



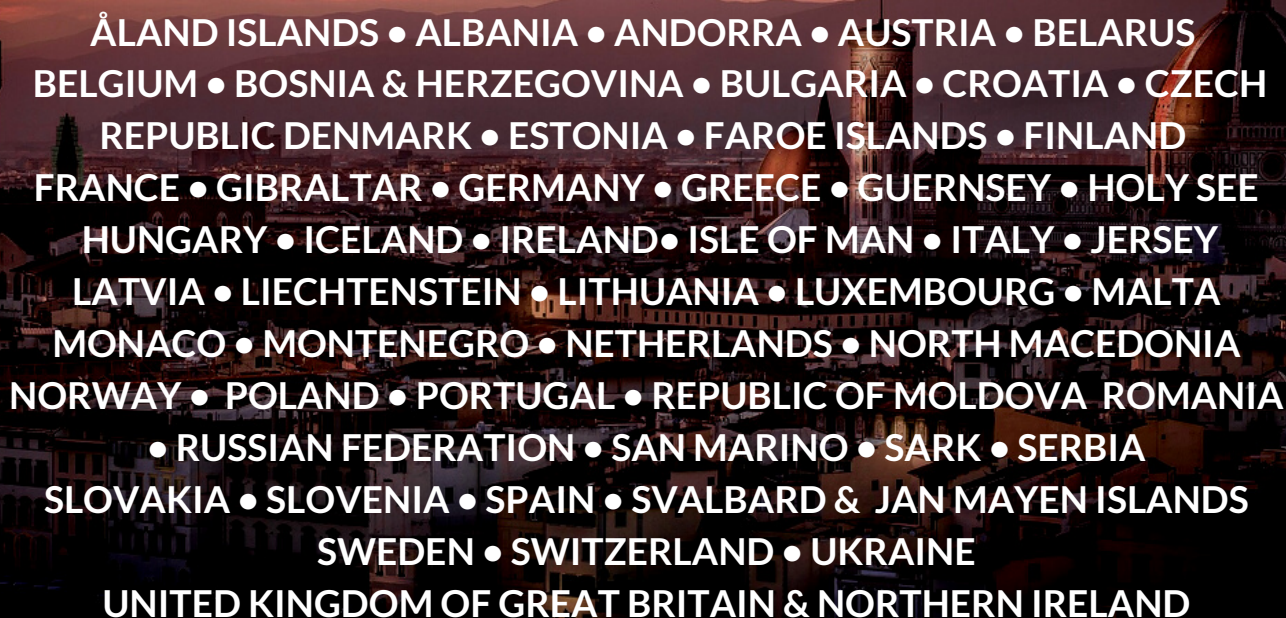
RESEARCH GUIDE

EUROPE

PREPARED BY

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HUNGARY • ICELAND • IRELAND • ISLE OF MAN • ITALY • JERSEY
LATVIA • LIECHTENSTEIN • LITHUANIA • LUXEMBOURG • MALTA
MONACO • MONTENEGRO • NETHERLANDS • NORTH MACEDONIA
NORWAY • POLAND • PORTUGAL • REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA • ROMANIA
• RUSSIAN FEDERATION • SAN MARINO • SARK • SERBIA
SLOVAKIA • SLOVENIA • SPAIN • SVALBARD & JAN MAYEN ISLANDS
SWEDEN • SWITZERLAND • UKRAINE
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN & NORTHERN IRELAND

This research guide follows the regional division defined by the [United Nations Statistics Division](#)

Of the list above, Guernsey, Jersey and Sark are Channel Islands, an archipelago in the English Channel, off the French coast of Normandy; Gibraltar is a British Overseas Territory; the Isle of Man is a British Crown Dependency.

The Åland Islands is an autonomous region of Finland. The Faroe Islands is a self-governing archipelago, part of the Kingdom of Denmark. Svalbard is an archipelago in the Arctic Ocean under the sovereignty of Norway.

