



Trafficking in Human Beings in Ireland

ANNUAL REPORT

2017



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FOREWORD

The Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) is pleased to present the ninth Annual Report on Trafficking in Human Beings in Ireland (2017).

As in previous years, this Report seeks to explain the nature and prevalence of ‘human trafficking’ in Ireland, as well as the statutory and administrative framework in place to combat the crime and to support victims. The Report includes an overview of State action in 2017, and a statistical analysis of [suspected victims](#) identified in recent years.

Reporting Obligations

This Annual Report should be seen as part of the fulfilment of Ireland’s obligations under Directive 2011/36/EU (‘the human trafficking directive’):

Article 19 of the Directive states:

‘Member States shall take the necessary measures to establish national rapporteurs or equivalent mechanisms. The tasks of such mechanisms shall include the carrying out of assessments of trends in trafficking in human beings, the measuring of results of anti-trafficking actions, including the gathering of statistics in close cooperation with relevant civil society organisations active in this field, and reporting’.

Article 20 of the Directive further details how this information feeds into EU-wide reporting facilitated by the Office of the EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator.

The Anti-Human Trafficking Unit attends the biannual meeting of the informal EU Network of National Rapporteurs or Equivalent Mechanisms, taking place in Brussels under the coordination of the European Commission.

Much of the information in this report is regularly provided to the European Commission as well as to other international organisations. Information is also shared

with the US Embassy for the purposes of the annual US State Department Trafficking in Persons Report.

The 2017 Report marks a change in the manner in which we classify victims of human trafficking. Since 2009, victims of crimes prosecuted under section 3(2) of the Child Trafficking & Pornography Act 1998 [as amended by Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008] had been reported as victims of human trafficking. Having reviewed practice elsewhere and the specific details of the cases in question, we have discontinued classifying these as victims of human trafficking.

As in previous years, we also include an overview of the data on [potential victims](#) detected by non-State organisations.

It is important to recognise that due to the clandestine nature of human trafficking, and its overlap with other illegal activities, estimating the prevalence of this crime is difficult. Therefore, these reports should be understood as providing a detailed analysis of the information that is available to authorities, rather than a precise account of the extent of the phenomenon in Ireland.

In 2017, the AHTU participated in a UNODC (United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime) multi-country research project aimed at estimating the number of trafficking victims. It is hoped that such research will enable a better understanding of the variance in numbers between victims who are known to the Authorities and/or NGOs, and the large number of victims who are not discovered.

Anti-Human Trafficking Unit
Department of Justice and Equality
August 2018

HUMAN TRAFFICKING EXPLAINED

WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

For an adult to be trafficked, three distinct elements must be fulfilled:

- The **ACT** of recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons must be done by...
- The **MEANS** such as the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or the giving or receiving of payments, and it must be for...
- The **PURPOSE OF EXPLOITATION** i.e. sexual exploitation, labour exploitation, forced begging, forced criminality or organ removal.

An important note:

A child cannot consent to being trafficked, therefore **THE MERE ACT OF RECRUITING, TRANSPORTING, TRANSFERRING, HARBOURING OR RECEIVING A CHILD FOR THE PURPOSE OF EXPLOITATION CONSTITUTES TRAFFICKING.**

Similarly, exploitation of a child in and of itself, without the 'Act' element, while constituting another criminal offence, will rarely amount to human trafficking.

The presence of the three distinct elements is observed in the definition of human trafficking as set out in both the [Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings](#) and the [UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the UN Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime](#):

“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.”

These definitions provide further guidance as to what constitutes exploitation. In Ireland, these definitions have been incorporated into the Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008 and the Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) (Amendment) Act 2013.

WHY DOES IT HAPPEN, AND WHERE DOES IT HAPPEN?

Trafficking in human beings is a high profit–low risk crime based upon the principles of supply and demand. Criminal networks or individuals take advantage of a series of what are known as 'Push and Pull' factors, which explain why vulnerable individuals who lack opportunities and seek better living conditions in their own or a foreign country, end up being part of a human trafficking chain. This, in combination with the demand for cheap labour and sexual services, fuels human trafficking.

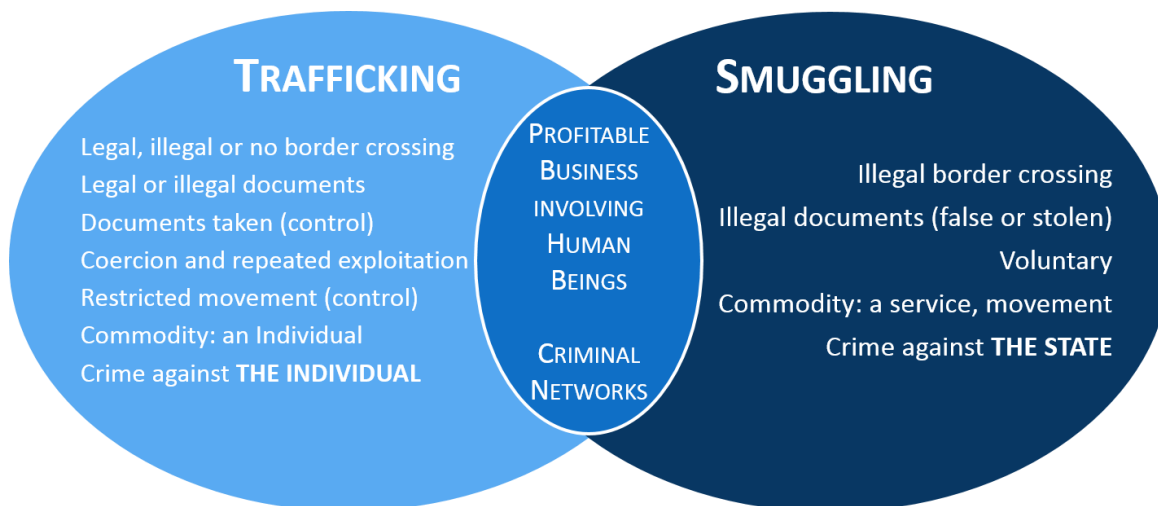
People can be trafficked into different types of work in agriculture, in the manufacturing sector and in the service industry. This can include restaurant and hotel work, domestic work, construction, agriculture and entertainment. They can be trafficked into prostitution, forced begging and forced criminality, sometimes in the form of cultivating or dealing in illegal drugs.

PEOPLE SMUGGLING VS. HUMAN TRAFFICKING

It is important to note the distinction between people trafficking and people smuggling. The relevant distinction is that **BEING TRAFFICKED IS INVOLUNTARY**, whereas people smuggling involves the consent of the individual being smuggled.

What begins as smuggling may become a trafficking situation when a person who has been smuggled is then subjected to exploitation through force, coercion, deception etc., during or after the smuggling event.

- People smuggling involves migrants being facilitated with entry into a State through illegal means whereas trafficking must have the threat or use of force, coercion or deception against a (adult) victim.
- People smuggling facilitates an individual's illegal entry into the State whereas victims of trafficking can enter into the State both legally and illegally.
- People smuggling must take place across international borders but there is no requirement that a person must have crossed a border for trafficking to take place – it can and does take place within national borders.
- People smuggling, while often undertaken in dangerous or degrading conditions, involves migrants who have consented to the smuggling. Trafficking victims, have either never consented or, if they initially consented, that consent has been rendered meaningless by the coercive, deceptive or abusive actions of the traffickers.
- People smuggling ends with the arrival of the migrants at their destination; unlike trafficking it does not involve the ongoing exploitation of victims.



DATA ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN IRELAND

INTRODUCTION

The clandestine nature of human trafficking makes it difficult to measure accurately. AHTU gathers information from a number of sources to create two distinct datasets of a) potential victims and b) suspected victims.

A “**potential victim**” refers to a person encountered by non-State groups, who they believe may be a victim of trafficking. These persons may, or may not, be referred to the Competent Authority (An Garda Síochána) for identification and entry to the system of State supports known as the National Referral Mechanism (NRM)

A “**suspected victim**” refers to a person that meets a reasonable grounds threshold and is therefore considered a victim of human trafficking by our Competent Authority (An Garda Síochána) and referred through the NRM

For the purposes of this section, any reference to “victims” in section headings shall mean **suspected** victims. A detailed explanation of our methodology is also available in Appendix II.

