

This chart provides a global legal overview of anti-trafficking efforts. Areas covered include activities by the United Nations, Europe, G8 Member States, together with countries in the Middle East, Africa, and Asia.

Human trafficking remains an unresolved worldwide problem because of the weak rule of law in countries where it flourishes. Due to cultural issues and economic incentives, trafficking in forced labor and for sexual exploitation is commonplace in the Middle East and Africa although it also exists to a lesser degree in other geographic regions.

Ratification of, or accession to, the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#) (PDF file), is a step in the right direction made by more than 110 countries. However, efforts by the [United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime \(UNODC\)](#) to implement the protocol has yielded mixed results to date.

Where countries have weak governments, corrupt law enforcement or judiciary, civil wars that need conscripts, or totalitarian regimes that profit from the sale of human beings, the presence or absence of anti-trafficking laws means little. Laws that exist simply are not enforced.

Developed countries that permit their citizens to pay for sex tourism in developing countries without penalty provide economic incentives for trafficking to continue. For the rule of law to successfully combat human trafficking, global and regional efforts to fund efforts against traffickers will be necessary.

Tips & Traps

-  The existence of anti-trafficking laws in a particular country does not mean that the nation actually enforces them.
-  Where anti-trafficking laws do not exist, some nations have laws pertaining to immigration, kidnapping, abduction, labor, and prostitution that can be applied to prosecute human traffickers.
-  In some instances, deficient law enforcement relates directly to a country's lack of resources to combat traffickers.

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Region/Country	Rule of Law - Human Trafficking
United Nations	<p data-bbox="478 477 2028 656">The United Nations (UN) has adopted the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and two related protocols (PDF file) that address human trafficking. This includes the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (PDF file). Implementation of the convention and protocols is promoted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) through its Global Programme Against Trafficking in Human Beings.</p> <p data-bbox="478 727 2028 797">UNODC takes a three-pronged approach: (1) prevention; (2) prosecution of perpetrators; and (3) protection of victims.</p> <p data-bbox="478 868 1980 976">Despite protocol ratification by more than 110 countries, enforcement of the UN's anti-trafficking provisions remains almost nonexistent. Because of this, in March 2007 UNODC launched a Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT).</p> <p data-bbox="478 1047 1974 1149">This initiative is designed to promote and coordinate public and private sector efforts to fight human trafficking. To facilitate these efforts, UNODC provides best practices resources for both governments and businesses to use.</p> <p data-bbox="478 1221 1969 1295">In February 2008, the Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking was held to promote UN.GIFT, raise awareness of trafficking as a human rights issue, and to provide forum participants from 116 countries the</p>



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opportunity to create strategic alliances for combating human trafficking.

The European Community approved with declarations the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

In May 2005, the Council of Europe adopted the [Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings](#) (effective Feb. 2008). Designed to complement the [United Nation's Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and two related protocols](#) (PDF file), the council's convention promotes cooperation between member states in fighting human trafficking and protecting the human rights trafficking victims.

The European Union (EU) prohibits human trafficking in its Charter of Fundamental Rights. [2000 OJ C 364](#).

Europe

Albania

Albania has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Under the Albanian Penal Code, traffickers face up to 15 years of incarceration. However, trafficking in females for forced labor and sexual exploitation remains a problem. Only one-seventh of recent trafficking prosecutions resulted in convictions.

Andorra

Andorra has not signed the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially](#)



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[Women and Children.](#)

Andorran law prohibits trafficking in forced labor but not for sexual exploitation. However, the latter could be prosecuted under the forced labor provisions. Traffickers face up to 12 years of incarceration.

There is no indication that trafficking is an issue within the country.

Armenia

Armenia has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.](#)

Armenian Penal Code art. 132 bans trafficking. Offenders face up to 12 years' imprisonment under this law. However, sentencing tends to be light for the offense in practice, and traffickers are typically released after serving half of their sentences. Trafficking in women and girls for sexual exploitation remains a problem.

Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.](#)

Azerbaijan bans all types of trafficking. Azerbaijani Law on the Fight Against Trafficking in Persons (2005). Traffickers can be incarcerated under this law for up to 15 years.

However, convicted traffickers typically receive light sentences. They frequently are placed under house



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arrest or receive suspended sentences. Under these circumstances, trafficking for forced labor and sexual exploitation commonly occurs.

Belarus

Belarus has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Belarusian Crim. Code art. 181 prohibits all types of trafficking. Offenders can be incarcerated for up to 15 years.

Approximately one half of those prosecuted for trafficking are convicted, and all convicted offenders are sentenced to imprisonment. However, trafficking in forced labor and for sexual exploitation still occurs within the country.

Belgium

Belgium has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Belgium outlaws all types of trafficking. Belgian Act Containing Measures to Repress Trafficking in Persons (2005). Convicted offenders face up to 30 years of incarceration.

Although trafficking for forced labor and sexual exploitation still exists, the Belgian government aggressively prosecutes traffickers, convicting several hundred each year.



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Bosnia and Herzegovina

Bosnia and Herzegovina have ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

The country bans all types of trafficking. Bosnia and Herzegovina Crim. Code art. 186. Offenders have been sentenced to up to 10 years' imprisonment.

However, the majority of convicted traffickers have only received suspended sentences. Under these circumstances, trafficking for forced labor and sexual exploitation commonly occurs.

Bulgaria

Bulgaria has the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Bulgarian Crim. Code § 159 bans all types of trafficking. Convicted offenders face up to 15 years of incarceration. Almost all prosecuted traffickers are convicted. However, nearly half of those convicted receive minimal or suspended sentences. Trafficking for sexual exploitation and forced labor commonly occurs.

Croatia

Croatia has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).



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Croatian Penal Code § 175 outlaws all types of human trafficking. However, sentences imposed are light. Some traffickers are given suspended sentences while others receive only a few years' imprisonment. Under these circumstances, trafficking in women and girls for sexual exploitation continues while men are sometimes pressed into forced labor.

Cyprus

Cyprus has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

In July 2007, Cyprus enacted a law that bans all types of trafficking. Offenders face up to 20 years of incarceration. However, enforcement resources are lacking and trafficking continues unabated. In particular, foreign women become trafficking victims through the abuse of temporary work permits.

Czech Republic

The Czech Republic has signed but not ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

The Czech Republic bans human trafficking. Czech Republic Crim. Code §§ 204, 216, and 232a. Offenders face up to 15 years of incarceration under these laws.

