

Stop Trafficking!

Awareness Advocacy Action

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FOCUS: This month's newsletter focuses on the vulnerability to human trafficking for those living in areas of the world involved in armed conflict.

Human Trafficking in Conflict

Myanmar, Afghanistan, Syria, Ukraine. Conflicts worldwide have increased and intensified, leading to increased human trafficking in these regions.

There are three main trafficking trends connected to conflict or war. The first two are trafficking within and into conflict zones, such as in Afghanistan and Syria. In conflict zones, children may be trafficked to serve as combatants, support staff such as cooks, and increasingly as suicide bombers. Third, there is trafficking out of and through conflict zones, especially where there are large populations of refugees or at Internally Displaced People (IDP) camps. We see this today in countries surrounding Ukraine and Myanmar.

The increasing risks of trafficking of vulnerable groups in conflict situations arise for many reasons:

- ◆ *Increasingly desperate economic circumstances.*
- ◆ *The weakening or even breakdown of the rule of law.*
- ◆ *Fewer social services are available.*
- ◆ *People are separated from the support structures that keep them safe and become vulnerable in unfamiliar surroundings.*

Without the financial and other means to support themselves and their families, people are more likely to take risks they usually would avoid and thus become victims of trafficking.

The recruitment of children, and sometimes also the coerced or deceptive recruitment of adults, into armed groups is another example of trafficking. These children and adults are used as combatants or for sexual exploitation. The recruitment of children by armed groups is included among the six grave violations against children and is considered a war crime.

Factors that Contribute to Trafficking in Persons in Armed Conflict

The Report of the Secretary-General on conflict-related sexual violence (2018) states that conflict-related sexual violence encompasses trafficking in persons when committed in situations of conflict for sexual violence or exploitation. Armed conflict can break down government institutions and create a climate of impunity that encourages traffickers to prey on vulnerable populations. Women and children, migrants, and internally displaced persons are most at risk of being subjected to trafficking in conflict zones.

Women and girls comprise the largest share of trafficking victims worldwide. In conflict areas, trafficking in persons for sexual slavery, forced labor, and abduction of women and girls for forced marriages are the most reported forms of trafficking. Globally, sexual exploitation continues to be the primary purpose for trafficking, accounting for some 59 percent.



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The generalized violence that characterizes conflict areas forms the conditions for traffickers, including armed groups, to force or deceive civilians into exploitative situations.

Many contributing factors, such as high unemployment rates, homelessness, limited social services, and weak law enforcement oversight are amplified in conflict zones and exploited by traffickers. Without legal options and services to maintain their livelihoods, people are more likely to resort to illicit activities or risky, informal means to survive—sectors in which traffickers thrive.

In addition, the erosion of the rule of law, which safeguards and protects individuals in peacetime, is one common consequence of armed conflict. The breakdown of state institutions generates an environment where trafficking in persons can thrive.

Forced displacement is another factor that contributes to an individual's vulnerability to trafficking. In the first half of 2021, nearly 51 million people were internally displaced as conflict and violence flared around the world, according to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Displaced persons may have limited access to education, financial resources, or opportunities for income generation. This provides a perfect environment for traffickers to promise safe migration routes, employment, education, or skills training and deceive them into exploitative situations. In addition, children who are displaced or separated from their families without support networks are particularly vulnerable to human trafficking.

Camps for refugees and internally displaced persons are prime targets for traffickers. The concentration of vulnerable, displaced people and a lack of security, services, and oversight typically found in such camps make them ideal locations for traffickers to operate. In addition, traffickers can build relationships with corrupt camp officials in long-standing camps and establish trafficking rings.

Finally, armed groups use trafficking as part of their strategy to increase their military power and economic resources and project a violent image of themselves and instill fear in local populations. Armed groups also use sexual violence and sexual slavery as part of their operations. In some conflicts, for example, the prospect of receiving 'sex slaves' as a reward for joining the group is part of the armed groups' strategies to recruit new fighters.

