

HOW COMMON IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND MODERN SLAVERY?

While it is difficult to quantify the number of victims of human trafficking because the crime is inherently underground, the **International Labor Organization** estimates that **40.3 million** people were victims of modern slavery in 2016. Of those **40.3 million**, almost **25 million** were victims of forced labor and **15.4 million** were in forced marriage. There is an average of 5.4 victims of trafficking for every 1,000 people in the world.

WHO ARE THE VICTIMS?

Anyone can be a victim of human trafficking, though some populations of individuals, given their positions in society, are more vulnerable to trafficking. These populations include:

- **Women and children**
- **Marginalized communities (such as Roma, minority and indigenous populations)**
- **Immigrants, especially undocumented immigrants, and refugees**
- **Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals**
- **Individuals with a history of rape, sexual assault, and domestic violence**
- **Individuals from low socio-economic backgrounds**
- **Individuals in foster care**
- **Homeless and run-away individuals**
- **Environmental refugees and individuals subject to natural disasters**
- **Individuals living in unstable political climates**
- **Individuals with Disabilities**

In the *2020 Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*, the United Nations provided demographic statistics of trafficking victims as found in 2018 UNODC national data collection. From this data, the UN reports that about 46% of trafficking victims were identified as women and 19% as girls. Victims identified as children comprised 1 out of 3 victims of human trafficking. Though women and girls make up the majority of trafficking victims, men accounted for 20% of victims. Men and women often are subjected to different types of exploitation. Generally, women and girls are more likely to be trafficked for sexually exploitative reasons while men and boys are more likely to be trafficked for forced labor. However, men and boys can and are still victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation and women and girls can and are trafficked for forced labor purposes as well.

WHERE DOES HUMAN TRAFFICKING OCCUR?

Human trafficking can happen anywhere, both domestically and across international borders. Countries are commonly categorized as origin, transit, and destination countries, and a specific country can fall into one, two, or all three of these categories. India, for example, is an origin, transit, and destination country. For more detailed country profiles, check out the U.S. State Department's Trafficking in Persons Report: <https://humantraffickingsearch.org/what-is-human-trafficking/>