However, only about two-thirds of those prosecuted are convicted, and less than half of convicted offenders were imprisoned. Under these circumstances, trafficking for forced labor and sexual exploitation continues to



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occur.

Denmark

Denmark has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Denmark bans all types of human trafficking. Danish Crim. Code § 262. Convicted offenders face up to eight years of incarceration. The majority of traffickers prosecuted were convicted, all recent convictions resulted in imprisonment, but sentences were typically only a few years of incarceration.

Trafficking in women and girls for sexual exploitation commonly occurs. However, the government does actively pursue its citizens who engage in child sex tourism abroad.

Estonia

Estonia has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Although Estonian law does not ban all types of human trafficking, it is illegal to abduct, enslave, or pimp. Convicted offenders face up to 15 years of incarceration under the law but in practice the maximum sentence recently assessed was three years' imprisonment. Few traffickers are prosecuted but all recent prosecutions resulted in convictions and some prison time.

Trafficking for forced labor and sexual exploitation continues to occur.



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Finland

Finland has accepted the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Finnish Penal Code § 1899-39 bans human trafficking. Convicted offenders face a maximum of seven years of incarceration. Traffickers can also be prosecuted under other statutes relating to child rape, kidnapping, and pimping.

Few trafficking prosecutions occur, approximately one-third are convicted, and most are given light sentences. Trafficking for forced labor and sexual exploitation continues.

France

France has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

The country enacted the Law on Internal Security (Loi sur la Sécurité Intérieure) in March 2003. This law bans both human trafficking and passive solicitation.

Art. 225 C. pén. makes it a crime to engage in human trafficking for either sexual or labor exploitation. In October 2007, this article was amended to facilitate prosecution of forced labor traffickers.

Georgia



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Georgia has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Georgian law bans all types of human trafficking. See [Law of Georgia on Combating Human Trafficking](#) (2006) (pdf file) ([Georgian link](#)). Convicted offenders face up to 20 years of incarceration. As of June 2007, it is also illegal to exploit a trafficking victim.

Georgia's Permanent Interagency Coordination Council for Carrying out Measures Against Trafficking in Persons adopted on July 19, 2007 a reintegration program for human trafficking victims entitled [The Strategy for Rehabilitation and Social Reintegration of the \(Statutory\) Victims of Trafficking in Persons](#) (pdf file).

Although trafficking for forced labor and sexual exploitation continues, the government does prosecute, and sentences upon conviction are lengthy.

Germany

Germany has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

The country makes it a crime to engage in human trafficking for the purpose of sexual or labor exploitation. §§ 232, 233 StGB.

Greece



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Greece has signed but not ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Greece outlaws all types of human trafficking. Greek Law 3064 (2002). Convicted offenders face a hefty fine and up to 10 years of incarceration.

However, enforcement of the law appears to be decreasing. Trafficking for forced labor and sexual exploitation commonly occurs.

Hungary

Hungary has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Although trafficking for sexual exploitation frequently occurs, Hungary bans all types of human trafficking. Hungarian Crim. Code para. 175/b. Convicted offenders face a maximum of 15 years' incarceration. Most traffickers who are prosecuted are convicted but sentencing is relatively light in comparison to what could be assessed under Paragraph 175/b for the offense.

Italy

Italy has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

With the 2003 passage of Measures Against Trafficking in Persons (Misure contro la tratta di persone), [Legge](#)



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[11 Agosto 2003, n. 228](#), the country has imposed penalties ranging from 8 to 20 years' imprisonment for those convicted of engaging in human trafficking.

Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan has not signed the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

The country bans all types of human trafficking. Kazakhstani Penal Code arts. 128, 133, 125(3) (b), 126(3)(b), and 270. Convicted offenders face a maximum of 15 years of incarceration. Although trafficking for forced labor and sexual exploitation remains an issue, the majority of prosecutions result in convictions and prison sentences.

Latvia

Latvia has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Latvia bans all types of human trafficking. Latvian Penal Code §§ 154-1, 154-2. Convicted offenders face up to 15 years of incarceration. Traffickers can also be prosecuted for sexual exploitation and face up to 10 years' imprisonment if the victim is a minor. Latvian Penal Code § 165-1.

While those who engage in trafficking for sexual exploitation are prosecuted, the government apparently ignores labor trafficking. It does not appear that anyone has ever been prosecuted for trafficking in forced labor.



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Liechtenstein

Liechtenstein has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Liechtenstein's laws prohibit human trafficking. There are no reported cases of such trafficking occurring. However, there may be trafficking for sexual exploitation, particularly among foreign cabaret dancers.

Lithuania

Lithuania has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Lithuanian Crim. Code art. 147 outlaws all types of human trafficking. Convicted offenders face up to 15 years of incarceration. In practice, the maximum prison sentence recently imposed was eight years. Trafficking in women and girls for sexual exploitation remains a problem for this country.

Luxembourg

Luxembourg has signed but not ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Through ratification of the European Social Charter, Luxembourg banned trafficking for forced labor. Luxembourg Penal Code art. 379 outlaws trafficking for sexual exploitation. Although the government



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prosecutes traffickers, the maximum recent sentence imposed was three years' incarceration plus a fine. Trafficking in women for sexual exploitation still occurs.

Macedonia

Macedonia has not signed the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#) (TIP Protocol).

Macedonia bans all types of human trafficking and forced prostitution. Macedonian Crim. Code arts. 191, 418, and 418c (2004). In January 2008, the Criminal Code was amended to increase trafficking penalties in an effort to become TIP Protocol-compliant. It remains to be seen how effectively these provisions will be used to sentence traffickers.

Malta

Malta has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Maltese Crim. Code ch. 9 (2002) bans slavery. Trafficking for force labor or sexual exploitation can lead to up to nine years' incarceration. Those who rape children or force them into prostitution face similar prison time. Maltese Act XXXI (2007). Trafficking for sexual exploitation remains a problem for this country.

Moldova

Moldova has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially](#)



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[Women and Children.](#)

Moldova bans all types of human trafficking. Moldovan Crim. Code arts. 165, 206. Convicted offenders face up to life imprisonment. However, trafficking in women and girls for sexual exploitation frequently occurs.

Monaco

Monaco has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.](#)

The country's laws do not prohibit trafficking. However, there have been no reports of trafficking within Monaco.