Discrimination or marginalization of minorities compels many to leave family and friends behind to search for safety and protection. In addition, the breakdown of social ties and diminishing levels of regular economic activity in conflict settings may force people to search for alternative livelihoods, making them vulnerable to trafficking. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Human Trafficking Worsens in Conflict Zones

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has raised concerns that human trafficking is becoming more "horrific" in conflict zones. Armed groups keep women as sex slaves and use child soldiers to spread fear.

The UNODC warns that militants and terrorists are using trafficking to spread fear and boost their control where the rule of law is weak.

Traffickers can increasingly operate with greater impunity when police and prosecutors are not equipped to deal with the recruitment and exploitation of children by extremist groups. Global convictions of traffickers are very low.

In 2018, Nadia Murad, a former Islamic State sex slave turned Yazidi activist and U.N. ambassador, received the Nobel Peace Prize to urge the world to stop the use of rape as a weapon of war. Click [here](#) to learn more.



In July 2020, the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI) released a backgrounder on the crisis in Yemen

The war, which started as a failed transition of power, escalated in 2015 and has steadily grown worse, causing widespread displacement, the spread of disease, famine, poverty, and death. The “Yemen Crisis” is currently the largest humanitarian crisis globally, impacting more than 24 million people, nearly half of them children.

The direct and indirect impacts of the conflict in Yemen are significant and wide-reaching, even in regions where fighting is not active. Failed infrastructure and economy, poor food, water, human security, limited access to health care, and many displaced persons and refugees are commonplace.

The vulnerabilities that Yemenis have on account of the instability in the country, such as accessing food and other necessities, have benefitted human trafficking networks that prey on the weak and vulnerable. Nearly half of those impacted are children, with thousands of children recruited or trafficked into roles in the armed conflict.

Several varying trafficking patterns are affecting Yemen. Yemenis fleeing conflict to neighboring Saudi Arabia

and Oman are susceptible to labor and sex trafficking. Nongovernmental organizations have reported that the security forces, police, military, and intelligence services of the internationally recognized government of Yemen have been complicit in and have facilitated the trafficking of Yemeni citizens. In addition, officials have been engaging in trafficking themselves, warning traffickers of impending raids, ensuring the release of arrested traffickers, and aiding trafficking networks.

Unfortunately, the government has not engaged in investigations, prosecutions, or convictions of government officials complicit in trafficking, despite reports of officials allegedly involved in trafficking, including the recruitment and use of child soldiers by the Republic of Yemen Government’s Armed Forces.

Yemenis are also exploited domestically. Women are at risk of being forced into sexual slavery and debt bondage to survive — in some cases servicing local militias and state militaries — while men are forced into manual labor.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

“In Syria, all children below the age of 10 have lived their entire life in a country ravaged by conflict. They have known nothing but war,” said Virginia Gamba, the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict. “The consequences of such prolonged exposition to violence, to the violation and abuse of their most fundamental rights and to enormous stress, are dramatic,” said the UN expert. “It is bound to affect generations to come.”

United Nations Security Council children and armed conflict, Report of the Secretary-General, May 2021

In March 2011, the Syrian war began with 50 peaceful protestors calling for democratic reform

In response to the civilian uprisings, government forces employed lethal violence and opened fire on unarmed protestors. Protests demanded the resignation of Bashar al-Assad, whose family had been in power since 1963. On 25 April 2011, the Syrian military barricaded the city of Daraa. All incoming telephone lines, media, food, and medical supplies were blocked as forces exerted excessive and indiscriminate violence on civilians. The civil war that ensued lasts until this day.

For over ten years, Syrians have been fleeing their homes to escape the violence, repeatedly moving within the country or across its borders. The longer the war continues, the more people’s savings are depleted, and they become increasingly

vulnerable to trafficking as they can no longer meet their basic needs. Families have no viable alternative for survival other than situations that could be defined as exploitation and trafficking in national and international law.

