



HUMAN TRAFFICKING A CRIME THAT SHAMES US ALL



Prostitution. Servitude. Forced Labor.

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

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Sadly these words remain an aspiration. It is a fact that more people are trafficked into slavery today than there were during the entire 400 years of the transatlantic slave trade. Worldwide, according to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) an estimated 21 Million human beings are trafficked, exploited for labour, sexually exploited and exploited in state-imposed forced labour.

Trafficking, although illegal all over the world is found in 161 of the world’s 196 countries. It exists by exploiting the poor and vulnerable and because there is an insatiable demand.

Human trafficking is the second most profitable criminal enterprise worldwide after drug trafficking, generating US\$9.5 billion each year. The injustice of Human Trafficking causes unimaginable misery and suffering to those who are dehumanised, forced to become commodities that are bought, sold, used, abused and even killed.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN IRELAND

The numbers of victims of human trafficking in Ireland has almost doubled in four years from 2012 – 2016. According to a Council of Europe report 311 people, with 94 believed to have been children, were trafficked into Ireland. The authors of the report, however, say that the true scale of trafficking could be much higher.

The report found that 95 people were trafficked in 2016 compared to 48 in 2012, according to figures provided by the Gardaí.

The majority of trafficked persons between 2012-2016 were women, with most subject to sexual exploitation, although some were victims of both labour and sexual exploitation. The report says the number of males being trafficked for labour exploitation is also on the rise.



Dates of Significance

- Nov 20: Universal Children's Day
- Nov 25: Int'l Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.
- Dec 1: World Aids Day
- Dec 2: International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
- Dec 9: International Anti-Corruption Day
- Dec 10: International Human rights Day
- Dec 18: International Migrants Day
- Dec 20: Human Solidarity Day

Trafficking takes place when all of these three elements are present:

ACT – a person is recruited, transported, transferred, harboured or received.

MEANS – a person is threatened, forced or coerced in some way, through abduction, fraud, deception, the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or through the giving or receiving of payments.

EXPLOITATION – a person is exploited (i.e. sexual exploitation, labour exploitation or organ removal)

A person doesn't have to have crossed a border for trafficking to have taken place, it can take place within national borders.



The Church view: “Whatever insults human dignity, arbitrary imprisonment, deportation, slavery, prostitution, the selling of women and children ..., where men are treated as mere tools for profit, rather than as free and responsible persons; all these things and others of their like are infamies indeed...Moreover, they are a supreme dishonour to the Creator. Gaudium et Spes 27

The seventh commandment: Thou shalt not steal, forbids acts or enterprises that ...lead to the enslavement of human beings, to their being bought, sold and exchanged like merchandise, in disregard for their personal dignity. It is a sin against the dignity of persons and their fundamental rights to reduce them by violence to their productive value or to a source of profit. Catechism of the Catholic Church Para. no. 2414