

EU ANTI-TRAFFICKING DAY

18 OCTOBER 2016

21

MILLION

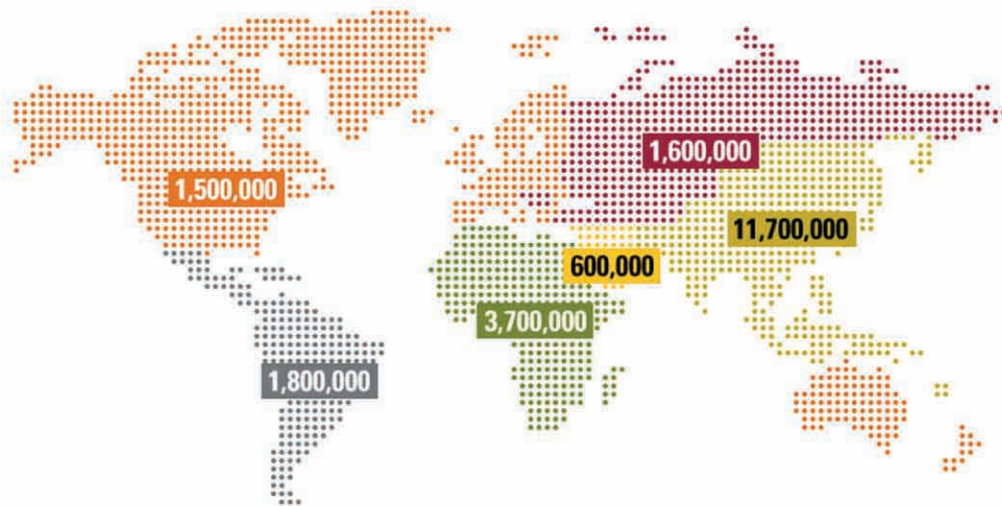
**ESTIMATED NUMBER OF
PEOPLE TRAFFICKED AROUND
THE WORLD**

#NotToBeSold

\$32

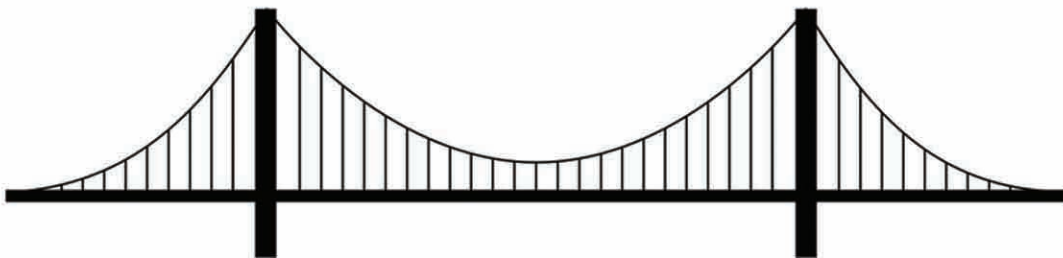
BILLION

**ESTIMATED PROFITS
GENERATED BY
HUMAN TRAFFICKING
GLOBALLY**



#StopLabour&SexTrafficking

LET'S HELP BRIDGE THE GAP TO FREEDOM.



Human trafficking is a form of organised crime and a gross violation of human rights. Human trafficking occurs all over the world and almost every country is an origin, transit or destination country or sometimes a combination.

Worldwide, including Cyprus, traffickers exploit vulnerable people for financial gain, by tricking or forcing them into sexual and labour exploitation or into less-common forms of exploitation, such as begging, the removal of organs, and forced marriages, among others.

Trafficking for labour exploitation is more evident in domestic work and in the agriculture and farming industry, where the terms and conditions of employment and labour practices, increase the vulnerability of the workers. Human trafficking is enabled by the lack of transparency, insufficient monitoring and unaccountability of the migration system in Cyprus, which leaves space for private agencies to coerce and use false information deceiving migrants to pay exorbitant amounts of money to get trapped in an essentially bonded employment.

Sexual exploitation remains the most prevalent form of registered human trafficking in the EU. Traffickers are shifting from visible to less visible environments where sexual exploitation takes place.



Human trafficking is often linked to other forms of organised crime and the UN estimates it is the second-largest source of illicit profits after the drug trade. Human traffickers profit in billions by trapping millions of people in horrific situations around the world. The International Labor Organization (ILO) estimates that human trafficking is a \$150 billion industry worldwide and that there are 20.9 million victims of human trafficking globally. The estimated number of people trafficked to or within the EU amounts to several hundreds of thousands a year.

Human trafficking is a gender specific crime. Although persons of any gender are trafficked for different reasons, women and girls constitute the vast majority of the victims of trafficking for purposes of sexual exploitation (96%) and the majority (55%) of victims of trafficking in general.

Despite the progress in legislation and policies for combating trafficking, especially as far as criminal investigation is concerned, in practice trafficking continues unabated. Moreover, government policies and administrative practices do not encourage, but rather hinder support, protection, integration, and access to compensation for persons who experience/ have experienced trafficking.

On the occasion of the EU Anti-Trafficking Day, KISA, MIGS, Cyprus Stop Trafficking, Stigma & Caritas highlight that the following areas should be a priority in the fight against human trafficking in Cyprus and declare their will to work together for their promotion and implementation:

1. Protection of Trafficked Persons: We believe that in order to really make progress in preventing and combating human trafficking, we should ensure that the protection of and respect for the human rights of trafficked persons lie at the heart of all anti-trafficking policies. The government of the Republic of Cyprus should develop a comprehensive and efficient policy for the protection, empowerment, and re/integration of victims of human trafficking, who have different needs and these should be addressed in policies and practices! Also, the government should change migration laws and policies in order to secure human and labour rights for all migrants.

2. Identification of Trafficked Persons: Acknowledging that non-identification of trafficked persons remains a serious bottleneck in the fight against human trafficking, a development of criteria, guidelines and mechanisms for identification should be a distinct priority, which should go hand-in-hand with clearly defined roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders, including the signing of memoranda of cooperation between governmental authorities and non-governmental organisations.

3. Prevention of Human Trafficking: The Republic of Cyprus should step up efforts in the prevention of human trafficking as there are currently no actions taken in this direction. Although policies and legislation have been tremendously improved, there is a lack of a comprehensive, human rights centered and gender specific strategy towards combating human trafficking.



4. Demand of Services: Human trafficking is a form of organised crime, which means that by using the services of victims of human trafficking, one becomes part of this crime. Using the services of victims of human trafficking is a criminal offence. Cyprus should step up the efforts to raise awareness and effectively implement the provisions of the law criminalising the use of services of victims of human trafficking.

5. Effective Access to Justice: Victims should have effective and comprehensive independent legal information and advice throughout the judicial proceedings as well as effective access to compensation that is proportionate to the damage that the victims have suffered. Additionally, we call for appropriate training of judicial bodies and professionals, including judges.

6. Migration System: We request the creation of a transparent, accountable, and just migration system directly accessible to migrants that diminishes the usage of intermediaries such as private employment agencies. One important element of this system must be the development of tools that efficiently regulate and monitor the operation of private agencies so as to prevent trafficking.



Created by the NGOs:

