migration Project in the Middle East (FAIRWAY).

Absconding

To abscond is to run away or escape secretly, typically to avoid detection or arrest. Within the context of migrant workers in the Arab states absconding refers to migrant workers, especially migrant domestic workers, who leave their employer/ sponsor without permission. Under the kafala sponsorship system, to leave the sponsor without permission renders the worker an irregular migrant worker, subject to arrest, detention or return to the employer by authorities or recruitment agencies. This also applies to workers who have escaped an exploitative or abusive situation. The term ‘absconds’ criminalizes the act of resigning or escaping abuse. It is preferable to use the term in quotation marks (‘absconded’) and to always analyse the situation in which the worker left the employer.

Asylum-seeker

An asylum seeker is an individual who is seeking international protection. An asylum seeker is someone whose claim has not yet been finally decided on by the country in which he or she has submitted it. Not every asylum seeker will ultimately be recognised as a refugee, but every refugee is initially an asylum seeker. In many cases, refugees and asylum seekers are treated as irregular migrants and are subject to arbitrary detention, arrest and deportation due to the lack of legal status.

Child labour

Child labour is defined as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development. It refers to work that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children, and interferes with their schooling. In its most extreme forms, child labour involves children being enslaved, separated from their families, exposed to serious hazards and illnesses and/or left to fend for themselves on the streets.

Not all work done by children is classified as child labour that is to be targeted for elimination. Children’s or adolescents’ participation in work that does not affect their health and personal development or interfere with their schooling is generally regarded as positive. This includes activities such as helping their parents around the home, assisting in a family business or earning pocket money outside school.
hours and during school holidays. These kinds of activities contribute to children’s development and to the welfare of their families, they provide them with skills and experience, and help to prepare them to be productive members of society during their adult life.

Whether or not particular forms of work can be called “child labour” depends on the child’s age, the type and hours of work performed, the conditions under which it is performed, and national laws of the country. The answer varies from country to country, as well as among sectors within countries.

**Country of destination**

Country of destination or destination country are the most neutral and accurate terms to refer to the country in which a person intends to live or work.

**Country of origin**

Country of origin is a neutral and accurate term to refer to the country from where a migrant, asylum seeker or refugee originated. It is preferable to “sending country” or “home country”.

**Debt bondage**

Debt bondage – or bonded labour – is a position whereby a worker becomes bound to work for an employer as a means of repayment for a loan. Labourers may be working in an attempt to pay off an incurred or sometimes even inherited debt. The debt can arise from wage advances or loans to cover recruitment or transport costs or from daily living or emergency expenses. Employers or recruiters make it difficult for workers to escape from a debt by undervaluing the work performed or inflating interest rates or charges for food and housing. Debt bondage reflects an imbalance of power between the worker-debtor and the employer-creditor, and is an indicator of forced labour. It has the effect of binding the worker to the employer for an unspecified period of time, anything from a single season, to years, or even successive generations. The imbalance of power between worker-debtor and the employer-creditor could render any debt-based labour relations unfree, regardless of the duration of the loan. It is concretely different to taking a “normal” loan from a bank or other independent lender, for repayment on mutually agreed and acceptable terms.

**Decent work**

Decent work is a concept encompassing opportunities for work that are productive and deliver a fair income, security in the workplace and social protection for families;
better prospects for personal development and social integration; freedom for people to express their concerns, organise and participate in the decisions that affect their lives; and equality of opportunity and treatment for all women and men. Decent work is a key element to achieving fair globalisation and poverty reduction. To achieve decent work requires job creation, rights at work, social protection and social dialogue, with gender equality as a crosscutting objective.

**Deportation**

Deportation is the act of expelling or removing a foreign national from a country, either to the country of origin or to a third country. While migrants should always have access to legal representation and opportunities to appeal their deportation with suspensive effect, these procedural safeguards are not always guaranteed. In some cases, migrants are deported by force, or other forms of coercion. See also immigration detention, refoulement/non-refoulement and voluntary repatriation.

**Diaspora**

Diaspora refers to a people or an ethnic population that leave their traditional ethnic homelands, or countries of origin, and are dispersed throughout other parts of the world. Diaspora are also broadly defined as individuals and members of networks, associations and communities who have left their country of origin but maintain social, economic and political links. This concept covers settled communities, migrant workers temporarily based abroad, people with the citizenship of the origin or destination country, dual citizens, and second-/third-generation migrants.

