

# International Aspect of Trafficking in Persons

Winifred Doherty

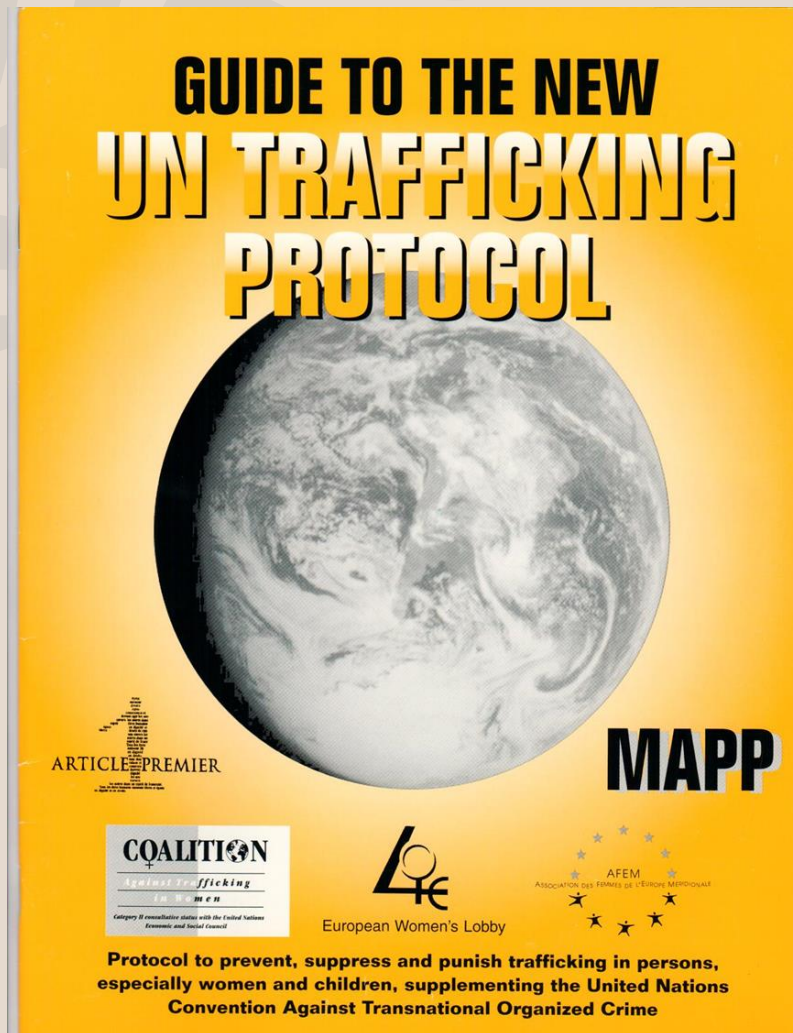
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd

November 24, 2022



# Video Message of Pope Francis February 8, 2022

- The suffering caused by human trafficking is **“an open wound on the body of Christ.”**
- “Human trafficking is violence. The violence suffered by every woman and every girl is an open wound on the body of Christ, on the body of all humanity; it is a deep wound that affects every one of us too,”



<https://catwinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Guide-to-the-New-UN-Trafficking-Protocol.pdf>

**UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) (190 State parties)**

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/organized-crime/intro/UNTOC.html>

Supplemented by Three Protocols

**The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, (Palermo Protocol) (178 State parties)**

**The Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air**

**The Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition**

**ACT**

**MEANS**

Definition from the UN Protocol  
to Prevent, Suppress and Punish ...