This section provides detailed information on victim gender, age, region of origin and type of exploitation.

SMALL NUMBERS

Due to the relatively small number of victims in a given year, one-off incidents involving large numbers of victims can have a significant impact on the overall figures.

RECLASSIFICATION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING STATISTICS IN IRELAND

As indicated in the foreword, since 2009, victims of crimes prosecuted under section 3(2) of the Child Trafficking & Pornography Act 1998 [as amended by Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008], had been reported as victims of human trafficking. Having reviewed both reporting practice elsewhere and the specific details of the cases in question, we have realigned our classifications, beginning with this, the 2017 Report.

Charges brought under the above section, relate to offences of sexual exploitation. Generally, the offence has been committed against an Irish child, without the involvement of a 3rd party and without any commercial

element. Furthermore, the offender is usually somebody known to the victim, and the offence has occurred without any significant movement or ‘Act’ as outlined above.

As international evaluations have consistently queried the inclusion of child sexual exploitation statistics, not generally deeming them to amount to trafficking, we have decided to exclude these cases. This is intended to provide a more accurate picture of the extent of trafficking in Ireland, while making our data more comparable to that of other jurisdictions.

THEREFORE, AND AS PART OF THIS REALIGNMENT, THIS REPORT INCLUDES REVISED STATISTICS COVERING THE LAST FIVE YEARS EXCLUDING CRIMES PROSECUTED UNDER SECTION 3(2) OF THE CHILD TRAFFICKING AND PORNOGRAPHY ACT 1998.

At the same time, we recognise the value in maintaining data on child sexual exploitation offences, and will continue to provide some information on this crime, separately to information provided on human trafficking.

VICTIMS BY YEAR, AGE AND GENDER

Table 1 (below) shows the corrected number of suspected victims of human trafficking identified by An Garda Síochána by year of detection, age, and gender. There have been 283 victims detected over last five years, with 75 detected in 2017.

Table 1 Suspected victims by year, age and gender						
Year	Age	Gender			Total	F:M ratio
		Female	Male	Trans		
2013	Adult	26	2	-	28	13.0
	Minor	4	1	-	5	4.0
	Total	30	3	-	33	10.0
2014	Adult	26	8	-	34	3.3
	Minor	2	2	-	4	1.0
	Total	28	10	-	38	2.8
2015	Adult	35	19	1	55	1.8
	Minor	6	1	-	7	6.0
	Total	41	20	1	62	2.1
2016	Adult	38	36	-	74	1.1
	Minor	1	-	-	1	-
	Total	39	36	-	75	1.1
2017	Adult	42	30	-	72	1.4
	Minor	3	-	-	3	-
	Total	45	30	-	75	1.5
Total	Adult	167	95	1	263	1.8
	Minor	16	4	-	20	4.0
	Total	183	99	1	283	1.8

The corrected figures in *Table 1*, which exclude the non-commercial sexually exploited minors, highlight the relatively low level of child trafficking in the State, at only 7% of the total since 2013. This equates to 13 adult victims detected for every one minor.

Overall, for every male detected there were approximately two females. While we have seen a general increase in victims detected annually, this 'Female to Male' ratio has steadily decreased, suggesting that much of the increase in detection in the past five years has been influenced by increasing detection of trafficking involving men, which is also associated with the increasing detection of trafficking for labour exploitation as will be seen later.

Fig 1. Identified victims by year and gender

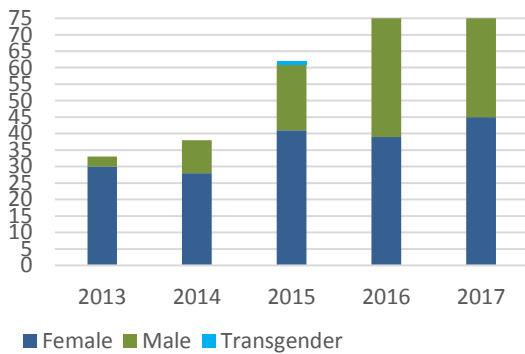


Fig.1 illustrates the aforementioned trend of increased detection of male victims, from negligible levels in 2013 to almost parity in 2016. This clearly visualises the dramatic fall in the female-to-male ratio, from 10:1 in 2013 to only 1.5:1 (1.5 females to every 1 male) in 2017.

VICTIMS BY REGION AND GENDER

Table 2 provides a breakdown of the 283 victims by region of origin, and gender.

		Gender			Total	% of total	F:M ratio
		Female	Male	Trans			
2013	Region of origin						
	Africa	14	1	-	15	45.5	14.0
	EEA	9	-	-	9	27.3	-
	Asia	4	1	-	5	15.2	4.0
	South America	2	-	-	2	6.1	-
	Non-EEA Europe	1	-	-	1	3.0	-
	Ireland	-	1	-	1	3.0	-
Total	30	3	-	33	100.0	10.0	
2014	EEA	12	8	-	20	52.6	1.5
	Africa	8	-	-	8	21.1	-
	South America	8	-	-	8	21.1	-
	Asia	-	1	-	1	2.6	-
	Non-EEA Europe	-	1	-	1	2.6	-
	Total	28	10	-	38	100.0	2.8
2015	EEA	18	18	-	36	58.1	1.0
	Africa	19	1	-	20	32.3	19.0
	Asia	2	1	-	3	4.8	2.0
	South America	-	-	1	1	1.6	-
	Non-EEA Europe	1	-	-	1	1.6	-
	Other	1	-	-	1	1.6	-
	Total	41	20	1	62	100.0	2.1
2016	EEA	12	35	-	47	62.7	0.3
	Africa	16	1	-	17	22.7	16.0
	Asia	6	-	-	6	8.0	-
	South America	4	-	-	4	5.3	-
	Non-EEA Europe	1	-	-	1	1.3	-
	Total	39	36	-	75	100.0	1.1
2017	Africa	21	7	-	28	37.3	3.0
	EEA	14	8	-	22	29.3	1.8
	Asia	6	13	-	19	25.3	0.5
	South America	2	2	-	4	5.3	1.0
	Ireland	2	-	-	2	2.7	-
	Total	45	30	-	75	100.0	1.5
Total	EEA	65	69	-	134	47.3	0.9
	Africa	78	10	-	88	31.1	7.8
	Asia	18	16	-	34	12.0	1.1
	South America	16	2	1	19	6.7	8.0
	Non-EEA Europe	3	1	-	4	1.4	3.0
	Ireland	2	1	-	3	1.1	2.0
	Other	1	-	-	1	0.4	-
	Total	183	99	1	283	100.0	1.8

Over the five years, almost half of suspected victims identified (47%) came from the EEA zone (excluding Ireland), followed by African victims (31%) and Asian victims (12%).

It is interesting to see there is great variation in the female-to-male ratio depending on the region of origin. African and South American victims are most likely to be

female at rates of 8:1 respectively, while the gender divide within EEA or Asian victims is almost 50/50.

The balance of gender amongst EEA victims has been driven by large increases in the detection of male victims in 2015, and in 2016, where 23 Romanian male victims were detected in a single investigation.

Similarly, 13 of the total 16 Asian male victims were detected in 2017. 12 of these victims were Indonesian fishermen, referred to later in this report, all of whom were also detected in a single incident.

These two single incidents highlight the difficulties in drawing meaningful trends within relatively small overall numbers.

Fig. 2 Victims by region of origin and year

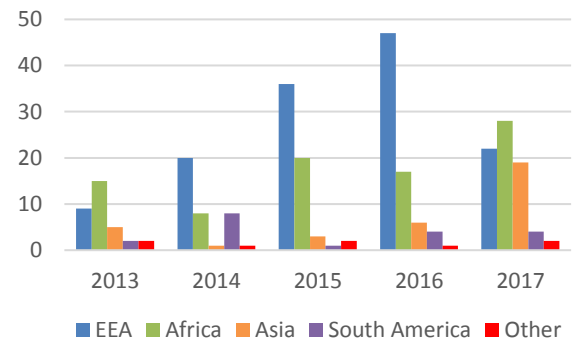


Fig. 2 illustrates how the region of origin pattern changed in 2017.

VICTIMS BY YEAR AND EXPLOITATION

Table 3 shows the breakdown of the 283 victims since 2013 by year, exploitation type and gender.