**Discrimination**

Discrimination in the context of work is any distinction, exclusion or preference made on the basis of race, colour, sex, religion, political opinion, or national origin (among other characteristics), which has the effect of nullifying or impairing equality of opportunity and treatment in employment or occupation. Discrimination in employment can be direct or indirect. Indirect discrimination occurs where rules or practices appear to be neutral but in practice lead to exclusions. For example, training courses organized outside normal working hours are likely to exclude workers with caregiving responsibilities. Workers who receive less training are then likely to be disadvantaged in subsequent job assignments or promotion prospects. See also equal opportunity.
Domestic worker

A domestic worker is an individual who performs domestic duties such as cleaning, cooking and care work (children, elderly and disabled) in a household within an employment relationship (i.e. paid work). Domestic workers also include gardeners, security guards and drivers. Domestic workers may be men or women, and are commonly migrant workers. Often domestic workers reside within the household of the employer(s). In 2011 the ILO Convention on Decent Work for Domestic Workers, 2011 (No. 189) was adopted, extending a full range of labour rights protections to domestic workers. The term “domestic worker” is preferred to “domestic helper”, “maid” or “servant” because it underscores that domestic work is work, and that a domestic worker has labour rights.

Economic migrant

‘Economic migrant’ is not a legal classification, but rather an umbrella term for a wide array of people that move from one country to another to advance their economic and professional prospects. The term is used to distinguish ‘economic’ migrants from refugees, asylum seekers and forcibly displaced persons within broader mixed migration flows. It most often refers to the unskilled and semi-skilled people from less developed or conflict affected countries. It might at times have a generally negative connotation – aiming to distinguish ‘deserving’ and ‘undeserving’ people within mixed migration flows.

Entertainment work(er)

The entertainment sector covers a broad range of work within the hospitality and service sector. Hospitality work alone (taking orders, serving food and drinks and clearing tables) is not generally considered as entertainment work unless there is an element of diversion or amusement present. This might involve workers providing company to clients (while they drink and/or play games or gamble), giving massages, singing or dancing. While men work in this sector, workers are predominantly women. Sex work is a prevalent factor in the entertainment industry, and is present in many forms and to varying degrees. Sexual services are provided both within and outside of entertainment establishments (nightclubs or bars), which can heighten the confusion and conflation between “entertainment work” and “sex work”, resulting in the work and workers being erroneously treated interchangeably. See sex work(er)

Forced migration and voluntary migration

Forced migration is not a legal concept. The term describes the coerced departure of a person from his/her home or country. Examples of this type of coercion could include environmental or natural disasters, chemical or nuclear disasters,
famine, trafficking, war, armed conflict, serious disturbances of public order or the inability or unwillingness of a State to protect the human rights of its citizens. Voluntary migration describes when people move of their own free will. However, as human mobility becomes more global and frequent, the traditional distinction between forced and voluntary migration has become less clear cut. This leads to an increasingly compelling argument to address the rights of refugees and migrants in a holistic way regardless of their motives for leaving their country of origin or their legal status.

At the same time, it is important to acknowledge the important distinctions between refugees – who cannot return to their place of origin even if they want to and they accordingly are owed specific protections under international law – and migrants. Migrants are protected by international human rights law. This protection derives from their fundamental dignity as human beings. Promoting the human rights of migrants is compatible with upholding the existing framework for refugee protection. See mixed migration

**Forced labour**

Forced labour refers to situations in which persons are coerced to work through the use of violence or intimidation, or by more subtle means such as accumulated debt, retention of identity papers or threats of denunciation to authorities. It is defined by the ILO Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) as “all work or service which is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered himself or herself voluntarily.” Forced labour can occur where work is forced upon people by State authorities, by private enterprises or by individuals. The concept of forced labour is quite broadly defined and thus covers a wide range of coercive labour practices.