The situation is made worse due to legal and institutional systems that the children, women, and men fleeing war must navigate within Syria and the four countries that host most Syrian refugees: Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq. The refugees do not have legal status and therefore are not allowed to work. Refugees who attempt to seek safety in Europe must pay substantial sums of money and even go into debt to migrant



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smugglers. One significant risk is that a situation of migrant smuggling can develop into one of human trafficking.

The desperation of people, especially parents, who cannot provide the basic needs for themselves and their children, can exploit members of their own families. Trafficking by organized networks occurs, but the most common exploitation involves fathers, mothers, husbands, extended family, acquaintances, and neighbors. Particularly in the case of sexual exploitation, a replacement effect is in evidence, with Syrian women and girls exploited in prostitution, where before people trafficked for this purpose were of other nationalities.

A recent concern is a humanitarian situation in al-Hol and al-Roj camps, where more than 65,000 are held, including women and children. At least 960 unaccompanied and separated children are among 11,000 foreign nationals being held there. Many become victims of trafficking for the worst forms of child labor, child trafficking for labor exploitation, exploitation through begging, and trafficking for sexual exploitation.

She'd heard of the risks of trafficking and exploitation on Ukrainian radio. But she came anyway. Her home was being shelled, she said. The risks of war were more immediate. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Between July 2018 and June 2020, airstrikes, explosive remnants of war and indiscriminate shelling maimed or took the lives of more than 2,700 children in Syria. In addition, during that same time, more than 1,400 children were recruited or used by at least 25 parties to the conflict. Particularly concerning was the emerging trend of international recruitment whereby children were enlisted and trained in Syria before being trafficked to Libya to participate in hostilities, all by armed groups.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is home to more than 105 million people, forming the second-largest country on the continent.

The country is rich in natural resources such as coal, gold, and petroleum, which provide the country with economic sustenance. However, poverty pervades the country with an estimated 40 percent of the children classified as malnourished. Government corruption and internal conflicts contribute to human trafficking. The Congolese National Army (FARDC) recruits child soldiers through partnerships with local militias and there continues to be a lack of victim identification procedures and criminalization of trafficking crimes.



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Myanmar is a major source country for the trafficking of women and children, especially in conflict-affected border areas in Kachin

Kachin, the northernmost state of Myanmar, is bordered by China to the north and east. Men, women, and children from Kachin ethnic minority groups, especially internally displaced in camps, are at increased risk of trafficking, including domestic labor trafficking and cross-border labor and sex trafficking to Thailand and China.

Myanmar has experienced conflict and heightened tensions over the past several years, which has led to extensive loss of life, damage to infrastructure, destruction of livelihoods, protracted displacement of thousands of people, and increased sexual and gender-based violence, including human trafficking.

Civilians bear the brunt of ongoing armed conflict with frequent outbreaks of fighting, with some families being displaced multiple times. Over 97,000 people in Kachin remain displaced in camps or camp-like settings, of which

approximately 75 percent of the displaced are women and children.

The crisis and conflict situation in Kachin, including its trafficking risks as a direct consequence of the conflict, significantly impacts women, in part due to pre-existing and profoundly entrenched gender discrimination and violence. This leaves women and girls in subordinate positions in households, communities, workplaces and society.

According to UN Women and the Kachin State Women Network, prolonged displacement has affected communities' coping resilience and economic security with high exposure to harmful coping mechanisms, exploitation, and protection risks and threats. This includes human trafficking into China, especially women and girls in at-risk border areas and those in IDP camps and non-government-controlled areas. For example, thousands of vulnerable women and girls from northern Myanmar are being trafficked to China and forced to marry. Those who can escape and return to Myanmar, and others still inside China, report that they were forced to carry a child for their "husband."

