

Human trafficking: the facts

Human trafficking is a crime that shames us all. It involves the act of recruiting, transporting, transferring, harbouring or receiving a person through a use of force, deception or other means for the purpose of exploiting them. Every year, thousands of men, women and children fall into the hands of traffickers, in their own countries and abroad. Every country in the world is affected by trafficking, whether as a country of origin, transit or destination for victims. Therefore, in 2010, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon launched the UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Human Trafficking to provide direct humanitarian, legal and financial aid to human trafficking victims.

According to says the 2012 UNODC Global Trafficking in Persons Report, based on data supplied by 132 countries:

- ♥ 27 per cent of all victims of human trafficking detected globally between 2007 and 2010 are children, up 7 per cent from the period 2003 to 2006.
- ♥ The vast majority of detected trafficked persons are women, accounting for 55 to 60 per cent of victims detected globally.
- ♥ Girls make up two thirds of all trafficked children.
- ♥ Girls constitute 15 to 20 per cent of the total number of all detected victims, including adults, whereas boys comprise about 10 per cent.
- ♥ Convictions rates are low - 16 per cent of reporting countries did not record a single conviction for trafficking in persons between 2007 and 2010.
- ♥ Trafficking victims from East Asia have been detected in more than 60 countries, making them the most geographically dispersed group around the world. Victims from the largest number of origin countries were found in Western and Central Europe.
- ♥ There are regional variations in trafficking trends. Countries in Africa and in Asia generally intercept more cases of trafficking for forced labour, while sexual exploitation is somewhat more frequent in Europe and in the Americas.
- ♥ Trafficking for organ removal has been detected in 16 countries around the world.

The Blue Heart Campaign

The Blue Heart Campaign's goal is to inspire people and mobilize support for action against human trafficking by international organizations, governments, civil society, the private sector and ultimately by individuals. The Blue Heart also aims to enable citizens to show their support for the cause and to increase understanding of the issue of human trafficking in order to spur coordinated actions to fight the crime. The intention is that the Blue Heart becomes the symbol for human trafficking , similar to the red ribbon which is the symbol for HIV/AIDS.