Table 3 Suspected victims by year, exploitation and gender		Gender			Total	% of total	F:M ratio
Exploitation	Female	Male	Trans				
2013	Sexual	18	-	-	18	54.5	-
	Labour	6	2	-	8	24.2	3.0
	Unknown / Other	5	1	-	6	18.2	5.0
	Sexual & Labour	1	-	-	1	3.0	-
	Total	30	3	-	33	100.0	10.0
2014	Sexual	23	1	-	24	63.2	23.0
	Labour	3	4	-	7	18.4	0.8
	Forced Criminality	-	4	-	4	10.5	-
	Unknown / Other	-	1	-	1	2.6	-
	Sexual & Labour	1	-	-	1	2.6	-
	Forced Begging	1	-	-	1	2.6	-
	Total	28	10	-	38	100.0	2.8
2015	Sexual	30	1	1	32	51.6	30.0
	Labour	8	15	-	23	37.1	0.5
	Forced Criminality	1	4	-	5	8.1	0.3
	Sexual & Labour	2	-	-	2	3.2	-
	Total	41	20	1	62	100.0	2.1
2016	Labour	6	32	-	38	50.7	0.2
	Sexual	32	-	-	32	42.7	-
	Forced Criminality	-	4	-	4	5.3	-
	Sexual & Labour	1	-	-	1	1.3	-
	Total	39	36	-	75	100.0	1.1
2017	Labour	11	24	-	35	46.7	0.5
	Sexual	28	3	-	31	41.3	9.3
	Forced Criminality	5	3	-	8	10.7	1.7
	Forced Begging	1	-	-	1	1.3	-
	Total	45	30	-	75	100.0	1.5
Total	Sexual	131	5	1	137	48.4	26.2
	Labour	34	77	-	111	39.2	0.4
	Forced Criminality	6	15	-	21	7.4	0.4
	Unknown / Other	5	2	-	7	2.5	2.5
	Sexual & Labour	5	-	-	5	1.8	-
	Forced Begging	2	-	-	2	0.7	-
	Total	183	99	1	283	100.0	1.8

other” categorisation in 2014 related to immigration exploitation.

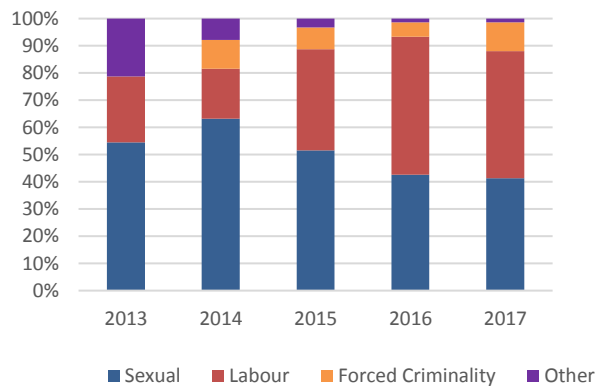
The table shows that over the five years sexual exploitation was the most common, at 48% of the total, with a high female-to-male ratio of 26:1. This is not necessarily the case with other exploitation categories. Labour exploitation, for example, shows a female-to-male ratio of approximately 1:2

Labour exploitation varies greatly due to gender specific sub-categories of exploitation. In 2017, victims of trafficking in pop-up car washes (3) and the fishing industry (19) were exclusively male, while victims of domestic servitude (9) were all female.

Fig. 3 allows for a better illustration of the increasing trend in labour exploitation. This highlights the shifting environment of human trafficking.

This trend of increased identification of victims of labour exploitation is common in many of our EEA neighbours.

Fig 3. Victims by exploitation type and year



The Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) (Amendment) Act 2013 came into effect in August 2013 and expanded the definition of human trafficking to include exploitation of a person for the purpose of forced begging and for forced participation in criminal activities for financial gain.

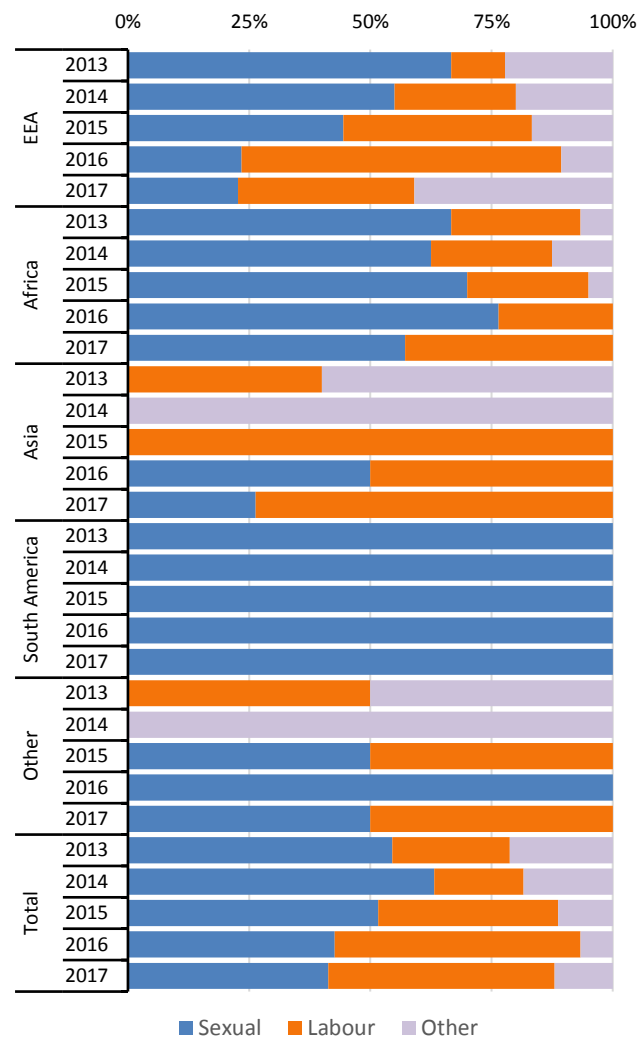
These specific categories of alleged exploitation were previously recorded as ‘uncategorised exploitation’ or ‘labour exploitation’. The one remaining “unknown/

VICTIMS BY REGION AND EXPLOITATION TYPE

Both *Table 4* and *Fig. 4* provide a final overview of suspected victims identified since 2013, this time by year, region of origin and exploitation category.

		Exploitation			Total	% of total
		Sexual	Labour	Other		
2013	Region of origin					
	Africa	10	4	1	15	45.5
	EEA	6	1	2	9	27.3
	Asia	-	2	3	5	15.2
	South America	2	-	-	2	6.1
	Non-EEA Europe	-	-	1	1	3.0
	Ireland	-	1	-	1	3.0
Total	18	8	7	33	100.0	
2014	EEA	11	5	4	20	52.6
	Africa	5	2	1	8	21.1
	South America	8	-	-	8	21.1
	Asia	-	-	1	1	2.6
	Non-EEA Europe	-	-	1	1	2.6
	Total	24	7	7	38	100.0
2015	EEA	16	14	6	36	58.1
	Africa	14	5	1	20	32.3
	Asia	-	3	-	3	4.8
	South America	1	-	-	1	1.6
	Non-EEA Europe	1	-	-	1	1.6
	Other	-	1	-	1	1.6
	Total	32	23	7	62	100.0
2016	EEA	11	31	5	47	62.7
	Africa	13	4	-	17	22.7
	Asia	3	3	-	6	8.0
	South America	4	-	-	4	5.3
	Non-EEA Europe	1	-	-	1	1.3
	Total	32	38	5	75	100.0
2017	Africa	16	12	-	28	37.3
	EEA	5	8	9	22	29.3
	Asia	5	14	-	19	25.3
	South America	4	-	-	4	5.3
	Ireland	1	1	-	2	2.7
	Total	31	35	9	75	100.0
Total	EEA	49	59	26	134	47.3
	Africa	58	27	3	88	31.1
	Asia	8	22	4	34	12.0
	South America	19	-	-	19	6.7
	Non-EEA Europe	2	-	2	4	1.4
	Ireland	1	2	-	3	1.1
	Other	-	1	-	1	0.4
	Total	137	111	35	283	100.0

Fig. 4 Victims by region of origin, year and exploitation



The data shows differences in the exploitation experienced depending on a victim's region of origin. For example, victims from the EEA zone appear more likely to be trafficked for their labour, rather than for sexual purposes, as too are Asian nationals.

