

IOM's Approach

IOM takes a comprehensive approach to trafficking in persons within the wider context of managing migration. IOM's activities are implemented in partnership with governmental institutions, embassies, NGOs and international organizations. The approach is based on three principles that govern all counter trafficking activities:

- Respect for human rights
- Physical, mental and social well-being of the individual and his or her community
- Sustainability through institutional capacity building of governments and civil society

Trafficking of persons shall mean:

"the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of threat, use of force or other means of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the receiving or giving of payment... to a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation."

(Article 3 of the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime)

About Trafficking

The global scale of trafficking is difficult to quantify but recent trends show an increase in the instances of human trafficking for forced labour. Organized criminal groups are earning billions of dollars in profits from trafficking and exploiting people, many of whom suffer severe violations to their human rights.

Common abuses experienced by trafficked persons include rape, torture, debt bondage, unlawful confinement, and threats against their family or other persons close to them as well as other forms of physical, sexual and psychological violence.

The demand for cheap labour, sexual services and certain criminal activities are root causes of trafficking. Poverty of opportunity and resources, as well as a lack of social power are other contributing factors.

IOM's Vision

IOM has been working to counter the trafficking in persons since 1994. In this time, the Organization has implemented almost 500 projects in 85 countries, and has provided assistance to approximately 15,000 trafficked persons. In the UK, IOM is developing a comprehensive approach to the prevention of human trafficking for forced labour and/or sexual exploitation through awareness raising and the protection of victims through direct assistance.

Our activities include:

- **Training and Capacity Building:** for consular staff in the UK on screening, identification and protection of victims of trafficking;
- **Buy Responsibly Campaign:** IOM UK is launching Buy Responsibly a campaign aimed at raising awareness about human trafficking for forced labour. To find out more visit www.buysresponsibly.org
- **Direct assistance to Victims of Trafficking:** In cooperation with partner agencies and IOM missions worldwide, IOM UK facilitates repatriation and reintegration assistance for victims of trafficking who wish to go home

For more information about IOM UK's counter trafficking work please call 020 7808 1983 or write to us at ctuk@iom.int.