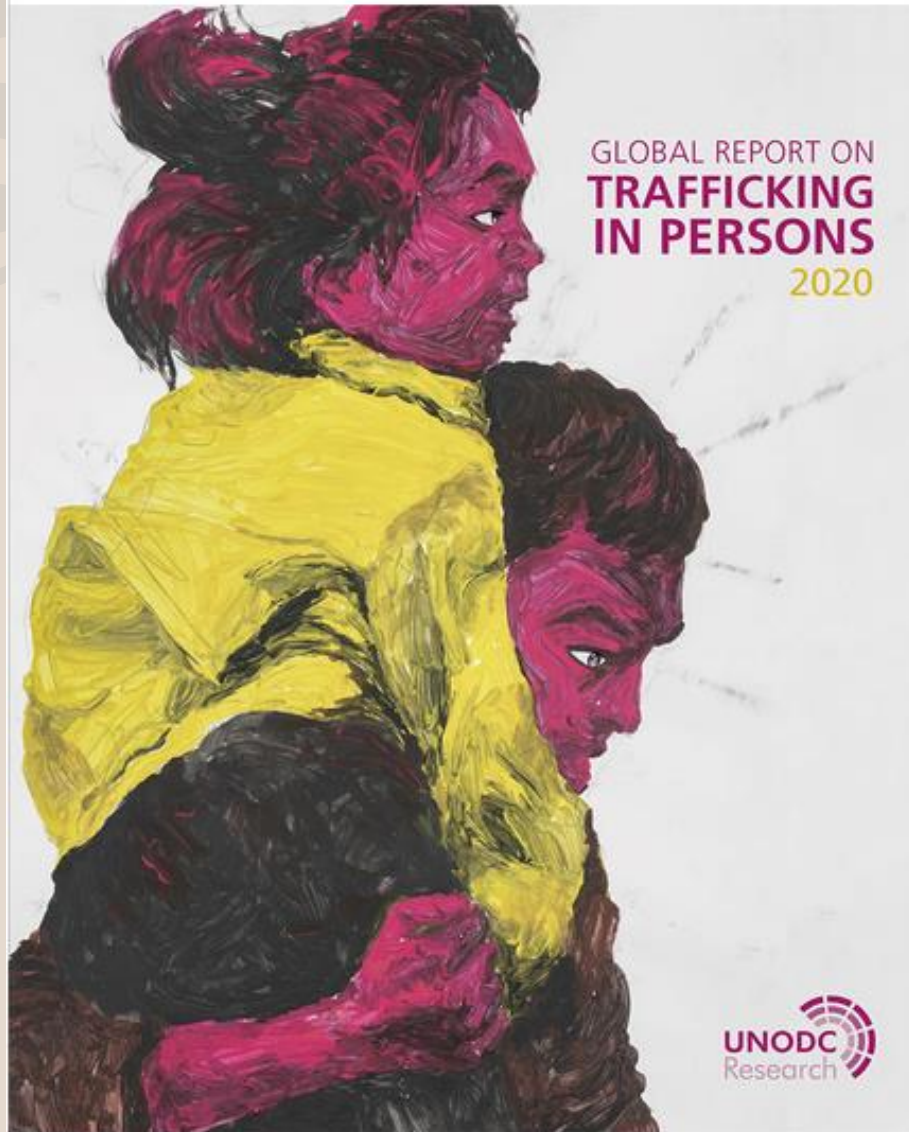
**PURPOSE**

***TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS*** shall mean the  
**recruitment, transportation, transfer,  
harboring, receipt of persons**, by means of  
threat or the use of force, or other forms of  
coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception,  
of the abuse of power, or of a position of  
vulnerability, or of the **giving or receiving of  
payments or benefits to achieve the consent  
of a person having control over another  
person** for the purpose of exploitation



**UNODC**

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/data-and-analysis/glotip.html>

## UN 5<sup>TH</sup> GLOBAL REPORT 2020 – A NEW ONE IS DUE

Published in the height of COVID 19 Pandemic. Today we are experiencing the consequences of the war in Ukraine.

