

### Human Trafficking [HT]

Is the illegal trade of human beings, for the purpose of slavery, sexual exploitation or forced labour.

**The significance of the location:**

These locations show a general trend about where HT occurs. Source countries tend to be poorer, politically unstable, lacking education, employment or enforcement of human rights laws etc. The major destination countries are more affluent, relatively stable ...

**POLITICAL**

HT is more common in countries with unstable and corrupt governments.  
 HT is a violation of the 1948 UNDHR.  
 Few nations have specific laws relating to HT.  
 'The Victims of Trafficking and violence protection Act' created by U.S.A. of aims to combat trafficking both worldwide and domestically.  
 Laws are only effective if they are enforced across borders as this is more than a simple domestic issue.

**ECONOMIC**

HT is the world's second largest growing criminal enterprise.  
 The US government dedicated \$95 million to fighting HT worldwide.  
 Poorer countries are more likely to become the source location for victims of HT. This is due to great financial strain on families, which result in children being sold.

**CULTURE**

The cultures on some source regions could be a cause for HT especially of women and girls. In some eastern cultures women are often denied basic human rights and there are no laws to protect them. They are considered to be the property of their father or husband. In areas of poverty children can be sold or exploited as they are can be considered an economic asset.

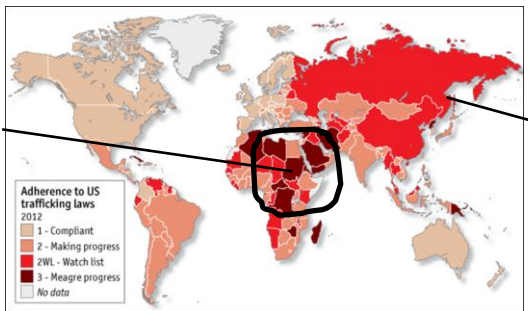
**Groups involved:**

Gangs= MS-13, Chinese Snakeheads, Albania and Italian mafia etc.

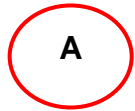
**Groups fighting HT:**

Church groups...  
 Governments...  
 International organisations...

The dark shaded countries are major areas of human trafficking ... have the lowest ranks on HDI, tend to have unstable governments... (1)



Many countries in Asia are involved in...



### Gangs:

There are many large gangs involved in human trafficking, some of the most notorious are MS-13, the Japanese Yakuza, Chinese Snakeheads and Italian Mafia ... These groups are active worldwide and can be found in many sections of society...

Gangs' view the victims as commodities with a money value... humans can be resold meaning they have a more valuable commodity than drugs or weapons. Many gangs are changing from trading in drugs and weapons to human trafficking because of the financial advantages... **These gangs have little respect for human rights and consider their victims to be commodities for sale. This human commodity is seen simply as a means of raising funds to support other activities like arms trading or drugs** (2).

**Human trafficking is seen as being a 'low risk' activity** (3) when compared to drugs or weapons smuggling...

In terms of human trafficking, the **Japanese Yakuza are known to be highly involved in the sex trade, in particular in buying women from China, Thailand and Cambodia for the Japanese sex industry. The Chinese Snake heads have moved their interests from drug to human trafficking to take advantage of the huge potential profits to be made** (4) It has been recorded that Chinese traffickers make between \$2.4 and \$3.5 billion each year. They are as much involved in the trafficking illegal migrants as with the sex industry. Trafficking of illegal immigrants can result in money being forced from the family at home and extra earnings when the person is sold or passed on...

The Albanian gang is largely known for supplying child prostitutes... Mara Salvatrucha also known as MS-13... These gangs are not solely involved in human trafficking; their criminal enterprises extend into gambling, stock market etc...

Opposition groups: ...

### Solution to the Human Trafficking issue:

**The most effective way to stop human trafficking is through global awareness, because people are trafficked across borders making it an international issue so the solution must be global. An example of a campaign advocating to stop human trafficking is the 'Not for Sale' campaign. This campaign aims to "empower marginalized communities to seek their own dignified employment and break the cycle of exploitation," their main focus is to raise awareness about sexual slavery** (5).

'Not for Sale' is a non-profit organisation that works with donations and volunteer workers to help the victims with healthcare, shelter and legal services... 273 young women and girls were rescued between January 2013 and end of March 2013...

A strength of this campaign and others like it is that it uses the wealth of people in MEDC's to aid the victims. The more wide-spread the campaign, the more people will hear and this is the best way to police an issue which is largely 'underground'...

This course of action directly helps victims and leads to punishment of traffickers, which is **more important than making laws which are not enforced in many countries, especially in the source countries...** **Legislation relating to human trafficking includes...**(6)