SUSPECTED VICTIM REFERRALS

Fig 5. shows how the 75 suspected victims in 2017 came to the attention of An Garda Síochána .

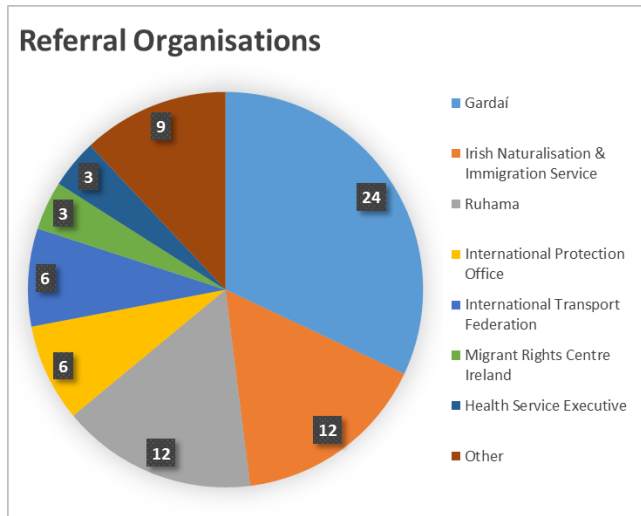


Figure 5: Referral organisations. The 9 “Other” are made up of one referral each from Border Management Unit / Gardaí, Dublin Airport Authority, Garda/Ruhama, Immigrant Council of Ireland, Interpol, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Mutual Assistance Unit, DJE, National Crime Agency (UK) and the Romanian Embassy.

The majority of suspected victims (32%) are referred to HTICU from within An Garda Síochána. This may be Gardaí based in local stations around the country or other specialised Garda units within the GNPSB, for example ‘Operation Quest’ who focus on securing convictions against individuals involved in organising prostitution and brothel keeping.

20% of victims were detected by State funded NGO groups; Ruhama (16%), and the Migrant Rights Centre Ireland (4%). Which again highlights the importance of State funding for frontline groups such as these. It is important to note that NGOs will not make referrals to An Garda Síochána without the consent of the potential victim.

8% of referrals came from the International Protection Office (IPO), where signs of human trafficking may be detected during a person’s claim for protection within the State. Referrals from the Irish Naturalisation & Immigration Service (INIS) (16%) and the International Transport Federation (ITF) (8%) all concern exploitation in the fishing industry.

POTENTIAL VICTIMS

Each year, as part of our Data Strategy, the AHTU receives data on potential victims of human trafficking from associated Non-Governmental and International Organisations, who operate in Ireland.

In 2017, 64 such reports were received, which marks a 26% decrease compared to 2016 (77).

Readers should note that due to data protection guidelines and victim confidentiality issues, AHTU do not receive personalised information. Thus, we cannot assess whether individuals may be interacting with more than one agency, and therefore they may be counted more than once.

Fig. 6 Potential victims referred to HTICU

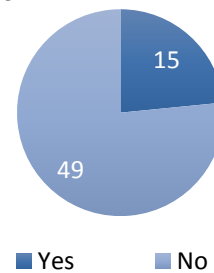


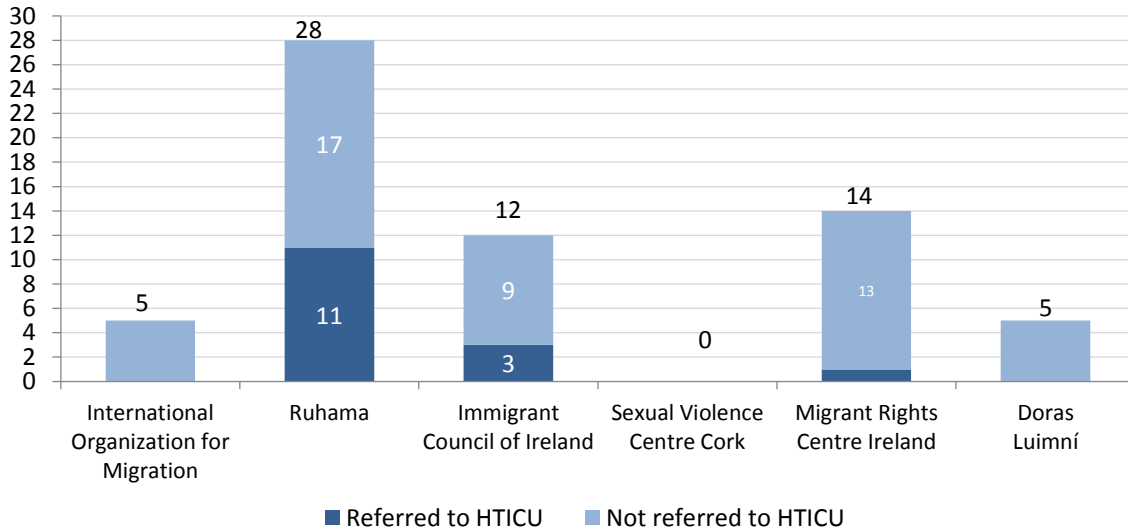
Fig 6 breaks down the 64 reports into whether or not the reporting organisation referred the potential victim to HTICU after their encounter.

In some instances the organisation acts as “first responder”, detecting the victim in the first instance and making a referral to HTICU (a number of these cases can be seen in Fig. 5). Of the 64 reports received in 2016, 23% stated that the potential victim was referred onward to HTICU.

There are many reasons why a potential victim may not be reported to HTICU. At the time of an encounter, a non-State group may not be aware that HTICU have already identified this person as a victim. In other cases HTICU may have referred the victim to the non-State group for specialised services. Additionally, due to a victim’s distressed state, or due to a fear of engaging with Authorities, including a fear of arrest or deportation they may not yet be ready or willing to engage with the Authorities. In these instances supports are provided by a non-government organisation outside of the National Referral Mechanism, with funding provided by the State.

As Fig. 7 shows, reports submitted by Migrant Rights Centre Ireland (14 reports -22%) and Ruhama (28 reports - 44%) accounted for more than two thirds of the total. The low number of IOM referrals to HTICU is explained by the fact that, generally, the IOM encounter victims on their exit from the National Referral Mechanism and therefore the individual is likely to be already known to HTICU as a “suspected victim”.

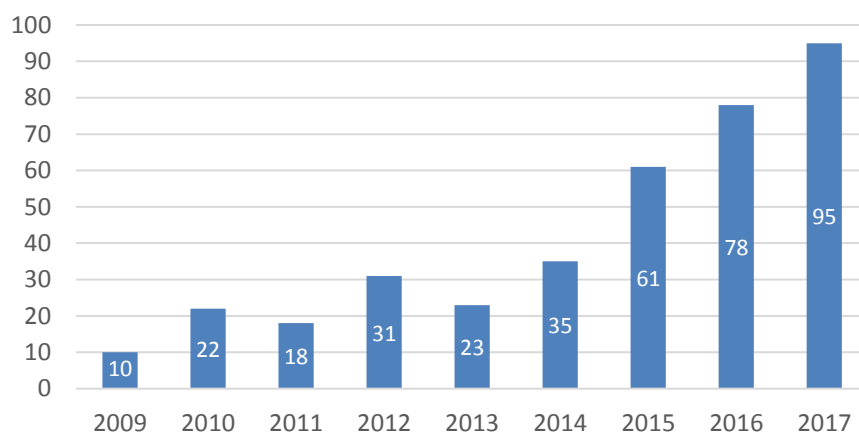
Fig 7. Potential victims encountered by non-State organisations



ONGOING INVESTIGATIONS AT YEAR END

In 2017, An Garda Síochána initiated 115 new human trafficking related investigations, of which 95 were still open at year-end. As at 31st of December 2017, there were 373 open investigations related to trafficking in human beings. A considerable number of investigations cannot be progressed until new information is uncovered.

Fig 8. Ongoing human trafficking investigations, as at 31-Dec-2017



63% of investigations ongoing as at 31st December 2017 were initiated within the last 3 years (2015-2017 inclusive).

PROSECUTIONS, CONVICTIONS AND EUROPEAN ARREST WARRANTS

PROSECUTIONS (SECTION 3(2) OFFENCES) – CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

In prior annual reports prosecutions and convictions related almost exclusively to Section 3(2) of the Child Trafficking & Pornography Act 1998 [as amended by Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008]. As mentioned earlier in this report, victims in such cases tend to be minors sexually exploited for non-commercial gain. This report seeks to better align Ireland’s human trafficking statistics with those of other countries, therefore prosecutions and convictions relating to Section 3(2) are reported on separately. Under this section 32 new cases (90 charges) involving the sexual exploitation of minors under were brought before the Courts in 2017.

PROSECUTIONS (SECTION 4 OFFENCES) – HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The following table shows prosecutions against individuals in 2017 under Section 4 of the Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008

Suspects prosecuted in 2017			Accused		Victim	
#	Act	Charges	Gender	Age	Gender	Age
1	Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008 [Section 4]	Labour exploitation 6 charges	Male	Adult	Male (multiple victims)	Adult (multiple victims)
2	Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008 [Section 4]	Labour exploitation 6 charges	Male	Adult	Male (multiple victims)	Adult (multiple victims)
3	Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008 [Section 4]	Labour exploitation 6 charges	Male	Adult	Male (multiple victims)	Adult (multiple victims)
4	Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008 [Section 4]	Labour exploitation 6 charges	Male	Adult	Male (multiple victims)	Adult (multiple victims)

1-3 refer to three suspects from the same investigation, referred to in our 2016 report as the Co. Meath ‘Waste Recycling’ case. A European Arrest Warrant was applied for in regards suspect 4, who was involved in a pop-up car wash in Co. Donegal.

CONVICTIONS

In 2017, while nine persons were convicted under section 3(2) of the Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008, for offences relating to non-commercial child sexual exploitation, none were convicted for a human trafficking offence.

EUROPEAN ARREST WARRANTS

In 2017, the Department of Justice and Equality received five European Arrest Warrants relating to human trafficking for five separate individuals. Three of the requests came from the UK, one from Poland and one from France.

NATIONAL FRAMEWORK

STATE ORGANISATIONS

The close co-operation between all stakeholders in the fight against trafficking is recognised internationally as a key element of Ireland's anti-trafficking strategy. Three dedicated State units focus directly on human trafficking. The Department of Justice and Equality's **ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING UNIT (AHTU)** co-ordinates policy on human trafficking in Ireland and works in collaboration with other Irish government agencies, and non-government organisations (NGOs).

The **HUMAN TRAFFICKING INVESTIGATION & CO-ORDINATION UNIT (HTICU)** is part of the Garda National Protective Services Bureau (GNPSB) and officers of this Unit have particular expertise in regard to trafficking in human beings. The **ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING TEAM (AHTT)** of the Health Service Executive (HSE) delivers an individual care plan for each victim of human trafficking.

Additionally, solicitors of the **LEGAL AID BOARD** provide legal aid and advice to trafficking victims.

THE RECEPTION AND INTEGRATION AGENCY

The Reception and Integration Agency (RIA) provides potential and suspected victims with accommodation, on the basis of a direct referral by An Garda Síochána. Potential and suspected victims who are in the asylum process remain in RIA accommodation while a determination is being made in relation to their claim for asylum or associated processes (e.g. application for Leave to Remain or Subsidiary Protection).

Victims of trafficking generally account for less than 1% of the overall number of people housed in RIA centres. In

2017, RIA had 34 centres throughout 17 counties, with a contracted capacity of 5,503, including a women-only shelter for those that require it.

In July 2017, there were 47 victims of trafficking of 17 different nationalities, based at 13 different accommodation centres. Of that number, 10 were EEA nationals, 27 were asylum seekers from outside the EEA, while 10 were non-EEA nationals who had not made an asylum claim.

While the number of victims of trafficking availing of RIA facilities has remained relatively stable, this is based on a regular influx in line with entry into the National Referral Mechanism, and exit, either by progression to community based accommodation or a return to country of origin.

RIA facilities are dedicated, secure and are full board, inclusive of all meals. The further cost of heat, light, laundry, TV, household maintenance, etc. are paid directly by the State. There are also regular opportunities for learning and training. Due to feedback nationally and internationally, self-catering and partial self-catering options are on the rise across the board.

Reception centres are inspected regularly by RIA staff, these reports can be found on <http://www.ria-inspections.gov.ie>

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

In many cases traumatised victims are reluctant to engage directly with State agencies, and particularly with An Garda Síochána. Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) play a crucial role in both the detection of, and provision of assistance to, victims of human trafficking in Ireland, often outside the State structures described above.

RUHAMA is a Dublin-based NGO which works on a national level with women affected by prostitution and other forms of commercial sexual exploitation. Ruhama provides a service to women who are currently involved in on-street and off-street prostitution, women who are exiting prostitution, women who are victims of sex trafficking and women who have a history of prostitution.

MIGRANT RIGHTS CENTRE IRELAND (MRCI) is a national organisation working to promote justice, empowerment and equality for migrant workers and their families. MRCI provides information, advocacy and legal support to migrants and their families all over Ireland. The organisation works to identify and support victims of trafficking for labour exploitation and supports the growth and development of a number of action groups that enable vulnerable migrant workers to work together and improve working conditions in specific sectors.

Other organisations active in the provision of services to victims of trafficking include:

IMMIGRANT COUNCIL OF IRELAND (ICI) works to secure improvements in the rights and protections of migrants and their families in Ireland through working on policy

and awareness on issues of migration, integration and human trafficking. The ICI has an independent law centre and operates a helpline for immigration queries.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE CENTRE CORK (SVCC) is a Cork-based organisation working towards the elimination of sexual violence in society by raising awareness about the prevalence, incidence and dynamics of interpersonal violence within society. Its services include crisis support counselling, advocacy, a telephone helpline and a Sexual Assault Treatment Service (SATS).

DORAS LUIMNÍ is an organisation that works to support and promote the rights of migrants living in Limerick and the wider Mid-West region. The organisation provides specialised direct support to victims of human trafficking and to women engaged in, or exiting from prostitution.

The **INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)** is an International Organisation whose primary responsibility lies in assisting persons in returning to their country of origin if they so wish. Assistance is provided to both EU and non-EU nationals alike.

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURES

There are formal written procedures that guide public officials in the identification and protection of victims of trafficking:

- A '[Statement of Roles and Responsibilities](#)' is in place outlining the roles and responsibilities of State agencies and NGOs. The Statement describes the process of identification, the range of available services and assistance measures, information on access to these services, and the part played by relevant organisations at different stages.
- [Administrative Immigration Arrangements](#) are in place to provide a means to remain in the State pending a trafficking investigation for Non-EEA suspected victims of trafficking who do not otherwise have such permission. This temporary protection can evolve into permanent residence.
- A [Guide to Procedures for Victims of Trafficking in Ireland](#) provides information to victims of trafficking in relation to their rights.

IDENTIFICATION PROCEDURES REVIEW

One of the commitments contained in the [Second National Action Plan](#) is to conduct a fundamental examination of procedures for the identification of victims of trafficking.

In 2017, efforts continued in relation to maintaining and improving identification procedures in Ireland. This included engagement with An Garda Síochána, State Agencies and NGOs. Reviewing the Statement of Roles and Responsibilities, the Guide to Procedures for Victims of Trafficking, and the Administrative Immigration Arrangements is part of this process, to ensure they continue to provide accurate guidance on procedures in place within Ireland.

NATIONAL REFERRAL MECHANISM (OVERVIEW)

Ireland continues to provide a victim-centred approach based on referral through a system of State supports of all potential victims of trafficking that have been made known to An Garda Síochána. The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is the framework through which State bodies fulfil their obligations to protect and promote the human rights of trafficking victims, working in partnership with civil society. This includes accommodation, medical services, legal aid and advice, amongst other supports.

Where victims of trafficking, or those acting on their behalf do not wish to engage with the police, they cannot enter the National Referral Mechanism and cannot avail of all services provided directly by the State. However, the Department of Justice recognises the difficulty and fear that victims experience in coming forward, and so provides funding to various NGOs to provide supports and services that can be made available to potential victims outside of the National Referral Mechanism.

At any stage of the process, or if the victim is a non-EEA national without an investigative or personal need to remain in the State, their return home is facilitated by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). IOM runs assisted **voluntary return (AVR) and reintegration programmes**. This assistance is available to victims of trafficking regardless of nationality who wish to return home voluntarily but do not have the means, including the necessary documentation, to do so. IOM has offices in many countries, most of which have developed a strong network of support ranging from housing facilities, to medical assistance, all aiming to support victims in the difficult process of reintegration.