Forced labour is different from sub-standard or exploitative working conditions. Various indicators can be used to ascertain when a situation amounts to forced labour, such as restrictions on workers’ freedom of movement, withholding of wages or identity documents, physical or sexual violence, threats and intimidation or fraudulent debt from which workers cannot escape. Forced labour can result from internal or international movement which renders some workers particularly vulnerable to deceptive recruitment and coercive labour practices. It also affects people in their home areas, born or manipulated into a status of bondage or servitude. Forced labour includes forced sexual services. In addition to being a serious violation of fundamental human rights, the exaction of forced labour is a criminal offence.

Forced labour, debt bondage, and trafficking in persons are closely related terms although not identical in a legal sense. Trafficking in persons can also be regarded as forced labour. The only exceptions to this are cases of trafficking for organ removal, forced marriage or adoption, unless the latter practices result in forced labour.
Forcibly displaced persons

There is no internationally agreed upon definition of a forcibly displaced person, however the term refers to those who are displaced but do not meet the definition of a refugee as defined by international law. Forcibly displaced persons are the millions of people who are forced to move due a number of reasons such as armed conflict or natural disasters, environmental degradation, or human rights violations including as part of ‘mixed migration flows’. The wider scope of the term ‘forcibly displaced persons’ captures the complex and multivariate drivers and processes which characterize contemporary displacement dynamics and includes both refugees and other categories of persons coerced to move.

Freedom of movement

Freedom of movement is a fundamental human right encompassing the right to leave any country; the right to enter and remain in your home country; and the right to freedom of movement with the territory of the state of residence or employment. The right therefore encompasses both international and internal movement.

The right to freedom of movement is challenging under the kafala sponsorship system. The sponsor/employer may be able to control the mobility of the worker by withholding their identity and travel documentation, and by controlling their ability to move to another employer or to exit the country. Domestic workers may be restricted from leaving the premises of the workplace (the employers’ home), even on their day off.

Free visas

Free visas are work visas where there is a sponsor, but no employment on arrival. The sponsor named on the visa does not actually employ the worker, and the worker will therefore work for an employer other than that named on their visa – rendering them irregular workers. Migrant workers may or may not be aware of this practice before their departure for the destination country. Workers who engage in the practice typically pay the sponsor listed on their visa a significant amount of money to maintain this relationship. Sometimes, fake companies are registered simply to obtain and trade free visas. If unaware about the free visa, the practice amounts to deception, fraud and the worker may be rendered a victim of trafficking. This is an illegal practice in most Arab States.

Gender-based violence

Gender-based violence refers to any act against a person on the basis of his or her
gender or perceived gender that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivations of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life. Migrants and refugees are particularly vulnerable to sexual- and gender-based violence at the hands of employers, recruitment agencies, spouses and family members, law enforcement authorities, including policy and customs officials and judicial officers, and human traffickers.

**Identity, travel and work documents**

Identity, travel and work documents, such as a passport, national or ‘foreign national’ identity card, and work or residency permits are migrants’ proof of identity, nationality, legal status and right to remain and work in the country of destination. These documents are crucial to the mobility and safety of migrant workers throughout all stages of the migration and employment process. Identity and travel documents should facilitate migrants’ travel and access to health, legal, consular and education services; and are essential for practical processes such as opening a bank account. All individuals, including migrant workers, maintain the right to hold their personal documents, and in some countries, migrants must carry their identity documents or copies with them at all times. Throughout all stages of the migration process however, a variety of private actors including recruiters, brokers and employers, systematically violate migrant workers’ rights by seizing and holding their identity and travel documents as a means of control. Confiscation of personal documents is illegal under national legislation in some countries in the region. It leaves migrants vulnerable to harassment, arrest and deportation by authorities, and restricts their mobility and freedom of movement. Retention of identity documents is an indicator of forced labour, as withholding of personal documents is often used as a means to prevent workers from escaping or seeking help.

**Immigration detention**

Immigration detention is the confinement of individuals without regular migration status in prisons or detention centres, temporarily or for indefinite periods of time, while their cases are being processed by the authorities or the courts. According to international human rights standards, immigration detention should be prescribed by law, a measure of last resort, only for the shortest period of time and when no other less restrictive measure is available. States should take steps to implement alternative measures to immigration detention. Children should not be detained based on their migratory status or irregular entry into the country. Under refugee law, refugees and asylum seekers should not be subject to penalties such as fines or imprisonment on account of their illegal entry or presence.
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are persons or groups who have been forced to leave their homes as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalised violence, violations of human rights or natural or human made disasters, but who have not crossed an international border. Involuntary departure and the fact that the individual remains within his/her country are the two defining elements of an IDP. The second element distinguishes IDPs from refugees, as by definition, refugees are outside their country of origin.

