

# TRAFFICKING



Human trafficking is a form of Modern day slavery - an umbrella term that occurs when people are forced into exploitative situations for profit where that person cannot leave because of threats, violence, coercion, deception or abuse of power. It affects millions of women, children and men all across the globe.<sup>1</sup>

There is currently no country unaffected, whether as a source, transit or destination location, or a combination of the three.<sup>2</sup> Unfortunately the full scale of this barbaric trade can't be definitively detected. Statistics surrounding human trafficking are difficult to authenticate, and estimates can vary by the millions. It is currently estimated that nearly 21 million people are trafficked for profit around the world today.<sup>3</sup>

Modern slavery can be broken down into three key terms:<sup>4</sup>



## HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The recruitment and/or movement of someone within or across borders, through the abuse of power/position with the intention of forced exploitation, commercial or otherwise.

## SEX TRAFFICKING

The recruitment and/or movement of someone within or across borders, through the abuse of power/position with the intention of sexual exploitation, commercial or otherwise, such as prostitution, sex tourism or pornography. While trafficking for sexual exploitation is more commonly reported among women and girls, it can also happen to boys.

## FORCED LABOUR

All work or service, legitimate or otherwise, which is exacted from any person under violence or the threat of violence, whether physical or mental, which prevents a person from exercising his/her freedom of movement and/or free will. Trafficked people are exploited through forced labour, but not every person who experiences forced labour has been trafficked.

Separating victims of human trafficking and those purely under the category of forced labour can be extremely difficult and is often debated in development and academic spheres. Human trafficking can be understood as a subset of forced labour (in that all human trafficking is forced labour, but not all forced labour is trafficking).<sup>5</sup>

The act of trafficking can be defined on the basis of three main cumulative elements: Action, Means, and Purpose.<sup>6</sup>



## HOW TRAFFICKING BREAKS DOWN



### ACTION

RECRUITS  
TRANSPORTS  
PROVIDES  
OBTAINS/ATTEMPTS



### MEANS

FORCE  
FRAUD  
COERCION



### PURPOSE

COMMERCIAL SEX ACTS  
LABOUR SERVICES

## WHO ARE THE PERPETRATORS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

Human Trafficking is almost always a form of organised crime.<sup>7</sup> With relatively low risks of being caught, and high profit margins, trafficking-in-persons is one of the least risky criminal pursuits worldwide;<sup>8</sup> consequently making it the fastest growing criminal enterprise with a global profit of US \$32 billion annually.<sup>9,10</sup>

To a human trafficker, people are regarded as just another commodity – like narcotics, weapons, or endangered species – to be exploited and traded for profit.<sup>11</sup>

**“Recruiters and brokers are usually of the same nationality and often from the same social network as their victims, and live or have lived in the**

**destination country. Some were once trafficking victims themselves and became perpetrators as a means of escape.”<sup>12</sup>**

## WHO DOES TRAFFICKING HAPPEN TO?

Traffickers target vulnerable people as they are easier to exploit. They offer the false promise of employment including the falsification of documents if abroad. Upon arrival at their destination, documents are confiscated, and they are held by force or coercion.

Some examples of vulnerabilities that create conditions that lead to trafficking are:

- » Poverty
- » Inadequate education and/or employment availability
- » Gender inequality
- » Inequalities & discrimination
- » Conflict
- » Disabilities & illness
- » Lack of legal status
- » Religious and/or cultural beliefs
- » Homelessness and/or social isolation
- » Natural Disasters<sup>13</sup>

There are many ways that traffickers coerce young girls into situations where they are vulnerable to exploitation, the most common being a promise of a good job in another city or country. However, there are other methods used, such as: a false offer of marriage, being sold by a relative or significant other, or being kidnapped by traffickers.<sup>14,15</sup>

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**In Cambodia, a lack of jobs leads some women and girls to leave their homes in rural areas to try to find work in tourist destination cities. In many cases, traffickers exploit them in sex trafficking, including in massage parlors, karaoke bars, and beer gardens.<sup>16</sup>**

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## WHY CAN'T VICTIMS JUST LEAVE?

Victims of trafficking are frequently subjected to debt-bondage, a creditor-debtor arrangement. This is an illegal practice by which a person is forced to work off a debt, legitimate or otherwise, in which his/her movement and/or free will is controlled. Methods of control include starvation, confinement, beatings,

physical abuse, rape, gang rape, threats of violence to the victims and the victims' families, forced drug use, and the threat of shaming victims by revealing their activities to their family and communities.<sup>17,18</sup>

## WHY DOES FREE TO SHINE FOCUS ON PREVENTING SEX TRAFFICKING?

Free To Shine was built on the promise that our founder Nicky Mih, made to survivors of sex trafficking in Cambodia (read more of Nicky's story).

Whilst preventing sex trafficking is the reason we exist, the nature of our work means we also contribute to the prevention of many other forms of Modern day slavery, such as forced labour and labour exploitation (including commercial sexual exploitation) and human trafficking.

- » Cambodia ranks ninth highest in the world for percent of population enslaved<sup>19</sup>
- » Cambodia is a source, transit and destination country for child victims of trafficking<sup>20</sup>
- » In Cambodia it is estimated that 261,000 people are living in modern slavery<sup>21</sup>

It is our belief that sex trafficking is the most abhorrent form of modern day slavery, but one that can be eradicated through the power of education.

- 1 Walk Free Foundation, 'The Global Slavery Index 2018,' Walk Free Foundation, 2018, p. 7 [www.globallslaveryindex.org/resources/downloads/](http://www.globallslaveryindex.org/resources/downloads/)
- 2 United Nations <https://www.un.org/en/chronicle/article/prevention-prosecution-and-protection-human-trafficking>
- 3 Migration Data Portal <https://migrationdataportal.org/themes/human-trafficking>
- 4 Anti slavery Australia <https://antislavery.org.au/modern-slavery/>
- 5 International Labour Organisation <https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/forced-labour/definition/lang--en/index.htm>
- 6 [https://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/documents/covid-19\\_analytical\\_snapshot\\_14\\_human\\_trafficking.pdf?fbclid=IwAR-2C0x1qH2IH2DLVyk4RiwRZUcGGfvuRetg4UGK73AM6KPQrp-QERdbmZw0](https://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/documents/covid-19_analytical_snapshot_14_human_trafficking.pdf?fbclid=IwAR-2C0x1qH2IH2DLVyk4RiwRZUcGGfvuRetg4UGK73AM6KPQrp-QERdbmZw0)
- 7 United Nations <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/faqs.html>
- 8 United Nations <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/faqs.html>
- 9 UNICEF [https://www.unicef.org/media/47766/file/Annual\\_Results\\_Report\\_2017\\_Social\\_Inclusion.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/media/47766/file/Annual_Results_Report_2017_Social_Inclusion.pdf)
- 10 Human Trafficking Centre. 2017. About the Problem. <https://humantraffickingcenter.org/problem/>
- 11 FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin <https://leb.fbi.gov/articles/featured-articles/human-sex-trafficking>
- 12 United Nations [https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/faqs.html#Who\\_are\\_the\\_victims\\_and\\_culprits\\_of\\_human\\_trafficking](https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/faqs.html#Who_are_the_victims_and_culprits_of_human_trafficking)
- 13 United Nations An introduction to Human Trafficking Page 3. [https://www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/An\\_Introduction\\_to\\_Human\\_Trafficking\\_-\\_Background\\_Paper.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/An_Introduction_to_Human_Trafficking_-_Background_Paper.pdf)
- 14 Trafficking in Persons Report 2019 Page 2 <https://www.business-humanrights.org/sites/default/files/documents/2019-Trafficking-in-Persons-Report.pdf>
- 15 Human Trafficking Centre. 2017. About the Problem. <https://humantraffickingcenter.org/problem/>
- 16 Trafficking in Persons Report 2019 Page 3 <https://www.business-humanrights.org/sites/default/files/documents/2019-Trafficking-in-Persons-Report.pdf>
- 17 The Encyclopedia of Human Trafficking <https://humantraffickingcenter.org/the-encyclopedia-of-human-trafficking/>
- 18 Page 29 [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_norm/---declaration/documents/publication/wcms\\_243391.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---declaration/documents/publication/wcms_243391.pdf)
- 19 Walk Free Foundation, 'The Global Slavery Index 2018,' Walk Free Foundation, 2018, p. 29, [www.globallslaveryindex.org/resources/downloads/](http://www.globallslaveryindex.org/resources/downloads/) (accessed 23 September 2019).
- 20 Action Pour Les Enfants (APLE) Cambodia and End Child Prostitution and Trafficking (ECPAT) International, 'Sexual Exploitation of Children in Cambodia Submission', 2018, <https://www.ecpat.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Universal-Periodical-Review-Sexual-Exploitation-of-Children-2018-Cambodia.pdf> , (accessed 29 October 2019).
- 21 Walk Free Foundation, 'The Global Slavery Index 2018,' Walk Free Foundation, 2018, p. 87, [www.globallslaveryindex.org/resources/downloads/](http://www.globallslaveryindex.org/resources/downloads/) (accessed 23 September 2019).