

UNITED KINGDOM

This text is largely based on the report of the Anti-Trafficking Monitoring Group: “Wrong kind of victim?” (2010), see:

www.antislavery.org/-includes/documents/cm_docs/2010/a/1_atmg_report_for_web.pdf

and on the E-Notes, Report on the implementation of anti-trafficking policies and interventions in the 27 EU Member States from a human rights perspective (2008 and 2009), chapter on UK, p. 212 – 215, written by Klara Skrivankova, Anti-slavery International, London.

Background

- ❖ The UK is predominantly a country of destination for trafficked persons, but is also a country of origin. There is both internal and international trafficking reported
- ❖ Different forms of trafficking identified in the UK include trafficking for purposes of forced prostitution, forced labour, forced criminal activities (i.e. into cannabis factories) and forced begging
- ❖ For the last two years 1481 persons of 88 nationalities were referred to the National Referral Mechanism (5 top countries of origin: Nigeria, China, Vietnam, Romania and the Czech Republic)
- ❖ 72% of trafficked persons were women and 28% were men, 74% were adults, 26% were children

National anti-trafficking legislation:

- ❖ Sexual Offences Act 2003 - Sections 57-60 cover trafficking for sexual exploitation
- ❖ Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc.) Act 2004 - Section 4 introduces a new offence of “trafficking people for exploitation”, i.e. forms of exploitation other than sexual exploitation. This includes forced labour, slavery and organ removal. It covers trafficking to, within or out of the UK
- ❖ A maximum penalty (on conviction on indictment) of 14 years imprisonment and/or a fine applies to (*insert name of law*)
- ❖ Gangmasters (Licensing) Act, adopted in July 2004 - a compulsory licensing system for gangmasters and other employment agencies
- ❖ Coroners and Justice Act 2009 Section 71 - made slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour a specific criminal offence in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. This is defined as holding a person in slavery or servitude or requiring a person to perform forced or compulsory labour. The maximum sentence is 14 years.

National Referral Mechanism (NRM), UK anti trafficking institutions & bodies:



- ❖ Home Office and Home Secretary carry out overall responsibility for trafficking. In Scotland, the responsibility lies with the Scottish Government's Criminal Justice Directorate and the Scottish Cabinet Secretary for Justice
- ❖ Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group on Human Trafficking, which consists of 14 governmental departments takes an informal monitoring role
- ❖ Since 2007, anti-trafficking policy in the UK is based on the UK Action Plan on Tackling Human Trafficking
- ❖ Since April 2009, the UK has been operating a national referral mechanism (NRM). It is managed by two separate authorities - the UK Border Agency and the UK Human Trafficking Centre
- ❖ In May 2009 the Anti-Trafficking Monitoring Group was set up by a group of nine UK NGOs. Its aim is to monitor the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention in the UK.

