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.

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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, militarism, civil unrest, internal armed conflict and natural disasters

**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.

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).

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.
### 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>What is done</th>
<th>THE MEANS</th>
<th>THE PURPOSE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recruitment</td>
<td>Recruitment</td>
<td>Threat or use of force</td>
<td>Exploitation, including:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>Coercion</td>
<td>Prostitution of others</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer</td>
<td>Transfer</td>
<td>Abduction</td>
<td>Sexual exploitation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harbouiring</td>
<td>Harbouiring</td>
<td>Fraud</td>
<td>Forced labour</td>
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<tr>
<td>Receipt of persons</td>
<td>Receipt of persons</td>
<td>Deception</td>
<td>Slavery or similar practices</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Abuse of power or vulnerability</td>
<td>Removal of organs</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Giving payments or benefits to a</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>person in control of the victim.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* To ascertain whether a particular circumstance constitutes trafficking in persons also consider the definitions included in domestic legislation.
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)
2.3 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
Exercise

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?
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.

![Detected Victims of trafficking in persons by age and gender, 2011](image)

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?

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?
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?

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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.

Therefore, human trafficking affects each country differently, involving different types of criminal activities, affecting people from a diverse range of backgrounds and involving different economic sectors.

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 Hadj.

- **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**.

- **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?

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-eight** per cent of detected victims were from outside the region, while 32 per cent were trafficked within the region.
About the UNODC Global Report 2014

• The UNODC Global Report 2014 was released on 24 November 2014

• Provides an overview of patterns and flows of trafficking in persons at global, regional and national levels, based on trafficking cases detected between 2010 and 2012

• Highlights the role of organized crime in trafficking in persons, and includes an analytical chapter on how traffickers operate

• The findings are based on official data reported to UNODC by national authorities and represent only what has been detected.

Core Results

1. Victims of 152 different nationalities have been identified in 124 countries across the world.

2. At least 510 trafficking flows have been detected.

3. Some 64 per cent of convicted traffickers are citizens of the convicting country.

4. Some 72 per cent of convicted traffickers are men, and 28 percent are women.

5. 49 per cent of detected victims are adult women.

6. 33 per cent of detected victims are children, which is a 5 per cent increase compared to the 2007-2010 period.
Most of the victims detected in the Middle East are Asians, followed by victims from Sub-Saharan Africa. In addition, 32 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.

According to the 2014 UNODC Report, human trafficking victims from North African countries, especially from the Maghreb, are broadly dispersed. These victims are detected in limited numbers but in many different countries.
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.
According to the UNODC Global Report 2014, child trafficking is a major concern in Africa and the Middle East, with children constituting 62 per cent of victims.

A majority of trafficking in the Middle East is for the purpose of sexual exploitation, followed by forced labour. Globally, the vast majority of detected female victims are trafficked for sexual exploitation, whereas most of the detected male victims are trafficked for forced labour.

However, a closer look at the broad category of trafficking for forced labour reveals that this is not a crime that only involves male victims. An analysis of the regional differences shows that in Africa and the Middle East, females account for the majority of the detected victims trafficked for the purpose of forced labour.

Although the data coverage for these vast regions is relatively poor, making it difficult to draw strong conclusions, exploitation in domestic labour – which often affects women – may be one of the explanations.
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

UNODC notes that as recently as 2003, no country in the region had legislation in place to criminalize trafficking in persons. But in the subsequent years, a majority of them have enacted legislation in line with international standards.

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.
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.

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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRIMARY SOURCES</th>
<th>SECONDARY SOURCES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Information Officers/ Spokespeople</td>
<td>United Nations documents</td>
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<tr>
<td>Experts/Academics</td>
<td>Government department reports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activists/ Civil Society Organization representatives/advocates</td>
<td>News archives</td>
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<tr>
<td>Witnesses</td>
<td>Press releases</td>
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<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>
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</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.

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**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.
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.

4.2 How to interview victims / survivors
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.
4.5 ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS IN HUMAN TRAFFICKING STORIES

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 are 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 can they 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 can your particular viewer/reader/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.
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), 2014

The Global Report 2014 provides an overview of patterns and flows of trafficking in persons at global, regional and national levels, based on trafficking cases detected between 2010 and 2012 (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.


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.


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.


U.S. Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report, U.S Department of State, 2015

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 document 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.


**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.


**Human Trafficking Manual for Journalists, ASTRA Anti-Trafficking Action, 2008**

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.


**International Framework for Action to Implement the Trafficking in Persons Protocol**, *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2009*

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.