Irregular or undocumented migrant

An irregular or undocumented migrant is someone who is not authorized to enter, to stay or to work in the country of destination. Migrants often have little control over the complex factors that determine their status as these frequently come down to administrative circumstances, not necessarily the actions of migrants. Migrants can slip easily from regular to irregular status, often through no fault of their own. For example in the Arab States, migrant workers’ residency and work rights are tied to their individual sponsor under the kafala system. If their employer fails to renew their permits, they will become irregular migrants. If a migrant worker works for anyone other than the employer stated on their work permit, or ‘absconds’ they lose their legal right to remain in the country. Other irregular migrants include people who were trafficked into the country, or people whose asylum applications have been rejected. In countries of origin where there are restrictions on women’s migration, such as sectoral bans or age limits, women are often pushed into irregular migration – increasing their vulnerability to exploitation and trafficking. Migrants may also move from irregular to regular status, including through amnesty programs.

The prevailing discourse associates irregularity with criminality, and views irregular migration as a security issue. Irregular migrants are frequently subject to harassment, arrest, detention and deportation and are at risk of forced labour and trafficking. Without legal status in their country of employment they have no or very few avenues for seeking legal redress if their rights are violated. The term “irregular” is preferable to “illegal” because the latter carries a criminal connotation, will often be legally incorrect and is seen as denying migrants’ humanity. In the case of asylum seekers and refugees, it also fails to acknowledge the protection afforded by international refugee law against penalization for unauthorized entry or stay to those fleeing conflict or persecution.

Kafala/Kafeel

Kafala is commonly interpreted in English as ‘sponsorship’, although in classical Arabic the meaning is closer to connotations of ‘guarantee’ (daman) and to ‘take care of’ (kafl). Kafala is described in the Arab States as having stemmed from
a Bedouin tradition of hospitality, where strangers were considered guests of a local who took legal and economic responsibility for their welfare, as well as for the consequences of their actions. Today, kafala sponsorship is used as a means to regulate migrant labour in many Arab countries. Under kafala, a migrant worker’s immigration and legal residency status is tied to an individual sponsor (kafeel) throughout his or her contract period in such a way that the migrant worker cannot typically enter the country, resign from a job, transfer employment, nor leave the country without first obtaining explicit permission from his or her employer. Kafala has been criticized as creating situations akin to forced labour.

**Labour exploitation**

Labour exploitation covers a broad spectrum of working conditions and practices that are short of decent work and thus unacceptable. They range from extreme exploitation including forced labour, trafficking and modern slavery at one end, to other unacceptable forms of work short of decent work.

**Labour migration**

Labour migration is defined as the movement of persons from one geographical location to another in order to find gainful employment. Labour migration may be internal, for example rural to urban, or international, across borders.

**Migrant**

While there is no formal legal definition of an international migrant, most experts agree that an international migrant is someone who changes his or her country of usual residence, irrespective of the reason for migration or legal status. Generally, a distinction is made between short-term or temporary migration, covering movements with a duration between three and 12 months, and long-term or permanent migration, referring to a change of country of residence for a duration of one year or more (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs).

**Migrant worker**

A migrant worker is someone who is working in a state of which he or she is not a national. The term is used interchangeably with labour migrant, and refers to people who migrate specifically for the purpose of employment. It is important to note that in Arabic, “migration” has a connotation of permanence (whereas in English it concerns both temporary and permanent migration), and Gulf Cooperation Council countries hence prefer to use the term “temporary contract worker” or “expatriate worker” over “migrant worker”.

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Racism

Racism is discrimination directed against someone of a different race based on the belief that one’s own race is superior. Also see xenophobia

Recruitment agencies

Migration of workers to the Middle East is increasingly facilitated by an inter-regional network of recruitment agencies. Public and private recruitment agencies, when appropriately regulated, play an important role in the efficient and equitable functioning of labour markets by matching available jobs with suitably qualified workers. Recruitment agencies recruit workers, issue employment contracts, facilitate travel documents and work and residency permits, transport workers, place workers with employers at destination, and facilitate the return to home country of workers if needed. For these services recruitment agencies charge workers and employers.