Montenegro

Montenegro has succeeded to the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.](#)

Montenegro outlaws all types of human trafficking. Montenegrin Crim. Code art. 444. Recently convictions have resulted in sentencing to five years of incarceration.

Note that the government does not consider forced begging by children to be a violation of Article 444. Trafficking for sexual exploitation primarily consists of the country being used as a transit point for foreign women and girls being shipped to other countries.



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Netherlands

The Netherlands have accepted the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

The Netherlands ban all types of human trafficking. Netherlands' Crim. Code art. 273 (2005). Convicted offenders face up to 15 years of incarceration and a hefty fine.

However, less than half of all prosecutions result in convictions. Of those convicted, the average sentence was just a couple of years' imprisonment. Trafficking for forced labor and sexual exploitation remains commonplace.

Norway

Norway has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Norway bans all types of human trafficking. Norwegian Crimes Against Personal Freedom Law (2004). Convicted offenders face up to five years of incarceration under the law but in practice are only sentenced to about two years. Trafficking in women and children for sexual exploitation remains a problem for this country.

Poland

Poland has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).



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Poland bans all types of human trafficking. Polish Crim. Code arts. 203, 204, and 253. Convicted offenders face up to 15 years of incarceration. However, trafficking for forced labor and sexual exploitation frequently occurs.

Romania

Romania has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Romania bans all types of human trafficking. Romanian Law No. 678/2001. Convicted offenders face up to 15 years of incarceration. However, one-fifth of those convicted serve no prison time. Trafficking for sexual exploitation and forced labor commonly occurs.

Russia

The Russian Federation has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

In 2003, Russia amended its criminal code to provide for up to 10 years' imprisonment for those convicted of engaging in trafficking for sexual or forced labor exploitation. st. 127 UK RF.

San Marino

San Marino has signed but not ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in](#)



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[Persons, Especially Women and Children.](#)

The country does not prohibit human trafficking. However, there have been no reported cases of trafficking occurring within San Marino.

Serbia *(including Kosovo?)*

Serbia has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.](#)

Serbia outlaws all types of human trafficking. Serbian Crim. Code art. 388. There is insufficient data how effectively this provision is enforced. Trafficking for forced labor and sexual exploitation is commonplace.

Slovakia

Slovakia has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.](#)

The Slovak Republic bans all types of human trafficking. Slovak Crim. Code §§ 179-181. Convicted offenders face up to 25 years of incarceration under the law. In practice, most convicted traffickers are sentenced to a maximum of two years in prison. Trafficking for sexual exploitation and forced labor frequently occurs.

Slovenia

Slovenia has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially](#)



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[Women and Children.](#)

Slovenia outlaws all types of human trafficking. Slovenian Crim. Code art. 387(a). Convicted offenders face up to 10 years of incarceration. However, trafficking for forced labor and sexual exploitation remains a problem for this country.

Spain

Spain has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.](#)

Spain bans all types of human trafficking. Spanish C.P. art. 318. Labor traffickers face up to 12 years of incarceration and sex traffickers face up to 15 years' imprisonment upon conviction. The country aggressively prosecutes traffickers and the average sentence is approximately five years' incarceration.

However, about one-fourth of convictions resulted in only a suspended sentence or fine. Trafficking for forced labor and sexual exploitation remains an issue for this country.

Sweden

Sweden has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.](#)

In 2002, Sweden passed a law that bans human trafficking. Convicted offenders face up to 10 years of incarceration. All recently convicted traffickers have been sentenced to prison terms. However, trafficking for



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forced labor and sexual exploitation remains an issue in this country.

Switzerland

Switzerland has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Swiss Penal Code art. 182 outlaws all types of human trafficking. Convicted offenders face up to 20 years of incarceration under this law. In practice, however, most convicted traffickers receive light prison sentences, suspended sentences, or are assessed a fine. Trafficking for sexual exploitation and forced labor (to a lesser degree) remain issues for this country.

Turkey

Turkey has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Turkish Penal Code art. 80 bans human trafficking although trafficking for forced labor and sexual exploitation commonly occurs. Convicted traffickers face a maximum of 12 years' incarceration under this recently amended law. It remains to be seen how effectively this law will be enforced. The prior anti-trafficking statute resulted in average prison terms of three years.

Ukraine

The Ukraine has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially](#)



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Human trafficking is illegal in this country. Ukrainian Penal Code art. 149. However, two-thirds of those recently convicted were given probation instead of sentenced to prison. Trafficking for both forced labor and sexual exploitation remains a major issue for this country.

Vatican City

Vatican City has not signed the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.](#)

No laws prohibiting human trafficking could be found for this country. However, there have been no reports of trafficking occurring within it.

G8 members support the [United Nation's Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and two related protocols](#) (PDF file) plus Interpol's efforts to fight human trafficking. Although the G8 as a group has not entered into a multilateral agreement to combat trafficking, member states have addressed the issue by constitutional or statutory means.

Canada

Canada has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.](#)

The country prohibits transnational human trafficking. [S.C. 2001, c. 27, s. 118.](#) In 2005, Canada amended its criminal code to create specific criminal offenses for trafficking in persons. [R.S.C. 1985, c. C-46, s. 279.](#)

G8 Members



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Resources:

- [Immigration and Refugee Protection Act \(2001, c. 27, s. 117 et seq.\)](#)

France

Central Office against Trafficking in Human Beings in France

France has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

The country enacted the Law on Internal Security (Loi sur la Sécurité Intérieure) in March 2003. This law bans both human trafficking and passive solicitation.

Art. 225 C. pén. makes it a crime to engage in human trafficking for either sexual or labor exploitation. In October 2007, this article was amended to facilitate prosecution of forced labor traffickers.

Germany

Germany has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

The country makes it a crime to engage in human trafficking for the purpose of sexual or labor exploitation. [§§ 232, 233 StGB](#).



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Italy

Italy has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

With the 2003 passage of Measures Against Trafficking in Persons (Misure contro la tratta di persone), [Legge 11 Agosto 2003, n. 228](#), the country has imposed penalties ranging from 8 to 20 years' imprisonment for those convicted of engaging in human trafficking.

Japan

Japan has signed but not ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

The country does not have a law that specifically targets human trafficking. Instead, laws covering labor, prostitution, and child welfare are used to prosecute traffickers. Japanese law still permits illicit recruitment of workers to be used as forced labor.

