



**Memo on  
human  
trafficking**

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## What is human trafficking?

"Trafficking in human beings" shall mean 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 shall include, 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**.

*Article 4a of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings – 2005 and Article 3a of the Palermo Protocol – 2000*

To view the Protocol:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/ProtocolTraffickingInPersons.aspx>

The most common trafficking cases in Europe are **sexual exploitation, forced labour** (especially in catering, the building industry and farming) and **organ trafficking**.

According to Europol, 70% of identified victims within the EU have the nationality of an EU country.

**It is important** not to confuse **human trafficking with:**

- ❖ **Migration** - individuals changing their place of residence on political, social, economic, environmental, personal grounds.
- ❖ **People smuggling** – illegally crossing a country's borders with the help of a third party; does not necessarily involve the use of coercion.

For a situation to fall under human trafficking, crossing a border, whether legally or not, is not required.

Not all victims of trafficking are migrants. More people from EU countries are victims in documented cases of trafficking (cases with identified victims): in 65-70% of cases!

However, although **trafficking, smuggling and migration** are different, they are **not wholly independent of each other:**

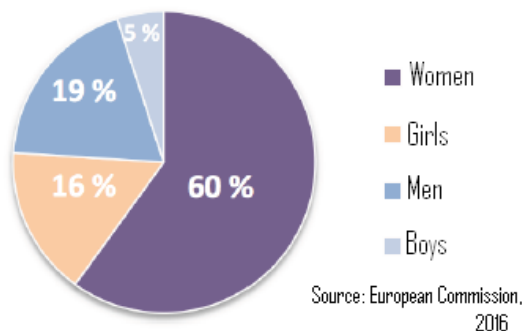
- ❖ Illegal people smuggling changes the migration phenomenon.
- ❖ Migrants are particularly vulnerable to the risks of trafficking (particularly isolated minors and women).
- ❖ People smugglers and traffickers may belong to the same criminal networks.

Trafficking can be linked to other crimes:

- ❖ Document forgery
- ❖ Drug trafficking
- ❖ Cyber crime
- ❖ Child pornography
- ❖ Migrant smuggling
- ❖ Benefits fraud
- ❖ Money laundering

# Who are the victims of human trafficking and why does this issue concern Emmaus?

## The victims



**Factors** that make people more vulnerable to the risk of trafficking:

- ❖ Difficulty of access to fundamental rights
- ❖ Lack of personal security and safety, psychological distress, exclusion, debt
- ❖ Patterns of migration and conflicts

**Situations** that can conceal human trafficking:

- ❖ Children at risk
- ❖ Illegal migration
- ❖ Illegal work
- ❖ Sex work
- ❖ Violence
- ❖ Repeated theft
- ❖ Crime
- ❖ Begging
- ❖ White or forced marriage
- ❖ Sequestration

**Business sectors** most impacted:

- ❖ Sex work
- ❖ Domestic work
- ❖ Agriculture
- ❖ Construction
- ❖ Manufacturing
- ❖ Entertainment
- ❖ Catering

**Human rights** that trafficking violates:

- ❖ Dignity
- ❖ Freedom of movement
- ❖ Physical and mental integrity
- ❖ Fair and favourable working conditions
- ❖ Adequate standard of living
- ❖ Health

## Emmaus and trafficking

As Emmaus stakeholders, we are likely to meet and take in people from a range of backgrounds, including vulnerable people, migrants, and people with family issues.

Some of the people we encounter may have been victims of human trafficking or people smuggling, and may still be victims, over the course of lives sometimes fraught with pitfalls.

It is important to state that some networks of people traffickers and smugglers may try to use Emmaus communities to house exploited people, as has been the case in the past. Personal accounts point to the fact that this is still the case in some shelters for migrants.

## What should you do if you suspect human trafficking is taking place?

Human trafficking does not spare anyone, regardless of their age, gender or geographic origin, and it affects each and every country in Europe. As for traffickers, they are from all socio-professional categories. We find victims in beautiful areas but it also often happens that poverty exploits the misery!

Trafficking is not always easy to detect as it does not necessarily leave any physical scars. Instead, it often results in psychological damage, which is harder to identify or tackle.

Be careful not to act hastily. Criminal networks and upsetting memories may be concealed behind cases of trafficking.

Victims often find it hard to confide in people. Sometimes, victims are completely unaware that their situation is abnormal and that they can be helped. Victims are often being controlled by the perpetrator: the perpetrator takes moral

or intellectual control of the victim, gradually making them lose their bearings and self-confidence.

If a victim is pushed to open up, they may be forced to relive painful or traumatic memories.

Moreover, if the victim is being watched or is still in contact with the perpetrators, they may be put in danger. The victim may also completely distrust the authorities, for example the police.

If you suspect that someone living in your community or someone you know is the victim of human trafficking, the simplest and kindest solution is to refer them to specialized services, such as social workers, doctors, psychologists, lawyers etc. Ideally, you would refer them to local professionals or associations that you know personally, in order to preserve the bond of trust needed by the victim.

If we work together, we can put a stop to this scourge from another age. Too many people are still denied their freedoms in a world in which goods move around unhindered. We must take action so that the victims of trafficking can regain their freedom and self-confidence.

