



UNDERSTANDING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

a resource for
awareness and
prevention

Enhancing Inter-Institutional Student Experience
within Arqus 2024

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01 PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE BOOKLET

Providing deep
understanding and
awareness to the
student community
and citizens

The Arqus Student Co-designed Projects are innovative, collaborative initiatives designed to foster cultural exchange and integration among international students from the universities in the Arqus Alliance. These projects are co-created by students, aiming to enhance the educational environment of the Alliance, promote student engagement, and strengthen the academic community. This initiative brings together three students, Caroline Massareli de Carvalho Moraes and Lidia Meloni from University of Padova (Italy) and Diana Ordóñez Grebennikova from University of Granada (Spain). We are attending a master in Human Rights and Multilevel Governance (Caroline and Lidia) and a double degree programme in Business and Administration + Law (Diana).

Understanding Human Trafficking: A Resource for Awareness and Prevention is a bottom-up initiative aimed at raising awareness about human trafficking. This project not only seeks to highlight vital issues related to human trafficking but also promotes a comprehensive learning experience that incorporates cross-disciplinary skills and has a significant social impact.

This booklet is designed as an educational resource to inform readers about human trafficking. It provides an overview of the subject, defines its various forms—such as labour and sexual exploitation—and presents important global statistics. Additionally, it covers international laws and conventions addressing trafficking. The booklet also examines how Italy and Spain respond to trafficking through their national legislation, emphasizing the role of NGOs and civil society in both countries by showcasing key organizations that support victims. Finally, the booklet offers prevention strategies, including information on the anti-trafficking toll-free number and a map of NGOs in Italy and Spain.

02 UNDERSTANDING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

DEFINITION

Human trafficking represents a complex reality of a crime that is still highly mystified and sometimes invisible. Not only does this represent a serious violation of human rights, but it also poses a public security problem. The reality of human trafficking highlights problems such as underdevelopment, poverty, social inequalities, and a lack of opportunities in various countries. These factors are crucial when it comes to identifying potential victims. (Ramos, 2021)

Human trafficking involves the exploitation of people through force, fraud, or coercion to work or do things they don't want to do. This can happen through tricks, threats, or pressure. In simple terms, it is when someone is tricked, forced, or taken advantage of in a way that makes them work, perform services, or engage in activities against their will. It often involves taking away the freedom of the victims and can happen to anyone, no matter their age, gender, or background. (Polaris. (n.d.)).

Human trafficking can occur both across borders and within a country. Traffickers often target vulnerable people, taking advantage of their difficult life situations, like poverty, lack of education, or unstable environments.

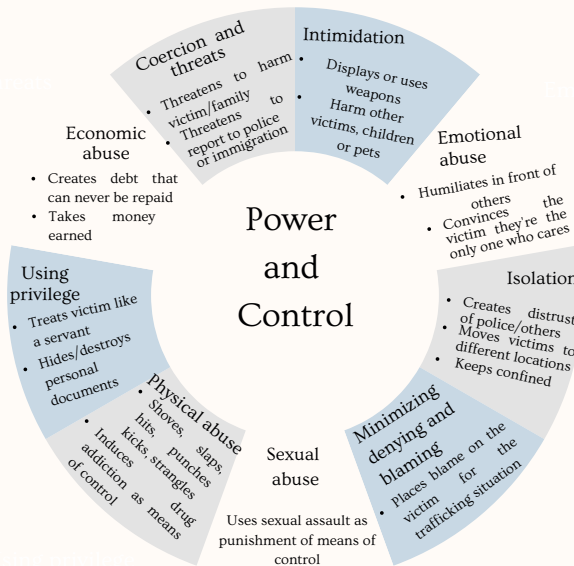
Human trafficking can take various forms, with some of the most common including trafficking for forced labour, trafficking for practices similar to slavery/servitude, trafficking for the exploitation of prostitution and sexual exploitation, and trafficking for the removal of organs. Every aspect relies on a specific action plan, and they all deserve attention. (National Human Trafficking Hotline. (n.d.))

While these various forms of trafficking target different types of exploitation, they all share a common thread: the methods traffickers use to control and subjugate their victims. This is where the "wheel of power" comes into play, offering insight into the manipulative tactics employed to maintain dominance over those being exploited.

02 UNDERSTANDING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

THE “WHEEL OF POWER”

The "wheel of power" in the human trafficking system is a model that illustrates how traffickers maintain influence over victims. It shows the numerous strategies used by traffickers to maintain power and exploit victims. These strategies maintain the traffickers' authority by keeping victims in situations in which they feel unable to leave or seek help. The wheel illustrates that trafficking is more than simply physical control; it also involves psychological manipulation and the exploitation of vulnerabilities. (National Human Trafficking Hotline (n.d.))



For additional information, please visit [this link](#)

02 UNDERSTANDING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

FORMS OF TRAFFICKING



Trafficking for forced labour: This occurs when people are forced to work in harsh conditions, often without proper pay or any pay at all. They may be made to work in factories, farms, construction, or domestic services. These individuals are often threatened, kept under control, and denied basic rights. (ILO,2017)

Trafficking for forced prostitution and sexual exploitation: In this type, people are pushed into prostitution or other forms of sexual exploitation. Victims are usually tricked or blackmailed into selling their bodies. The traffickers employ violence, intimidation, or false promises of a better life to keep the victims trapped. (Stop the Traffik. (n.d))



Trafficking for illegal adoption: the practice of illegally obtaining children for adoption, violating both domestic and international laws. This sort of trafficking usually entails the illicit transfer of a child from one person or family to another, often without the proper legal procedures or parental agreement. (UNODC, 2022)

Trafficking for forced marriage: Victims, particularly women and girls, may be sold or forced into marriages they do not consent to. These marriages often involve abuse and exploitation, with the person having no say in the arrangement. (ILO, 2017)



Trafficking for the removal of organs: In this form of trafficking, individuals are forced or tricked into giving up their organs, often under dangerous and illegal circumstances. These organs are sold to people in need of transplants, while the victims suffer severe health consequences. (Stop the Traffik. (n.d))