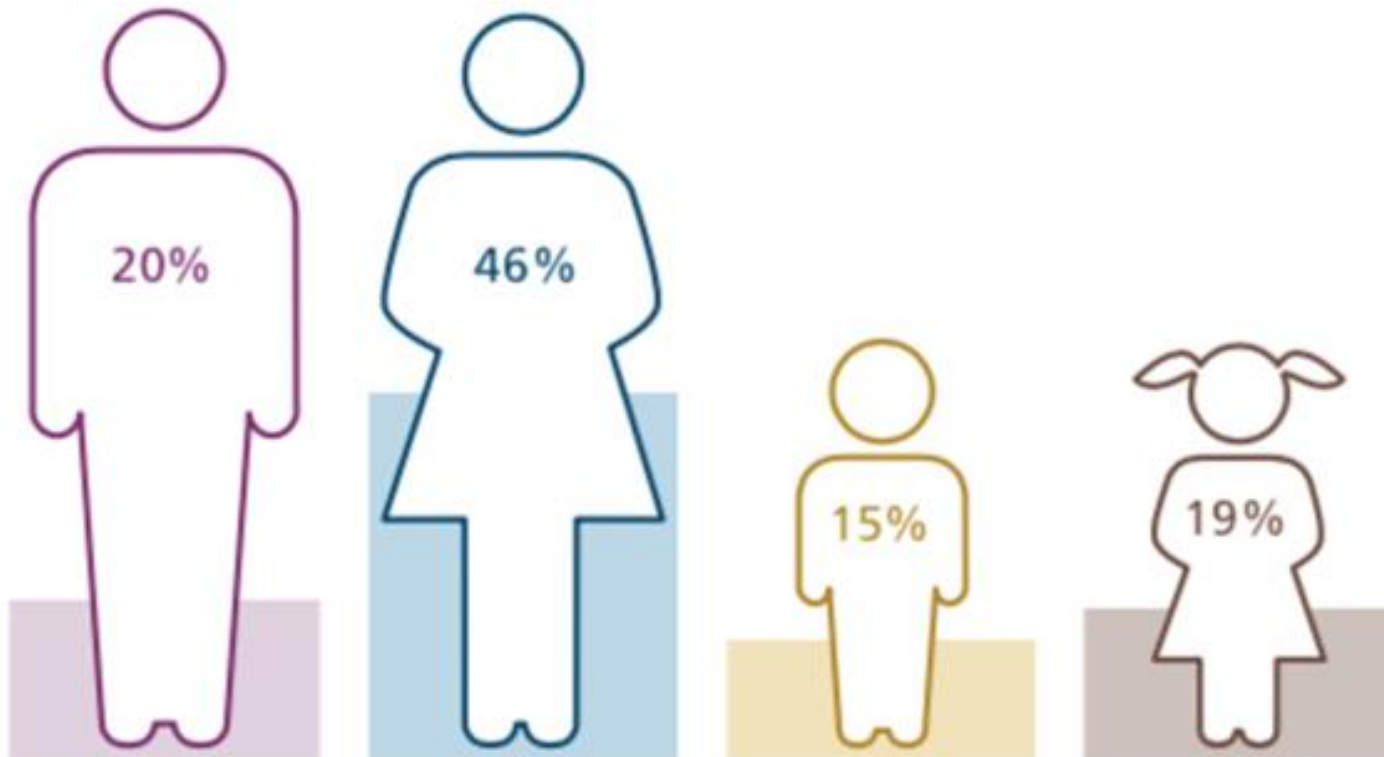




- Although found in every country and every region, trafficking in persons remains a **hidden crime**, with perpetrators operating in the **dark corners** of the internet and the **underbelly of the global economy** to entrap victims **for sexual exploitation, forced labour, domestic servitude and other forms of exploitation.**
- I will add that perpetrators **mix with vulnerable people** – including homeless populations – to exploit the situation with fraudulent and deceptive proposals and offers.

## Most detected victims are women

Shares of detected victims of trafficking in persons, by age group and sex, 2018



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

## WHO?

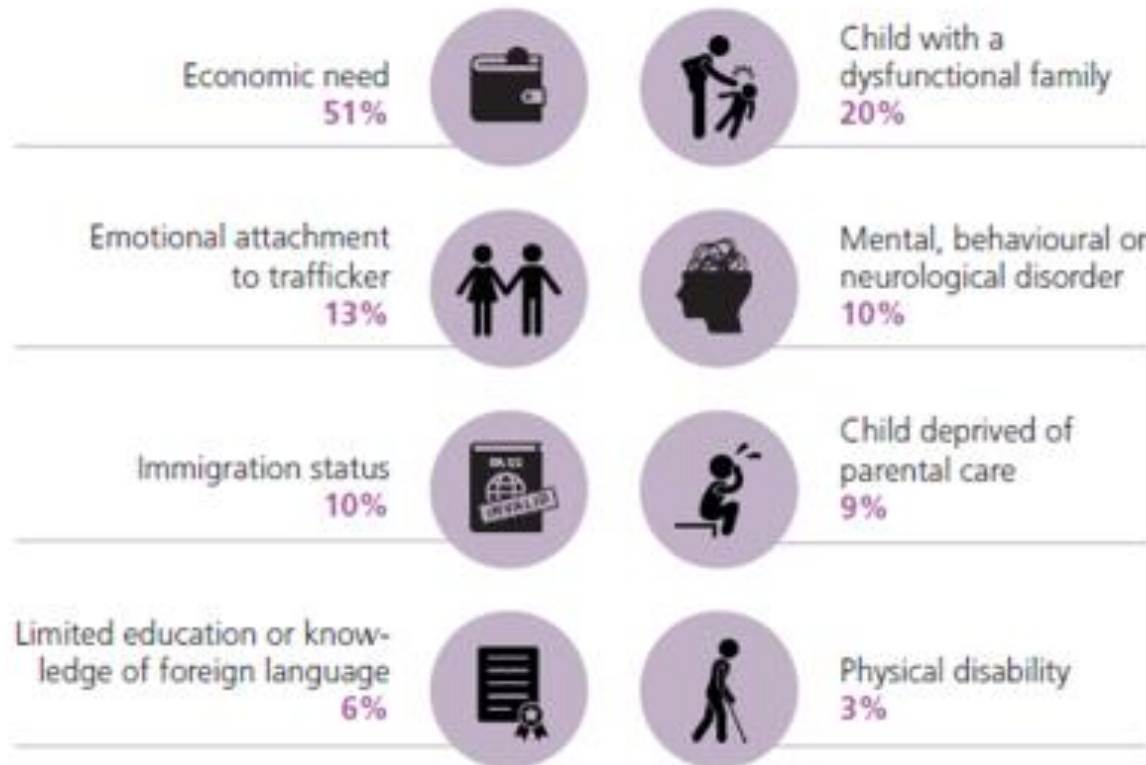
The UN report seeks to understand better the factors that facilitate human trafficking. Covers 148 countries reviewing the impact of socio-economic factors, drivers of child trafficking and trafficking for forced labour, and traffickers' use of the internet.

**For every 10 victims detected globally, five are adult women and two are girls.**



## Victims are targeted when they are more vulnerable

Percentage of cases by pre-existing factors that traffickers have taken advantage of



## VULNERABILITIES!

Homelessness is not listed

But if you stop and think

These pre-existing factors are the same ones that lead to homelessness.

# USA - Annual Publication of Trafficking in Persons Report



# Terms – my preference is Trafficking in Persons

- “Trafficking in persons,” “human trafficking,” and “**modern slavery**” are umbrella terms – often used interchangeably – to refer to a crime whereby traffickers **exploit and profit** at the expense of adults or children by **compelling** them to **perform labor** or engage in **commercial sex**.
- When a person younger than 18 is used to perform a commercial sex act, it is a crime regardless of whether there is any **force, fraud, or coercion** involved.

# Two main types of Human Trafficking

- **(i) Labour Trafficking** - encompasses the range of activities involved when a person uses **force, fraud, or coercion** to exploit the labor or services of another person
- **(ii) Trafficking into commercial sexual exploitation and prostitution**



# Distinguishing Certain Types of Human Trafficking

- For emphasis or **because they are widespread**:
- **Domestic Servitude** – traffickers force the person (the victim) to perform work in private homes.
- **Child Labour** - traffickers compel children to work. The **sale of children, forced or compulsory child labor, and debt bondage and serfdom of children** – are examples
- Trafficking for **sexual exploitation and into prostitution**
- **Child Sex Trafficking** – is increasing especially since COVID, yet it is prohibited by law in most countries around the world.

# Forms of Trafficking in Persons

Domestic  
Servitude



Sex  
Trafficking



Forced  
Labor



Bonded  
Labor



Child  
Labor





## Forms of exploitation among detected trafficking victims



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data

# Internet Based Trafficking



Now, internet-based trafficking spans from the basic advertisement of victims online, to advanced combinations of smartphone apps in integrated business models to recruit victims and transfer profits.

Technology is used not only for sexual exploitation but also to coerce victims into crime and forced labour, and to advertise the selling of kidneys harvested from victims they have trafficked.

## CYBER FLOWS

Cyber flows connect perpetrators, victims and consumers at multiple locations





- The UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Person has a chapter entitled **‘Traffickers use of the Internet; Digital Hunting Fields’** where they describe traffickers as actively **‘hunting’** those who they deem as vulnerable to falling victim to trafficking, or **passively ‘fishing’** for potential victims by posting advertisements and waiting for potential victims to respond.

- Traffickers are advertising deceptive job offers, marketing exploitative services to potential paying customers while recruiting victims. Patterns of exploitation have been transformed by digital platforms, as webcams and livestreams have created new forms of exploitation and reduced the need for transportation and transfer of victims.

- [https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/tip/2021/GLOTiP\\_2020\\_Chapter5.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/tip/2021/GLOTiP_2020_Chapter5.pdf) Page 119

# POLARIS PROJECT

<http://polarisproject.org>

- *Polaris* works to reshape the systems that allow for sex and labor trafficking in North America and operates the U.S. National Human Trafficking Hotline.
- **New Estimates of Human Trafficking in the World: Shocking but Not Surprising**

The estimated number of people in situations of trafficking rose by 12 percent between 2016 and 2021.

**28 MILLION PEOPLE**  
**ARE TRAFFICKED WORLDWIDE.**

# Recognizing Human Trafficking

- **It's Not Knowing the Signs – It's Knowing the Story**

Chances are there's going to be nothing visible, nothing that you can see from across the room, or even from up close, that should alert you that a stranger is being trafficked. That may come as a surprise.

We might be looking for **'signs' or indicators of trafficking, such as a person looking disheveled, upset or scared.**

But as we learn more about how trafficking really works, we are also learning that the best way to help is **to pay attention to people you actually know or interact with – your students, your tenants, your children, your patients, your co-workers. It is all about two magic words: Context and proximity.**



# The Nexus of Human Trafficking, Poverty and Homelessness

- Though the sheer volume of exploitation may seem shocking, it should not surprise anyone. The growth in trafficking is possible because simply — and sadly — **the underlying conditions that make people vulnerable to labor trafficking and trafficking into commercial sexual exploitation have not been addressed.**

- 
- **Poverty,**
  - Environmental destruction,
  - Structural racism
  - Discrimination,
  - **Gender inequality – Patriarchy, Misogyny, Male Entitlement**
  - Economic inequity
  - All persist as **underlying drivers of human trafficking around the globe. (Polaris)**
  - **Homelessness**

# Root Causes

- The root causes can be summed up in 5 P's
  - Pleonexia – extreme greed and avarice
  - Privilege
  - Pleasure
  - Power
  - Profit

- We must connect with, and **challenge the very system** that perpetuates such abuses, exploitation and injustices including gender inequality.
- We must look at the big picture – **the interconnectedness of the web of all existence - the planet and its peoples.**
- We must raise our voices for new systems and new structures that seek to uphold the sacredness of life through advocating for **‘economies of care,’ gender justice, eco justice and social justice including social housing**



- If we fail to do this, we are merely addressing symptoms but not the root cause
- There are no easy answers, but we can raise our voices, **we must challenge** our political, social and economic systems and, perhaps hope!