There are inadequate systems and measures in Myanmar for survivors to seek protection, services, and justice. Unfortunately, they are often further stigmatized and

marginalized. The lack of humanitarian access further limits survivors' access to protection and response services such as psychosocial support and legal aid services.

Women's groups in Kachin, including UN Women's local partner organization, Htoi Gender and Development Foundation, report that limited human and financial resources of the police in Kachin are hampering investigations into human trafficking and contributing to a crime wave in which women and girls, especially those that are IDPs, are often the targets. UN Women's local partner organization Htoi Gender and Development Foundation further reports that some IDP camp leaders have supported the marriages of girls who had received offers of money from Chinese men, with the fate of the girls who went to China unknown.

Members of Parliament from Kachin State have stated that they want firmer police action to combat the cross-border trafficking of poor women from northern Myanmar for marriage to Chinese farmers.

The ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, entered into force in 2017, with Myanmar as one of the six ASEAN Member States that has ratified the Convention, highlighting their resolve to combat trafficking and provide adequate safeguards and protection to victims. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Human traffickers always target the vulnerable, and with many Ukrainian women and children fleeing the war, there is a risk that many will fall victim to trafficking

Of concern is the number of orphans left in Ukraine and babies born to surrogate mothers in Ukraine whose parents have not picked them up. In addition, the European Union's Home Affairs Commissioner warns that many vulnerable children are being trafficked or are victims of forced adoption.

Sister Imelda Poole, a member of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary and president of Religious in Europe Networking Against Trafficking and Exploitation (RENATE), a nongovernmental organization that combats human trafficking in 31 European countries, reports that humanitarian aid agencies distribute leaflets to Ukrainian refugees in shelters warning them about human trafficking. Warnings about what to do to protect yourself when a person offers you a ride are included.

UNICEF and UNHCR

The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), in partnership with governments and civil society organizations, have set up "Blue Dots" in countries hosting Ukrainian refugees. "Blue Dots" are one-



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stop safe spaces for children and women. In addition, 'Blue Dots' provide critical information to traveling families, help to identify unaccompanied and separated children, ensure their protection, and provide a hub for essential services.

UNICEF urges the governments of countries neighboring Ukraine and other destination countries to set up screenings at border crossings to identify at-risk children better. In addition, UNICEF is calling on governments to improve cross-border collaboration and knowledge

exchange between and among border control, law enforcement, and child protection authorities. Their goal is to identify separated children and set up reunification procedures.

UNICEF calls for screening in shelters, large urban train stations, and other locations where refugees are gathering. In addition, they call on national and international law enforcement to monitor the movement of children and women and actively do all they can to alleviate the risks of trafficking facing these vulnerable groups.

Responding to Refugee Vulnerability to Trafficking and Forced Labor

Before the crisis in Ukraine, the number of internally displaced people and refugees globally was already at record highs, with more than 26 million Syrians, Central Americans, Venezuelans, South Sudanese, Rohingya, and others living as refugees abroad, and more than 84 million people around the world forcibly displaced in the first half of 2021. People fleeing war or other grave threats seek basic safety and income to support themselves and their families. They are among the most vulnerable workers. As they are integrated into the workforces of receiving countries, they are significantly at risk of falling victim to forced labor and human trafficking. Companies are responsible for addressing this risk through heightened due diligence and other measures.

The political and humanitarian crises in Ukraine are reshaping the landscape for supply chain accountability throughout the broader region. In addition, millions of refugees have fled Ukraine into neighboring countries, adding to the number of vulnerable workers at risk for trafficking.

Last year, Verité collaborated with the Tent Partnership, a global organization mobilizing the business community to improve the livelihoods of refugees. Together, they produced the report *Combating Forced and Child Labor of Refugees in Global Supply Chains: The Role of Responsible Sourcing*. The report includes research and recommendations for employer due diligence. In addition, it highlights the importance of seeing refugees in a positive light as contributors rather than just as problems to be solved.