Full details on the National Referral Mechanism may be found at www.blueblindfold.gov.ie

SIGNIFICANT INVESTIGATIONS IN 2017

POTENTIAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE FISHING INDUSTRY

In 2017, HTICU identified 19 persons from the fisheries industry as suspected victims of human trafficking. Fishermen are being recruited in their home country through employment agencies, who facilitate their entry to Ireland, often undocumented, which puts these workers in a particularly vulnerable position.

In November, following contact from the International Transport Federation (ITF) and the Indonesian Embassy in London, Gardaí along with the Workplace Relations Commission inspected a Spanish registered fishing vessel in Castletownbere, Co. Cork. Twelve fishermen working in extremely poor conditions were encountered, with HTICU and consular officials from the Indonesian Embassy supporting the operation. Assistance and services under the NRM were offered to all victims. The investigation into the circumstances of this case is ongoing.

Following the recommendations of the Government Task Force on non-EEA workers in Irish fishing industry (chaired by the Minister for Agriculture and also involving the Minister of State for Business and Employment), the existing Atypical Worker Scheme was expanded to enable employers in specific parts of the Irish Fishing fleet, under

a structured and transparent framework, to source and employ workers from non-EEA countries.

Since February 2016, the Scheme allows crew members from outside the EEA to apply to work in the Irish "whitefish fleet" and provides that employees will be guaranteed, at a minimum, the national minimum wage and statutory terms and conditions in accordance with national law, which will be underpinned by the requirement for employers to provide a legally binding contract of employment.

As this scheme applies to the Irish fleet, it cannot protect against boats registered to other EU Member States, such as is the case with the aforementioned victims.

Concerns persist in relation to the exploitation of non-EEA workers in the Irish fleet, within and outside the Atypical Worker Scheme. Both An Garda Síochána and the Workplace Relations Commission continued to inspect vessels throughout 2017.

REPATRIATION OF AN IRISH MINOR

In September, an Irish minor was repatriated to Ireland after being allegedly trafficked to an African country. The minor had been removed from the State under false pretences, and put into a situation of domestic servitude.

Cooperation between the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Tusla, An Garda Síochána (while special

input from HTICU) and the IOM ultimately resulted in repatriation to Ireland and placement into the care of Tusla.

This case is an example of where Ireland was a ‘source’ country for human trafficking. The case also highlights the benefits of an interagency response.

IMPLEMENTATION ON THE SECOND NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

Following its launch in 2016, work proceeded, throughout 2017 on the implementation of the Second National Action Plan to Prevent and Combat Human Trafficking in Ireland.



A primary commitment of the Second National Action Plan is to conduct a fundamental examination of procedures for the identification of victims of trafficking. To date suspected victims of human trafficking have been assessed on a “reasonable grounds” basis to allow them access to supports and services. This is not a determination that the individual is a victim of human trafficking, rather it is a determination made with a low threshold of proof to allow victims to access services and supports as quickly as possible. It is the first stage in a wider investigation into the allegation of trafficking.

Historically, while supports under the NRM have been offered to all persons meeting this low “reasonable

PROGRESS IN 2017

grounds” threshold, formal identification as a victim of trafficking has been linked to the need for an immigration permission. Those who do not require an immigration permission (EEA nationals and those in the International Protection Process), while availing of similar supports under the NRM, have been perceived as lacking formal acknowledgment of their victim status. This has led to criticisms of the system of identification.

A series of meetings were held throughout 2017 to identify further perceived problems with existing administrative structures. These included a Victim Identification Working Group in April, and further engagement with An Garda Síochána and major NGOs involved in the identification process throughout the year with a view to making any necessary amendments. This work remained ongoing at year end.

CRIMINAL LAW (SEXUAL OFFENCES) ACT 2017

The Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act came into effect in 2017, with Tánaiste Frances Fitzgerald T.D. taking part in an ICI-organised event at City Hall on International Womens’ Day in Dublin to welcome the legislation, and on 27th March, signing the Order commencing most sections of the Act.

Part 4 of the Act criminalises the purchase of sexual services while removing those who provide sexual services from the existing offences of soliciting or loitering for the purpose of prostitution.

With the passing of this Act, the AHTU has taken on new responsibilities for prostitution policy in addition to that of trafficking in human beings. This new role includes liaising with concerned stakeholders, An Garda Síochána, and a variety of NGOs.

The new offences under Part 4 include a general offence of paying to engage in sexual activity with a prostitute, which carries a penalty of a fine of up to €500 for a first offence and fines of up to €1000 for a second or subsequent offence.

Secondly, the more serious offence of paying for sexual activity with a trafficked person, in the context of prostitution, is an offence that carries a potential penalty of up to 5 years' imprisonment and/or a fine. In both cases, the person selling or being forced to sell the sexual service will not have committed an offence.

The Act itself and the provisions referred to in particular, recognise the exploitation experienced by those involved in prostitution and decriminalises them. Decriminalising the seller allows people to exit prostitution without being criminalised, and allows them to come forward and seek the assistance and supports that they may require. The aim of criminalising the purchase of sexual services is to reduce demand for both those in prostitution, and for sexually exploited victims of trafficking.

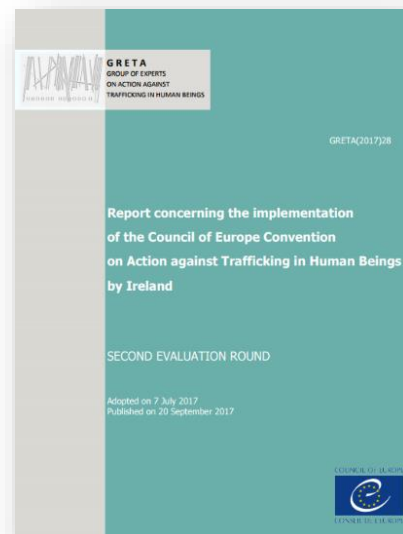
The Act requires a report to be made on the effect of Part 4 of the legislation after 3 years. This will detail the number of arrests, prosecutions etc., stemming from the introduction of the law, as well as assess the impact on the safety and well-being of persons who engage in sexual activity for payment.

The full text of the Act can be found [here](#)

REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON ACTION AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS BY IRELAND

In September, the Council of Europe Group of Experts on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) published their second report on Ireland's implementation of the Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. This report follows a country

visit by members of GRETA to Ireland, described in our 2016 Annual Report.



Minister Flanagan welcomed the publication of the report as:

“...a valuable independent indication of the progress made by Ireland to date, with useful observations that can inform policy-making to better prevent and combat trafficking in persons....”

The Report highlighted progress in Ireland's implementation of the Convention, noting in particular the following developments:

- The amendments made in 2013 to the Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008 to expand the definition of Labour Exploitation and the enacting of The Civil Registration (Amendment) Act 2014, the International Protection Act 2015 and the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act 2017.
- The establishment of the Garda National Protective Services Bureau (GNPSB) in 2015, and the inclusion on the Human trafficking Investigation and Co-Ordination Unit (HTICU) and Operation Quest (which investigates prostitution and the criminality that surrounds it) as part of this.

- The considerable efforts made to increase and implement training and awareness raising around human trafficking across both the public and professional spheres.

The Report also made a number of observations and recommendations in relation to areas in which GRETA believe efforts can be enhanced. These include more rapid and proactive identification of trafficking victims, improvements to accommodation arrangements, access to compensation for victims of trafficking and increased prosecution of trafficking offences.

Ireland's comments on the official Report were published as an annex to the Report and provided clarifications on Ireland's compliance with the Convention, and in particular, on how our National Referral Mechanism operates in practice.

The Report and Ireland's comments were then considered by the Committee of Parties to the Council of Europe Convention against Trafficking, which made recommendations for further action by Ireland in October. Ireland is required to report on progress towards these recommendations in 2018.

The full report, including Ireland's response, together with the Recommendations of the Committee of Parties, is available on the GRETA website¹.