Trafficking for exploitative begging: In this situation, victims are compelled to beg in public areas, with their earnings often controlled by traffickers, depriving them of their autonomy and means of survival. This frequently involves children, vulnerable adults, or individuals with disabilities. (UNODC, 2022)



Trafficking for forced criminal activity: In this situation, victims are coerced into committing criminal activities, such as drug trafficking, theft, prostitution, or other offences that they are made to undertake against their will. (Stop the Traffik. (n.d))

Trafficking for mixed forms of exploitation: In this practice, victims are subjected to various forms of exploitation, which may involve a combination of forced labour, sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, and other forms of abuse. (UNODC,2022)



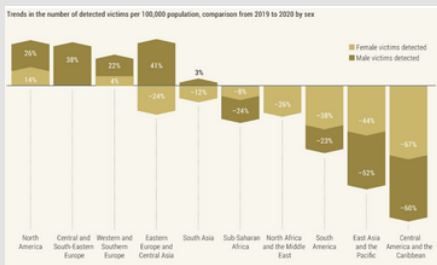
03 KEY STATISTICS AND GLOBAL IMPACT

GLOBAL STATISTICS ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Human trafficking is a pervasive and alarming issue that affects millions of people worldwide. Recognising the scale and impact of trafficking is essential for raising awareness and enhancing efforts to combat this crime. The Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2022 reveals, for the first time in 20 years, an 11% reduction in the number of detected victims compared to the 2019 report. (UNODC, 2022) However, during the pandemic, the observed trends in trafficking could be attributed to three main factors: lower institutional capacity to detect victims, fewer opportunities for traffickers to operate due to Covid-19 restrictions, and the migration of some trafficking activities to more hidden and less detectable locations.(UNODC, 2022)

A report from the International Labour Organization (ILO) in 2016 found that there are about 40.3 million people affected by human trafficking worldwide. Out of these, around 24.9 million are victims of labour trafficking, and 15.4 million people live in forced marriages. In this scenario, women and girls are disproportionately affected representing 71% of the overall total. Furthermore, one in four victims of modern slavery is a child. (ILO, 2017) Recently, the 2021 Global Report updated this figure to about 50 million people living in situations of modern slavery on any given day, either forced to work against their will or compelled into marriage. (ILO, Walk Free, & IOM, 2022)

Given these concerning statistics, it is essential to analyze trends in identified victims by sex, as well as the primary forms of exploitation and victim profiles by region in 2020. This examination highlights the global impact of human trafficking, as reported by the UNODC.



You can find more statistical information through the link below:



03 KEY STATISTICS AND GLOBAL IMPACT

REGIONAL TRENDS AND IMPACT

CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

During the time covered by the report, the region saw a significant drop in the number of male victims, decreasing by 60%. Similarly, the number of female victims also fell by 67%. However, there are still many girls who are trafficked for sexual exploitation, and it's important to note that over 10% of the victims detected in these cases are boys. (UNODC, 2022)

CENTRAL AND SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE

The number of detected victims continued to rise. However, the region saw an increase in convictions in 2020. (UNODC, 2022)

EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

In 2020, there was a significant drop in the number of people identified as victims of trafficking, with a decrease of 59%. Additionally, the number of victims being trafficked across borders fell by 81%. It was also noted that men and boys being trafficked for sexual exploitation were reported more often than in other areas. Overall, East Asia continues to play a major role in global human trafficking, as many regions around the world are seeing victims from this part of the globe. (UNODC, 2022)

EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

There was a pronounced rise in the number of male victims of trafficking, increasing by 41%, while the number of female victims decreased by 24%. Despite the pandemic's limited effect on identifying trafficking victims, there was a significant slowdown in how quickly the legal system responded to these cases in 2020. (UNODC, 2022)

NORTH AMERICA

There was a 35% drop in the number of convictions in 2020, alongside a 26% increase in detected male victims and a 14% increase in detected female victims. (UNODC, 2022)

SOUTH AMERICA

There was a 23% decrease in male victims detected and a 38% decrease in female victims detected. The number of people convicted in the region was 46% lower than in 2019. (UNODC, 2022)

SOUTH ASIA

South Asia: the 2022 report shows a 31% drop in people identified as victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation. In 2020, more men were recognized as victims compared to earlier years. There was also a 23% decrease in the number of domestic victims found in 2020. Additionally, the number of victims detected in this region is lower per 100,000 people than in many other parts of the world. (UNODC, 2022)

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

The number of foreign victims found in Sub-Saharan Africa has decreased, especially when compared to 2018. Children make up the largest group of detected trafficking victims. From 2019 to 2020, the number of child victims per 100,000 people increased by 43%. Although there are fewer victims identified here than in other parts of the world, victims from Sub-Saharan Africa are being found in more and more countries, both within the region and beyond. (UNODC, 2022)

04 LEGAL FRAMEWORKS

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS

PALERMO PROTOCOL



The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, known as the Palermo Protocol, complements the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime. The Protocol came into international effect in 2003, and its primary goals are to prevent and combat human trafficking, particularly involving women and children. It aims to ensure protection and assistance for trafficking victims while upholding human rights. Additionally, it promotes cooperation among the participating states. The protocol defines what human trafficking is and outlines how it occurs.

Under the Protocol, the victim's consent is not relevant. Therefore, it is sufficient to show that force, coercion, deception, or power has been used to ignore the victim's consent (CAMPOS et al., 2016). The Protocol encourages joint action by countries of origin, transit, and destination. It is applied in the stages of prevention, investigation, and prosecution of the offences indicated when they are transnational crimes and involve an organised criminal group, as well as guaranteeing the protection of victims (RAMOS, 2021).

In addition to the measures involving human trafficking itself, the Protocol also urges state parties to take measures to ensure the reduction of social factors such as poverty, social inequality, inequality of opportunities and underdevelopment, making people less vulnerable to the actions of traffickers. All the measures outlined in the Protocol must be interpreted to ensure that victims do not experience any form of discrimination, as they are not responsible for their trafficking situation. As of 2020, the Protocol had 178 States parties (RAMOS, 2021).

COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONVENTION ON ACTION AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS (2005)

The Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (2005) is a significant international treaty aimed at comprehensively addressing human trafficking. Its main objective is to protect the rights and dignity of victims while enhancing efforts to prevent trafficking and prosecute those who engage in it.



The Convention views trafficking as a serious violation of human rights and a disrespect to people's dignity. Its main goal is to protect victims and ensure their rights are respected. This includes all forms of human trafficking, as well as preventing these crimes and holding those responsible accountable. The Convention requires countries to offer help and support to victims, no matter if they choose to assist authorities in prosecuting traffickers. It emphasises the need to recognise victims so they aren't treated like criminals for actions they were forced to take (Council of Europe, 2005).

The convention also ensures that victims who choose to assist in the criminal investigation receive specialized support, which includes safe housing, psychological and financial aid, access to immediate medical care, help during the legal process, legal support, translation and interpretation services, as well as opportunities in the job market, vocational training, and education (Council of Europe, 2005).

The Convention addresses all types of trafficking, such as sexual exploitation, forced labour, domestic servitude, and organ removal. It applies to women, men, and children, with particular attention given to vulnerable populations.

04 LEGAL FRAMEWORKS

NATIONAL LAWS IN ITALY AND THEIR PRACTICAL APPLICATION



In Italy, the legal framework for combating the phenomenon and protecting trafficking victims began in 1998 with Article 18 of Legislative Decree 286 of 1998 “Testo Unico sull’immigrazione” (Consolidated Immigration Act), which together with Law No. 228 of 11 August 2003 “Misura contro la tratta di persone” (measures against trafficking in persons) form the basis of Italian legislation on trafficking in persons. (Osservatorio Interventi Tratta, n.d., p.10) With the creation of Article 18, the person is placed at the centre; in fact, it provides for the granting of a special residence permit to EU and non-EU citizens who are victims of trafficking, violence and/or exploitation.

This way, the person can escape from the criminal organisation and participate in a social assistance and integration programme. (D.lgs. 25 luglio 1998, n. 286, art. 18, comma 1) In addition, Paragraph 3a introduces a relevant novelty for victims of human trafficking or serious exploitation (offences under Articles 600 and 601 of the criminal code, which deal with enslavement and trafficking in persons).

Victims of these offences, as well as those who find themselves in dangerous situations similar to those described in paragraph 1, are included in a single programme of emersion, assistance and social integration. This programme is defined in the National Action Plan against trafficking (defined below) and guarantees:

- Transitional conditions of accommodation, food and health care, as provided by Article 13 of Law No. 228/2003;
- A subsequent phase in which the foreigner may continue to receive assistance and social integration in the manner provided for in paragraph 1 of this Article. (D.lgs. 25 luglio 1998, n. 286, art. 18, comma 3)

Therefore, it is possible to access the benefits guaranteed by Article 18 through a judicial route, with the complaint by the victim, but also through a social route, where the victim, without having to file a complaint, has the possibility of accessing a social integration programme.

To sum up, as defined by Laura Meniucci in *soste. vol.4*, the elements that characterise the structure of the Italian legal apparatus are mainly the implementation of a victim protection mechanism which, as mentioned above, can be activated even if one does not want to cooperate with the judicial bodies as it contemplates both a judicial and a social pathway. It is also important to remember that the system intervenes with methods that put the protection and safeguarding of human rights at the centre of the relationship with victims. (Meniucci [n.d.], p. 7)

The regulatory apparatus, explains Meinucci, involves the entire Italian territory, thanks to the implementation of 21 projects that are carried out thanks to the cooperation and synergy of several subjects: public and Third Sector subjects, such as the “Police Forces, Public Prosecutors’ Offices, Territorial Commissions for the Recognition of International Protection, Labour Supervisory Bodies and Local Authorities”.(Meniucci [n.d.], p. 7)



Finally, there is the National Human Trafficking Hotline -a point of research and analysis of the facts, as well as a place for education, awareness-raising, communication and updating on the phenomenon- and the presence of the S.I.R.I.T., i.e., Meniucci explains, “a national database that collects all the data on the multiplicity of interventions carried out by Italian projects in favour of victims of trafficking and/or serious exploitation”. (Meniucci [n.d.], p. 7)

04 LEGAL FRAMEWORKS

NATIONAL LAWS IN ITALY AND THEIR PRACTICAL APPLICATION



In addition to Article 18, also important in the Italian legislation against trafficking in persons is Law No. 228 of 11 August 2003 “Misure contro la tratta di persone”. Article 15 of this law creates a framework to assist victims of trafficking in human beings, with a focus on immediate support (accommodation, food, health care) and long-term integration, with a special focus on unaccompanied foreign minors. This article lays the groundwork for what in practice is called a Reflection Period, i.e., as defined in the Glossario soste. vol.3 an established period of time for victims.

During this period, victims are given the opportunity to “recover and free themselves from the influence of their exploiters, also in order to consciously assess whether or not to cooperate with the authorities and to consciously continue the course of care that has been started”. (Osservatorio Interventi Tratta, n.d., p.40)

To conclude this brief overview of the main legislative measures supporting the Italian anti-trafficking system, it is useful to mention the National Anti-Trafficking Plan, which, although not a legislative measure in the strict sense but rather a policy document, an intervention strategy developed by the Department for Equal Opportunities, aims to apply in a practical way the EU Directive 2011/36, which establishes minimum criteria to define criminal offences and sanctions related to trafficking in human beings, and sets out common provisions to be adopted by the EU Member States. The first Plan was adopted in 2016, for the period 2016 - 2018; subsequently, in October 2022, the current Plan covering the years 2022 - 2025 was approved.