Migrant workers in general, and refugees and other displaced people in particular, face numerous vulnerabilities to labor exploitation, including: uncertain pathways to leaving the home country amidst conflict or other instability, leading to risks of deceptive recruitment, debt bondage, contract substitution, or human trafficking,

as well as exploitation on the job in a host country such as wage withholding or forced overtime; a lack of, or unclear, immigration status or clearance for employment in the host country, coupled with juggling immediate livelihood needs and potentially uncertain access to shelter, child-care, or other necessities; differential access to legal status or access to employment in a host country for different categories of migrants, refugees, or displaced people; discrimination in employment due to gender, race, ethnicity, or country of origin; and lack of support networks or other resources to help them navigate employment abuses or other livelihood challenges.

As companies respond to the crisis in Ukraine and other world regions in conflict, they may shift production and labor sourcing to areas that expose them to heightened labor and other human rights risks. In an increasingly unstable world, it is becoming increasingly difficult for companies to avoid "problematic" regions when choosing where to source goods and do business. Companies must manage their exposure to risks such as labor exploitation by anticipating crises, pursuing continual assessment of risk exposure, and planning for direct engagement with civil society and government stakeholders to address the vulnerabilities experienced by their workers and suppliers.

The *Verité Tent Report* elaborates on examples of business or brand initiatives to promote safe and fair livelihoods for refugee populations in their supply chains. Common elements for businesses or brands designing this type of initiative include: continual assessment of the whole supply chain, including labor suppliers or intermediaries, to identify root causes of vulnerabilities, such as the presence of deceptive or other risky hiring practices, debt bondage, and on the job rights violations such as wage withholding, forced overtime, sexual harassment, or child labor; identification of leverage points that may be present in moments of crisis, for example, through providing businesses with opportunities to influence

governing bodies to alter policy in ways that improve protections for the human rights of workers, including the right to work; planning for pro-active crisis resiliency through directly engaging with issues businesses and workers face in conflict or other crises, for example, promoting ethical recruitment and enabling clear and safe pathways to decent work and livelihood; and having an ethical exit strategy when resituating a supply chain, including anticipating consequences for workers left behind.

Given the demand by consumers for companies and brands to plan for comprehensive ethical hiring and responsible sourcing in the context of conflict or other instability, Verité has many existing tools and resources for ethical recruitment to guide companies planning for engagement with refugees or other displaced people in their supply chain.

Verité's Responsible Sourcing Tool is a website with tools and resources to help companies and federal contractors understand and prevent risks of human trafficking in supply chains; it includes a specific set of ethical recruitment resources for the private security sector doing business in conflict areas.

Click [here](#) to learn more.



UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL: Resolution 2388

Reiterates condemnation of all acts of trafficking, particularly the sale or trade in persons undertaken by the “Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant” (ISIL, also known as Da’esh) and underscores the importance of collecting and preserving evidence relating to such acts in order to ensure that those responsible can be held accountable. Requests the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team, when consulting with Member States, to continue including in their discussions the issue of trafficking in persons in the areas of armed conflict and the use of sexual violence in armed conflict as it relates to ISIL (also known as Da’esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities and to report to the Security Council Committee on these discussions as appropriate.

For predators and human traffickers, the war in Ukraine is not a tragedy. It's an opportunity — and women and children are the targets.

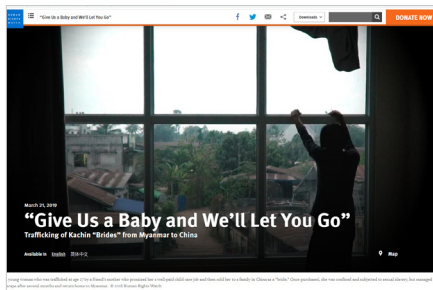
(UN Secretary General António Guterres)



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Tackling human trafficking in Myanmar

Conflict between the military and ethnic armed groups in Myanmar has left the country impoverished and the people open to exploitation, especially human trafficking. In 2005, Myanmar passed an anti-trafficking law, but trafficking is still rampant in the conflict-affected state, especially in the northern region, where it borders China. A UN Women program is supporting local partner Htoi Gender and Development Foundation in providing legal support and vocational training to survivors. According to Htoi, in 8 out of 10 cases, women are trafficked as brides and another 20 percent are trafficked to birth babies.



