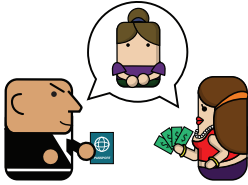


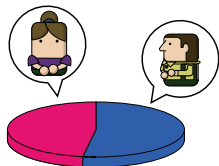
# Who are Human Traffickers?



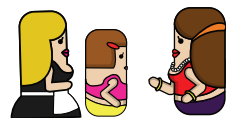
Anyone who knowingly contributes in the trafficking of people with the intent of exploiting a victim is considered a human trafficker; this includes recruiters, intermediaries, transporters, document providers, corrupt officials and employers.<sup>1</sup>



Trafficking intermediaries are people who perform jobs such as selecting which borders to cross and when to cross, identifying and bribing border guards or keeping watch over trafficking victims.<sup>2</sup>



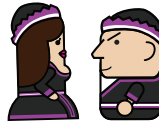
Based on prosecutions, statistics show that in South Asia, East Asia and the Pacific, 54 per cent of traffickers are male and 46 per cent are female.<sup>3</sup>



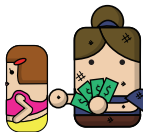
Female traffickers are often the ones who recruit women and children as females can sometimes appear more credible to these groups of people.<sup>4</sup>



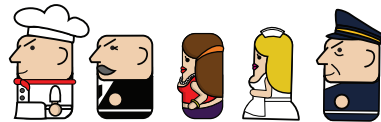
Human trafficking is one of the most lucrative criminal businesses in the world with estimated illegal profits of over US\$150 billion annually. In Asia Pacific, traffickers make an estimated US\$52 billion each year.<sup>5</sup>



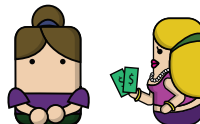
Traffickers often belong to the same ethnic group as their victims.<sup>6</sup> Victims are trafficked globally, usually by someone who originally comes from the same country.<sup>7</sup> These recruiters often come from the same province or community. A common language and culture allows traffickers to better understand their victims in order to exploit them.<sup>8</sup>



Poverty can drive people to traffic their own family members. For example, in South Asia, traffickers who resort to recruiting family most commonly traffic cousins or sisters, followed by daughters.<sup>9</sup>



The range of educational levels and the social status of human traffickers is wide. While some are uneducated and unemployed, some are tertiary-level educated. Human traffickers are employed in a range of professions, including law enforcement, medicine, law and hospitality. Their professional backgrounds strengthen their capacity to generate trust and credibility from their victims.<sup>10</sup>



Hard and complex truth: Unfortunately, sometimes victims of trafficking can become traffickers. For some, this is the only thing they know how to do to earn money. Others are forced to become traffickers by their exploiters who want to make their victims complicit so that prosecuting becomes more complicated.<sup>11</sup>

IOM X is the International Organization for Migration's (IOM) innovative campaign to encourage safe migration and public action to stop exploitation and human trafficking. The campaign is produced in partnership with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), 2009. Training Manual to Fight Trafficking in Children for Labour, Sexual and Other Forms of Exploitation p. 31.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), 2014. Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2014 p. 15.

<sup>4</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), 2008. Workshop: Profiling the Traffickers p. 5.

<sup>5</sup> International Labour Organization (ILO), 2014. Profits and Poverty: The Economics of Forced Labour p. 13.

<sup>6</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), 2008. Workshop: Profiling the Traffickers p. 8.

<sup>7</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), 2014. Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2014 p. 77.

<sup>8</sup> Polaris, 2016. "Victims and Traffickers", Available from <http://polarisproject.org/victims-traffickers>.

<sup>9</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), 2008. Workshop: Profiling the Traffickers p. 8.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid, p. 9.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid, p. 5-6.



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