

## Media Release

For immediate release

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### **UNODC releases Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2012**

Vienna/Pretoria - On 10 December 2012 the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime released the *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2012*. The report is one of the outcomes of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons and reports on patterns and flows of trafficking in persons at the global, regional and national levels, as well as government response. The report was compiled in collaboration with national authorities of the Member States and contains data collected between 2007 and 2010 and the Country Profiles of the Global Report present a national level analysis for each of the 132 countries covered by this edition of the report.

#### **Trafficking in Persons is a global scourge**

Victims are trafficked around the world for sexual exploitation, forced labour, begging, petty crimes, removal of organs and for other exploitative purposes. Trafficking in persons is a truly global phenomenon: between 2007 and 2010, victims from at least 136 countries were detected in 118 countries worldwide. Because of this diffusion as well as the hidden nature of trafficking crimes, it is difficult to estimate the size of the problem.

Many countries have recently passed legislation criminalizing trafficking in persons as a specific offence. However, definitions of human trafficking vary, as does the capacity to detect offenders and victims. Even though, there is a general increase in the number of prosecutions and convictions globally, the overall criminal justice response to trafficking in persons appears to remain very weak.

#### **Key Findings of the 2012 Report**

- Women and children are particularly vulnerable: between 55 and 60 per cent of victims globally are women and 27 per cent of the victims are children. It should be noted that the percentage of child victims is far higher in Africa and the Middle East.
- Some purposes of trafficking are more prevalent in some region than in others: in Europe, Central Asia and the Americas, trafficking for sexual exploitation is more common, in Africa and the Middle East, as well as in South and East Asia and the Pacific, trafficking for forced labour is more frequent. During the reporting period, 49 per cent of the victims detected in Africa and the Middle East were trafficked for forced labour purposes, and 36 per cent of the victims for sexual exploitation.
- Patterns of trafficking flows: almost half of the victims detected worldwide were trafficked across borders, but within their region of origin and 24 per cent of the victims were trafficked between regions.

- Low conviction rate of perpetrators: Worldwide the conviction rate for perpetrators is generally very low. Notably, 16 per cent of the 132 countries covered by the reports did not record a single conviction between 2007 and 2010.
- Overall, the report also highlights a scarcity of data and effective reporting by governments on statistics relating to trafficking in persons and this serious gap in knowledge needs to be closed to allow for effective measures against trafficking in persons.

### **Findings for Southern Africa**

According to the findings of the report, in the Southern African Region, trafficking is mainly limited to countries within the region. Although sporadically cases of Southern African nationals are found in other regions, a large proportion of the victims found was trafficked within their country of origin or within the sub-region.

*‘Many countries in the Southern African region are taking important steps to combat trafficking in persons by developing and adopting legislation as demanded by the UN Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime and the Protocol on Trafficking in Persons. We urge countries to uphold this momentum for the implementation and enforcement of the law.’ (Mandiaye Niang, UNODC Regional Representative for Southern Africa)*

UNODC Southern Africa has been assisting governments in the region for several years in their efforts to draft legislation according to international standards. UNODC has further provided training and equipment for law-enforcement personnel and supported awareness raising activities of member states throughout the region. Action to prevent and combat the trafficking in human beings has also been made a top priority in the soon to be launched UNODC – SADC Joint Regional Programme “Making the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Region Safer from Crime and Drugs”.

**Download the full REPORT here:**

[Full report](#) (PDF, 10.8 MB)

### **COUNTRY PROFILES**

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**Note to editors:**

UNODC is the guardian of the [United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking In Persons, Especially Women and Children.](#)

UNODC provides global legal and technical advice and assistance on the ratification and implementation of the Convention and Protocol including capacity building for Member States of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in this regard.

**Prevention**

*Research • Awareness Raising • Border Management*

**Protection of victims**

*Identification of Victims • Development of Referral Schemes • Assistance to Victims • Repatriation and Reintegration*

**Prosecution**

*Development of Legislation • Training on Effective Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Responses*

**National coordination**

*Development of Policy and National Plans of Action • Establishment of National Coordinating Mechanisms*

**International cooperation**

*Mutual Legal Assistance • Extradition • Confiscation of Proceeds of Crime • Sharing of Information • Joint Investigations*