Give Us a Baby and We'll Let You Go

Seng Moon's family fled fighting in Myanmar's Kachin State and struggled to survive in a camp for internally displaced people. Then, when Seng Moon was 16 and attending fifth grade, her sister-in-law said she knew of a job as a cook in China's neighboring Yunnan province. Seng Moon did not want to go, but the promised wage was far more than she could make a living in the IDP camp, so her family decided she shouldn't pass it up.

In the car, Seng Moon's sister-in-law gave her something she said prevented car sickness. Seng Moon fell asleep immediately. "When I woke up, my hands were tied behind my back," she said. "I cried and shouted and asked for help." By then, Seng Moon was in China. "I was locked in a room for two months. Each time a Chinese man brought me meals, he raped me. When I became pregnant, the man's father told me we were now a married couple." The baby was a boy. When Seng Moon asked to go home, the husband replied: "No one plans to stop you. If you want to go back home, you can. But you can't take my baby."

China's one-child policy and gender-selective abortions mean that there are now over 30 million more men than women in the country. Dowry prices for women from Myanmar are low and legal redress is hard to get.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

Preventing Human Trafficking in Syria

The United States Department of State recommends that to end human trafficking in Syria, the government of Syria is to be accountable for its part in the problem. Victims should not receive prosecution for any crimes they committed, and traffickers should be prosecuted. Unfortunately, no legislation in Syria bans human trafficking, making it challenging to identify victims and perpetrators. Too often, victims are prosecuted for crimes they would not otherwise commit.

Syria faces sanctions due to its association with and sponsorship of terrorist organizations, and this may be extended to its lack of policy outlawing human trafficking. According to the 2021 Trafficking in Persons Report, "the government and pro-Syrian regime-affiliated

militias continued to forcibly recruit and use child soldiers, resulting in children facing extreme violence and retaliation by opposition forces; the government also did not protect and prevent children from recruitment and use by armed opposition forces and designated terrorist organizations."

Despite the efforts of the U.S. government and charitable organizations, human trafficking in Syria remains an alarming situation. For the situation to improve, the government must stand up to protect its people.

In May 2021, a Report of the United Nations Security Council Secretary-General issued the following policy recommendations to protect refugees from exploitation, with the following recommendations to curtail trafficking among Syrians:

- ◆ The capacities of the governments in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, and Iraq are significantly affected by the ongoing war and the arrival of large groups of people fleeing Syria. So investment in infrastructure in hosting countries in the region and resettlement to safe countries outside the area, particularly in the European Union, is essential.
- ◆ If basic needs such as housing and food are met, people will be less desperate and less dependent on exploitation or trafficking. In addition, opportunities for income generation for adults will reduce the incidence of low-level trafficking.
- ◆ To make sure that vulnerable children, women, and men do not fall through the gaps in our aid structures, international and national actors should always consider that a refugee or internally displaced person may also be a victim of human trafficking.



Why civilians suffer more once a war is over



- The focus of national governments, local NGOs, international organizations, and aid agencies must be to decrease people's vulnerabilities and increase their resilience, providing them with what they need to better cope with the ravages of violence and displacement.
- The international community and individual countries must recognize labor and sex trafficking as common during conflict and include anti-trafficking strategies in humanitarian responses.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

In a war, it turns out that violence isn't the biggest killer of civilians. What is? Illness, hunger, poverty -- because war destroys the institutions that keep society running, like utilities, banks, food systems and hospitals. These vulnerabilities make civilians who survive a war susceptible to becoming victims of human trafficking. Physician Margaret Bourdeaux proposes a bold approach to post-conflict recovery, setting priorities on what to fix first. Please click [here](#) to view this Ted Talk.

