



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

UNODC RESEARCH ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS AND SMUGGLING OF MIGRANTS



TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS



Human trafficking is the acquisition of people by improper means such as force, fraud or deception, with the aim of exploiting them. It is a serious crime and a grave violation of human rights. Every year, thousands of men, women and children fall into the hands of traffickers, in their own countries and abroad. Victims are exploited in restaurants, farms, construction sites, brothels, factories, markets, mines and in people's homes everywhere.

As the guardian of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the supplementing

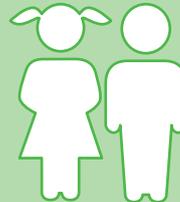
Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, UNODC is uniquely placed to undertake research of global scope on the crime of human trafficking. Currently, the main research output on this topic is the biennial [Global Report on Trafficking in Persons](#), which is based on official, national data and analyses the patterns and trends of trafficking globally, regionally and at the country level.

UNODC is also advancing the work on testing a promising, solid methodology for estimating the total number of victims of trafficking in persons. Not only will such a methodology help uncover the real magnitude of the trafficking crime – which has so far been an elusive target for the trafficking research community - but it will also assist countries in measuring progress towards the attainment of three Sustainable Development Goals (goals 5, 8 and 16 all include targets on trafficking in persons).



**DID YOU ?
know**

28%



of detected trafficking victims in 2014 were **children.**

SMUGGLING OF MIGRANTS

Smuggling of migrants involves assisting people to enter a country in which they are not citizens or legal residents illegally for a financial or other material benefit. Like trafficking in persons, migrant smuggling affects almost every country in the world. This crime undermines the integrity of countries and communities, and costs thousands of people their lives every year.

The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime is supplemented by the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, which grounds UNODC's work in this field. Research on migrant smuggling is, however, still in its infancy. The first-ever UNODC research output will be a global study on the smuggling of migrants, based on existing data and information from a large number of sources. The study will include analyses of the main migrant smuggling routes in each region, profiles of the actors, how the crime is car-

ried out, the human costs of migrant smuggling and the reasons that compel people to resort to smugglers.

In the long term, UNODC's objective is to establish a regular data collection mechanism, involving Member States, to facilitate the production of a biennial Global Report on the Smuggling of Migrants. Such a report, which would be based on authoritative, officially reported data, would help fill the current information gap regarding the crime of migrant smuggling, and establish an evidence base for policy development in this area. It would also enable an assessment of the international community's response to migrant smuggling across the world.

**DID
YOU ?
know**

The Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime was adopted in 2000, entered into force in 2004 and now has 143 States Parties.



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