

Exploring Human Trafficking

Human Trafficking Definition (United Nations – Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking UN.GIFT)

"Trafficking in persons" 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;"

Canada is a signatory to Article 3 paragraph (a) of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, which supplements the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

Human Trafficking is a complex problem with varied determinants and therefore the solution is equally complex. Poverty and economic development status, immigration rules and standards, educational and health status, moral and ethical positions, labour standards and practices, criminal justice measures, and gender discrimination all are part of the problem and must be part of the solution.

There are three main elements in the fight against human trafficking:

1. Prevention – public education, immigration standards, rules and resources
2. Protection – pre and post rescue treatment and services
3. Prosecution – law enforcement resources

1. Prevention – public education, advocacy, 2010 Olympics

Prevention is mainly through education, whether public or targeted. It is focused at the heart of the problem, the demand for sex. Education Programs can include CBSA, law enforcement personnel, elementary & secondary School curriculum, and teaching in faith and community centres, front-line social service workers in food banks, shelters, soup kitchens, etc.. For the 2010 Olympics, there must be commitment from government and broadcasters to support PSAs.

2. Protection – of victims

The victims of human trafficking include not only the women and children who may have been stolen or coerced into forced labour (sexual or otherwise), but also the families of these victims as well as the broken families created when men (johns) are involved outside of their own marital relationship.

Victims Services must include counselling, accessible, affordable and safe housing, eligibility and access to health and social services, employment referrals, and often language training.

3. Prosecution - Legislative Reform and Proposals

Trafficking in persons is criminalized under the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* (IRPA) which came into force on June 28, 2002. Criminal Code amendment makes trafficking illegal in Canada ([Bill C-49](#), Royal Assent 25 11 2005). Proposed legislation:

- C-268 - An Act to Amend the Criminal Code (minimum sentences for offences involving trafficking of person under the age of eighteen years)
(Joy Smith, MP Kildonan-St Paul)

Immigration and Refugee Protection Act Reform

- C-269 - An Act to Amend the Immigration and Refugee Act (victim - trafficking in persons)
(Marlene Jennings, MP Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Lachine)
- S-223 – An Act to Amend the Immigration and Refugee Act and to enact certain other measures in order to provide assistance and protection to victims of human trafficking
(Senator Gerard Phalen)

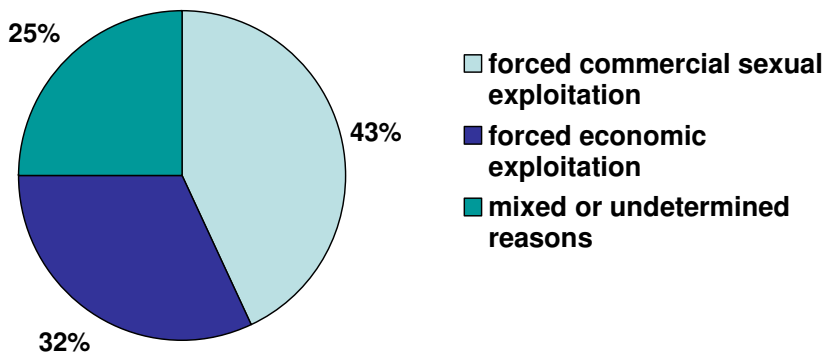
In addition to incarceration, Offender Programs & Services must include mandatory in-custody and post-custody rehabilitation programming and may include diversion programs for first time offenders.

Need for Change

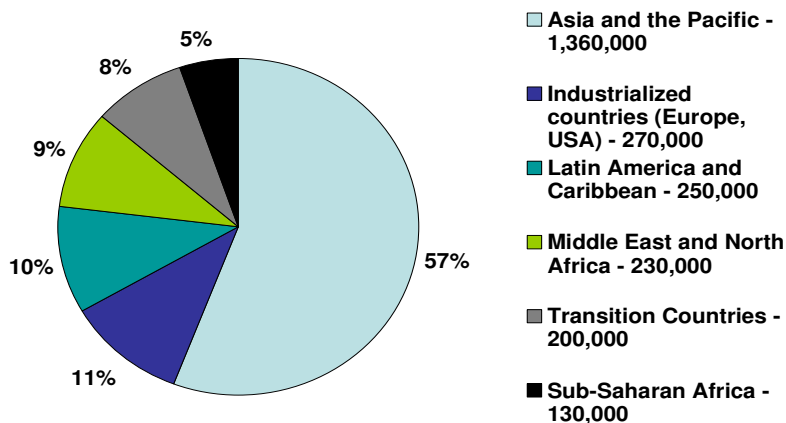
International and National Statistics

- 600,000-800,000 men, women and children trafficked across international borders each year
- 80% women and girls
- up to 50% are minors
- majority trafficked into commercial sexual exploitation
- 14,500-17,500 trafficked into the United States per year
- The impact of migrant trafficking on Canada is estimated at between \$120 million to \$400 million per year and accounts for approximately 8,000 to 16,000 people arriving in Canada per year illegally. ("Organized Crime Impact Study," Solicitor General of Canada)

2.5 million men, women and children are victims of trafficking at any point in time (ILO Global Alliance Against Forced Labour Report, 2005)



Regional distribution of trafficked forced labourers (ILO Global Alliance Against Forced Labour Report, 2005)



The Canadian Council of Churches is the largest ecumenical body in Canada, now representing 21 churches of Anglican, Evangelical, Eastern and Oriental Orthodox, Protestant and Roman Catholic traditions. We are one of the few ecumenical bodies in the world that includes such a range of Christian churches. The officers and staff of the Council are drawn from the whole diversity of traditions represented by the member churches.