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DAILY NEWS UPDATE FOR IOM STAFF



## Migrants' Rights Must be Upheld to Help Combat Human Trafficking

The World Day Against Trafficking in Persons is an important moment to show solidarity with the many victims of human trafficking around the world and this year we can keep the issue in the spotlight when World leaders gather on 19 September in New York for the UN Summit on Refugees and Migrants, writes IOM Director General William Lacy Swing.

As I travel the globe, I am dismayed by the exploitation suffered by our fellow human beings who are being forced to labour with little or no pay on farms, in fishing boats, in factories, on construction sites, in pit mines, hidden away in private homes, or forced into sexual exploitation against their will by armed groups. They are forced to labour under the threat of violence and through unconscionable systems of debt bondage.

Considerable progress has been made in creating legal frameworks that better protect those identified as victims of trafficking. IOM, its partners and other organizations continue to respond to the needs of victims of trafficking and to identify and protect persons vulnerable to trafficking, including during and in the aftermath of crises such as natural disasters or conflicts. In many countries, trafficked persons, quite often migrants, now have access to temporary residence, safe accommodation, medical and psychosocial support, and assisted voluntary return and reintegration opportunities. A few have even been provided with compensation.

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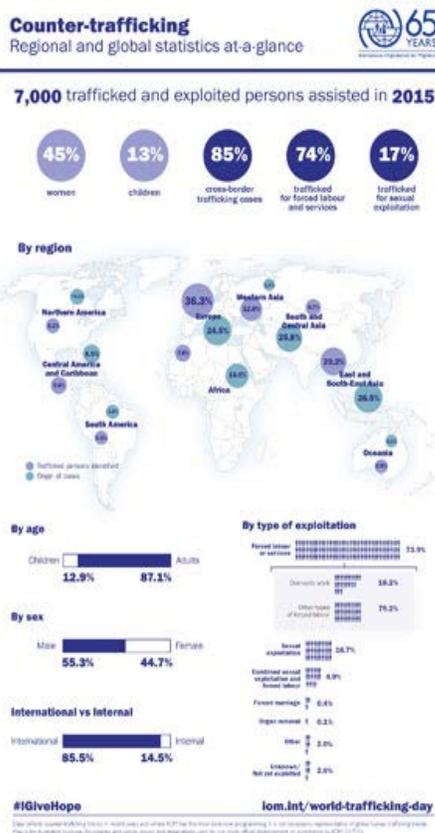
The UN General Assembly will host a Summit to address large movements of refugees and migrants, with the aim of bringing countries together to achieve a more humane and coordinated approach. Learn more about it [here](#).

## Three Necessary Steps to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals on Human Trafficking

A person cannot be a possession, writes IOM's Permanent Observer to the United Nations Ashraf El Nour. A child should never be a commodity. Human trafficking is a serious crime and a gross violation of human rights and dignity. It can take place in ordinary times and in times of crisis. Human trafficking is the world's third most profitable criminal activity, which by its clandestine and secretive nature makes it difficult to collect accurate data to assess the full scale. Poverty, the desire for greater economic opportunity and humanitarian emergencies can make migrants vulnerable to trafficking. Many victims of human trafficking are deceived about the nature or conditions of work in the destination country.

IOM is committed to supporting efforts to strengthen global coordination on trafficking, utilizing its global footprint and expertise. In the decade since [the Palermo Protocol](#) to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, supplementing the [United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime](#), came into force, a high number of countries that have ratified the Protocol have introduced anti-human trafficking legislations. Also charged with combating and eradicating human trafficking is [the UN Global Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons](#), which is scheduled for a second appraisal in 2017.

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## MIGRANTS ON *instagram*



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"I have three sisters. Our mother sold us to her acquaintances she drank with."- Petro's testimony reveals the tragic reality of human trafficking that many victims have to go through.

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'Ojo a la Trata' is a campaign developed by the Colombian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and IOM to raise awareness of human trafficking by helping people to identify possible trafficking situations. Watch [here](#).

# World Day against Trafficking in Persons

#IGiveHope | 30 July

Of all child survivors of trafficking assisted by IOM over the last decade:



The average age of a child entering the trafficking process was 11 years old

Infographic developed by IOM for 2016 World Day against Trafficking in Persons.

## Evidence-based Strategies Needed to Combat Human Trafficking

In 2013 the UN General Assembly designated July 30th as the World Day against Trafficking in Persons to raise awareness about the severity of human rights violations that trafficking victims endure, and to recognize that human trafficking is a crime that affects countries around the world.

IOM hosts a global database to identify trends related to migration and human trafficking. The data suggest that all countries are – to different degrees – countries of destination, transit and origin. They also show that human trafficking is, like global migration, characterized by super-diversity. This represents a huge challenge to counter trafficking efforts, but also points to a common goal for countries to cooperate in a pragmatic way to combat human trafficking.