Very few traffickers are prosecuted for their crimes. Of those who are convicted, they typically receive a few years' imprisonment or suspended sentences.

Russia

Russian has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).



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In 2003, Russia amended its criminal code to provide for up to 10 years' imprisonment for those convicted of engaging in trafficking for sexual or forced labor exploitation. st. 127 UK RF.

United Kingdom

The United Kingdom has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

The [United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre](#) was established in October 2006 for the purpose of multi-agency coordination in efforts to stop human trafficking. In October 2007, Operation [Pentameter 2 \(UKP2\)](#) was launched for the purposes of preventing human trafficking, pursuing those who engage in it, and rescuing victims. However, the Home Office confirmed in November 2008 that the Metropolitan police human trafficking unit would be closed after April 2009 because of lack of funding. Rachel Williams, [Human Trafficking Police Unit to Close](#), The Guardian (Nov. 10, 2008).

The [Sexual Offences Act 2003, Ch. 42, s. 57 \(Eng.\)](#), as amended by the [UK Borders Act 2007, Ch. 30, s. 31 \(Eng.\)](#), makes it illegal to traffic in humans for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Trafficking for the purpose of exploiting labor violates [Asylum and Immigration \(Treatment of Claimants, etc\) Act 2004, Ch. 19, s. 4 \(Eng.\)](#). The slave trade has long been prohibited in the United Kingdom. [Slave Trade Act 1873, Ch. 88, Long Title \(Eng.\)](#).

Resources:

- [UK Action Plan on Tackling Human Trafficking](#)



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- [Sexual Offences Act 2003 \(c. 42, s. 57-60\)](#)
- [UK Borders Act 2007 \(c. 30, s. 31\)](#)
- [Asylum and Immigration \(Treatment of Claimants, etc.\) Act 2004 \(c. 19, s. 4\)](#)
- [Slave Trade Act 1873 \(c.88\)](#)

United States

The United States has ratified with reservations the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Slavery and involuntary servitude are constitutionally prohibited in the United States. [USCS Const. Amend. 13, § 1](#). By statute, it is a federal crime to engage in human trafficking within the United States. [18 USCS § 1584](#). This includes involuntary servitude as a means to repay debt. [18 USCS § 1584](#).

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, [22 USCS § 7101](#), increases the criminal penalties for engaging in trafficking, authorizes annual reporting on international anti-trafficking efforts, and provides foreign aid incentives to those countries who take steps to reduce trafficking. The statute also makes victims eligible for lawful residency.

The U.S. Department of State's [Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons](#) promotes both domestic and international anti-trafficking efforts. Its [2008 Trafficking in Persons Report](#) provides human trafficking information on 170 countries.



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Resources:

- [U.S. Const. amend. XIII, § 1](#)
- [18 U.S.C. § 1584](#)
- [22 U.S.C. § 7101](#)

Afghanistan

Afghanistan has not signed the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Afghan law does not specifically cover human trafficking. To the extent that traffickers are prosecuted, it is done under kidnapping and other statutes.

Middle East

Bahrain

Bahrain has, with reservations, acceded to the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

In January 2008, Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa al-Khalifa issued an anti-trafficking law that includes criminal penalties. In addition to fines, the maximum standard penalty is 15 years' imprisonment. Under aggravating circumstances involving female or minor victims, the penalty can be increased to up to life imprisonment.



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Egypt

Egypt has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Forced labor is barred by the [Constitution of the Arab Republic of Egypt \(Dustur Juinhuriyat Misr al-Arabiya\) \[Egy const.\] of September 11, 1971, sec. II, art. 13](#). The country's anti-prostitution law, Law 10/1961 on the Combating of Prostitution, prohibits the sexual exploitation of minors. However, traffickers are rarely prosecuted or punished.

Iran

Iran has not signed the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

In 2004, Iran enacted its Law on Combating Human Trafficking that provides for strict penalties, including the death penalty for traffickers in some instances. However, there is no indication that the law has ever been enforced.

Iraq

Iraq has not signed the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#). No information could be found regarding any trafficking laws for this country. In 2006, U.S. General George Casey ordered private war contractors to return passports confiscated from workers



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and to end labor practices that violated U.S. trafficking laws.

Israel

Israel has signed but not ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Israel's [Anti-Trafficking Law 5766-2006](#) (pdf file) prohibits human trafficking for sexual exploitation, slavery, and forced labor. Maximum criminal penalties for each are respectively 20 years, 16 years, and 7 years.

Jordan

Jordan has not signed the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Although Jordan does not specifically prohibit trafficking, its Anti-Slavery Law (1929) carries penalties of up to three years' imprisonment. Statutes covering kidnapping, rape, withholding of passports, and related offenses are available if the country chose to use them to prosecute traffickers.

However, prosecution for trafficking activities is rare, and traffickers are likely to face administrative penalties instead of imprisonment.

Kuwait

Kuwait has acceded to the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially](#)



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[Women and Children.](#)

Kuwait Crim. Code art. 185 bans transnational slavery. Forced prostitution is also prohibited. Kuwait Crim. Code art. 201. Penalties for violations of either provision can include fines and imprisonment. There is also an administrative ban on the withholding of passports.

However, imprisonment for trafficking offenses is rare. Kuwait prefers to impose administrative penalties instead.

Lebanon

Lebanon has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.](#)

Sexual exploitation of minors (less than 21 years of age) is prohibited by Penal Code art. 523. Involuntary prostitution is also illegal. Penal Code art. 524. Minimum penalties for each offense is one year imprisonment.

Although Lebanon does not proscribe forced labor, Penal Code art. 529 outlaws deprivation of one's liberty to perform a task. Ironically, the penalty for violating Article 529 is hard labor.

Oman

Oman has acceded to the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.](#)



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The country prohibits slavery with up to 15 years' imprisonment for the offense. Oman Penal Code art. 260-261. Coerced prostitution is punished by up to five years incarceration. Oman Penal Code art. 220.

By Royal Decree 74, forced labor is illegal. However, the penalty for violating this decree is only up to a month in prison and fines.

There is no evidence that the government is prosecuting traffickers under any of these provisions.

Pakistan

Pakistan has not signed the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Under the Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking Ordinance (PACHTO), Pakistan bars transnational human trafficking. Internal trafficking is prohibited by Emigration Ord. §§ 17-23. Bonded labor was outlawed by the Bonded Labor System Abolition Act. Penalties under these laws can include imprisonment.