OTHER INTERNATIONAL EVALUATIONS AND COOPERATION

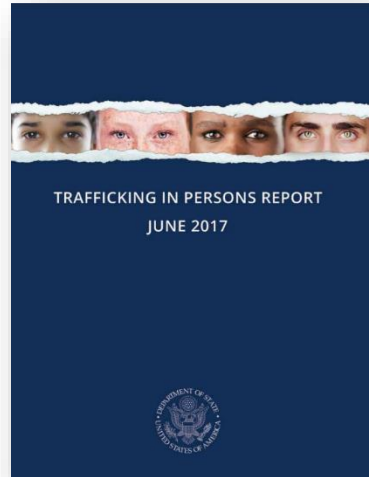
US 'TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS' REPORT 2017

Each year the US Department of State evaluates the actions of countries around the world in the fight against Human Trafficking. The 2017 Trafficking in Persons Report, published in June, saw Ireland awarded a Tier 1 (highest) rating for our work in addressing this crime.

The report included some welcome positive commentary on work carried out in 2016, notably the publication of the Second National Action Plan to Prevent and Combat Human Trafficking in Ireland. The significant progress

achieved in prosecutions and increased funding for victim services were also well received by the evaluators.

The 2017 Report made a number of recommendations to be implemented and the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit continued to work closely with our partners to ensure that the State's response continues to improve.



CEDAW

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) is the body of independent experts that monitors implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Ireland was part of the 66th session in February and reported on the implementation of the Convention to the Committee.

UNCAT

In July, an Irish State delegation travelled to Geneva and presented our Second State Report under the UN Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhumane, Degrading Treatment and Punishment (UNCAT). Ireland ratified this convention in 2002.

MULTIPLE SYSTEMS ESTIMATION

Continuing on from 2016, in 2017 the AHTU continued to liaise with our international counterparts in providing data for a new Multiple Systems Estimation (MSE) project. The MSE methodology utilizes existing lists of victims of trafficking by different authorities or NGOs and

¹<https://rm.coe.int/greta-2017-28-fgr-irl-en/168074b426>

estimates the “dark figure” of victims that have not been found. Publication of these results is expected in 2018.

UNGIFT BOX

UN GIFT, or Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking, is an initiative of the United Nations and anti-human trafficking NGOs. The UN GIFT Box is a unique piece of public art that toured Ireland throughout the month of March to raise awareness of human trafficking and modern day slavery. It is a walk-in installation where members of the public can learn more about the deception involved in human trafficking and the suffering of the victims drawn in by traffickers.



Tánaiste and Minister for Justice and Equality, Frances Fitzgerald is introduced to the UN GIFT Box by APT coordinator Elizabeth Byrne IBVM - 6th March 2017

The tour was organised by **ACT TO PREVENT TRAFFICKING (APT)**, in collaboration with Northern Irish NGO **INVISIBLE TRAFFICK** and with the support of the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit. APT is one of many awareness-raising organisations currently active in Ireland.

The GIFT Box made its way around Ireland stopping off at Drogheda, Dublin, Kilkenny, Tralee, Galway, Athlone, Maynooth, Dundalk.

The Tánaiste and Minister for Justice and Equality, Frances Fitzgerald T.D, who visited the GIFT Box outside the Central Bank in Dublin, praised those involved and highlighted the importance of public awareness in the fight against human trafficking:

“Groups like APT, Act to Prevent Trafficking, are key to raising public awareness and educating Irish people about the horrors of this crime and what can be done to prevent it... I commend them for their initiative, and I’m sure they will get a great response as they take this project on the road over the next few weeks.”



Volunteers from APT alongside Assistant Commissioner John O’Driscoll, Laurentiu Ciobanica (Chief of Mission, IOM Ireland), AHTU and HTICU - 6th March 2017

EUROPOL EUROPEAN MULTI-DISCIPLINARY PLATFORM AGAINST CRIMINAL THREATS (EMPACT)

Ireland is part of the Europol European Multi-Disciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT) group on Human Trafficking. This group contains representatives from EU Member States and is co-ordinated through Europol in The Hague. In 2017, Ireland participated in three thematic weeks of action under the priority crime area “Trafficking in Human Beings”.

An Garda Síochána placed particular emphasis on using a multi-agency approach during these action weeks. These weeks of action took place in May, June and October 2017:

- May 2017 (labour exploitation) Intelligence-led operations with teams comprised of An Garda Síochána, the Workplace Relations Commission, the Revenue Commissioners and the Department of Social Protection targeted the Nail Bar Industry. While WRC inspectors identified employment law breaches at 35 premises, including 11 breaches

of legislation concerning worker permits for non-EEA citizens, no evidence of human trafficking was detected.

- June 2017 (sexual exploitation)
The Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB), the Garda National Protective Services Bureau (GNPSB) and the Border Management Unit (BMU) of the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service were involved in various actions to counter trafficking for sexual exploitation.
- October 2017 (child trafficking)
HTICU and GNIB worked jointly with BMU along with members of the Divisional Protective Service Units nationwide. The focus was on the safeguarding of children and young people, focusing on unaccompanied children or children accompanied in suspicious circumstances, but looking at all forms of child trafficking. This included hi-visibility, education, awareness and prevention operations at Dublin Ferry Port and Dublin Airport.

A number of human trafficking investigations, both at a national and international level, have followed on from these operations with a number of suspected victims identified and assisted under the NRM.

INTERPOL TASK FORCE ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Ireland continues to be a member of and contribute to the Interpol Task Force on Human Trafficking (ITHT). This is an international working group for law enforcement specialists dedicated to preventing and fighting trafficking in human beings at a global level. Through shared intelligence, research, education and learning, the Task Force seeks to progress and improve investigative methods in relation to human trafficking via recommendations, resolutions and presentations to Interpol's regional conferences and its General Assembly.

A member of HTICU delivered a presentation on the phenomenon of cannabis grow houses and the challenges faced in Ireland at the 5th Global Interpol Conference on human trafficking which was held in Qatar in December 2017

CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION IN IRELAND - ORGANISED CRIME TASK FORCE / JOINT AGENCY TASK FORCE

A representative from HTICU sits on the Organised Crime Task Force (OCTF), Immigration and Human Trafficking Sub-Group, which meets in Belfast on a quarterly basis. This group involves consultation between representatives from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland administrations.

Another vehicle for cooperation on the island of Ireland is the Joint Agency Task Force (JATF), which has human trafficking as one of 6 priority areas. In 2017, An Garda Síochána continued co-operating with the Police Service of Northern Ireland in a number of investigations into human trafficking and organised prostitution. A number of organised crime gangs involving Romanian criminals have been uncovered, working on both sides of the Irish border, and are being targeted under these initiatives.

TRAINING ACTIVITIES

AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA

An Garda Síochána continue training their members through regular training days and courses. In April, the AHTU spoke on Legislation and Policy at a training day for Detective Sergeants attached to Special Crime Operations.

The AHTU also spoke at two 3-day training courses on "Tackling Trafficking in Human Beings; Prevention, Protection, Prosecution and Partnership" operated by and provided to An Garda Síochána and members from the Police Service Northern Ireland, with the second day dedicated to services provided to victims of trafficking. The International Organisation for Migration, along with State Agencies and Non-Governmental Organisations played a key part in the delivery of the training course.

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE

In June, the AHTU assisted in delivered a briefing to officers of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) on Human Trafficking and on the Employment of Domestic Workers in Diplomatic Households, as part of the DFAT's programme of pre-post training for officers going abroad in 2017

DUBLIN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

AHTU recognises that students training in health and social care will be frontline workers that may come across potential victims of human trafficking during the course of their future work. The AHTU, An Garda Síochána and TUSLA gave a presentation to BA Social Care students at DIT Grangegorman Campus on human trafficking and Ireland's response to this crime.

AWARENESS RAISING PROJECTS

In 2017 The HTICU took part in 'The Garda Marquee' at the Tullamore Agricultural Show as well as the National Ploughing Championships.

FUNDING

The *'Second National Action Plan to Prevent and Combat Human Trafficking in Ireland'* commits the Department to continue to provide funding to NGOs active in the field of human trafficking. This commitment recognises the role of NGOs in assisting the State to provide frontline supports and services to victims of human trafficking, many of whom are reluctant to engage with State agencies.

This obligation is fulfilled both through the provision of mainstream funding and through making available project-based funding through the Dormant Accounts Funding Scheme.

NGOs also avail of funding through other schemes in support of their anti-trafficking work.

