Slavery and human trafficking in the 21st century

Violations of human dignity and human rights in a globalized society

ROLAND BERGER FOUNDATION
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Contents

> Slavery and human trafficking in the 21st century – An outline of the problem
  – Sexual exploitation and labor exploitation
  – Regional focus on Europe and Southeast Asia

> The impact on victims

> Steps towards global and cross-regional responses
  – Global and regional activities
  – The weak spot: implementation

> Six levers for fighting slavery and human trafficking in the 21st century
The UN Declaration of Human Rights, proclaimed in 1948, protects human dignity worldwide and prohibits slavery and human trafficking.

**ARTICLE 1**

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.

**ARTICLE 4**

None shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and servitude shall be prohibited in all their forms.

> Article 1 of Germany's Basic Law adopts the UN Declaration.
Since 1948 world trade in goods has expanded over 27 times – But there's been a dark side: the growing trade in human beings

Rises in trade and in human trafficking worldwide [in %]

> Since the UN proclaimed the Human Rights Declaration in 1948, world trade has expanded over 27 times

> But in the wake of globalization, there has been a growing slave trade – at least fourfold increase since 1990

> Human trafficking has become one of the most lucrative fields of crime worldwide, alongside dealing with arms and drugs

> Human traffickers have also benefited from globalization

Source: UN and estimate by Roland Berger Foundation
12 million slaves were brought to America over a period of 350 years; Asia has seen more than 30 million victims – in just 30 years.

> By the time the US abolished slavery in 1865, some 12 million slaves had been shipped from Africa to America.

> Between 1980 and 2008, approx. 30 million people were the victims of human trafficking and slavery in Asia alone – and there's no end in sight.

> Slavery is one of the greatest challenges of our time.

Source: Philip D. Curtin: The Atlantic Slave Trade; ILO; UN
Definitions of "modern-day slavery" and "human trafficking" shape our understanding of the problem and its scope

Modern-day slavery is …

… a state in which people are deprived of their liberty and treated as things, goods or chattels. This covers the sexual exploitation of victims and their exploitation as workers ("wage slavery"). In some sources, forced labor (involuntary work under threat of punishment) and modern-day slavery are synonymous.

Human trafficking is …

… the recruitment, transportation, delivery and harboring of people by force or deception for the purpose of their exploitation. People are turned into goods to be traded within and across national borders, often involving a number of different middlemen.

> Life as a modern slave in the 21st century often involves a cruel combination of wage slavery, sexual exploitation and/or forced labor. This fate is typically initiated – and repeatedly redirected – by professional human traffickers. So slavery and trafficking cannot always be clearly distinguished.

Source: Philip D. Curtin: The Atlantic Slave Trade; ILO; UN; Terre des Hommes; Amnesty International

> The outcome is a malign symbiosis of several crimes.
The number of "enslaved" people worldwide can only be given a rough estimate – and the figures depend on our perspective

> The ILO\(^1\) estimates that **12.3 m people are enslaved into forced labor** – other international organizations speak of **4 to 27 m people**

> In another world study, the ILO finds that **218 m children aged 5 to 17 are "illegally employed"**

> UNICEF claims that around **two to four million children are sexually exploited for commercial gain**

> A UN study points out that there are approx. **150 m migrant workers** in the world and a large number of them work without proper safety standards, receive extremely low wages and face discrimination. They are pushed to the edges of society, exploited and abused\(^2\)

\(^1\) International Labour Organization
\(^2\) Study for the 'International Day of Solidarity with Migrant Workers' (2001/2004)

> "Slaves don't stand in line and raise their hands to be counted."

* Quote from John Miller, Director of the US State Department
"Modern-day slavery" comprises both sexual exploitation and labor exploitation, including child labor.

**Sexual exploitation**
- 35 million sex tourists per year fly to the well-known hot spots in Asia, Africa and Latin America.
- There are also untold millions of national "clients" fueling demand.
- Even youngest children are prostituted. Many sex offenders and pedophiles are drawn to these hot spots to commit criminal acts.

**Exploitation of (child-) labor**
- Worldwide, 218 million children are "illegally employed", as defined by ILO standards. More than half of them (approx. 126 m) toil under dangerous and even life-threatening conditions in agriculture, mines or factories.
- More than 300,000 children under 18 years of age are currently forced into service as child soldiers in over 30 armed conflicts around the world.

Source: UN, UNICEF, UN.GIFT, ILO

> Victims of slavery are usually the weakest members of society.
Conservative estimates put the annual profits from forced labor at 44.3 bn USD – two thirds involving human trafficking

Global profits from forced labor p.a. [in bn USD]

- 44.3 bn USD (global profits from forced labor)
- 12.7 bn USD (profits without human trafficking)
- 31.6 bn USD (profits including human trafficking)
- 27.8 bn USD (thereof sexual exploitation)
- 3.8 bn USD (thereof labor exploitation)

> The global profits from forced labor as a form of modern-day slavery are conservatively estimated at 44.3 bn USD p.a.

> The real numbers could be much higher because the ILO bases its calculation on a figure of just 12.3 m victims

> Two thirds of all profits (USD 31.6 bn) are generated in combination with human trafficking – primarily for sexual exploitation

Source: ILO – ILO refers to 12.3 m "under forced labour", ‘Terre des Hommes’ to 12 m "slaves"

> Forced labor generates tens of billions of dollars – if not more
The highest profits from forced labor involve human trafficking are gained in the industrialized economies. 