**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

**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
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=tqcCxeplWQ&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=kMMXCUyhM

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

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

TED talks

Noy Thrupkaew: Human trafficking is all around you. This is how it works
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oIGBPspTKM

Combating Human Trafficking (AnnJannette Alejandro-Steele)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wo-HI54b6Y

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

Human Trafficking (Rachel Lloyd)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ji_6iMi9qA

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

How to Combat Modern Slavery (Kevin Bales)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HUM2rCIUdel

The Fight Against Sex Slavery (Sunitha Krishnan)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jeOumyTMCi8

Photos That Bear Witness to Modern Slavery (Lisa Kristine)
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

**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.

https://cpj.org/reports/2012/04/journalist-security-guide.php

**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.


**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.

*English* http://video.skeyesmedia.org/

*Arabic* http://ar.video.skeyesmedia.org/
SECTION 6

DIRECTORY
Build your own directory of contacts.

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The following terms have been selected from the Media-Friendly Glossary on Migration. The glossary is the result of a year-long project supported by the Open Society Foundations. United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) and Panos Europe Institute reached out to a scientific committee composed of eight international and civil society organisations working in the field of migration. The definitions provided by these organisations were subsequently reviewed by an editorial committee of media professionals, specialised in migration.

The full document is available here: http://www.panoseurope.org/publications/media-friendly-glossary-migration

The primary mission of UNAOC is to develop actions in the areas of Education, Youth, Media, and Migration, at both the governmental and civil society levels, with the goal of countering forces that fuel polarization and extremism, and improving cross-cultural understanding and cooperation among countries, people, and communities.

**Asylum-seeker**

An asylum-seeker is an individual who has crossed an international border and is seeking international protection. In countries with individualized procedures, an asylum-seeker is someone whose claim for asylum 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 recognized as a refugee, but every refugee is initially an asylum-seeker.

**Best interests of the child**

“In all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.”

This means that governmental bodies, NGOs and other actors concerned, including in certain cases, the media should place the most importance on the needs of the child when taking actions concerning a child, or making decisions affecting him/her. This does not mean that other considerations cannot be taken into account, but they should not prevail over the interests of the child. It can also sometimes appear that the rights and interests of the child are contradictory. In such cases, it is necessary to balance these competing demands so that the decisions made support the most positive outcome for the child.
**Child**

A child is generally a person under the age of 18, unless the laws of a particular country set a different (for example younger) legal age for adulthood.

**Child trafficking**

Child trafficking is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation, which includes sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs. Child trafficking slightly differs from adult trafficking as elements included in the definition of the act for adults (use of force, coercion, etc.) are not required in the case of children.

**Child vs minor**

In a climate where migrants are dehumanized, referring to children as “minors” rather than as “children” has potentially negative connotations and risks their exclusion from the child rights/child protection frameworks.

**Country of destination**

Either “country of destination”, or “destination country”, is the most neutral and accurate term to refer to the country in which a person intends to conclude their journey.

These are preferable to “host country” which connotes that migrants are merely guests and that their stay is dependent on the invitation and at the expense of hosts. “Host country” also feeds the perception that migrants take advantage of benefits and services, but do not make contributions. To ensure that discussion of migration is consistent with human rights, it is essential to recognize that benefits, like social security, and services, like education, health care or shelter, are a right, and not simply a good-will gesture. Migrants are not passive recipients of hospitality and their stay is rarely temporary and non-contributing. Moreover, the response of the receiving or destination country may not be at all hospitable but instead may verge on the hostile and restrictive.

In the context of internally displaced persons (IDPs) the term “place of destination” should be used. In the context of refugees the term “country of refuge” can be used.
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”. “Sending country” carries the connotation that the state would take an active part in making workers leave the country to find employment and residence abroad. “Home” carries certain connotations: it is a place where one lives and a place that creates a feeling of belonging. For many migrants, home is their place of residence in the destination country; they may no longer have a physical residence, family or social unit in their country of origin. The term “home country” discounts the experience of migrants who migrated when they were very young and therefore have little or no memory of their country of origin, its language, etc. It is also based on the misconception that all migrants and refugees could eventually go “home” regardless of how long they have stayed, how well they have integrated or conditions in the country of origin. It can fuel racist and anti-migrant “go back home” campaigns that are often waged against second generation migrants – even when they may never have set foot in the country where their parents were born. Moreover, the term “home country” undermines efforts to integrate migrants and implies the highly damaging assertion that migrants could not, or should not, feel a sense of belonging in the country to which they have migrated. In the context of internally displaced persons (IDPs) the term “place of habitual residence” should be used.