However, prosecution for trafficking offenses is rare and the sentences imposed are light in comparison to the maximum permitted by law.

Qatar

Qatar has not signed the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).



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The country prohibits slavery and forced labor. Qatar Crim. Law §§ 321, 322. However, traffickers of forced labor face penalties of only up to six months' imprisonment. Stiffer penalties, up to 15 years' imprisonment, are available for those who force or coerce minors (under age 16) into engaging in prostitution. Qatar Crim. Law §§ 297. Those who use children as camel jockeys may be incarcerated for up to 10 years.

However, enforcement of such laws is almost nonexistent. Withholding of passports is a common means to coerce forced labor.

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia has ratified, with declarations and reservations, the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

[Labor Law art. 229-242](#) imposes fines or bans on future hiring for those using forced labor. Application of these penalties for violations are sporadic.

Saudi law also does not prohibit trafficking in most instances, including for the purpose of sexual exploitation. In addition, the penalties of [Articles 229-242](#) do not apply to forced labor for domestic servants.

Sudan

Sudan has not signed the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Sudan constitutionally prohibits slavery and forced labor. [Sudan Interim Const. art. 17](#). By statute, abduction,



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luring, and forced labor are also criminalized. Sudan Crim. Code art. 162-164. However, use of these provisions to prosecute traffickers is unknown.

There have been recent legislative efforts, the Sudan Armed Forces Act and Southern Sudan's Child Protection Act of 2006, to protect children from trafficking and recruitment into the military. However, the status of such efforts are unknown and enforcement of any enacted legislation is doubtful because of the country's lax track record with respect to human trafficking.

Syrian Arab Republic

Syria has signed but not ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

The country's Suppression of Prostitution Act No. 10 of 1961, prohibits the prostitution of minors (under 16 years of age), with a criminal penalty of up to seven years' imprisonment. Abuse of domestic workers in violation of Decree 81 (2006) can lead to imprisonment and a de minimis fine.

The country also has kidnapping and sexual assault laws that could apply to traffickers. However, there is no evidence that any of the above mentioned laws have been used by Syria to prosecute traffickers.

Turkey

Turkey has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).



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In June 2005, Turkey amended its penal code to strengthen the country's anti-trafficking laws for both sexual and forced labor exploitation. Traffickers face up to 12 years of imprisonment. Turkey Pen. Code art. 80. To date, it appears that the government is using Article 80 like its predecessor to prosecute human traffickers.

United Arab Emirates

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) have not signed the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Traffickers face up to life imprisonment per UAE Fed. Law No. 51 (2006). Domestic servants have little protection under UAE's labors laws from forced labor and sexual exploitation.

However, the UAE is making efforts to prosecute traffickers, has a cabinet-level official overseeing an anti-trafficking committee (the UAE National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking), and has nearly doubled the number of labor inspectors while providing increased training for such inspectors.

Resources

[Combating Human Trafficking United Arab Emirates Annual Report 2007](#) (pdf file)

Yemen

Yemen has not signed the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).



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Traffickers are subject to up to 10 years imprisonment under Yemeni Penal Code art. 248. The country also outlaws the prostitution of minors. Yemeni Child Rights Law art. 161. However, arrests and prosecutions under these laws are rare.

Algeria

Algeria has ratified with reservations the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Algeria does not prohibit trafficking in forced labor. No governmental efforts are being made to stop it.

Most types of sex trafficking, including for minors, is covered by Algerian Penal Code arts. 242-244. Sex traffickers can face lengthy prison terms.

Africa

Angola

Angola has not signed the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Although Angola has constitutional and statutory provisions that could be used to combat trafficking, there is no specific anti-trafficking law. The government is making few efforts to stop traffickers. Accordingly, human trafficking for forced labor and sexual exploitation is rampant.

Benin

Benin has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially](#)



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[Women and Children.](#)

Many forms of human trafficking are not addressed by Benin's laws.

The country's Act Relating to the Transportation of Minors and the Suppression of Child Trafficking (2006) bans all types of trafficking in children. Trafficking in minors is a major problem because many underage girls are victims through forced domestic servitude or sexual exploitation.

Under the Act, child traffickers can face up to 20 years of incarceration. As a practical matter, penalties imposed are frequently less than a year of imprisonment.

Botswana

Botswana has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.](#)

The country's laws do not specifically ban human trafficking. However various penal law provisions can be applied to traffickers, including those covering kidnapping, abduction, slavery, and forced prostitution. Kidnappers and abductors can face up to seven years of incarceration upon conviction.

Burkina Faso

Burkina Faso has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.](#)



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The country's laws do not cover most types of human trafficking. Child trafficking for forced labor and sexual exploitation is common.

Under Law No. 038-2003 Concerning the Definition of Child Trafficking in Burkina, all child trafficking is illegal. Those who engage in it are subject to a maximum of 10 years of imprisonment. In practice, those convicted receive suspended sentences or no more than two years' incarceration.

Burundi

Burundi has signed but not ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

The country's laws do not specifically address human trafficking. Burundi Const. art. 241 prohibits slavery. The country's criminal code outlaws kidnapping, forced labor, and has provisions related to pimping that could be used against traffickers.

In 2007, legislation was proposed to amend the Burundi Criminal Code to address trafficking issues. However, the status of this proposed legislation is unknown.

Child trafficking remains a big issue. Children are frequently used for forced labor and sexually exploited. Rebels also conscript children to fight as soldiers against the government.

Cameroon

Cameroon has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially](#)



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The country's laws do not prohibit most types of human trafficking. Under the Law Combating Child Trafficking and Slavery (2005), child trafficking and slavery is outlawed. Convicted child traffickers face 20 years of incarceration.

Forced labor is banned by Cameroon Labor Code art. 2(3). However, the penalty for such is a small fine.

Child trafficking is common for forced labor and minor girls are frequently used as involuntary domestic servants and for sexual exploitation.

Cape Verde

Cape Verde has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.](#)

The country prohibits trafficking in children but not adults. Child traffickers can be sentenced to up to 16 years of incarceration.

Central African Republic

The Central African Republic has acceded to the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.](#)

The country's laws do not prohibit human trafficking. Kidnapping law is used as the basis for the few



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trafficking prosecutions that occur.

Human trafficking is common, particularly involving minors. Children are used as forced labor and for sexual exploitation. Rebels conscript minors to serve as soldiers.