MAINSTREAM FUNDING

In 2017, the Department provided mainstream funding to Ruhama and Migrant Rights Centre Ireland (MRCI). Comprehensive Service Level Agreements are in place between AHTU and the recipient organisations. These Agreements document the services to be provided and the required governance and reporting practices to be adhered to.

RUHAMA | €310,000

€310,000 was provided to Ruhama for the provision of support and assistance to women who have been the victims of human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation with a particular focus on exit supports.

In October's Action Week, the HTICU, the AHTU, and Dublin Airport Authority (DAA) undertook further awareness raising activities. A number of digital adverts were run at Dublin Airport in both Terminal 1 and Terminal 2.

The AHTU has published 3 newsletters throughout 2017 to over 80 separate organisations and agencies, detailing the work done by a wide variety of NGOs, in addition to the HTICU, the HSE Anti Human Trafficking Team and the AHTU.

MIGRANT RIGHTS CENTRE IRELAND | €50,000

€50,000 enabled support for victims to exit the trafficking situation and provided for assistance with accessing accommodation and specialised services.

DORMANT ACCOUNTS FUNDING

The Dormant Accounts Funding Scheme, operated by the Department of Rural and Community Development, provides that dormant funds and unclaimed life assurance policies may be disbursed for the purposes of assisting the personal, social and educational development of economically, socially or educationally disadvantaged groups as well as persons with a disability.

Under the 2017 Action Plan, a total of €250,000 was allocated for measures to address the needs of victims of human trafficking or persons vulnerable to human trafficking. Following an open call for proposals, and an evaluation process, just two projects were successful in meeting relevant criteria to avail of funding.

Other project submissions showed a lack of capacity and a lack of direct experience supporting victims of human trafficking. The outstanding amount of funds available was carried forward to 2018.

RUHAMA | €6,450

Ruhama's novel initiative aims to raise awareness of the supports available to Romanian women experiencing, or vulnerable to, sex trafficking in Ireland. Ruhama is engaging in awareness raising activities with the

expatriate Romanian community in Ireland and through targeted online ads to try to reach out to vulnerable Romanian women and make them aware of the services that are available to them on a free and confidential basis. Specific awareness raising material will be developed and circulated through different channels for display and issuing to persons who may be affected by prostitution and trafficked or at risk of trafficking. The project will be implemented during 2018 and targeted online ads in Romanian will also be developed.

MIGRANT RIGHTS CENTRE IRELAND | €59,991

Funding under the Dormant Accounts Action Plan 2017 was awarded to MRCI for a project that aims to support migrant workers in accessing their rights, through the provision of information, advocacy, legal, immigration and employment supports. This project aims to develop an innovative model of engagement and training with eight to ten migrant leaders enabling them to mobilise 250 - 300 migrant workers across the country to combat trafficking and encourage their involvement in MRCI's action groups. This will be achieved through supporting the leaders to deliver strategic outreach supports to migrant workers in precarious sectors of the labour market such as domestic, care, fisheries, restaurants, car washes and farm work; sectors where there is a high risk of trafficking. The project, which is expected to be

implemented throughout 2018, will document and share key learnings with 60 stakeholders that will expand knowledge and methodologies on how to reach increasing numbers of migrant workers at risk of trafficking.

OTHER FUNDING SOURCES

In addition to the funding provided for by the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit in 2017, both Ruhama and MRCI have benefited from other funding streams.

Ruhama was allocated €118,824 and €100,824 respectively from 2 separate HSE funding schemes. A further grant of €238,575 has been allocated over a 36-month period under the EU's European Social Fund (facilitated by the Department of Justice and Equality), for a Bridge to Work programme for vulnerable women.

MRCI also availed of recipient of EU funding during 2017, notably through the Asylum Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) for a project aimed at assisting vulnerable third-country nationals in low-waged and unregulated sectors (€250,000) and through the European Social Fund (ESF) for an entrepreneurship project to combat labour market discrimination against migrant domestic workers (€279,000) Funding under both of these channels was facilitated by the Department of Justice and Equality and each allocation covers a three year period.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX I: STATISTICAL DATA

The following table shows victims of human trafficking reported to An Garda Síochána in 2017, by exploitation, region, gender and age:

Exploitation	Region	Female			Male			Total		
		Adult	Minor	Total	Adult	Minor	Total	Adult	Minor	Total
Labour	Asia	1	-	1	13	-	13	14	-	14
	Africa	6	-	6	6	-	6	12	-	12
	EEA	3	-	3	5	-	5	8	-	8
	Ireland	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	1
	Total	10	1	11	24	-	24	34	1	35
Sexual	Africa	14	1	15	1	-	1	15	1	16
	EEA	5	-	5	-	-	-	5	-	5
	Asia	5	-	5	-	-	-	5	-	5
	South America	2	-	2	2	-	2	4	-	4
	Ireland	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1
Total	27	1	28	3	-	3	30	1	31	
Forced Criminality	EEA	4	1	5	3	-	3	7	1	8
	Total	4	1	5	3	-	3	7	1	8
Forced Begging	EEA	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1
	Total	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1
Total	Africa	20	1	21	7	-	7	27	1	28
	EEA	13	1	14	8	-	8	21	1	22
	Asia	6	-	6	13	-	13	19	-	19
	South America	2	-	2	2	-	2	4	-	4
	Ireland	1	1	2	-	-	-	1	1	2
Total	42	3	45	30	-	30	72	3	75	

APPENDIX II: METHODOLOGY

In order to produce our Annual Report the AHTU gather depersonalised information from three main sources:

1. HTICU provide standardised information concerning the demographic characteristics of any victims of human trafficking reported to them, in addition to information concerning the criminal justice response to trafficking in human beings.
2. NGOs and International Organisations furnish reports to AHTU on each potential victim of human trafficking encountered by their organisation in the calendar year. Both non-personalised biographic information and exploitation demographic information is supplied using an AHTU developed template.

3. The Mutual Assistance & Extradition Unit of Department of Justice and Equality provide information regarding European Arrest Warrants.

AHTU, in accordance with data protection legislation, does not seek to collect personal information such as names and dates of birth. Therefore, it is not possible to cross-reference the HTICU and NGO/IO datasets on a case-by-case basis. As such, figures received from HTICU and NGO/IOs, have been presented separately.

AHTU

The Anti-Human Trafficking Unit, part of the Crime and Security Directorate within the Department of Justice and Equality.

AiAs

The 'Administrative Immigration Arrangements for the Protection of Victims of Trafficking' set out the protections available to suspected victims of human trafficking who have no legal permission to be present in the State. Established in 2008 they coincide with the commencement of the Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008 and were updated and republished in 2010 and 2011. For a copy of the Administrative Arrangements, please visit Ireland's dedicated anti-human trafficking website at www.blueblindfold.gov.ie.

EEA

For the purposes of this report, any mention of 'EEA', in regards to nationality, refers to countries within the European Union, the European Economic Area and the European Free Trade Association.

FAMILY MEMBER OF AN EEA CITIZEN

Refers to non-EEA nationals residing in the State under EU Directive 2004/38/EC (Freedom of Movement).

GNPSB

The Garda National Protective Services Bureau, within An Garda Síochána.

HTICU

Human Trafficking Investigation and Co-ordination Unit, part of the Garda National Protective Services Bureau within An Garda Síochána.

IO

International Organisation, e.g. the International Organisation for Migration.

MINOR

A minor is defined in Irish law as a person of less than 18 years.

NGO

Non-Governmental Organisation,

NRM

National Referral Mechanism; the term used to describe the framework through which State bodies fulfil their obligations to protect and promote the human rights of trafficking victims, working in partnership with civil society.

VICTIM (SUSPECTED)

Refers to persons meeting a reasonable grounds threshold to be considered a victim of human trafficking by our Competent Authority (An Garda Síochána).

VICTIM (POTENTIAL)

Refers to potential victims of human trafficking encountered by non-State groups. These persons may, or may not, be referred to our Competent Authority (An Garda Síochána) depending on their individual circumstances.



**TO
HUMAN
TRAFFICKING**

www.blueblindfold.gov.ie

**ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING UNIT
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND EQUALITY
94 ST. STEPHEN'S GREEN
DUBLIN 2
D02 FD70**



AHTU_INBOX@JUSTICE.IE

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/ANTIHUMANTRAFFICKINGUNITIRELAND