For more specific information about human trafficking and the war in Ukraine, please refer to the [HTS War in Ukraine regional research guide here](#).

TRAFFICKING IN EUROPEAN DEPENDENCIES, TERRITORIES AND DISPUTED TERRITORIES:

Anti-trafficking efforts in the [Dutch Caribbean islands](#), the [French DOM-TOM](#), the [British Overseas Territories](#) and [Crown Dependencies](#), the [Åland Islands](#), the Faroe Islands and Svalbard seem to remain unclear with an unfortunate lack of statistics reported. There remains [high policing](#) in the overseas French department of Mayotte without screening for trafficking indicators while implementing [harsh and punitive migration practices](#). The lack of effective action to address the significant number of [unaccompanied children](#) has been noted in both Mayotte and Martinique.

The breakaway region of [Transnistria](#) is a [disputed territory in Eastern Europe](#) between the [Republic of Moldova](#) and [Ukraine](#). Although it declared independence in 1990, no UN member state recognises its sovereignty. According to the TIP 2022, the Republic of Moldova has no administrative control over Transnistria. Consequently, the scope of human trafficking in this region is difficult to obtain. In addition, victims of trafficking and exploitation are unable to access victim protection and services provided from the Moldovan government. This region remains a source for sex trafficking and Ukrainians seeking sanctuary from the Russian invasion are at risk of trafficking in this region.

COMMON TYPES OF TRAFFICKING:

- Sex trafficking
- Labor trafficking
- Child trafficking
- Sexual exploitation
- Forced labour
- Debt bondage
- Organ removal
- Forced begging
- Forced criminality
- Child criminal exploitation
- Forced marriage
- Sex tourism

SUMMARY

Labor trafficking and forced labor were reported in a wide variety of industries across Europe including agriculture, manufacturing of any type (garment, aircraft parts, car repair), construction, hospitality, seasonal industries, entertainment industries, restaurants, bars and clubs, fraudulent call centers, food processing, transportation, nail salons, domestic servitude, horticulture, car washing, cruises, the care industry, waste management, massage parlors, strip clubs, the fishing industries and cabarets. Workers were forced to work

using a variety of means such as coercion, physical abuse, debt bondage, fraudulent job offers, false romantic partners and through the use of labor subcontractors. In addition, forced criminality of both adults and children involved petty crimes, theft and forced begging as well as cannabis cultivation and involvement in drug trafficking.

Notably, since the COVID-19 pandemic, online recruitment, exploitation and activities related to human trafficking have markedly increased. Recent reports show this trend on the internet, social media, video games platforms and/or when looking at the booking of apartments and hotels for use in sexual exploitation. The restrictions and strain on economic activities caused by COVID-19 exacerbated existing vulnerabilities and increased isolation, especially for migrants, asylum seekers, seasonal and sex workers, contributing to the up-tick in exploitation and abuse.

The 2022 TIP report highlighted personal and situational vulnerabilities that led to an increased risk of trafficking and exploitation. These included individuals suffering from substance abuse and dependency, children in residential care settings, unaccompanied migrant children, children and adults with disabilities, refugees, irregular migrants, asylum seekers, single mothers, individuals who were homeless, individuals with debt and individuals with criminal records. In addition, several countries reported the increased vulnerability of individuals from Romani, Roma, and Balkan-Egyptian communities.

The 2022 TIP report highlighted the increased identification and reporting of men, transgender, transsexual and LGBTQIA2+ victims of sexual trafficking and exploitation in comparison to previous years.



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It is also important to highlight human trafficking and exploitation that is happening as a direct and/or indirect result of Multinational Corporations based in or having significant business activity in Europe. These patterns of exploitation can be seen particularly in the mineral, extractive, garment, and agriculture industries. Click [here](#) to read the HTS Cobalt Report for a specific case study and research piece about these linkages.