Chad

Chad has not signed the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

The country's laws do not address most types of human trafficking. Chad Labor Code tit. 5 prohibits forced and bonded labor. However, there is only a small fine for violating this provision.

Child trafficking for forced labor and sexual exploitation is common. Both rebels and the government military conscript children as soldiers.

Comoros

Comoros has not signed the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

The country's laws do not prohibit human trafficking.

Côte d'Ivoire



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Côte d'Ivoire has not signed the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

The country's laws do not address most types of human trafficking. Under Ivoirian Penal Code art. 378, forced labor is prohibited and traffickers face up to five years' incarceration and a fine. Child traffickers can be fined and imprisoned for up to 10 years. Ivoirian Penal Code arts. 335-337.

However, trafficking for forced labor and sexual exploitation, including minors, is common. The government lacks the resources to wage an aggressive campaign against human traffickers.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

The country has acceded to the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Involuntary servitude and child soldiering is banned by the country's constitution. Under the sexual violence statute, Law 6/018 (2006), pimping, sex trafficking, child prostitution, and forced prostitution are outlawed. Violators face up to 20 years' incarceration.

However, enforcement of these laws is almost nonexistent. Trafficking for forced labor and sexual exploitation is common. Militia groups routinely conscript men, women and children.

Djibouti

Djibouti has acceded to the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially](#)



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[Women and Children.](#)

Trafficking for sexual exploitation and domestic servitude is common in this country. To address human trafficking, Law 210 Regarding the Fight Against Human Trafficking (2007), was recently enacted. Under this new law, traffickers face up to 30 years of incarceration. It is too soon to tell how effectively this law will be enforced.

Egypt

Egypt has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.](#)

Forced labor is barred by the [Constitution of the Arab Republic of Egypt \(Dustur Juinhuriyat Misr al-Arabiyyah\) \[Egy const.\] of September 11, 1971, sec. II, art. 13.](#) The country's anti-prostitution law, Law 10/1961 on the Combating of Prostitution, prohibits the sexual exploitation of minors. However, traffickers are rarely prosecuted or punished.

Equatorial Guinea

The country has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.](#)

Under the Law on the Smuggling of Migrants and Trafficking in Persons (2004), all forms of human trafficking are illegal. Traffickers are subject to up to 15 years of incarceration.



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However, it does not appear that the government prosecutes and convicts traffickers under this law. Trafficking for forced labor and sexual exploitation remains an issue.

Eritrea

Eritrea has not signed the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Eritrea Crim. Code arts. 604-607 outlaws trafficking in women and minors, pimping, and indecent acts with children. Violations can result in up to five years' incarceration. However, sex and forced labor trafficking remains common.

Ethiopia

Ethiopia has not signed the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Under the country's penal code, all types of human trafficking are illegal. Upon conviction, traffickers can face up to 20 years of incarceration.

However, adults and children are commonly trafficked for both forced labor and sexual exploitation. Few traffickers are prosecuted.

Gabon



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Gabon has not signed the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

The country does not have a comprehensive anti-trafficking statute. Law Preventing and Combating Child Trafficking (2004) prohibits trafficking in minors and carries penalties of up to 15 years' incarceration and a large fine.

Law No. 3/94, art. 4, tit. 1 bans forced labor. However, penalties include only a small fine and up to six months' imprisonment.

Procuring children for prostitution can lead to up to five years' incarceration and a fine. Gabon Penal Code art. 261. Law No. 21/63-94 prohibits forced prostitution. Violators are subject to up to ten years' incarceration.

Despite these laws, children and youths are commonly trafficked for forced labor or sexual exploitation. There have been few recent trafficking arrests made by the government and no convictions.

Gambia

Gambia has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Under the Trafficking in Persons Act (2007), Gambia bans all types of human trafficking. Under the Act, traffickers face up to life imprisonment.

However, trafficking for forced labor and sexual exploitation remain common. The government has not recently arrested anyone for trafficking.



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Ghana

Ghana has not signed the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Under the Human Trafficking Act (2005), all types of human trafficking are illegal. Traffickers face up to five years' incarceration.

However, enforcement of the law is minimal with few arrests and no convictions. Trafficking for forced labor and sexual exploitation, including minors, is common.

Guinea

Guinea has acceded to the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Guinea Penal Code art. 337 (1998) prohibits labor trafficking. Forced prostitution and child prostitution are also illegal. Guinea Penal Code art. 329 (1998). However, the penalties for violating these provisions are relatively light, including a maximum of two years' imprisonment for forced prostitution of an adult.

Although trafficking is common, particularly underage girls for domestic servitude or commercial exploitation, prosecution for trafficking offenses is almost nonexistent within the country. This can be attributed in part to a lack of governmental resources.



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Guinea-Bissau

The country has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Laws do not prohibit most forms of human trafficking. Although forced labor is illegal, it is common, particularly among male religious students who are trafficked by their instructors to other countries. Even when traffickers are caught, the police typically release them instead of prosecution.

Kenya

Kenya has acceded to the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Kenyan law does not prohibit all types of human trafficking. Under the Sexual Offenses Act (2006), trafficking in adults or minors for the purpose of sexual exploitation is a criminal offense. The Employment Act (2007) bans forced labor.

Despite law enforcement investigations, few traffickers are punished. Trafficking in adults and children for forced labor and sexual exploitation remains common.

Lesotho

Lesotho has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).



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No anti-trafficking laws could be found for this country. Trafficking in adults and children for forced labor and sexual exploitation is common.

Liberia

Liberia has acceded to the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Under the Act to Ban Trafficking (2005), all types of human trafficking are illegal. Traffickers face lengthy prison terms under this Act.

However, the government lacks the resources to pursue and prosecute traffickers. Trafficking for forced labor and sexual exploitation remains common.

Libya

Libya has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Libyan law does not prohibit human trafficking of any type. However, the government has prosecuted for the crime of withholding foreign workers' passports as part of debt bondage.

Trafficking for forced labor and sexual exploitation remains common.



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Madagascar

Madagascar has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

In response to forced domestic servitude and sex tourism, Madagascar's government has taken recent steps to aggressively combat existing trafficking for forced labor and sexual exploitation.

In July 2007, the Ministry of Labor decreed that prohibited child labor included domestic slavery, forced labor, and prostitution. The decree also made it clear that the Madagascan Labor Code applied to children. Madagascan Labor Code art. 262 makes labor trafficking illegal with penalties of up to three years' imprisonment.

