

Glossary

Child labour: work that deprives children of their childhood, rights and dignity. The work is often harmful to their physical, mental and social development, while negatively impacting their potential. The work interferes with their schooling by causing them to either leave school prematurely or try to attend school while working long and arduous hours in debilitating conditions.

Consent: agreeing to or giving permission. With regards to human trafficking, consent is irrelevant because of the abusive, coercive and deceptive means that traffickers use to gain consent. Moreover, a child under the age of 18 cannot give consent under any conditions to be exploited. The same applies to a custodial parent or guardian; they cannot give consent for the child in their custody to be exploited.

Destination: the place where trafficked persons end up and find themselves in a cycle of exploitation.

Human trafficking: 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 includes, 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.

Forced labour: work or services that are extracted from a person under the threat of punishment and that are undertaken involuntarily.

Organized criminal group: a structured group of three or more persons that exists for a period of time and acts in concert. Their aim is to commit one or more serious crimes or offences in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, financial or other material benefit.

Smuggling of migrants: a crime involving the procurement for financial or other material benefit of the illegal entry of a person into a country of which the person is not a national or a permanent resident.

Source: a country, town or village or other origin point of a trafficked person.

Slavery: the status or condition of a person over whom any or all of the powers attached to the right of ownership are exercised.

The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children: The purpose of the Protocol is to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, protect and assist victims of trafficking, and promote cooperation among States parties to meet these objectives. The Protocol is the only international legal instrument that addresses human trafficking as a crime and it falls under the jurisdiction of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The Protocol was adopted by the General Assembly, in its resolution 55/25, on 15 November 2000 and entered into force on 25 December 2003.

Traffickers: people who are involved in the criminal activity of trafficking in persons. The term does not apply solely to persons convicted of human trafficking offences, but also refers to suspects and arrested and prosecuted persons who, through various means, have come to the attention of the criminal justice system.

Trafficking in persons: see human trafficking.

Vulnerability: something that makes it easier for someone to be taken advantage of.