

# 2019 WORLD DAY AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS



30 JULY  
WORLD  
DAY  
AGAINST  
TRAFFICKING  
IN PERSONS



[www.endht.org](http://www.endht.org)



**UNODC**

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



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## WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

Human trafficking involves the acts of recruiting, transporting, transferring, harbouring or receiving a person through the use of force, deception or other means for the purpose of exploiting them.

## A CALL TO "ACT NOW"

Despite almost every country having national human trafficking laws broadly in line with the UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol, globally, people continue to be trafficked. What is more, in many countries, victims may still be criminalized and the impunity of traffickers prevails.

In ratifying the Protocol, Member States have committed to the protection of victims, prosecution of perpetrators, and prevention of trafficking. In ensuring these commitments are translated into action, it is essential Governments "**Act Now**", to take urgent, expedient and practical action with the best interests of victims of trafficking as the primary consideration.

In 2019, national responses are all the more important because, currently, most known trafficking victims are identified in their own countries, as highlighted by the 2018 UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons. **Trafficking happens all around us.**

Special attention should be devoted to identifying victims and strengthening domestic frameworks for victim protection, objectives that can only be sustainably achieved through strengthened institutional efforts to respond to all aspects of human trafficking.

Whether law or services, national or community-based, sustained or targeted, all responses should be human rights-based, age and gender-responsive, and victim-centred to assist those most vulnerable and in need of protection and support.

## The Trafficking in Persons Protocol in a nutshell:

Adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2000, the Protocol is the first and only international

instrument with an agreed definition on trafficking in persons. It supports a comprehensive approach, at international, regional and national levels, to prevent human trafficking, to punish the traffickers and to protect and assist the victims, with full respect for their human rights.

**UNODC is a source of global expertise in responding to trafficking in persons and related crimes. UNODC supports States in developing comprehensive and sustainable responses to trafficking in persons, including effectively preventing trafficking; prosecuting perpetrators; protecting and reducing the harm to trafficking victims; and the number, strength, reach profits and assets of trafficking networks.**

**The Office works to build cooperation, support partnership between States and other stakeholders to achieve these goals; provides a secretariat to the multilateral discussions and decision-making on human trafficking, manages a UN fund to directly provide support to trafficking victims, and coordinates the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT) consisting of 23 UN agencies and partners.**

## UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTARY TRUST FUND FOR VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, ESPECIALLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN

[unodc.org/humantraffickingfund](http://unodc.org/humantraffickingfund)

The UN Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons provides effective, on-the-ground assistance and protection to victims of trafficking, through specialized NGOs. Grantees identify the most vulnerable victims, especially women and children, and offer essential services and direct remedies, including shelter, food, medical care, psychosocial support, legal aid, vocational training, access to justice and compensation, assisting 3,500 individuals a year. Currently, the Fund has allocated USD 2 million to 27 projects around the world as part of its third grant cycle prioritizing victims arising from armed conflict and those identified among large refugee and migration flows. The Fund also focuses on victims trafficked for sexual exploitation, organ removal, forced begging and forced criminality. More information is available on / donations can be made via the Fund's website.

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## ICAT- THE INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION GROUP AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

ICAT is a policy forum mandated by the UN General Assembly to improve coordination and cooperation amongst UN entities and other relevant international organizations. It is dedicated to promoting coordinated responses against persistent and emerging forms of trafficking to prevent the crime, protect its victims and hold perpetrators accountable. UNODC is ICAT's



### BLUE HEART CAMPAIGN

[www.unodc.org/blueheart](http://www.unodc.org/blueheart)

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime launched the Blue Heart Campaign in 2010 as an awareness-raising initiative to fight human trafficking and its impact on society. It encourages everyone around the globe: individuals, civil society, the private / corporate sector, intergovernmental institutions and Member States alike, to get involved.

By using the logo, or by wearing the Blue Heart, everyone can show their support and express their solidarity with trafficking victims, 58 per cent of whom are trafficked within their own country according to the latest Global Report on Trafficking in Persons.

The fact that trafficking happens all around us gives even more importance to the thematic focus of the World Day 2019 encouraging everyone to call their Government to action to fight this heinous crime.

## GLOBAL REPORT ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

[unodc.org/unodc/data-and-analysis/glotip.html](http://unodc.org/unodc/data-and-analysis/glotip.html)

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) published its latest Global Report on Trafficking in Persons in early 2019. Produced every two years, the Report covers 142 countries and provides an overview of patterns and flows of trafficking in persons at global, regional and national levels. Its findings are based on trafficking cases detected between 2014 and 2016, and it reinforces the link between tackling this crime and achieving the UN Sustainable Development Agenda.

This time, UNODC has also prepared a booklet about trafficking in persons in the context of armed conflict. The analysis is based on an extensive desk review of available literature, court cases from the international criminal courts and tribunals and expert interviews with UN peacekeeping personnel. The result is an overview of trafficking in persons and its direct and indirect links to armed conflict.

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Permanent Coordinator and Secretariat. With 23 member organizations across the UN system and its partner international organizations, ICAT has potential access to virtually

every field office around the world - within the UN and beyond - to help drive knowledge-based and coordinated anti-trafficking activities and programmes at national, regional and global levels. As such, ICAT aspires to be a model of effective multilateralism and coordination across the UN system and beyond. Through ICAT, UNODC facilitates the UN system joining together in marking the World Day.



# 30 JULY WORLD DAY AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS



A General Assembly resolution established 30 July as the World Day against Trafficking in Persons to raise awareness of this issue among the general public, policy-makers and civil society.

Exploitation of the vulnerable at the core of human trafficking. On the World Day, therefore, both the international community and civil society have the opportunity to reflect on what each of us can do to decrease vulnerabilities to trafficking, or the risks that follow from such vulnerabilities, particularly those affecting women, children and young people.



No region or country is unaffected by trafficking, for multiple purposes, including sexual and labour exploitation, begging, forced marriage, as soldiers, or for combined exploitative practices. Traffickers also profit from large-scale movement of unaccompanied persons, and misuse new technologies to reach additional victims.

The underlying challenge for us all, as individuals and members of the international community, remains the same: we need to redouble our joint efforts to prevent trafficking, identify and protect victims, and disrupt the criminal networks that commit these crimes, adapting our responses to changing forms of human trafficking.

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