Debt bondage

Debt bondage is the situation that arises when a person pledges their own personal services, or the services of a person under their control, as a method to secure a debt, and when the value of those services pledged (as reasonably assessed) is either not applied towards the liquidation of the debt or the length and nature of those services are not respectively limited and defined. The borrower therefore finds himself/herself in a situation where in spite of all of their efforts, the debt cannot be wiped out. Debt bondage creates a vulnerability for abuse, for example: deception about the nature and conditions of work, retention of passports, deposits and illegal wage deductions, extortionate recruitment fees, threats to workers who want to leave their employers, and, in some instances, physical violence.

Decent work

Decent work sums up the aspirations of people in their working lives. It involves opportunities for work that is productive and delivers 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 a 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.

**Discrimination**

The United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), in its General Recommendation No. 20, said that differences in treatment based on citizenship or migration status constitute discrimination if the criteria for different treatment, when judged in the light of the objectives and purposes of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, are not applied in pursuit of a legitimate aim or are not proportional to its achievement.

**Domestic worker**

A domestic worker is an individual who is paid to perform domestic duties such as cleaning, cooking and looking after children or elderly people in the home. This individual often lives and works at the employer's residence. The gender neutral term “domestic worker” is preferred to “domestic helper” or “maid” because it underscores that this individual is a worker with labour rights.

**Article 1 of the ILO Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189):**

(a) the term domestic work means work performed in or for a household or households;

(b) the term domestic worker means any person engaged in domestic work within an employment relationship;

(c) a person who performs domestic work only occasionally or sporadically and not on an occupational basis is not a domestic worker.

**Exploitation**

There is no definition of the term “exploitation” in any legal instrument. Exploitation can be understood as being the act of taking advantage of another for one’s own benefit (e.g. sexual exploitation, labour exploitation or the removal of organs).

**Exploitation of children**

Exploitation of children consists in using a child for the cash or in-kind benefit of a third party. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) refers specifically to the protection of the child against:

Sexual exploitation (Art. 34 CRC): states parties undertake to protect the child from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. For these purposes, states parties
shall in particular take all appropriate national, bilateral and multilateral measures to prevent:

(a) the inducement or coercion of a child to engage in any unlawful sexual activity;
(b) the exploitative use of children in prostitution or other unlawful sexual practices;
(c) the exploitative use of children in pornographic performances and materials.

Economic exploitation (Art. 32 CRC): states parties recognize the right of the child to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child’s education, or to be harmful to the child’s health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development.

Forced and voluntary migration

Forced migration describes an involuntary type of migration where an element of coercion exists. Examples of this type of coercion could include environmental disasters, chemical or nuclear disasters, famine, trafficking, war, conflict, human rights violations etc. 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 all migrants in a holistic way, regardless of their motives for migrating and their migration or residence status, while at the same time reinforcing the protections that have been built up in relation to specific groups. 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 other migrants. Promoting the human rights of all migrants is compatible with upholding the existing framework for refugee protection. A concern to use inclusive language and better recognize and protect the human rights of all migrants must not dilute the needs of specific individuals or groups and the international legal framework that has evolved to protect them.

Forced labour

“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.”

ILO Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29), Art. 2

The prohibition of forced labour in all its forms is considered to be a peremptory norm of international human rights law, which is therefore absolutely binding and from which no derogation is possible. The principles of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Conventions No. 29 and No. 105 concerning forced labour have found universal acceptance and endorsement, and have become an inalienable
part of fundamental human rights.

In recent years, the persistent use of forced labour has been the subject of growing international attention. In June 2012, the ILO estimated that there are at least 20.9 million men, women and children who are victims of forced labour globally, affecting all regions. Those who exact or promote forced labour generate vast illegal profits, with domestic work, agriculture, construction, manufacturing and entertainment among the sectors most concerned. The ILO estimated in 2014 that the total profits obtained from the use of forced labour in the private economy worldwide amount to US$150 billion per year.

**Gender-based violence**

Gender-based violence refers to violence waged against an individual on the basis of his or her gender or perceived gender. It is a broader term than “domestic violence” which implies violence in the home or within a family. Gender-based violence can take place anywhere.

This includes what are sometimes called “honour crimes” or “honour killings”. In fact, patriarchal attitudes that can result in such violence are not limited to migrants; misogyny manifests itself in different ways in different settings; and so-called honour crimes against women are about maintaining men’s perceived honour. So it is preferable to use the term “violence against women.” In addressing the layers of gender and racial discrimination that perpetuate gender-based violence against migrant women, it is essential as well to use language that does not perpetuate the idea that migrants are “the other” and to focus on common experiences of social inequalities. Women’s rights activists prefer even more precision in the case of migrant women. In the context of gender-based violence, some advocate use of the term “survivor of violence” rather than “victim” to underscore that migrant women should not be reduced to their experiences as victims.

