



## Topics

# OHCHR and trafficking in persons



## Overview

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# About human rights and trafficking in persons

Trafficking in persons refers the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons—by force, coercion, fraud or some other form of deception—for the purpose of exploitation.

Many of the practices associated with trafficking are prohibited under international human rights law. For example, human rights law forbids debt bondage, slavery, servitude, child sexual exploitation, forced marriage, and

enforced prostitution; they are human rights violations.

Despite a solid international legal framework, millions of girls, boys, women and men continue to be trafficked each year.

Learn more about the links between [human rights and trafficking in persons](#).

## OHCHR's work on anti-trafficking

The UN Human Rights Office is at the forefront of efforts to promote a human rights-based approach to trafficking in persons. The Office has developed [Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking](#) and its extensive [Commentary](#) that aim to help all those involved in anti-trafficking efforts to fully integrate human rights into their analysis and responses to trafficking.

The document includes seventeen recommended principles that address the following core areas:

- (a) the primacy of human rights;
- (b) preventing trafficking;
- (c) protection and assistance;
- (d) criminalization, punishment and redress.

Additionally, there are eleven recommended guidelines that provide practical measures for implementing the principles.

Learn more about [how we work to eliminate trafficking](#) in persons.

## Key documents

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### OHCHR Fact Sheet No. 36

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## **International instruments concerning trafficking in persons**

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## **Trafficking in persons two- page Fact Sheet**

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## **OHCHR Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking**

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## **Commentary on the Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking**

## **Latest publications and resources**

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## **Guidelines for Reporting Trafficking in Persons by Flight and Cabin Crew - Circular 352 produced jointly by OHCHR and ICAO (PDF)**

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**UNODC Global Report  
(2020) on Trafficking in  
Persons (PDF)**

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**CEDAW General  
Recommendation No. 38  
(2020) on trafficking in women  
and girls in the context of  
global migration**

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**Protocol to Prevent, Suppress  
and Punish Trafficking in  
Persons Especially Women and  
Children, supplementing the  
United Nations Convention  
against Transnational  
Organized Crime**

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**UN Global Plan of Action to  
Combat Trafficking in Persons  
(PDF)**

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**Alliance 8.7: Global  
Estimates of Modern  
Slavery (PDF)**

## Stories



18 JANUARY 2023

### Project reunites trafficked children with families



16 SEPTEMBER 2022

### "I didn't feel human"



02 DECEMBER 2019

## Enslavement: a 'shocking indictment' on our societies



28 JULY 2017

## Escaping the bonds of human trafficking: Pamela's Story

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### Latest news

16 JUN 2023 | PRESS BRIEFING NOTES

## Loss of life in Mediterranean "horrific tragedy" – Türk

[See all](#)

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## Latest statements

11 MAR 2021 | STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

### Statement by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet

[See all](#)

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## Activities

[Webinar on implementation of CEDAW General Recommendation No. 38 in the MENA region](#)  
15 July 2021

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## Others involved

[Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons](#)

[Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery](#)

[Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children](#)

[Special Rapporteur on violence against women](#)

[Committee on the elimination of violence against women](#)

[Committee on the rights of the child](#)

[Committee on forced disappearances](#)

[Human rights committee](#)

[Committee on migrant workers](#)

[UN Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary forms of Slavery](#)



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## Videos

Webinar: CEDAW General Recommendation No. 38 on trafficking in women and girls in the context of global migration

15 July 2021

[Watch on YouTube](#)

Cabin crew can help prevent human trafficking

May 4, 2017

[Watch on YouTube](#)

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## External Links

[Inter-Agency Coordination Against Trafficking \(ICAT\)](#)

[International Civil Aviation Organization \(ICAO\)](#)

[Alliance 8.7](#)

[Alliance of Expert Co-ordination Team \(AECT\)](#)

\* OHCHR is not responsible for the content of external links.

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