# Commodification of People and Property

- Clearly, there is not a “demand” for homelessness, as there is for PEOPLE— who are trafficked most often for the purpose of exploitation. But a similarity between Human Trafficking and Family Homelessness is the commodification of land and housing and commodification of the human body for sexual exploitation and other forms of labour.
- Commodification of the female body also causes conditions that drive women into homelessness. See page 25 <https://unanima-international.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Intersections-Publication-2.pdf>

**“Intersections of Family Homelessness and Human Trafficking”**

Winifred Doherty, RGS NGO, Representative of the Congregation  
of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd to the United Nations

# Supply and Demand



- **Demand Side:** Cool Men Don't Buy Sex -- Apne App
- Without **DEMAND** for purchased sex, traffickers, pimps, and brothel owners would be driven out of business.
- Without **DEMAND** for cheap goods /commodities – labour trafficking would be eradicated
- Who creates this demand – Men who purchase sex and all of us who purchase commodities. We are all complicit!
- If we increase the choices available to 'victims' we maybe reducing the industry's '**supply,**'
- And working to reduce the '**demand.**'

# Four Essential Rights addressing the nexus

- The Right to:
  - Legal Protection
  - Education
  - A Dignified Livelihood
  - Safe and Independent Housing



# Link Efforts to Combat Corruption and Trafficking in Persons

- The realization now is that no matter how much work an organizations does to end trafficking – while imperative and necessary **these efforts alone** will not end the ‘scourge of human trafficking’.
- Human trafficking is **symptomatic** of other societal issues
- Ex. In Cambodia – a country plagued by decades of violent turmoil and regime changes – **severe poverty** has been the primary catalyst to human trafficking into, out of and within the country.
- In the USA **domestic trafficking for sexual exploitation is of minors** -truancy from school, running away from home, narcotics and alcohol abuse provide primary opportunities for the recruitment of victims.
- Displacement of People due to **War, Conflict and Climate Change** – people on the move are vulnerable



# Disrupt Traffickers Networks

- We cannot end this one person, one survivor at a time. But rather **focus and target the systems that make human trafficking possible.**
- Close the loophole that allows some businesses to avoid anti money-laundering responsibilities and ensure that law enforcement has the tools they need to hold traffickers accountable.

# United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) 2003

- 89 States Parties. While the Convention does not specifically define “corruption,” it does cover different forms that corruption can take, such as **bribery, trading in influence, abuse of functions, and various acts of corruption in the private sector.**
- Obligated to establish **public procurement systems** based on transparency and competition; **to criminalize** forms of domestic and foreign bribery; the laundering of proceeds of a crime; and to the greatest extent possible within its domestic legal system, to freeze, seize, and confiscate such proceeds.

# Service Providers – Organizations – Actions



Ireland: <https://www.ruhama.ie/>

Global: <https://www.talithakum.info/>



Talitha Kum Networks are active in the 5 continents coordinating the anti-trafficking efforts of 50 inter-congregational networks organized at the national-local level and 10 networks that include the joint coordination of several countries at the regional level.

5 Languages

Trafficking  
Stories

Our  
Network

Event  
Calendar



STELLA – PROMISED A JOB



NYAMBURA – HER SISTER  
PRECIOUS



LYDIA – HER FAMILY WERE  
THREATENED



JULIA FORCED INTO PROSTITUTION



**DIRECT  
ACTION**



**AWARENESS &  
PREVENTION**



**ADVOCACY &  
CAMPAIGNS**



Members of 136

Anti-trafficking networks

In 31 countries

across Europe



Australia: <https://acrath.org.au/>

USA: <https://sistersagainsttrafficking.org/>



**U.S. Catholic Sisters  
Against Human Trafficking**



## **South Region, Phuket**



### **Good Shepherd Phuket Town = YES**

Since 2010, The Good Shepherd Phuket Town has been a solitary beacon of hope for the poor in slum areas around the fishing port in Phuket Town. Living in inhumane, unsanitary conditions in squalid encampments, many fall prey to unscrupulous employers in the construction industry or Human Trafficking.