Thanks to it, the previously mentioned legal framework for the protection of victims of trafficking and/or exploitation is reflected in practice on the ground, as it defines guidelines and concrete actions for preventing, combating and assisting victims of human trafficking. (Department for Equal Opportunities, 2022)

Overall, according to the Italian Osservatorio Interventi Tratta (Observatory of Anti-Trafficking Interventions), as explained in their website, the Italian system adheres to and upholds a number of fundamental principles of international importance. Among these principles are:

- **Autonomy of victims:** Through support programmes and customised plans, the system aims to foster the independence of victims.
- **Integration:** This principle concerns both the different actors involved and the policies adopted, ensuring synergy between the various components and objectives.
- **Subsidiarity:** It emphasises the importance of basing interventions on the local dimension, using the territorial context as a reference point for actions aimed at victims.

Giving importance to the observance of these principles, the Italian system is dedicated to providing targeted assistance that conforms to international standards. (Osservatorio Interventi Tratta, n.d.)

04 LEGAL FRAMEWORKS

MAIN PROBLEM OF TRAFFICKING IN SPAIN



Spain is a country shaped like a peninsula, similar to Italy. This means it is almost surrounded by water and experiences a growing number of migrants from Africa. As a result, Spanish territory serves as a transit point and a destination for many migrants. Some are assisted by NGOs and organizations like Cruz Roja. However, others evade authorities out of fear of being treated as illegal migrants, leading them to be exploited in jobs that often involve inhumane conditions and low pay.

The root of the problem nowadays is that migration turns in many cases into exploitation due to the internal political crisis and the delay in distributing equally the amount of incoming migrants. The two most highlighted inherent causes are a) the closeness to Africa and b) the fact that Spain is culturally bound to Latin America.

Additionally, the role of information technology companies (ITCs) has become a contributing factor to this issue. They are often used to facilitate the recruitment of individuals with deceptive intentions, particularly in the case of forced sexual exploitation of women facing severe poverty or discrimination. These women, who are desperate to support themselves and their children, may find themselves in compromising situations. Similarly, there are instances of forced labour for both children and adults that seem to offer assistance but ultimately lead to exploitative activities that violate the law.

The repercussions are becoming increasingly significant and concerning. Victims of this type often have their human rights violated, including their privacy, liberty, and dignity, as outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which opposes such infractions. Additionally, workers' rights are disregarded, and their physical and emotional well-being is jeopardized. All these consequences are penalized by the Spanish Civil Code, the Spanish Criminal Code or European or worldwide treaties.

“Spain, as many countries worldwide, is a victim of human trafficking. National Police, inspired by article 177 bis of Spanish Criminal Code, gives the following definition for this concept: “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, the abuse of power or 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 purposes of exploitation. Exploitation includes, at a minimum, exploitation arising from prostitution and other forms of sexual exploitation, including pornography, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or begging, criminal activities and the removal of bodily organs.” (Policía Nacional. (n.d.).)”

Specifically in Spain, human trafficking occupies the third place of coercion activities that generate an elevated income for criminals, just after drugs and arms trafficking.

04 LEGAL FRAMEWORKS

TYPES OF EXPLOITATION CONNECTED TO TRAFFICKING IN SPAIN

Human trafficking impacts not only migrants but also other vulnerable groups, such as children and women. Generally, there are two main forms of exploitation: children and women often face sexual exploitation as well as labour exploitation, while men are typically exploited for labour, particularly among African and Latin American communities.

Many of these men are drawn to jobs in agriculture, such as greenhouses, where they are offered low wages and poor working conditions. Most work illegally, without any kind of insurance or benefits. This situation has led to a significant increase in labour inspections in these industries.

It is crucial to examine the statistics on trafficking for sexual exploitation and forced labour, highlighting the unique vulnerabilities that different groups face across Spain.



Furthermore, human trafficking in Spain takes various forms, including prostitution, sexual exploitation, pornography, forced labour, slavery, servitude, begging, coerced involvement in criminal activities, and organ trafficking through the illegal removal of body organs.

NATIONAL LAWS IN SPAIN AND THEIR PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Spanish framework protects society against human trafficking. Nonetheless, it also takes in its basis European and international law to face this issue, as it can be contemplated on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (which sets the interdiction of this practice) or the Treaty of Palermo.

The Spanish primary guarantees are the following:

Spanish Criminal Code

“Title VII bis. Human trafficking” is the section that directly regulates the topic in question. Especially article 177 bis, which content is shown below:

“Anyone who, whether in Spanish territory, from, in transit to or bound for Spain, employs violence, intimidation or deception, or takes advantage of a situation of superiority or need or vulnerability of the national or foreign victim, or by giving or receiving payments or benefits to obtain the consent of the person in control of the victim, recruits, transports, transfers, shelters or receives the victim, including the exchange or transfer of control over such persons, for any of the following purposes, shall be punished with a sentence of five to eight years in prison as a criminal of human trafficking:

- The imposition of forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or begging
- Sexual exploitation, including pornography
- The removal of their bodily organs
- Exploitation for criminal activities
- The celebration of forced marriages

The situation of vulnerability: alludes to that when the victim has no actual or acceptable alternative and is obliged to face the abuse.



04 LEGAL FRAMEWORKS

NATIONAL LAWS IN SPAIN AND THEIR PRACTICAL APPLICATION



Direct or implicit constitutional protection and guarantee:

Generally Chapters II (about rights and liberties) and III (guiding principles of social and economic policy). Specifically:

Art. 9.2 It is the responsibility of the public authorities to promote the conditions for the freedom and equality of individuals and the groups they belong to to be real and effective; to remove the obstacles that prevent or hinder their fullness and to facilitate the participation of all citizens in political, economic, cultural and social life.

- Art. 9.3 The Constitution guarantees the principle of legality, the normative hierarchy, the publicity of the norms, the non-retroactivity of the sanctioning provisions that are not favourable or restrictive of individual rights, legal certainty, responsibility and the prohibition of arbitrariness of public powers.
- Art. 13.1 Foreigners shall enjoy the public freedoms guaranteed by this Title in Spain under the terms established by treaties and the law.
- Art. 14 Spaniards are equal before the law, and there can be no discrimination based on birth, race, sex, religion, opinion or any other personal or social condition or circumstance.
- Art. 15 Everyone has the right to life and physical and moral integrity, and may not, under any circumstances, be subjected to torture or inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. The death penalty is abolished, except as may be provided for by military penal laws in times of war.
- Art. 17.1 Everyone has the right to liberty and security. No one shall be deprived of his liberty except in accordance with the provisions of this article and in the cases and manner provided for by law.
- Art. 35.1 All Spaniards have the duty to work and the right to work, to freely choose a profession or trade, to promotion through work and to sufficient remuneration to satisfy their needs and those of their family, without in any case discrimination on the basis of sex.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

EUROTRAFGUID: It mainly consists of a recompilation of materials that enable the population to detect potential victims of trafficking and exposes a series of directives or guidelines for action against it. Guide of Existent Resources for Attention to Victims of Purpose of Sexual Exploitation (Ministry of Sanity, Social Services and Equality, November 2012)

Operative and Strategic National Plans: It exposes all the available aid assistance resources to tackle sexual exploitation. It includes services such as social services, medical attention, laboral insertion... Operative and Strategic National Plans: Annual Normative Plan. Operative Plan for the Protection of Human Rights of Women and Girls Victims of Trafficking, Sexual Exploitation and Women in Context of Prostitution (Plan Camino, 2022-2026) Strategic National Plan Against Human Trafficking and Exploitation (PENTRA, 2021-2023).

INFORMATIVE DOCUMENTS AND REPORTS

- UN Trafficking Toolkit. Office against Drugs and Crime.
- Statistic Evaluation 2018-2022: Human Trafficking and Exploitation in Spain
- Instituto Nacional de Estadística (INE). This institution offers statistics and reports about HumanTrafficking (victims, evolution, amount of convicted people...)



05 SIGNS AND INDICATORS OF TRAFFICKING

IDENTIFYING VICTIMS AND SITUATIONS IN ITALY



The identification of trafficked persons is a complex procedure that is divided into several steps. Its main objective is to identify and acknowledge the person's condition.

It is an essential procedure to set in motion support and protection measures and it is important that it is implemented from the moment a presumed victim enters the country.

According to the UNHCR guidelines (2021), identification is a delicate procedure that also presents several critical issues, ranging from the control that traffickers exert over victims, even if they are geographically distant from them, or the fear of asking for help, but also the gratitude and appreciation that some victims feel towards traffickers because they helped them to leave their country. (UNHCR, 2021)

Furthermore, the UNHCR emphasises the difficulty of identification “is compounded by the difficulties of those who have suffered physical, psychological or sexual violence in recounting their experiences, due to shame, guilt or even the distorting impact of the trauma on the normal functioning of memory”.

Therefore, it is very important that the identification is made as early as possible and allows from the very beginning to provide the assistance and protection measures foreseen by the law, thus facilitating the exit of the victim from the cycle of exploitation and making the intervention more effective in getting the victim out of the cycle of exploitation or preventing him/her from entering one in the Italian territory. (UNHCR, 2021)

The UNHCR (2021) also explains how it is crucial to correctly identify potential victims of trafficking among migrants, refugees and applicants for international protection and to establish a proper referral system involving all specialised personnel. (UNHCR, 2021)

Referral (NRM) is a fundamental mechanism, as defined in the Glossario Soste. vol.3, it consists of a set of measures, actions and recommendations that guide all actors involved during the necessary steps in the fight against trafficking, from state actors to civil society, to cooperate.



The first NRM was adopted and provided for in the first National Action Plan against Trafficking 2016-2018. (Osservatorio Interventi Tratta, n.d., p. 48)

Identification, which UNHCR explains is an “obligation of state authorities”, is carried out in coordination with other institutional and non-institutional actors, who are involved in various ways in the safeguarding and protection of trafficked persons. During the interview with the potential victim, various elements are taken into consideration to determine whether the person is a victim of trafficking. (UNHCR, 2021)



To know more in detail the indicators click me!



05 SIGNS AND INDICATORS OF TRAFFICKING

IDENTIFYING VICTIMS AND SITUATIONS IN ITALY

In the UNHCR guidelines (2021), it is emphasised that identification, while being “a single process, consisting of multiple actions and usually carried out by different actors, aimed at the gradual emergence of relevant elements”, is divided into two steps:

- Preliminary identification, which takes place in first contact with the person who from an initial screening raises the suspicion of being a potential victim of trafficking. It can usually be carried out by multiple actors such as law enforcement agencies, immigration offices, health personnel or even private citizens.
- Formal identification aims to determine whether the person is actually a victim of trafficking and is carried out by professional persons trained to do so. (UNHCR, 2021)

To conclude, it is useful to focus on the trafficking indicators used during the various stages of the identification process. The indicators are useful to recognise the context and the status of the potential victim and their presence may lead the practitioner to suspect that the person is a victim of trafficking and thus trigger various procedures for his or her protection. Some general indicators suggested in the UNHCR guidelines (2021) are the following: “Persons who have been trafficked may:

- Physical Signs
 - Be subject to violence or threats of violence against themselves and their family members;
 - Victims may exhibit visible signs of abuse, such as bruises, burns, cuts, or undernutrition.
 - They may show signs of extreme fear, anxiety, depression, or PTSD.
- Behavioral Indicators
 - Show signs that their movements are being controlled;
 - Be suspicious of authorities;
 - Being afraid to disclose their immigration status;
 - Victims may appear to be controlled or unable to speak for themselves, often relying on someone else to answer questions or provide information.
 - They may seem unusually submissive or fearful, avoiding eye contact or communication.
- Work and Living Conditions
 - Be unable to leave their work environment;
 - Not having any days off;
 - Living in poor and substandard housing;
 - Believe that they must work against their will;
 - Be subjected to insults or harassment typical of some jobs;
- Documents and Identification
 - Not being in possession of their passport or other travel or identity document identity documents because others detained them;
 - Victims may not know where they are or have limited knowledge of their location;

05 SIGNS AND INDICATORS OF TRAFFICKING

IDENTIFYING VICTIMS AND SITUATIONS IN ITALY



Verbal communication

- Trafficking victims may appear confused, speak rehearsed lines, or show fear of law enforcement or authorities.
- They might lack basic knowledge of the local language or their personal information (address, situation);



Signs of Dependency

- Have limited or no social interaction;
- Have no access to medical care;
- Have limited contact with their families or people outside their surroundings"
- Victims often depend on their traffickers for essentials like food, clothing, or shelter...