SPECIFIC TERMINOLOGY

Subbotniks or voluntary service days: Subbotniks are volunteer events held in Belarus on designated Saturdays organised by regional, district, and local authorities. Instead of volunteering on a subbotnik, participants can choose to allocate a portion of a single day's salary towards government projects announced by the authorities prior to the upcoming subbotnik. There had been reports of authorities threatening individuals who refused to work with fines or unpaid premium compensation in years past, but since 2020 there has been no reported government retaliation for nonparticipation.

'Lover-Boy' Method: A tactic used globally where mostly young girls and women are pursued by older boys or men and develop what one participant thinks is a real love relationship. The male partner suggests moving in together or travelling abroad for better job opportunities, which the female partner agrees to. Over time, the male partner becomes increasingly controlling and eventually pressures, forces, or sells the partner into prostitution.

County Lines: According to the [National Crime Agency](#), this refers to gangs or organised criminal networks in the United Kingdom who often exploit children and vulnerable individuals to act as drug couriers and to traffick drugs across the country, often from large cities to rural areas in the UK. When children or other vulnerable people are exploited in this way, physical, mental and sexual abuse are often used to control them and force them to work for the County Line dealers. Many are taken a long way from home as part of the network's drug dealing business, preventing them seeking help or support from usual channels.

Debt bondage: The term "debt bondage," also known as bonded labor or debt slavery, refers when an individual is forced to work in order to pay off a debt. Migrants who travel within and across national borders in order to find work are particularly vulnerable to debt bondage due to a lack of official identity documents. As the ILO finds, this lack of official documentation renders workers "'invisible' to national authorities² and makes it virtually impossible for them to denounce forced labour abuse and seek remedial action."

Externalisation of Borders: refers to the range of migration policies used by destination countries, especially by Australia, Canada, the European Union, the United Kingdom and countries in North America, to prevent asylum seekers and other migrants from reaching their nation states. This sometimes includes enlisting a third country as part of their



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refugee/immigration policy and can be seen in the recent case of the United Kingdom with the Rwanda asylum plan and Denmark's zero-refugee policy. These types of policies aim to deter migrants from taking precarious or irregular migration routes to enter the country. The excuse used to justify these policies is combating illegal human smuggling and trafficking. However, evidence does not support this theory and points to the policies leading to even more perilous routes being taken by refugees. Important to note that the Rwanda policy is currently being challenged as it is a violation of the UK's international agreements.

Sexual Humanitarianism: The term is loosely defined as “a repressive form of social and moral governance that often emerges through the production of global moral panics around sexual behaviour.” The term specifically refers to the “interplay between protection and control that migrants experience when they are seen as vulnerable by humanitarian discourse and interventions due to their sexual behaviours, orientations, and labor”. Through this lens, impoverished women who sell sex are all portrayed as duped, naive, lacking agency and in need of saving. Within this context, implemented humanitarian interventions can be repressive and punitive of migrants' agency, offering only limited “morally approved” opportunities for support. These types of interventions can generate performative victimhood to avoid deportation and can be used to justify repressive anti trafficking humanitarian interventions, which is useful narrative for those organisations who profit from the rescue industry and the anti-trafficking industrial complex. Evidence shows, contrary to the “sexual humanitarian” view of sex workers as victims, not all sex workers are trafficking victims and they do not all want to be saved from this work, hence the danger of sexual humanitarianism. In Europe, contemporary thinking frequently looks at prostitution as ‘paradigmatic of a system of male power’ and has been seeking its elimination by removing both the supply and demand of sexual services as seen in the Nordic/Swedish model (defined below).

Migrant Smuggling: The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime defines smuggling as the “facilitation, for financial or other material gain, of irregular entry into a country where the migrant is not a national or resident.” Smuggling is distinct from trafficking as the participant has given their consent to be transported. However, migrants who originally agreed to be smuggled can be exploited and trafficked against their will during their journey. Migrant's increased vulnerability to trafficking during transport makes the line between human trafficking and migrant smuggling harder to define. Smuggled migrants are often held in debt bondage or sold on to traffickers on arrival in the destination country.

