

30 July: World Day Against Trafficking in Humans

Some disturbing statistics from the United Nations:

- In 2018 about 50,000 human trafficking victims were detected and reported by 148 countries.
- 50 per cent of detected victims were trafficked for sexual exploitation, 38 per cent were exploited for forced labour.
- Female victims continue to be the primary targets. Women make up 46% and girls 19% of all victims of trafficking.
- Globally, one in every three victims detected is a child.

This year's theme focuses on the role of technology which can both enable and impede human trafficking. With the global expansion in the use of technology - intensified by the COVID-19 pandemic and the shift of our everyday life to online platforms -- the crime of human trafficking has conquered cyber space. The internet and digital platforms offer traffickers numerous tools to recruit, exploit, and control victims; organize their transport and accommodation; advertise victims and reach out to potential clients; communicate among perpetrators; and hide criminal proceeds – and all that with greater speed, cost-effectiveness and anonymity. https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/faqs.html

Pope Francis: "We cannot tolerate that the image of the living God" present in every human being "is subjected to this most abominable form of trafficking."

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