The country also adopted a law in August 2007 that punished those who sexually exploited minors. In December 2007, a comprehensive law banning all types of human trafficking was enacted. Violations can lead to a maximum penalty of life imprisonment.

Malawi

Malawi has with declarations acceded to the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Malawi bans all types of human trafficking. Malawi Penal Code arts. 135-147; 257-269. However, trafficking for forced labor and sexual exploitation is common. Convicted traffickers typically face small fines instead of imprisonment.



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Mali

Mali has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Mali does not ban all types of human trafficking. Under Mali Crim. Code art. 229 (2002), child traffickers face up to 25 years' incarceration. Slavery is also prohibited and slavers can be sentenced to lengthy prison terms. Mali Crim. Code art. 242 (1973).

As a practical matter, trafficking for forced labor and sexual exploitation is common. Prosecution is rare for these offenses and sentencing is light.

Mauritania

Mauritania has acceded to the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Under the Law Against Trafficking in Persons (2003), all forms of trafficking are illegal. Traffickers face up to 10 years' incarceration under the law. Effective February 2008, the country's anti-slavery law was amended to include prison terms of up to 10 years.

Trafficking for forced labor and sexual exploitation still exists. Boys are commonly trafficked by their religious instructors into forced begging.



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Mauritius

Mauritius has acceded to the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

The country does not have any laws concerning trafficking in adults, forced labor, or debt bondage. Under the Child Protection Bill of 2005, all types of child trafficking is illegal. Child traffickers face up to 15 years' incarceration.

Prosecution for trafficking is rare. Female children are frequently trafficked for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation.

Morocco

Morocco has not signed the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

The government bans all types of human trafficking. Morocco Penal Code arts. 10, 467, 497-499. Statutes for kidnapping and immigration are also used against trafficking.

Sex traffickers risk prison terms. However, first-time labor trafficking offenders only pay a fine.

Trafficking in adults and children for forced labor and sexual exploitation is common, the latter including sex tourism work.



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Mozambique

Mozambique has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

In April 2008, Mozambique passed a law that bans all types of human trafficking. Upon conviction, traffickers can be imprisoned for up to 20 years. Prior to passage of this anti-trafficking law, the country relied upon multiple sections of its penal law to deal with the issue.

Traditionally, Mozambique has not aggressively pursued traffickers. It remains to be seen whether the new law will be enforced. Trafficking is common for forced labor and sexual exploitation of both adults and children.

Namibia

Namibia has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Human trafficking is illegal per the Prevention of Organized Crime Act of 2004. Traffickers face up to 50 years' incarceration and hefty fines. However, enforcement of this Act is delayed while related regulations can be drafted and implemented.

Under the Labor Act of 2007, forced labor is illegal. Violations can lead to up to four years' incarceration.

However, Namibia has never prosecuted anyone for human trafficking. Accordingly, trafficking for forced labor and sexual exploitation, including children, remains common.



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Niger

Niger has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Many types of human trafficking are not prohibited by law. Trafficking for forced labor and sexual exploitation of both adults and children is common.

Slavery is illegal in the country. Slavers can be incarcerated for up to 30 years.

Niger Penal Code art. 270 (2003). Force labor is also outlawed. Niger Labor Code art. 4. However, the penalties are minimal, including a small fine and up to a month of incarceration.

Nigeria

Nigeria has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Under the Trafficking in Persons Law Enforcement and Administration Act (2003), as amended in 2005, and the Child Rights Act (2003), Nigeria bans all types of human trafficking. Labor traffickers face lengthy prison terms and sex traffickers can be incarcerated for life.

However, enforcement is limited because of a lack of resources to prosecute traffickers. Trafficking in adults and children for forced labor and sexual exploitation remains common.



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Réunion (France)

Réunion has not signed the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

No information could be found concerning human trafficking on this island or laws to combat it.

Rwanda

Rwanda has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

The country does not ban many forms of human trafficking. However, traffickers could be prosecuted under existing laws covering kidnapping, prostitution, and child labor.

Although there have been recent anti-trafficking legislative efforts, as a practical matter traffickers are not prosecuted. Trafficking in adults and children for forced labor and sexual exploitation frequently occurs.

São Tomé and Príncipe

The country has acceded to the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

The country prohibits human trafficking. There have been no reports of such conduct occurring. As of 2007,



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the United States had plans to locate a regional observatory in this country to monitor trafficking in humans and drugs.

Senegal

Senegal has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Under the Law to Combat Trafficking in Persons and Related Practices and to Protect Victims (2005), all types of human trafficking are illegal. Traffickers can be imprisoned for up to 10 years.

However, traffickers are rarely prosecuted in part because of a lack of governmental resources. Trafficking for forced labor and sexual exploitation remains common for both women and children.

Seychelles

Seychelles has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

The country's laws prohibit human trafficking. There have been no reports of such conduct occurring within Seychelles.

Sierra Leone

The country has signed but not ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in](#)



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[Persons, Especially Women and Children.](#)

Under the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act (2005), all types of human trafficking are illegal. Traffickers face up to 10 years' incarceration. However, trafficking for forced labor and sexual exploitation of both women and children frequently occurs without prosecution.

Somalia

Somalia has not signed the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.](#)

Prior to the central government's collapse in 1991, human trafficking was illegal although it occurred. Since the collapse, trafficking for forced labor and sexual exploitation is common for women and children. In addition, militias frequently conscript children into forced military service.

South Africa

South Africa has ratified with reservations the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.](#)

The [Sexual Offenses Amendment Act \(2007\)](#) (pdf file) outlaws sex trafficking. [The Children's Act \(2005\)](#) (pdf file) makes child trafficking illegal but the lack of implementing regulations makes renders the provisions unenforceable.

Other laws dealing with organized crime, child labor, and forced labor could be applied to traffickers.



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However, the country does little to prosecuting trafficking. Women and children are frequently forced into labor and sexually exploited. The latter includes sex tourism.

Sudan

Sudan has not signed the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Sudan constitutionally prohibits slavery and forced labor. [Sudan Interim Const. art. 17](#). By statute, abduction, luring, and forced labor are also criminalized. Sudan Crim. Code art. 162-164. However, use of these provisions to prosecute traffickers is unknown.