These represent only some of the indicators listed in the UNHCR guidelines and also contained in the Italian National Plan Against Trafficking. The indicators are also subdivided and differ depending on the context and the status of the person and also vary according to the type of exploitation (sexual, labour, begging and petty crime). (UNHCR 2021)

06 COMMON MYTHS AND MISCONCEPTION

Myths

Facts

The reality of human trafficking is often clouded by myths and misconceptions. To avoid risky situations, it is crucial to differentiate between what is a myth and what is true regarding trafficking in persons. According to the National Human Trafficking Hotline, here are some common myths and the real facts:

Myth: Trafficking only happens in poor or underdeveloped countries

- Reality: Human trafficking occurs all over the world, even in wealthy countries. It can take place in both city and countryside settings, and people affected by it come from various backgrounds and lives.

Myth: Trafficking victims are always kidnapped or physically restrained

- Reality: Many trafficking victims are coerced or manipulated through psychological control, threats, or abuse of power. They may not appear physically restrained, but they are mentally or emotionally controlled.

Myth: Only women and girls are trafficked

- Reality: While women and girls are disproportionately affected, men and boys are also trafficked, often for forced labour, begging, or even sexual exploitation. Male victims often go neglected, and boys and young men from the LGBTQIA+ community are especially vulnerable.

Myth: All trafficking involves crossing international borders

- Reality: Human trafficking can happen within the victim's own country. It doesn't require moving from one place to another; it can happen locally.

Myth: Victims can easily escape if they want to

- Reality: Trafficking victims often face threats against their lives or their families, have no personal identification, or feel psychologically trapped by fear, making it extremely difficult to escape.

Myth: Trafficking is always related to prostitution or sex work

- Reality: Human trafficking also includes forced labour, domestic servitude, and exploitation in industries like agriculture, construction, and manufacturing.

Myth: Trafficking victims will always seek help and identify themselves

- Reality: Many victims don't identify as trafficked due to fear, shame, or lack of trust in authorities. They might feel trapped or brainwashed into believing they have no other options.

Myth: If a person consented to their initial situation, it is not considered human trafficking

- Reality: Initial consent to commercial sex or a labour setting is irrelevant if the perpetrator uses force, fraud, or coercion to maintain control over the victim. Commercial sex of a minor is always sex trafficking regardless of consent.

07 KEY ORGANIZATIONS AND THEIR WORK IN ITALY



The Italian Prime Ministerial Decree of 16 May 2016 provides for several Anti-Trafficking Projects that allow the implementation of multiple activities to fight trafficking and support victims and are implemented by public and private social entities.

The main actions envisaged by the projects and implemented by the appropriate public and private entities include, as explained on their website by the Italian Osservatorio Interventi Tratta (Observatory of Anti-Trafficking Interventions):

- ▶ "First contact activities with populations at risk of exploitation [...] with particular attention to persons seeking or holding international protection;
- ▶ Proactive multi-agency actions to identify the status of victim of trafficking and/or serious exploitation [...] Immediate protection and first assistance of victims of trafficking and/or serious exploitation, including prompt reception, health care and legal protection in accordance with Article 13 of L.228/2003;
- ▶ Activities aimed at obtaining the Residence Permit ex art. 18 Legislative Decree 286/98;
- ▶ Measures aimed at fostering the socio-occupational integration of the persons taken in charge and the achievement of housing autonomy. These include training and empowerment activities (language and computer literacy, work orientation, vocational training courses) and socio-occupational integration (activation of internships, work scholarships, apprenticeship courses);
- ▶ Actions aimed at integrating the protection system for trafficking victims with the protection system for applicants/holders of international/humanitarian protection, including the activation of integrated protection paths between the two systems". (Osservatorio Interventi Tratta, n.d.).

There are currently 21 active projects in all Italian regions and they are managed either by Social Cooperatives or by the Region or Municipality of the region in which the project takes place.

Analyzing the activities of some of the Social Cooperatives currently involved in the management of these projects in Italy, while recognising the importance of the work carried out by all the realities involved, it is essential to mention a few of them in order to understand the impact and importance of the role of public and private organizations in the anti-trafficking system.

The Cooperativa Sociale On The Road operates in the territories of Abruzzo, Marche and Molise and currently manages the project ASIMMETRIE 6 -Marche -Azione di Sistema Integrato Multiregionale MEDio-adriatico contro la Tratta e lo sfruttamento e per l'Inclusione socio-lavorativa delle vittime and ASIMMETRIE 6 -Abruzzo and Molise.



The cooperative focuses on identifying, intake, and social work integration of victims. It consists of several interconnected sections that work directly in the field to achieve these objectives.

07 KEY ORGANIZATIONS AND THEIR WORK IN ITALY


As described on the Social Cooperative's webpage, various activities are developed by the Cooperative to intervene in the field:

- Mobile Units, i.e. teams of multidisciplinary professionals in the field interact with potential victims of sexual, labour or begging exploitation.
- Drop-in centres are divided into counters to reach out to potential victims by offering them a listening ear, legal and health advice, and guidance on how to start assistance routes out of exploitation.
- Reception and accompaniment is a sector where the victims taken in charge are housed and follow various individual paths of assistance and social integration to achieve autonomy.
- Finally, various activities of orientation and social and labour integration through accredited counters and awareness-raising and advocacy, which are carried out by the Cooperative through information campaigns to raise awareness of the phenomenon of trafficking and break down stereotypes. On the Road also participates in institutional roundtables and develops intervention models, legislative proposals and action plans to foster cultural change.