There are increasing concerns about abuses by the international recruitment industry, including deception about the terms and conditions of work and contract substitution, debt bondage linked to the repayment of recruitment fees, retention of passports, illegal wage deductions, and abuse by subagents and other intermediaries who operate outside the legal and regulatory framework.

Refugee

Refugees are persons who are outside their country of origin and require international protection for reasons of feared persecution, on account of their race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership of a particular social group or because of conflict, generalized violence, or other circumstances that have seriously disturbed public order that have forced them to flee. The refugee definition can be found in the 1951 Convention and regional refugee instruments, as well as UNHCR’s Statute. The Refugee Convention sets out the rights of refugees and responsibilities of states. A person is an asylum seeker until they are determined to be a refugee in accordance with national and international law. This process is called refugee status determination, and is undertaken by UNHCR and/or States.

Seasonal worker

A seasonal worker is a worker whose timing and duration of work is significantly influenced by seasonal factors such as climatic cycle, public holidays, and/or agricultural harvests. It is common in the agriculture, hospitality and tourism industries. The term “seasonal worker” is preferred to terms like “guest worker”, which imply a guest-host relationship that is not based on equal labour rights.
**Sex work(er)**

Sex work is the provision of sexual services in exchange for money or goods, either regularly or occasionally. Sex workers are women, men and transgender people. Use of the term “sex work” rather than “prostitution” recognizes that sex work is work. Many people who sell sexual services prefer the term “sex worker” and find “prostitute” demeaning and stigmatizing, which contributes to their exclusion from health, legal, and social services. Sex work is different to entertainment work, although the two are often conflated.

**Smuggling (of migrants)**

Smuggling is the unauthorized transport of a person, with their agreement, across an internationally recognized state border, of which the person is not a national or a permanent resident. Smuggling, contrary to trafficking, does not require an element of exploitation nor coercion.

**Sponsorship**

See kafala

**Temporary contract worker**

Temporary contract worker is the preferred term for migrant worker in the Arab States. It signifies the temporary, contractual nature of labour migration to the region. See migrant worker.

**Trafficking in persons**

Trafficking in persons is defined 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. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs” (The United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000, Art 3(a)).

Trafficking in persons must meet the three criteria of act (recruitment or transportation), means (by threat, abduction or deception) and purpose (exploitation). Trafficking in persons can take place within one country, or across international borders. Child trafficking slightly differs, as the element of ‘means’ are not considered. Human trafficking can be viewed as a subset of the broader issue of forced labour.
**Unaccompanied and separated children**

Unaccompanied children (also called unaccompanied minors) are children who have been separated from both parents and are not being cared for by an adult who, by law or custom, is responsible for their welfare. Separated children are children who are separated from both parents or from their previous legal or customary primary caregiver but not necessarily from other relatives. A child is defined as “every human being below the age of eighteen years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier”

Children may become unaccompanied or separated because of persecution of the child or the parents, due to conflict and war, trafficking in various contexts, or the search for better economic opportunities. Unaccompanied and separated children face greater risks of sexual exploitation and abuse, military recruitment, child labour, and detention.

**Undocumented migrant worker**

See irregular or undocumented migrant worker

**Victim**

A person harmed as a result of crime, accident, or another event or action. For example a victim or human trafficking or assault. Victims may prefer to be referred to as survivors.

**Visa trading**

Visa trading is a practice whereby employers or companies apply for and obtain more work visas than the jobs they have available, with the intention of ‘warehousing’ workers in labour camps or other accommodation sites until the visas can be traded and the workers can be placed in jobs. During the period in which the workers are ‘warehoused’, they are not working and therefore not being paid. The practice may also place workers in an irregular migration status if they end up working for someone other than the sponsor listed on their visa. This practice is illegal in the Arab States.

**Xenophobia**

Xenophobia is a fear or hatred of people from other countries/others that are foreign or originate from outside the community or nation. See also racism.
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