<https://www.ncronline.org/good-shepherd-sisters-empower->



Sr. Piyachat Boonmul (left) and Sr. Apinya Sornjan (right) go out on the streets of the bar scene in Pattaya, Thailand, a few times a month. (GSR photo / Gail DeGeorge)

# A case example ....

Some trafficking victims share their stories at the group meetings. Boonmul told the story of one **Thai woman who was taken to Bahrain and kept as 'a sex slave' for months** until she gained enough of her captor's trust that he let her go out to get food. Once free, she got a ride to the Thailand embassy, and when she returned home, she came to the Fountain of Life Women's Center for counseling and healing, and shared her story, Boonmul said.



## WHO WE ARE:

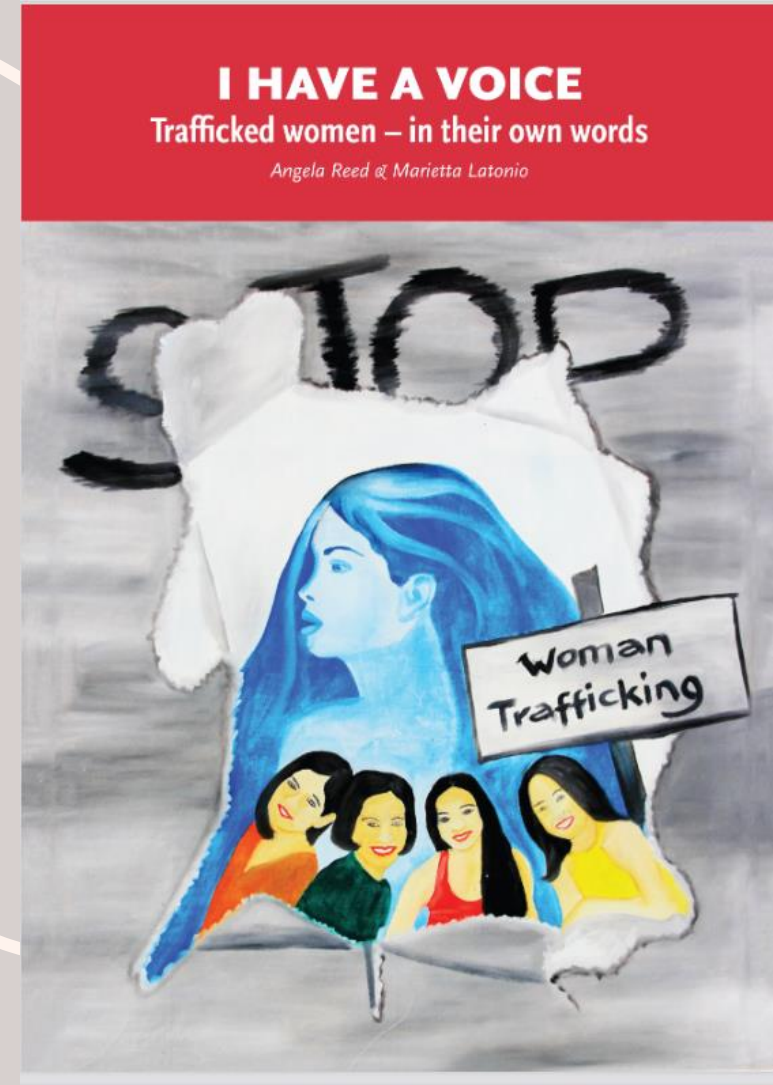
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[HTTPS://WWW.OURCOMMUNITY.COM.AU/FILES/IHAV-ANGELAREED-  
WEB.PDF](https://www.ourcommunity.com.au/files/ihav-angelareed-web.pdf)

## I Have a Voice – Trafficked Women in their Own Words

Angela Reed and Marietta Latona







EUROPEAN WOMEN'S  
LOBBY  
EUROPÉEN DES FEMMES



EUROPEAN NETWORK  
OF MIGRANT WOMEN

**CATW** - in USA but with strong regional groups <https://catwinternational.org/>

**Space international** <https://www.spaceintl.org/> Survivors of Prostitution Abuse Calling for Enlightenment ...

**Coalition Against Prostitution (French) CAP** <http://www.cap-international.org/>

**European Women's Lobby** <https://womenlobby.org/>

**European Network of Migrant Women** Spanish <https://www.migrantwomennetwork.org/>



# thank you

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