

Research Report  
**MUNISH '12**



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**Forum:** Human Rights Commission

**Issue:** Rehabilitating the victims of human trafficking

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**Position:** President of HRC, MUNISH 2012

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## Introduction

Human trafficking, or also often referred to as modern slavery, is one of the biggest crimes in modern times. The numbers of victims or crimes are unknown but a general estimation sets the number of victims at 2.5 million at any given time. This means there are about 2.5 million people on the world that are victims of human trafficking or, to make their situation more comprehensible, modern slaves. Many of these victims are transported across borders and are made fully dependent to the criminals, which makes it very hard for them to escape. The victims are fully exploited and have nothing left.

As there are no exact numbers it's also impossible to say where human trafficking takes place. But it is known to happen everywhere, in every continent and every country. Often the victims end up in a totally different country where they can't even speak their language.

Fortunately many laws are put in place to fight human trafficking and saving many victims each year. But what happens after the rescue? Being a victim of human trafficking is a very traumatic condition and all victims have problems reintegrating into the society. These people have to be helped and therefore, besides the fight against human trafficking, the rehabilitation and reintegration is an important aspect which still has to be improved.

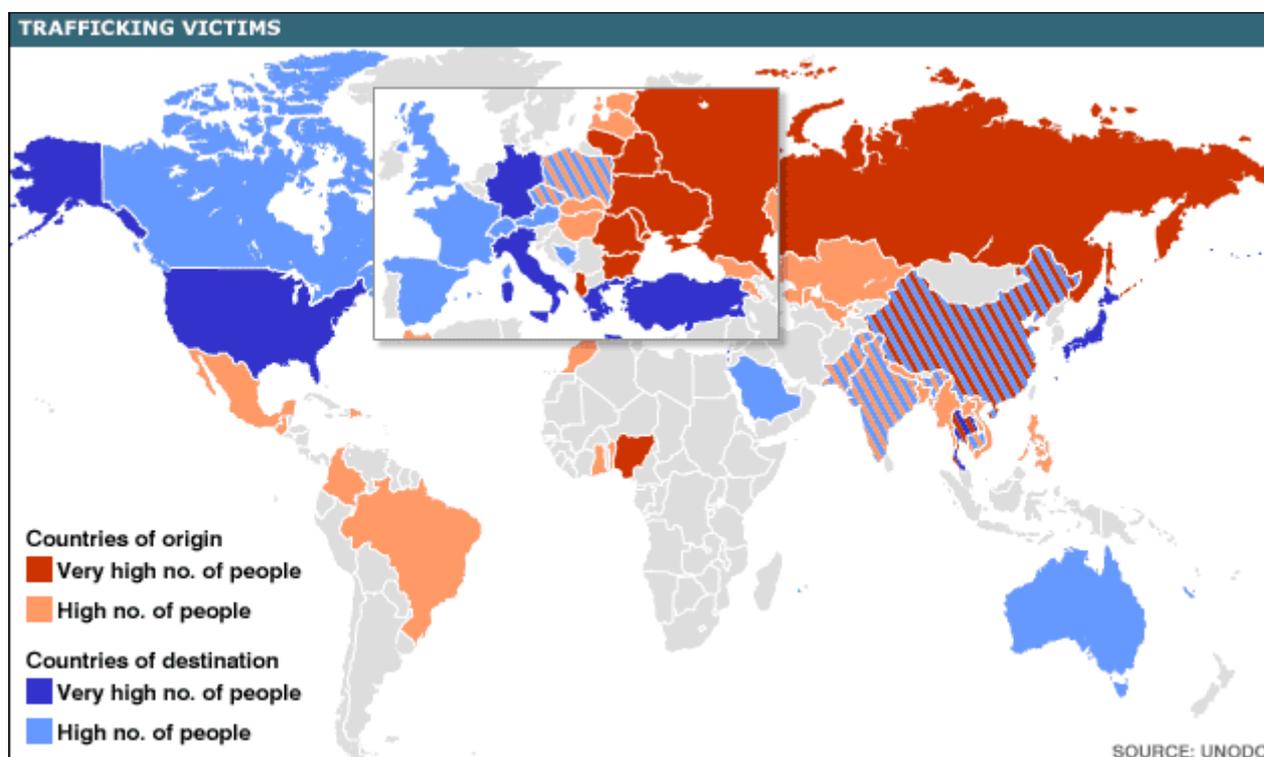
## Definition of Key Terms

### Human Trafficking

In the 'Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children' (or also commonly known as 'Trafficking Protocol') human trafficking is defined as *"the recruitment, transport, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a person by such means as threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud or deception for the purpose of exploitation."*

The definition has three core parts. The first two are the trafficking itself and the means, for example use of force. The last part defines the purpose which is always exploitation. The most common form of human trafficking is sexual exploitation (79%) followed by forced labour (18%).

The following map shows the countries of origin and of destination created by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. As there are no exact numbers, this is only indicated by a 'high number' or 'low number'.