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## "What is the Price of a Human Being?": A Counter Trafficking Campaign by IOM Helsinki

To mark the 2016 World Day Against Trafficking in Persons on July 30, IOM has created a [campaign page](#) to highlight various counter trafficking initiatives and campaigns run by IOM missions worldwide. IOM Helsinki's public information campaign "What is the Price of a Human Being?" was launched in 2016. Its aim is to educate citizens, especially young people, about human trafficking, and to sensitize the public about their role as responsible consumers.

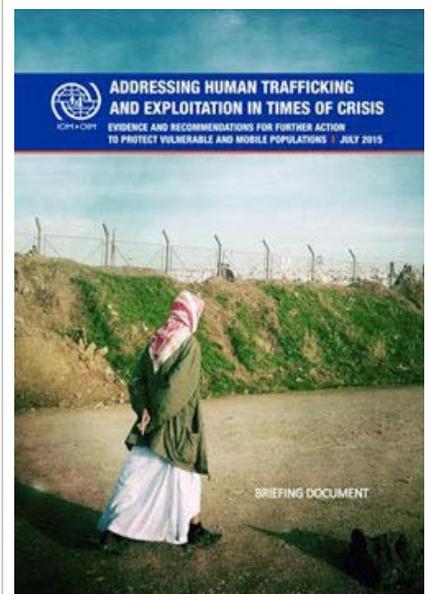
Watch [here](#)



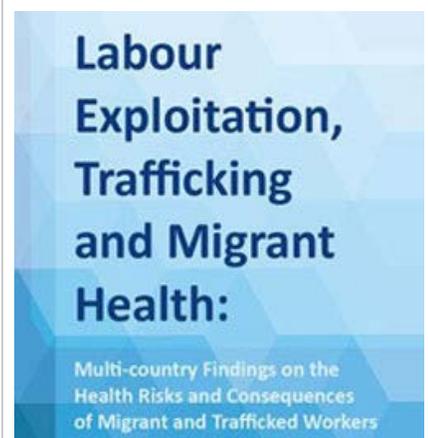
Ghana Child Rescue Factsheet | [Read more here.](#)



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Addressing Human Trafficking and Exploitation in Times of Crisis | [Read here.](#)



Labour Exploitation, Trafficking and Migrant Health: Multi-country Findings on the Health Risks and Consequences of Migrant and Trafficked Workers | [Read here](#)

i am a migrant

## Migration in the News

- [IPS](#) reported that the devastating effects of climate change and related extreme



**Yussuf:** "I want to work and be useful for society. In the meantime, I'm trying to stay positive and hope for the best."

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How to contribute to the i am a migrant campaign. Watch [here](#).

## “QUOTE OF THE day”

"In tackling human trafficking and other forms of exploitation, it is imperative that we affirm that migrants' rights are human rights and that they are entitled to the same respect and dignity to which all persons are entitled. We must all strive for this and remain united in the fight against human trafficking." – IOM DG William Lacy Swing. More [here](#).

weather events on millions of vulnerable people worldwide receive insufficient attention in mainstream media. It quoted IOM DG William Swing.

- [BBC](#) reported on the nameless people who die crossing the Mediterranean trying to reach Europe and subsequently wash up on Libyan beaches. It cited IOM figures and quoted IOM's Itayi Viriri.
- [International Business Times](#) ran a series of comparison photos by Getty Images photojournalist Matt Cardy, who returned to last year's migrant crisis hotspots in Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia and Hungary. It cited IOM.
- [Welt](#) and [Wochenblatt](#) reported that according to IOM, over 3,000 people have died in the Mediterranean this year.
- [Focus](#), [Handelsblatt](#), [Badische Zeitung](#) and [Main-Echo](#) noted warnings from UNHCR and IOM that a fall in the number of migrants and refugees arriving from Turkey should not be seen as an all-clear signal.
- [Süddeutsche](#) reported from Horgos, where 1,300 migrants and refugees remain stranded at the Serbian-Hungarian border. It cited IOM figures.
- [The Guardian](#) reported that mass deportations and inadequate asylum procedures in Mexico and the US have fueled a humanitarian crisis where desperate Central Americans are routinely preyed upon by criminal gangs and corrupt officials, according to the International Crisis Group. It cited IOM figures.
- [IPS](#) reported that narrow national interests could derail the upcoming UN summit which aims to bring countries together to find a more humane and coordinated approach to large movements of refugees and migrants. It referenced IOM's decision to join the UN.
- Ethiopia's [New Business](#) reported the return home of 25 Ethiopian migrants who survived a truck suffocation tragedy in Zambia. IOM facilitated their repatriation.

## Trending on the Internet

- [Wall Street Journal](#) published an Op-Ed by former US Secretary of State Colin Powell, the son of Jamaican immigrants. He noted that immigrants come, learn English and work hard – enriching the US in the process.

## Media Contacts

For comment / interviews on today's news, please go to the contact(s) listed at the end of each press briefing note.  
For other information please contact the IOM Media & Communications team [here](#)