The Nordic model: (also referred to as the Swedish model, the end demand, equality model, neo-abolitionism and partial decriminalization) The decriminalization of sex workers and the criminalization and penalization of the client's of sex workers. This model is a form of abolitionist policymaking, equating sex work with violence against women



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without exception and views this parallel decriminalisation of sex workers and criminalisation of demand (male clients) as the ideal instrument for fighting sex trafficking. It has been adopted in various locations around Europe in an attempt to safeguard sex workers. However, literature shows that it is having the opposite result by pushing sex work more underground, with migrant sex workers being most at risk due to their already vulnerable immigrant status. This model was first adopted in Sweden in 1999 in a set of laws combating violence against women and since then, a multitude of countries followed such as Norway, France, Iceland, and North Ireland. The European Parliament tends to favour this model as a means to combat human trafficking.

Irregular Migration: Movement of persons that takes place outside the laws, regulations, or international agreements governing the entry into or exit from the State of origin, transit or destination. This type of migration can render migrants vulnerable to abuse, trafficking and exploitation as a result of the migrants' irregular status. The irregular routes that are used are often precarious and can be deadly. Additionally, irregular migrants may have arrived in a state through regular pathways but become an irregular migrant for reasons, such as denied asylum claims, becoming a victim of trafficking, etc. Please also refer to the note below on the Irregular Migration.

Note on Irregular Migration from the International Organization on Migration (IOM): Although a universally accepted definition of irregular migration does not exist, the term is generally used to identify persons moving outside regular migration channels.

The fact that they migrate irregularly does not relieve States from the obligation to protect their rights. Moreover, categories of migrants who may not have any other choice but to use irregular migration channels can also include refugees, victims of trafficking, or unaccompanied migrant children. The fact that they use irregular migration pathways does not imply that States are not, in some circumstances, obliged to provide them with some forms of protection under international law, including access to international protection for asylum seekers fleeing persecution, conflicts or generalized violence. In addition, refugees are protected under international law against being penalized for unauthorized entry or stay if they have travelled from a place where they were at risk (Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (adopted 28 July 1951, entered into force 22 April 1954) 189 UNTS 137, Art. 31(1)).



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ANTI-TRAFFICKING LEGISLATION

Although National Action Plans do not guarantee a country's effective action against trafficking and support to victims, it is important to note that only a few European states have in fact Anti-Trafficking National Action Plans. These states include; Albania, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Latvia, Lithuania, the Republic of Moldova, the Netherlands, Poland, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Spain.

[UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons](#)

[Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography](#)

[Optional Protocol on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in Armed Conflict](#)

[Temporary Protection Directive \(TPD\)](#)

The collection of conventions and protocols regarding labor rights can be found on the ILO website ([here](#)) which include:

- [ILO Forced Labour Convention 1930 \(No 29\)](#)
- [Abolition of Forced Labour Convention 1957 \(No 105\)](#)
- [Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention 1999 \(No 182\)](#)

RELEVANT LAWS AND POLICIES

Laws relating to prostitution and sex work vary by country

European Union

- [Article 5 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union Directive 2011/36/EU on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Protecting its Victims](#)
- [Proposal for a DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence and amending Directive \(EU\) 2019/1937](#)
- [German Supply Chain Act](#)

The Council of Europe

- [Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings](#)
- [Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the committee of the regions empty on the EU Strategy to tackle Organised Crime 2021-2025](#)



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TRAFFICKING ROUTES:

Traffickers exploit both domestic and foreign individuals across Europe and beyond. Routes include almost every geographical region and although a significant number of victims of trafficking in Europe are European (71% in 2014), a significant proportion of victims originate from Eastern Europe, Eurasia, North, West and Sub-Saharan Africa, South and Central Asia, the Caribbean, South America, and the Middle East.

Former Soviet Union states are more vulnerable to trafficking due to political unrest, high rates of poverty and disparity in social and economic standing. Reports of internal trafficking have increased since 2020, which may be due to COVID-19 restrictions.

