

## 1. A Childhood of Exploitation, Violence and Fear: The Story of Child Trafficking

**Location:** Temporary Transit Centre for Migrants, "Vinojug", Gevgelija, North Macedonia.

**Summary:** Agnija, a child trafficking victim, experienced severe exploitation including forced labor, sexual abuse, and abandonment by her family. Her ordeal began post her eighth birthday and escalated due to family dysfunction and poverty. Despite the trauma, she found hope through intervention by social workers and law enforcement who identified her situation during her mother's divorce proceedings, ultimately leading to her rehabilitation.

### Key Insights:

- Children constitute over 30% of global trafficking victims.
  - Common forms of child trafficking include sexual exploitation, forced labor, and forced begging, often orchestrated by family or acquaintances.
  - Victim identification and protection require active efforts from frontline workers like police and social workers.
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## 2. Mexico: Indigenous Communities as Agents of Change in Eradicating Human Trafficking

**Location:** Papantla, Mexico.

**Summary:** Margarita Cruz, an indigenous activist, highlights the lack of awareness about human trafficking within indigenous communities, exacerbated by language and cultural barriers. Through a collaboration with UNODC since 2018, culturally and linguistically tailored prevention programs have been developed, empowering local women and community leaders to spearhead awareness and prevention initiatives.

### Key Insights:

- Indigenous and Afro-descendant communities are particularly vulnerable to trafficking due to social exclusion and economic hardships.
  - Effective crime prevention requires culturally sensitive approaches that respect and integrate local contexts and languages.
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### 3. Explainer: Understanding Child Trafficking

**Summary:** Child trafficking involves the exploitation of children through various forms such as sexual exploitation, forced labor, and forced begging. This violation of human rights does not consider any form of consent by children as valid, especially under coercion or manipulation. The phenomenon is prevalent worldwide, with significant variations across regions.

#### **Key Insights:**

- Detection and reporting challenges mean actual numbers of trafficked children are likely higher than reported.
  - Effective measures against child trafficking include heightened awareness, proper internet use monitoring, and robust child protection frameworks.
  - UNODC supports international efforts through research, training, and legal frameworks to combat child trafficking.
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### 4. Eight Latin American Countries Fighting Human Trafficking Together

**Event:** TRACK4TIP Regional Collaboration

**Location:** Panama City, Panama.

**Summary:** This UNODC initiative unites eight Latin American countries to combat human trafficking through shared strategies and best practices. The collaboration has led to significant outcomes including 90 criminal investigations and the identification of over 600 victims, demonstrating a united front against this transnational crime, particularly targeting women and girls for sexual exploitation.

#### **Key Insights:**

- Traffickers increasingly use sophisticated digital methods for victim recruitment and exploitation.
- Regional cooperation and knowledge exchange are crucial for enhancing the effectiveness of anti-trafficking measures.