## Rehabilitation and Reintegration

Rehabilitation and Reintegration basically mean to reintegrate victims of traumatic events, like human trafficking, back into society so that they can live like they used to. Though no victim will ever forget their experience the experience can be overcome so that the victims can move on without having to think about it each day. If they don't get any help, chances are that they will never be able to talk with unknown persons anymore and live in constant fear.

The small difference between the two words is that rehabilitation means for the victim to be able to live with their past and reintegration that the victim has a job, friends, etc. To help victims however, not only rehabilitation has to happen but also reintegration.

## Forced Migration

Forced migration is, as the name hints, the coerced movement of a person away from their home country. This is also known as deracination.

The International Organization for Migration defines forced labour as "a migratory movement in which an element of coercion exists, including threats to life and livelihood, whether arising from natural or man-made causes (e.g. movements of refugees and internally displaced persons as well as people

*displaced by natural or environmental disasters, chemical or nuclear disasters, famine, or development projects*).<sup>1</sup> Human trafficking is seen as one of the causes of forced migration and are therefore very close connected.

## General Overview

Criminals make millions of dollars each year with human trafficking. As stated above there are about 2.5 million victims at the moment and the number grows continuously. Hoping that all victims will be saved at some point in the future, there will also be 2.5 million people suffering from traumatic events that have to be rehabilitated to be able to reintegrate into society. However, it is impossible to rehabilitate victims of human trafficking if we can't comprehend their situation as trafficking victim.

### Human trafficking

Human trafficking is often also referred to as modern slavery, similar like forced labour. The main difference though is that the human trafficking victims are transported across borders and oceans where they are most likely to be sexually exploited or suffer forced labour. The criminals behind these operations are often part of big international organized criminal groups. They mostly choose poor victims and offer them good job possibilities in other countries. The jobs are in most cases prostitution. They then are transferred across borders. In Europe for example, they will have no problems as border controls don't exist anymore in most countries. But the criminals have also enough experience to know how to cross controlled borders.

Once arrived, the victims are given shelter and everything else they need. But they have to pay everything back. When they are given the job, the victims only earn enough to finance themselves and have only little left for the criminals. Up until then, the victims often don't realize their situation and that they are a victim of human trafficking. But at this point, most victims realize they are fully dependent on the criminals and that they can't go back anymore and it is very hard for the government or police to find out about their situation because everything seems relatively legal at first, the criminals are of course prepared for controls and the victims often don't dare to talk about their situation and ask for help because they fear to get hurt by the traffickers.

This is of course only one possible way in which human trafficking can happen. To know all of possible situations a human trafficking victim has to go through this overview might help:

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1 <http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/about-migration/key-migration-terms/lang/en#Forced-migration>

ACTIVITY		MEANS		PURPOSE		
Recruitment	+	Threat or use of force	+	<b>Exploitation including:</b>	=	Adult human trafficking victim
Transport		Coercion		Prostitution of others		
Transfer		Abduction		Sexual exploitation		
Harbouring		Fraud		Forced labor		
or Receipt of persons		Deception		Slavery or similar practices		
		Abuse of power or vulnerability		Removal of organs		
	Giving payments or benefits	Other types of exploitation				

Source: Guidelines for Assisting Victims of Human Trafficking in the East Africa Region by IOM  
[http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/free/GuidelinesforAssistingVictims\\_EN\\_A5.pdf](http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/free/GuidelinesforAssistingVictims_EN_A5.pdf)

To be a victim of human trafficking at least one point in each of the three parts has to be fulfilled. Note that this table is for adults. The indicators for a child human trafficking victim are the same except that the ‘means’ are left out. By going through the possibilities of what victims might experience it is comprehensible why the victims suffer from their traumatic experience and why they have to be assisted with the rehabilitation.

## Rehabilitation and Reintegration

Traumatic experiences, like the ones victims of trafficking have, are not easy to overcome and will never be forgotten. Rehabilitation is not an event; it’s more a process which will take some time. Once a victim has been identified and secured they should immediately be brought to a shelter, provided by NGOs or the host-country, where they are going to be rehabilitated. It’s important that these actions take place as soon as possible. Because when they get secured this might be too much for them to understand and to realize in what situation they are. They can’t help themselves alone and therefore need immediate help. This help can only come by professionals, psychologist that know how to help these persons and preferably have a lot of experience. There are a few important points the victims have to be helped with, for example shame, pride and culture. Because depending on their culture, they might not be accepted anymore by their family or friends. Or in other cultures they ashamed their family. These are subjects the victims have to overcome next to their experience and this is only possible with help.