Trafficking in persons is a serious crime

that affects every country in the world. Conflicts that arise in countries or other geographical areas can exacerbate vulnerability to trafficking, as well as its prevalence and severity. As State and non-State structures weaken, and as people turn to negative coping strategies in order to survive, not only does the risk of falling victim to trafficking increase but so too does the risk of perpetrating it against others. At the same time, conflict also increases the demand for goods and services provided by exploited persons and creates new demands for exploitative combat and support roles. For these reasons, United Nations entities and other international actors active in settings affected by conflict have a crucial role to play in preventing and countering trafficking in persons.

Please click [here](#) to access the 2018 report.



Podcast: Trafficking in Persons in Conflict

In conflict settings, trafficking could be in the form of sexual slavery, recruitment of children into armed groups, forced labor, and abduction of women & girls for forced marriages.

Listen to Ms. Cristina Albertin, UNODC Regional Representative for the Middle East and North Africa, as she speaks on trafficking in persons in conflict settings - an episode part of the #SavingDignity week #podcast series. Please click [here](#) to access the podcast.

Women and kids fleeing Ukraine

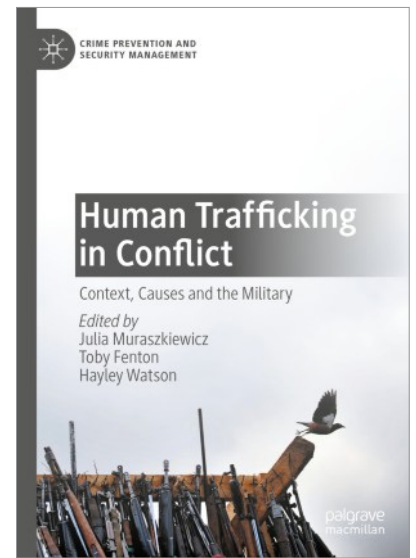
are at risk of human trafficking. Please click [here](#) to view this short YouTube video.



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Human Trafficking in Conflict: Context, Causes and the Military

This book examines the different forms of human trafficking that manifest in conflict and post-conflict settings and considers how the military may help to address or even facilitate it. It explores how conflict can facilitate human trafficking, how it can manifest through a variety of case studies, followed by a discussion of the reasons why the military should include a stronger consideration of human trafficking within their strategic planning given the multiple scenarios in which military forces come into contact with victims of human trafficking, and how this ought to be done. *Human Trafficking in Conflict* draws on the expertise of scholars and practitioners to develop the existing conversations and to offer multiple perspectives. It provides a discussion of existing frameworks and perspectives including legal and policy, and whether they are configured to address human trafficking in conflict.



The UN Security Council convened for a briefing on the situation in Ukraine,

under the agenda item “Maintenance of Peace and Security of Ukraine” which discussed the risk of human trafficking and the role of women still in Ukraine as the conflict continues. Please click [here](#) to view this short 8 minute report.

Trafficking in persons in the context of armed conflict: Linking conflict, violence and exploitation

This booklet presents information on trafficking in persons in the context of armed conflict. It is based on an extensive review of literature and reports from regional and international organizations combined with primary information collected from areas where armed conflicts have been discussed by the United Nations Security Council. It draws on cases investigated by the international criminal tribunals and interviews with United Nations peacekeeping personnel based in field missions located within or in the proximity of conflict zones.

The first section presents an overview of the main forms of trafficking that have been identified within and in the surroundings of conflict areas. The subsequent section describes commonly identified victim profiles and outlines the main factors impacting their vulnerability to trafficking. The third section identifies the main perpetrators and analyses the ways in which trafficking in persons is used as part of their *modus operandi*. The final section presents some examples of trafficking in persons in conflict scenarios on the agenda of the Security Council.

Click [here](#) to learn more.



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