KEY ORGANIZATIONS

Several helpful organizations in Europe aid victims of human trafficking as well as produce research and advocate for better practices. Almost all European States are members of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) except Andorra, Liechtenstein and Monaco.

Regional organizations include:

- The Council of Europe
- The Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA)
- Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS)
- The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)
- The International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)

Notable local organizations include:

- End Child Prostitution and Trafficking (ECPAT)
- The Helen Bamber Foundation
- Hope for Justice – Norway
- The A21 Campaign Greece Hotline (1109)
- Human Trafficking Help and Resources
- European Freedom Network
- Stop the Traffik UK
- Defence for Children International (DCI)
- The Salvation Army International
- La Strada International
- The European Women's Lobby (EWL)

The Global Modern Slavery Directory and End Slavery Now's Antislavery Directory include other anti-trafficking organizations working in Europe.



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TIP REPORT

The U.S. State Department releases an annual [Trafficking in Persons Report \(TIP\)](#), which ranks countries on a four-tier system based on their efforts to combat human trafficking. TIP Reports can be found on the [State Department's website](#) and the [HTS database](#). Tip Report rankings for 2022 are listed below, for a more detailed breakdown by country, please refer to the 2022 Tip report where information is listed alphabetically. The US State Department places each country in the Report onto one of four tiers, as mandated by the [TVPA](#). This placement is based not on the size of a country's problem but on the extent of government efforts to meet the TVPA's minimum standards for the elimination of human trafficking (see page 58-61 of the 2022 TIP Report), which are generally consistent with the [Palermo Protocol](#).

While Tier 1 is the highest ranking, it does not mean that a country has no human trafficking problem or that it is doing enough to address the crime. Rather, a Tier 1 ranking indicates that a government has made efforts to address the problem that meets the TVPA's minimum standards. To maintain a Tier 1 ranking, governments need to demonstrate appreciable progress each year in combating trafficking. Tier 1 represents a responsibility rather than a reprieve. Countries and territories whose governments do not fully comply with the Act's minimum standards but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards as ranked as Tier 2. The Tier 2 Watch List is given to countries and territories whose governments do not fully comply with the Act's minimum standards but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards, and; the estimated number of victims of severe forms of trafficking is very significant or is significantly increasing and the country is not taking proportional concrete actions; or there is a failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat severe forms of trafficking in persons from the previous year. Countries and territories whose governments do not fully comply with the minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so are ranked as Tier 3.

2022 TIP REPORT RANKING FOR EUROPE

Tier 1: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Tier 2: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Denmark, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Malta, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Switzerland, Ukraine

Tier 2 Watchlist: Serbia and Bulgaria

Tier 3: Belarus and the Russian Federation



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MAIN RESOURCES

There are several standard worldwide publications that discuss human trafficking and modern-day slavery in “[Global Report on Trafficking in Persons](#),” and the US Department of State’s [2022 Trafficking in Persons Report](#).

Other regional reports and resources include:

- The ILO's 2022 [List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor](#)
- The ILO, Walk Free and IOM's [Global Estimates of Modern Slavery: Forced Labour and Forced Marriage](#)
- [Verité](#) is an independent, non-profit, civil society organization (CSO), whose website provides insight into the trafficking risks associated with the operation of specific global supply chains in the region, including Sub-Saharan Africa.
- [ECPAT's Global Study on Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism: Sub-Saharan Africa Report - 2016](#)
- The UNODC's [Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, 2022. Country Profiles: Eastern Europe and Central Asia](#)
- The UNODC's [Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, 2022. Country Profiles: Western and Southern Europe](#)
- The UNODC's [Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, 2022. Country Profiles: Central and South-Eastern Europe](#)

For more resources on all forms of human trafficking and modern slavery, please visit [HumanTraffickingSearch.org](#) and select or enter specific search terms in the [Global Database](#).

For more information on Human Trafficking and the War in Ukraine, please click [here](#).