

## **UNODC releases the [Thematic Paper “Countering Trafficking in Persons in Conflict Situations”](#)**

In recent years, trafficking in persons occurring in conflict-affected areas has raised grave concerns among the international community, as armed and terrorist groups have engaged in acts of trafficking of particular gravity and severity in many regions of the world. Sexual exploitation, forced marriage, sexual enslavement, exploitation in forced labour or forcible recruitment to participate in armed groups are only a few of the exploitative purposes of the activity of human traffickers in conflict situations. Even where armed and terrorist groups are not directly involved in trafficking in persons, those forced to flee from conflict-affected areas are highly vulnerable to falling prey to organized groups in their bid to reach safety.

Against this backdrop, the Security Council held a first debate to discuss human trafficking in in conflict situations on 16 December 2015, which resulted in the adoption of Presidential Statement S/PRST/2015/25. In subsequent meetings, held on 20 December 2016 and 21 November 2017, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolutions 2331 (2016) and 2388 (2017), inviting Member States and United Nations agencies and entities to respond to human trafficking in conflict-affected areas.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, implementing the Security Council resolutions, developed the Thematic Paper “Countering Trafficking in Persons in Conflict Situations” to contribute to a better understanding of human trafficking in the context of conflict. The Thematic Paper was prepared following consultations with a number of key actors across the United Nations system, which entailed the dissemination of survey questionnaires among relevant United Nations entities and other stakeholders, follow-up consultations with several respondents to the questionnaires, and an Expert Group Meeting to further discuss the content of the Thematic Paper.

The Thematic Paper discusses the forms and manifestations of trafficking in persons in conflict and post-conflict contexts, looks at the linkages between trafficking in persons and other crimes or abuses occurring in conflict settings, and presents a number of good practices aimed at enabling United Nations agencies and other relevant actors operating in conflict situations to integrate anti-trafficking responses into their work. The Thematic Paper’s objective is to support collaborative and concrete efforts to prevent and counter conflict-related trafficking in persons, to identify and refer victims of trafficking to protection and assistance services and to help ending impunity of perpetrators.

Acknowledging the Thematic Paper's relevance to developing a comprehensive response to trafficking in persons in conflict situations, the Security Council, in Resolution 2388 (2017), requested the Secretary-General to ensure that the Thematic Paper is disseminated within the United Nations System. In response to this request, the Thematic Paper was disseminated on 17 October to United Nations Funds, Programmes and Agencies operating in confl, who were encouraged to use it as a basis for developing tools, good practices and guidance on addressing trafficking in persons in their mandated activities.

[Thematic Paper: Countering Trafficking in Persons in Conflict Situations](#)