**Illegal migrant**

The term “illegal migrant” should never be used. As any other person, migrants are not “illegal.” They are in an “irregular” situation or “undocumented”. The term “illegal” is not accurate; it is misleading, contributes to negative stereotyping and criminalises migrants. Irregular entry and stay are administrative offences, not criminal offences; they involve no crimes against persons, property or national security, as noted by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants. In 1975 the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution requesting “the United Nations organs and the specialised agencies concerned to utilise in all official documents the term “non-documented or irregular migrant workers” to define those workers that irregularly enter and/or surreptitiously enter another country to obtain work.
Similarly, it is never appropriate to refer to asylum-seekers or refugees as “illegal migrants”. On the one hand, their reasons for moving are different from those of migrants, and on the other, international law recognizes that those fleeing conflict or persecution may need to cross international borders without authorization and should not be penalized for doing so.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

Internally displaced persons (IDPs) are “persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border”.

The definition provided by the Guiding principles on internal displacement highlights two elements: 1) the coercive or otherwise involuntary character of movement; and 2) the fact that such movement takes place within national borders. Incorrect, but frequently used terms, are “domestic refugees” or “internal refugees”. IDPs do not have an internationally recognized status in the same way that refugees are recognized as foreign nationals and protected under the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. However, IDPs have rights under national and international law and should be protected on this basis.

We should also not use “IDP status”: while the term “refugee” implies a specific legal status under international law, the use of the term IDP does not. In most countries there is no legal status for IDPs as a group. In some contexts, singling out IDPs from the broader population by giving them a special legal status can run the risk of increasing their exposure to discrimination.

Irregular or undocumented migrant

There is no universally accepted legal definition of an irregular migrant. An irregular migrant can be described as a person who, owing to irregular entry, the expiring of his or her visa, the rejection of his asylum application or other reasons, lacks legal status in a transit or country of destination.

The Global Commission on International Migration (GCIM) defined irregular migrants as those “who enter or remain in a country without authorization, those who are smuggled or trafficked across an international border, and unsuccessful asylum-seekers who fail to observe a deportation order”. 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 and the right to be recognized as a person before the law. 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.

In 2010, the Global Migration Group (GMG) expressed its deep concern about the human rights of international migrants in an irregular situation around the globe, concluding that they are more likely to face discrimination, exclusion, abuse and exploitation. The GMG noted that the irregular situation in which international migrants may find themselves should not deprive them of either their humanity or their human rights.

Irregular migration

Irregular migration is a cross-border movement that takes place outside the regulatory norms of the countries of origin, transit and destination. From the perspective of the country of destination it is entry, stay or work in a country without the necessary authorization or documents required under immigration regulations. B

From the perspective of the country of origin, the irregularity is, for example, seen in cases in which a person crosses an international boundary without a valid passport or travel document or does not fulfil the administrative requirements for leaving the country.

Labour market

A labour market concerns the activities of hiring and supplying certain labour to perform specific jobs, and the process of determining how much shall be paid to whom in performing what tasks. In addition, the definition covers the way in which wages move and the mobility of workers between different jobs and employers. The expression labour market does not mean that there is a physical market place; rather, the labour market is to be seen as a ‘place’ in economic theory where labour demand and supply interact. The labour market as a whole is divided into a number of submarkets, including regional and sectorial markets, as well as markets for specific trades, skills and categories of persons.

Labour migration

Labour migration is defined as the movement of persons from one geographical location to another in order to find gainful employment. International labour migration involves the crossing of a border for the same purposes. In terms of economic theory there is no difference between internal (e.g. rural to urban) and international labour migration. Differences stem from legal issues that arise if someone wishes to take up employment in a foreign country or when an employer
reaches over a border to recruit a worker.

In 2013, there were an estimated 232 million international migrants in the world (defined as persons outside their country of origin for 12 months or more) and approximately half of them were estimated to be economically active (i.e. being employed or seeking employment). Indeed, migration today is largely linked, directly or indirectly, to the world of work. Besides individuals crossing borders in search of employment, there are also accompanying family members who may end up in the labour market of the destination country; and training and education opportunities abroad may lead to employment, to give but two examples.

Migrant

There is no internationally recognized definition of migrants. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies’ policy on migration describes migrants as people who leave or flee their places of habitual residence to go to a new place, across international borders or within their own state, to seek better or safer perspectives. Migration can be forced or voluntary, but most of the time a combination of choices and constraints are involved, as well as the intent to live abroad for an extended period of time.