Cooperativa Dedalus operates in Campania with the project Fuori Tratta - Azioni per l'emersione, l'assistenza e l'integrazione sociale rivolte alle vittime di tratta e grave sfruttamento.



Through the project, the Cooperative works to identify, assist and integrate victims of trafficking and serious exploitation. Dedalus offers transitional shelter, socio-medical assistance and legal protection through initial contact with the victims, their identification and subsequently by offering protection, shelter and social and labour integration.

 The Veneto Region manages N.A.V.I.G.A.R.E. project. The project is implemented in the Veneto Region with the organizational and executive collaboration of Local Authorities, Local Health Services, Universities, Judicial Authorities, Law Enforcement Agencies, Labour Control Agencies and local voluntary organizations.

One of these partners in the project is Cooperativa Sociale Equality, which has been coordinating and directing the activities of the participating organizations since 2021 to ensure the effectiveness of the project. In particular, the staff responsible for monitoring the project focus on identifying people, in companies, on the street or in other contexts, who could potentially be victims of trafficking in the Veneto region.

Cooperativa Lule operates in the provinces of Bergamo, Cremona, Mantova, Lecco, Lodi, Pavia and Brescia with the project METTIAMO LE ALI - dall'emersione all'integrazione. Similarly, it offers identification, support and social and labour integration services for victims of trafficking, in particular with reception facilities for women and minors removed from the exploitation network.



To know more about the projects in Italy click the following link:

[Osservatorio Interventi Tratta](#)

07 KEY ORGANIZATIONS AND THEIR WORK IN ITALY

In conclusion, as explained by the Cooperativa Equality to describe its methodology adopted and common to various social organizations and third sector associations, the implementation of a “multi-agency, multi-disciplinary and multi-dimensional working model, oriented towards the protection of human rights and the empowerment of the beneficiaries” allows for the achievement of various objectives such as the protection of human rights thanks to the collective action of various professional figures involved, the empowerment of the beneficiaries, which aims to develop the autonomy of the victims and their personal and professional growth, an integrated support with effective solutions that is made possible by the synergy of several actors including social, educational, psychological, legal and cultural figures who are committed to addressing and managing in its entirety the distress faced and experienced by the victims and finally the use of a holistic approach that ensures that all the problems and needs of the people involved are taken care of.



Active projects across Italy. The image is sourced from the website of the Anti-Trafficking Toll-Free Number, Osservatorio Interventi Tratta.

08 KEY ORGANIZATIONS AND THEIR WORK IN SPAIN



Diaconía España is a social Protestant organization dedicated to providing support and assistance to vulnerable individuals. Its focus includes areas such as international protection, human trafficking, social emergencies, and migration. It offers comprehensive help to victims of trafficking through its #ROMPELACADENA program, which includes shelter and various forms of support. Additionally, it trains professionals across different fields to address the complex needs of survivors.

Through its #DESACTIVALATRATA program, the organization raises awareness and promotes prevention by conducting educational workshops, specialized training sessions, and forming strategic partnerships. Recognizing the importance of collaboration, Diaconía España works with political, cultural, and economic stakeholders to develop coordinated action frameworks in the fight against human trafficking.

Cruz Roja is a volunteer-based social aid movement that provides assistance to vulnerable groups and individuals in need. Their website offers a wealth of information, including details on aid, services, reports, volunteering opportunities, and humanitarian assistance. One of their key initiatives is the Anti-Trafficking Unit, which addresses trafficking situations through various action frameworks.



This unit focuses on detecting and supporting individuals during their recovery processes, helping them access necessary services and rights. Cruz Roja has established specialized reception centres. In Spain, there are five centres with a total of 45 places available to care for those affected by trafficking.



Proyecto Esperanza is a specialized organization that has provided comprehensive support to over 1,927 victims of human trafficking from 77 different nationalities over the past 24 years. Services provided include residential care through shelters that support women during their recovery phases, as well as specialized services such as legal, social, employment, and psychological support for both residents and non-residents.

Additionally, a 24/7 emergency hotline (+34 607 54 25 15) is available to aid in case detection, needs assessment, and referral to resources.

Their holistic approach addresses all aspects of survivors' lives, aiming to support their gradual recovery, develop their potential, assist in their reintegration, and help them lead fulfilling lives. Areas of intervention include social support, housing, legal aid, health, education, and workforce reintegration, with options for voluntary repatriation.

08 KEY ORGANIZATIONS AND THEIR WORK IN SPAIN

APRAMP is a non-profit, non-religious, and non-partisan organization dedicated to fighting human trafficking and sexual exploitation, with a strong focus on human rights and gender equality. APRAMP adjusts its services to meet the individual needs of victims, offering flexible schedules, a 24/7 hotline (+34 609 589 479), mobile units, and culturally sensitive mediators to ensure accessibility in the victims' languages and customs.



The organization collaborates closely with public services, referring victims to government resources while creating its programs only to address service gaps. With a presence in seven regions across Spain, APRAMP provides mobile units and support centres that offer legal, social, and health assistance. For victims, APRAMP facilitates two main recovery paths: voluntary repatriation or reintegration within Spain. It provides comprehensive support through a multidisciplinary team that addresses social, legal, healthcare, psychological, educational, and employment needs.

Accem is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, and secular organization dedicated to improving the lives of vulnerable individuals. Its mission is to defend fundamental rights and provide support to those at risk of social exclusion, particularly focusing on children, survivors of human trafficking, the elderly, and individuals with disabilities.



Accem offers comprehensive, direct assistance aimed at helping those in particularly vulnerable situations to recover fully. The organization provides specialized programs in Galicia and Murcia, as well as safe housing for women in need.