Breakdown by region of annual global profits from forced labor in connection with human trafficking [in bn USD]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Profits (bn USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America and Caribbean</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East and North Africa</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transition Economies of Central &amp; Eastern Europe</td>
<td>3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia and Pacific</td>
<td>9.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrialized Economies</td>
<td>15.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worldwide</td>
<td>31.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

> Out of total annual profits of USD 31.6 bn from forced labor (as a form of modern-day slavery) in connection with human trafficking, about half are generated in the Western industrialized countries and about USD 10 bn in Asia.

> The lucrative profits in the industrial economies are based on the high prices of prostitution (with a prostitute averaging USD 67,200 for their exploiter, according to Amnesty International.)

Source: ILO

> The profiteers of the modern slave trade are found all over the world.
Modern-day slavery in "Old Europe"

> The UN Parliamentary Assembly estimates that the number of women trafficked each year to Western Europe is about 500,000.

> The profits of human trafficking in Europe have risen over the last ten years by about 400 percent, according to the Council of Europe – the boom associated with eastern enlargement has cast a dark shadow here.

> The "Old World" is certainly not an "ideal world", either.
Most victims of human trafficking come from the Asia-Pacific Region

Regional origin of the victims of human trafficking [in %]

Sub-Saharan Africa: 56%
Asia and Pacific: 11%
Industrialized Economies: 10%
Latin America and Caribbean: 9%
Middle East and North Africa: 8%
Transition Economies of Central & Eastern Europe: 6%

Source: ILO

> The center of global human trafficking lies in Asia

> A look at where the victims originate shows that the main focus of global trafficking is Asia and Pacific, accounting for over 50 percent

> Other regional focuses, alongside Industrialized economies, are Latin America and the Middle East/North Africa
Southeast Asia is the biggest region for human trafficking, sex tourism and child labor

Map of Southeast Asia

> In **Cambodia** alone, about 50,000 girls and women are daily victims of sexual exploitation. And 45 percent of Cambodians between 5 and 14 years of age are forced to work.

> In **Thailand**, prostitution generates almost 27 bn USD p.a., contributing 14% to GDP.

> In **Laos**, which acts as a transit country, the construction of new highways makes it easier for traffickers to transport their human goods.

> **Vietnam**, like Thailand, is a destination for the regional trafficking of women.

> **Four countries in Southeast Asia are the hot spots**

Source: Trafficking in Persons Report 2008; Focus
The impact on victims

> Human trafficking and slavery inflict severe physical and psychological damage on the victims

> 95 percent of trafficking victims are physically mistreated and intimidated

> 60 to 75 percent of the women forced into prostitution are raped. Over two thirds suffer from post-traumatic stress symptoms

> Up to 90 percent of children rescued from brothels in Southeast Asia are HIV positive

> The victims bear the scars from this abuse for the rest of their lives
The first global and cross-regional responses have been initiated

Global activities (examples)

- ILO — Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (1998)
- UN.GIFT — Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (2007)
- World Congress III — Against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents (2008)

Cross-regional activities (examples)

- USA — Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act (2000)
- Germany — medica mondiale, Terre des Hommes, Amnesty International
- Cambodia — National Task Force, including representatives of i.a. 14 ministries and 200 NGOs (2007)
- Vietnam — Tightening of laws to fight sex tourism (2005ff.)

> The urgent need for cooperation is widely recognized
The key weakness lies in failures to implement the existing laws and agreed measures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Criminal Investigations</th>
<th>Convictions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>2,815</td>
<td>7,992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>3,025</td>
<td>6,885</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>4,379</td>
<td>-29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>3,160</td>
<td>+22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>3,427</td>
<td>5,682</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

> The US State Department's "Trafficking in Persons Report 2008" states that in 2007 only 5,682 criminal investigations into human trafficking were instigated worldwide. Successful convictions resulted in even only 3,427 cases

> However, data on prosecutions has only been collected since 2003 and is not very reliable – a close analysis would challenge the recorded decline in investigations (-29%) or the increase in convictions (+22%)

> But the figures do highlight a general lack of success in combating the modern slave trade

> The results are sobering in view of the millions of criminal offences that occur
Six levers for fighting slavery and human trafficking in the 21st century

> **Increasing wealth in the world and distributing it fairly** – In the main region for human trafficking, 50 to 60 percent of people have to live on less than a dollar a day

> **Using education as the strongest weapon in fighting child labor and sexual exploitation of children** – The benefits expected from more education would repay the necessary investments many times over

> **Establishing international, binding standards and jointly monitoring them** – Existing agreements must, where necessary, be tightened up and made legally binding. Corruption, all too often tolerated by governments, should be tackled

> **Raising awareness and mobilizing the public** – Campaigns like "Anti-Trafficking Day" and labels for "clean" products can spark public concern

> **Offering safe exit strategies and therapy programs to the victims of prostitution, slavery and child labor** – Social workers, street workers, hotlines, safe houses and contact centers offer initial refuge. Intensive medical and psychological support programs are then needed

> **Opening up long-term life prospects for victims and people under threat** – Jobs, training opportunities and microcredit schemes will help them to reintegrate in society

Source: ILO, UN, UNICEF, US State Department, solwodi