

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING: THE FACTS

### The headline facts

- An estimated **2.5 million people** are in forced labour (including sexual exploitation) at any given time as a result of trafficking<sup>1</sup>
  - Of these:
    - **1.4 million** – 56% - are in Asia and the Pacific
    - **250,000** – 10% - are in Latin America and the Caribbean
    - **230,000** – 9.2% - are in the Middle East and Northern Africa
    - **130,000** – 5.2% - are in sub-Saharan countries
    - **270,000** – 10.8% - are in industrialized countries
    - **200,000** – 8% - are in countries in transition<sup>2</sup>
- **161 countries** are reported to be affected by human trafficking by being a source, transit or destination count<sup>3</sup>
- People are reported to be trafficked from **127 countries** to be exploited in **137 countries**, affecting every continent and every type of economy<sup>4</sup>

### The Victims

- The majority of trafficking victims are **between 18 and 24 years** of age<sup>5</sup>
- An estimated **1.2 million children** are trafficked each year<sup>6</sup>
- **95% of victims experienced physical or sexual violence** during trafficking (based on data from selected European countries)<sup>7</sup>
- 43% of victims are used for **forced commercial sexual exploitation**, of whom 98 per cent are women and girls<sup>8</sup>
- 32% of victims are used for **forced economic exploitation**, of whom 56 per cent are women and girls<sup>9</sup>
- Many trafficking victims have at least **middle-level education**<sup>10</sup>

<sup>1</sup> International Labour Organization, *Forced Labour Statistics Factsheet* (2007)

<sup>2</sup> International Labour Organization, *Forced Labour Statistics Factsheet* (2007)

<sup>3</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Trafficking in Persons: Global Patterns* (Vienna, 2006)

<sup>4</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Trafficking in Persons: Global Patterns* (Vienna, 2006)

<sup>5</sup> International Organization for Migration, *Counter-Trafficking Database, 78 Countries, 1999-2006* (1999)

<sup>6</sup> UNICEF, *UK Child Trafficking Information Sheet* (January 2003)

<sup>7</sup> The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, *Stolen smiles: a summary report on the physical and psychological health consequences of women and adolescents trafficked in Europe* (London, 2006)

<sup>8</sup> International Labour Organization, *Forced Labour Statistics Factsheet* (2007)

<sup>9</sup> International Labour Organization, *Forced Labour Statistics Factsheet* (2007)

<sup>10</sup> International Organization for Migration, *Counter-Trafficking Database, 78 Countries, 1999-2006* (1999)

## The Traffickers

- 52% of those recruiting victims are men, 42% are women and 6% are both men and women<sup>11</sup>
- In 54% of cases the recruiter was a stranger to the victim, 46% of cases the recruiter was known to victim<sup>12</sup>
- The majority of suspects involved in the trafficking process are **nationals of the country where the trafficking process is occurring**<sup>13</sup>

## The Profits

- Estimated global annual profits made from the exploitation of all trafficked forced labour are **US\$ 31.6 billion**<sup>14</sup>

Of this:

- **US\$ 15.5 billion** – 49% - is generated in industrialized economies
- **US\$ 9.7 billion** – 30.6% is generated in Asia and the Pacific
- **US\$ 1.3 billion** – 4.1% is generated in Latin America and the Caribbean
- **US\$ 1.6 billion** – 5% is generated in sub-Saharan Africa
- **US\$ 1.5 billion** – 4.7% is generated in the Middle East and North Africa<sup>15</sup>

## Prosecutions

- In 2006 there were only **5,808 prosecutions** and **3,160 convictions** throughout the world<sup>16</sup>
- This means that **for every 800 people trafficked, only one person was convicted** in 2006<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> International Organization for Migration, *Counter-Trafficking Database, 78 Countries, 1999-2006* (1999)

<sup>12</sup> International Organization for Migration, *Counter-Trafficking Database, 78 Countries, 1999-2006* (1999)

<sup>13</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Trafficking in Persons: Global Patterns* (Vienna, 2006)

<sup>14</sup> Patrick Besler, *Forced Labour and Human Trafficking: Estimating the Profits*, working paper (Geneva, International Labour Office, 2005)

<sup>15</sup> Patrick Besler, *Forced Labour and Human Trafficking: Estimating the Profits*, working paper (Geneva, International Labour Office, 2005)

<sup>16</sup> US State Department, *Trafficking in Persons Report* (2007) p.36

<sup>17</sup> US State Department, *Trafficking in Persons Report* (2007) p.36