In the shelter they live in there are a lot of other victims, however not necessarily all of human trafficking. This is an environment which isn’t the best for the victim but at the same might help them to

rehabilitate as they can talk with other victims and don't have to be ashamed. But once they are properly rehabilitated and able to return home or, if they so wish, start a new life somewhere else, they should be reintegrated into society. This step should only be done with the victims consent. In many countries there are programs that help the victims for example by giving them the possibility to learn a job for a year after which they can go on their own or by making it easy for them to enter sport clubs. However, there are also many countries that don't have such programs. It's important to ensure the victims the same treatment as every other victim but at the same time to be flexible as these are mostly case to case situations. This is where the IOM helps countries to establish plans and help them but there are still things that have to be done to offer maximum rehabilitation and reintegration.

## **Major Parties Involved and Their Views**

### **International Organization for Migration (IOM)**

The International Organization for Migration was established 195. Many years it was also known as the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM). Its purpose was to help migrants after the World War II and to manage the displacement chaos during that time in Europe. But the migrant problem wasn't one that only existed in Europe therefore the mandate got extended multiple times, as well as the name changed, until 1989 the IOM as we know it today was established.

The IOM plays an important role in this issue as human trafficking can be seen as an act of forced migration. One of the key principles of the IOM however is, to fight forced migration and therefore also human trafficking. IOM is also assisting in the rehabilitation of victims of trafficking.

### **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)**

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime was established 1997 after combining the 'United Nations international Drug Control Program' and the 'Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division'. The aims are, as the name indicates, to fight drug abuse and criminality worldwide. There are several topics the UNODC concentrates on: Alternative development, Corruption, Crime prevention and criminal justice, Drug prevention, treatment and care, Drug trafficking, HIV and AIDS, Human trafficking and migrant smuggling, Money-laundering, Organized crime, Piracy, Terrorism prevention, Wildlife and forest crime. It is important to notice that the UNODC not only tries to fight human trafficking but also works on the rehabilitation of victims. In 2008 they launched the Blue Heart campaign to fight human trafficking and asking for support by individual citizens.

## **Timeline of Events**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Description of event</b>
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March 5 <sup>th</sup> 2008	UNODC launched the Blue Heart campaign combating human trafficking but also helping rehabilitate the victims
April 2010	Mexico launched its adapted the Blue Heart campaign and launched it
July 2010	After the adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons

## Evaluation of Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

Some countries already have established rehabilitation and reintegration programs to help victims of trafficking once they come back. This is quite successful in for example The Philippines and South Korea. Furthermore, the United Nations has established a new fund in 2010, the UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons. Specifically for organization which rehabilitate victims of human trafficking in cooperation with the UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC). They added: *“There is a critical need for increased donations so that we can step up this assistance. There is no place for human trafficking in the world and the Small Grants Facility has a role to play in eradicating this inhumane act.”*<sup>2</sup> Funds like these should be continued to support organizations which help the victims.

This was part of the ‘Blue Heart’ campaign by the UNODC which aims to help human trafficking victims. The Blue Heart campaign aims to fight human trafficking and its impacts on the society. It also urges people to show solidarity and to wear campaign t-shirts. In 2009 Mexico officially adapted the Blue Heart campaign as their human trafficking prevention campaign. As the campaign is only running for four years an extensive evaluation isn’t yet possible but until now the campaign has been very successful.

## Possible Solutions

The International Organization for Migration as well as the UN Office on Drugs and Crime has already taken important steps towards a successful rehabilitation and reintegration of victims worldwide for example by writing guides and helping nations with establishing rehabilitation plans. However, all countries should establish a plan on how to rehabilitate and reintegrate victims of human trafficking. This plan should be basic enough in order to offer all needs but at the same time be flexible so that victims can enjoy their best possible treatment.

This is where the IOM or UNODC plays an important role as they should consult the countries seeing that they have a lot of experience. It’s crucial that authorities can act as soon as they saved the victim and directly know what to do. There should be risk assessment to make sure the trafficker won’t try to harm the, now secure, victim. The IOM suggests having three stages of risk assessment. The first stage is a general risk assessment. The second stage is about the continuous review of the assessment

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and the third stage to react on specific situations that occurred and might endanger the safety of the victim.

Last but not least, the government should urge companies to create programs which victims can then be part of. These can be normal apprenticeships but should be saved especially for victims and the co-workers should be prepared and educated on how to help them. This doesn't have to be complicated, just simple things, for example what not to say and in what situations they should be careful. A recent study also says that sport is a very good tool to rehabilitate and reintegrate as it helps to forget and at the same time helps to find new friends. Again, the IOM or UNODC can help with establishing these programs. It is of course also possible for a country to do the same as Mexico and adopt the Blue Heart campaign as the official campaign. In this way there wouldn't be very many different campaigns and cooperation would be easier.

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## Appendices

- I. A study on 'The rehabilitation of victims of trafficking in group residential facilities in foreign countries' by the US Aid

[http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf\\_docs/PNADK471.pdf](http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PNADK471.pdf)

- II. 'Guidelines for assisting Victims of Human Trafficking in the East Africa Region' by the International Organization for Migration

[http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/free/GuidelinesforAssistingVictims\\_EN\\_A5.pdf](http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/free/GuidelinesforAssistingVictims_EN_A5.pdf)