In addition to direct support, Accem trains key individuals on victim detection and identification, develops effective tools to combat trafficking, and leads awareness campaigns. These initiatives aim to raise awareness of human trafficking as a violation of human rights, dismantle harmful stereotypes, and foster solidarity with victims, shedding light on an often-hidden issue.

09 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND HOW TO ASK FOR HELP



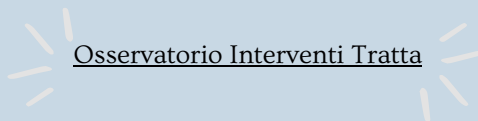
In Italy, the Anti-trafficking toll-free number was created in 2000 by the Department of Equal Opportunities and it represents an important measure to support victims of trafficking, as explained in the website of Osservatorio Interventi Tratta, in accordance with Article 18 of Legislative Decree 286/98. This helpline is anonymous and operates 24/7, throughout the entire year. It is open to everyone, including potential victims of trafficking or exploitation, as well as private citizens, law enforcement, public or private organizations, and professionals in various sectors who may be aware of cases of exploitation and wish to report them or seek information.

Currently, the Veneto Region oversees the management of this national toll-free number, dedicated to helping victims of trafficking and severe exploitation. (Osservatorio Interventi Tratta, n.d.)



Furthermore, in Italy NGOs and organizations like the social cooperative On the Road (explained in chapter seven) offer listening and support services through facilities such as drop-in centres. In these centres, potential victims can find a safe environment where they are attentively listened to and receive personalized support based on their specific needs. These services are designed to offer an initial point of contact, providing practical assistance, guidance, and, if necessary, a broader support pathway.

You can find more information and support about the Numero Verde through the link below:



In Spain, you can seek and receive help if you are a victim of human trafficking. The Spanish Ministry of the Interior offers a free phone number to directly contact the police and report your situation:

+34 900 105 090

Additionally, you can reach out to various NGOs and organizations for support.



APRAMP

+34 609 589 479



+34 607 54 25 15

09 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND HOW TO ASK FOR HELP



When travelling or exploring new opportunities, it's crucial to be aware of situations that may put you at risk of human trafficking. While some scenarios might initially seem harmless, there are certain red flags that can indicate a hidden danger. Here are some examples of situations to avoid, which can help you recognize warning signs and protect yourself from exploitation. (National Human Trafficking Hotline, n.d.)



“Unchecked job offers abroad: Avoid accepting jobs abroad from unfamiliar or unverified sources, especially if they promise unusually high salaries or luxury benefits with little to no experience required or if the recruiter or prospective employer avoids answering questions or is reluctant to provide detailed information about the job. Always verify the legitimacy of the employer and the job offer through official channels.

Work with no clear contract: Avoid accepting a job if the employment terms are unclear or there is no formal written contract. If you are requested to sign a contract in a language you do not understand, or if the employer rejects or delays providing a contract.



Offers requiring upfront fees: Be aware of employment offers that ask you to pay recruitment, travel, or processing fees upfront. This is a frequent strategy employed by traffickers to entice vulnerable people into debt dependency.

Travel without access to your identification: If an employer or travel sponsor insists on keeping your passport, visa, or identification documents, do not consent. Always keep your documents safe and with you.



Strange living conditions: Avoid job offers that provide housing where living conditions are unclear, or where you might be isolated.

Promises of quick money or modelling/acting contracts: Be cautious of those who make offers for rapid money for modelling, acting, or entertainment jobs, especially if they do not have a clear, established organisation or agency behind them. These promises frequently turn out to be trafficking schemes involving forced labour or sexual exploitation.



Marriage or relationship proposals from strangers: Beware of romances or marriage proposals from strangers, whether online or in person, who demand immediate travel, relocation, or financial commitments.

Too good to be true opportunities: If you come across an opportunity, especially one that involves travelling or a job, and it feels too perfect to be real, it probably isn't. Make sure to take some time to look into it, double-check the information, and talk to people you trust before deciding what to do.” (National Human Trafficking Hotline, n.d.)



10 CONCLUSIONS

Human trafficking is a complex and widespread problem that impacts countless lives across the globe, exploiting vulnerabilities and violating basic human rights. In this booklet, we have examined the various forms of trafficking, how to recognize its signs, and effective ways to prevent and respond to it.

As members of the community, our role in combating human trafficking is crucial. Small actions, such as educating ourselves, staying vigilant, and supporting survivors, can collectively create a significant impact. By learning to identify the signs of trafficking and knowing where to seek help, each of us can become a valuable ally in this ongoing fight.

In this context, spreading information and implementing measures that address underlying factors like poverty, inequality, lack of employment, and underdevelopment are key tools for preventing human trafficking (Ramos, 2021). Reducing these factors lowers society's vulnerability to trafficking, which in turn decreases the number of people affected.

Eliminating human trafficking demands a unified effort from governments, organizations, and individuals. We urge you to remain educated, spread awareness among others, and participate in initiatives that safeguard those in danger. Collectively, we can strive for a world where freedom, dignity, and safety are rights accessible to everyone.

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PROJECT CONTRIBUTIONS

Caroline Massareli de Carvalho Moraes: provides an overview of human trafficking, defining its various forms, including labor and sexual exploitation. She highlights key global statistics and discusses major international conventions related to trafficking. Her section addresses common myths and misconceptions, outlines ways communities can engage, and offers practical guidance on seeking help.

Lidia Meloni: explores Italy's strategies for combating human trafficking, highlighting national legislation and the vital contributions of NGOs and civil society. She showcases key Italian organizations that provide essential support to victims and outlines how communities can get involved. She also presents practical guidance on seeking help.

Diana Ordóñez Grebennikova: Diana examines Spain's response to human trafficking, with a focus on legislative measures and the contributions of NGOs and civil society.

Coordinators and Liaisons: Caroline and Lidia coordinated project communications and research, managing interactions with Cooperativa Sociale On the Road and facilitating collaboration.

Editorial and Design Team: Caroline and Lidia also oversaw the editorial review and design of the project materials.

Access the PDF version of the booklet online by scanning the QR code





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