## To go further:

### Emmaus tools:

- ❖ Practical resource on human trafficking, 2012: [http://emmaus-europe.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/EN\\_Practical-ressource-PDF-r%C3%A9duit.pdf](http://emmaus-europe.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/EN_Practical-ressource-PDF-r%C3%A9duit.pdf)
- ❖ Zoom on human trafficking, 2013: [http://emmaus-europe.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/EN\\_ZOOM\\_Traficking\\_032013.pdf](http://emmaus-europe.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/EN_ZOOM_Traficking_032013.pdf)

### Network-based working:

- ❖ Emmaus anti-trafficking network and the resource centre in Bosnia-Herzegovina by the Emmaus-International Solidarity Forum

The European Anti-Trafficking and Exploitation Resource Centre was officially inaugurated on 27 November 2013 in Sarajevo. The opening ceremony has been attended by representatives of Emmaus Europe, the government, ministries, partner NGOs from the region, guests, stakeholders and local and international partners.

The Against Human Trafficking network combats and prevents human trafficking via political, training and knowledge building initiatives.

Monitoring of human trafficking legislation and overarching initiatives is carried out in order to regularly send the Emmaus groups reviews and reports.

- Website: [www.eurcenter.net](http://www.eurcenter.net)

### Other resources

- ❖ [www.globallslaveryindex.org](http://www.globallslaveryindex.org)
- ❖ <http://nadoknadimo.org/home?locale=en>
- ❖ <http://www.frontexit.org/en/>

## To contact us:

You can visit our website: <http://emmaus-europe.org>

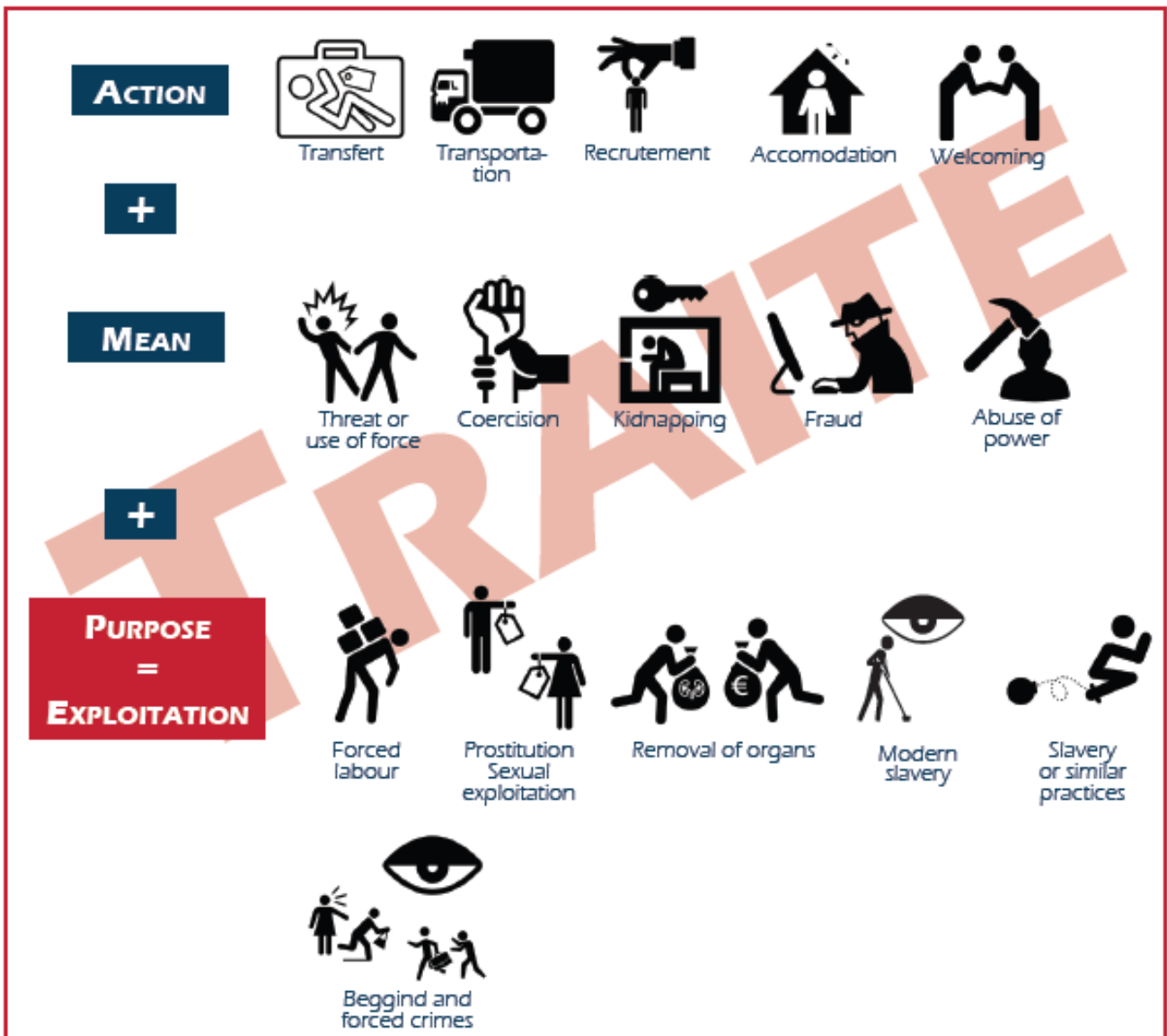
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65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
of the Signing  
of the  
UN Universal  
Declaration  
of Human Rights

article

- 4 -

No one shall be held in slavery or servitude ;  
slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

**HUMAN RIGHTS SHOULD APPLY TO  
EVERYONE IN EUROPE AND WORLDWIDE!**