

What is Human Trafficking?

Human Trafficking is an economic crime. It is a person exploiting another person by using force, fraud and/or coercion in order to make a financial profit, with the victim having a real or perceived notion of not being able to exit the situation.

Each country has its own legal definition of the crime. But these are the three components to qualify a situation of human trafficking.

The AMP Model

ACT



What is done?

recruitment,
transportation,
transfer, harbouring or
receipt of persons

MEANS



How is it done?

threat, use of force,
coercion, abduction,
fraud, deception, abuse
of power

PURPOSE



Why is it done?

the purpose is
always
exploitation



If the person is under 18, no force fraud or coercion is needed to qualify a situation of sex trafficking, and most forms of labor may be considered trafficking depending on the country.

Types of Human Trafficking

Labor Trafficking

The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of a person for the purpose of forced labor or services, through the use of force, threats, deception, abuse of power, or other forms of coercion. If the person is under 18, certain forms of labor may be considered trafficking even without force, fraud, or coercion depending on the country.

Sex Trafficking

Sex trafficking is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of a person for the purpose of sexual exploitation, through the use of force, threats, deception, abuse of power, or other forms of coercion. If the person is under 18, it is considered sex trafficking even if no force, fraud, or coercion is involved.

Trafficking for Organ Removal

It is the illegal trade of human organs, where victims are forced or deceived into giving up an organ for transplant. In some countries, organ trafficking is not considered a type of trafficking but treated as a separate crime.

Domestic Servitude

Domestic servitude is a form of trafficking that traps people in forced labor within private homes, where they may be ill-treated and made to work for little or no pay. Some countries consider domestic servitude as part of labor trafficking.

Forced Begging

It is a form of human trafficking where individuals are coerced, threatened, or exploited to beg for money on behalf of another person. Victims of forced begging usually do not keep the money they receive; instead, it is taken by their abuser.

Forced Criminality

Trafficking for forced criminality involves exploiting individuals to commit illegal acts, such as theft, drug trafficking, or fraud and scams under coercion or threat. Some countries consider forced begging and forced criminality as part of labor trafficking.

Definition



"The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of 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 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 labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs or other types of exploitation."

UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (2003) - Palermo Protocol

Statistics and trends

- Between **25 and 50 million** estimated victims worldwide.
- Less than **1% victims identified** worldwide.
- Between 2010 and 2022, the number of identified victims of human trafficking increased by 25%.
- Human trafficking is one of the most profitable illegal markets in the world, with an estimated **\$236 billion annual global profit**.
- Labor trafficking currently represents 42% of all detected trafficking victims - the highest proportion ever recorded - which suggests either an increased incidence and/or improved identification efforts.
- Forced criminality (like scams, fraud) has surged from 1% a decade ago to 8% in 2025.
- Technology, including online platforms and cryptocurrencies, is increasingly used to facilitate trafficking.
- There is an overall 30% pivot toward digital modes of trafficking (2025).

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UN Regional Resource Center
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SCAN ME



Learn more at
www.antitraffickingresponse.org