Although asylum-seekers and refugees often travel alongside migrants in so-called “mixed flows”, they have specific needs and are protected by a specific legal framework: they should generally not be conflated with migrants.

Migrant domestic worker

Migrant domestic workers are individuals who move to another country or region to better their material or social conditions and improve the prospects for themselves or their family, and who are engaged in a work relationship performed in or for a household or households. The ILO Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) sets standards for migrant domestic workers:

- A written contract that is enforceable in the country of employment, or a written job offer, prior to traveling to the country of employment (Article 8).
- Clear conditions under which migrant domestic workers are entitled to repatriation at the end of their employment (Article 8).
- Protection of migrant domestic workers from abusive practices by private employment agencies (Article 15).
- Co-operation among [origin] and [destination] countries to ensure the effective application to migrant domestic workers of the provisions of the Convention (Article 8).
Migrant worker

“The term “migrant worker” refers to a person who is to be engaged or has been engaged in a remunerated activity in a state of which he or she is not a national.”

United Nations Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, 1990, Article 2(1)

Recruitment

Recruitment of migrant workers happens through informal and formal networks that seek to match labour supply and demand. Often, private employment agencies play this role and negotiate the terms of employment with employers on behalf of the migrant. The ILO Private Employment Agencies Convention, 1997 (No. 181), Article 8 establishes that “where workers are recruited in one country for work in another, the members concerned shall consider concluding bilateral agreements to prevent abuses and fraudulent practices in recruitment, placement and employment.” Private employment agencies play a legitimate role in the labour market. However there are concerns about the proliferation of informal labour brokers, which at times can exacerbate the risk of abuse, forced labour and human trafficking among migrant workers.

In a fair recruitment arrangement, private employment agencies shall not charge directly or indirectly, in whole or in part, any fees or costs to workers.

Refugee

A refugee is a person who meets the eligibility criteria under the applicable refugee definition, as provided for in international or regional refugee instruments, under the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees’ mandate, and/or in national legislation.

The most important definitions of a refugee contained in international documents are:

• Statute of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (Art. 6.A (ii) of GA/UN Resolution 428 (V) of 14 December 1950): Any person who, as a result of events occurring before 1 January 1951 and owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear or for reasons other than personal convenience, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence, is unable or, owing to such fear or for reasons other than personal convenience, is unwilling to return to it.
• 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees Art. 1A (2): As a result of events occurring before 1 January 1951 and owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it. (Slightly different because the 1951 Convention takes into consideration the membership of a particular social group as one of the 5 grounds).

• 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees Art. 1.2: For the purpose of the present Protocol, the term “refugee” shall, except as regards the application of paragraph 3 of this article, mean any person within the definition of Article 1 of the Convention as if the words “As a result of events occurring before 1 January 1951 and” and the words “a result of such events”, in Article 1 A (2) were omitted.

Smuggled person/migrant

A “smuggled person” or “smuggled migrant” is a migrant who is enabled, by providing financial or material benefit a third party, to gain irregular entry into a state of which he or she is not a national or a permanent resident.

Smuggler (of migrants)

A smuggler is an intermediary who moves a person with their agreement, in order to transport him/her in an unauthorized manner across an internationally recognized state border. The smuggler is not necessarily a trafficker as he/she does not necessarily have the intention of exploiting the person.

Smuggling (of migrants)

“The procurement, in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit, of the [irregular] entry of a person into a state party 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, or violation of human rights.
**Trafficker**

A trafficker is the person who commits the act of trafficking and is therefore involved in the movement of persons for the purpose of exploitation.

**Trafficking in persons**

“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”.

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 can take place within the borders of one state or may have a transnational character.

**Undocumented migrant worker**

An undocumented migrant worker is someone who is engaged in employment without authorization or without authorization to do the specific work they are engaged in (i.e. they are allowed to work only in a particular sector, etc.). Authorization to work is often linked to a single employer and dependent on the employer making the application and/or submitting various documents and a fee. Under these conditions, migrant workers are vulnerable to losing their status or working irregularly in poor conditions, with the promise that the employer will regularize their status or under the false pretence that they have.

**Victim of human trafficking**

A victim of human trafficking is any person who is subject to trafficking in persons.

**Worst forms of child labour**

“(a) all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced or compulsory labour, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict;

(b) the use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of...
pornography or for pornographic performances;

(c) the use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs as defined in the relevant international treaties;

(d) work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children.”

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