There have been recent legislative efforts, the Sudan Armed Forces Act and Southern Sudan's Child Protection Act of 2006, to protect children from trafficking and recruitment into the military. However, the status of such efforts are unknown and enforcement of any enacted legislation is doubtful because of the country's lax track record with respect to human trafficking.

Swaziland

Swaziland has signed but not ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

The country's laws do not specifically address human trafficking. However, existing laws, such as those involving immigration, kidnapping, forced labor, and prostitution could be used to prosecute traffickers.



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Although trafficking does exist for both forced labor and sexual exploitation, the severity of the problem is unknown because of lack of data. Regardless, the government does not appear to be addressing the issue through prosecution.

Tanzania

Tanzania has not signed the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Tanzania and Zanzibar do not have specific anti-trafficking laws. However, they do possess laws related to forced labor, child labor, and kidnapping that could be used to prosecute traffickers.

A proposed anti-trafficking statute is currently pending in Tanzania's parliament with an expectation that it will pass before the end of 2008. The government has also funded an Anti-Human Trafficking Unit within the police.

It remains to be seen whether these recent actions will be effective in combating trafficking. Currently, trafficking for forced labor and sexual exploitation frequently occurs without prosecution.

Togo

Togo has signed but not ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).



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The country has not outlawed all types of human trafficking. Under the Law Related to Child Trafficking (2005) and the Child Code (2007), it is illegal to engage in child trafficking. Traffickers can be fined and incarcerated for up to 10 years.

It is too early to tell how effective the 2007 law will be at reducing child trafficking. However, human trafficking for forced labor and sexual exploitation frequently occurs with prosecution, including for sex tourism.

Tunisia

Tunisia has ratified with reservations the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

The country does not ban all types of human trafficking. However, it is illegal to engage in forced prostitution, forced labor, bonded labor, slavery, and child mistreatment. Tunisia Penal Code arts. 224, 233, 236, and 250. Depending on the offense, punishments range from fines to incarceration for up to 10 years.

Children are also protected from participation in prostitution, hazardous labor, and wars. Child Protection Code (1995). Violations can result in up to one year of imprisonment.

In 2004, Tunisia amended its 1975 passport law to provide for hefty fines and imprisonment for up to 20 years for traffickers. However, the government does not consider trafficking to be an issue and accordingly is not taking steps to prosecute under this law.

Uganda



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Uganda has signed but not ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Although Ugandan law does not specifically address trafficking, a comprehensive bill, Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons, was introduced in 2007 and was winding its way through the parliamentary process in early 2008.

Trafficking in humans for forced labor and sexual exploitation frequently occurs. Women and children are sold openly in cattle markets. In addition, rebels conscript children to fight as soldiers.

Zambia

Zambia has acceded to the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

In 2005, Zambia amended its penal code to outlaw human trafficking with penalties of up to 20 years' incarceration. However, the law was so poorly drafted that it has been interpreted to only apply to overt sales of humans. There have accordingly been no recent prosecutions. Instead, both suspects and victims are deported.

However, Zambia does have other laws that could be applied to traffickers, including those involving abduction, kidnapping, and pedophilia. Depending on the offense, a trafficker could be sentenced to prison for up to life.

Because prosecution doesn't occur, trafficking for forced labor and sexual exploitation is commonplace.



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Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe has not signed the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

In 2007, Zimbabwe announced that it was creating comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation but the proposed law has not been forthcoming. Although the country does not outlaw all types of human trafficking under current law, forced labor and some types of sexual exploitation are prohibited by statute.

Although police have cracked down on some prostitution involving minors, there have been no recent efforts to prosecute human traffickers. Under these conditions, trafficking for forced labor and sexual exploitation frequently occurs.

Brunei

Brunei has not signed the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Under the Trafficking and Smuggling in Persons Order of 2004, sex traffickers face up to 30 years' imprisonment. Per Brunei's Labor Act, traffickers in forced labor can be imprisoned for up to three years. The government appears to be enforcing these laws but a large migrant population with insufficient data makes it unclear how much trafficking exists within the country.

Joining the [International Labour Organization](#) (ILO) in December 2007, Brunei is in the process of updating its labor laws, including compliance with the ILO's [Convention Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour \(1999\)](#).

Asia



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China (People's Republic of China)

China has not signed the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Chinese law prohibits kidnapping, trafficking and sexual exploitation of minors (under the age of 18). Law on the Protection of Minors art. 41 (2007). For girls 13 or younger, China's Crim. Code art. 244 outlaws abduction, forced prostitution, and sexual exploitation. Penalties for violating either of these laws can include life imprisonment or the death penalty.

Article 244 also prohibits forced labor. Penalties can include a fine or imprisonment of up to three years.

However, Chinese law does not ban other sexual exploitation (including male victims) and many forms of human trafficking. It is also important to note that Chinese law only considers abduction to be a means of human trafficking. Other forms of coercion, such as forced labor to pay debts, are not recognized.

While some human traffickers have been arrested and punished, it is unclear the extent to which the government is actually enforcing its laws to reduce trafficking.

Cambodia

Cambodia has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).



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East Timor (Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste)

East Timor has not signed the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Under the Timor's Immigration and Asylum Act (2003), sex and labor trafficking is prohibited. However, Timor lacks a national penal code, its judicial system is overwhelmed with thousands of other types of backlogged cases, and there have been no recent prosecutions or convictions for human trafficking.

Hong Kong

Hong Kong has not signed the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Although Hong Kong does not have specific anti-trafficking laws, it aggressively pursues traffickers by prosecuting under other laws, including the government's Crime Ordinance, Immigration Ordinance, and Employment Ordinance.

India

India has signed but not ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

India bans trafficking for sexual exploitation under the Immoral Trafficking Prevention Act (ITPA). The maximum penalty for violating the Act is life imprisonment. Per Indian Penal Code §§ 366(A), 372, the



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kidnapping and sale of minors into prostitution can lead to fines and up to 10 years of incarceration.

Bonded and forced labor are outlawed by India's Bonded Labor Abolition Act, the Child Labor Act, and the Juvenile Justice Act. Criminal penalties include up to three years' imprisonment.

However, human trafficking remains a major problem in India because of lack of enforcement. There are millions of bonded workers in the country but very few prosecutions for trafficking related to such labor.

Indonesia

Indonesia has signed but not ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

In 2007, the country enacted a comprehensive anti-trafficking law. This law bans all human trafficking and imposes criminal penalties on traffickers that can include up to 15 years of incarceration.

Although the government is aggressively pursuing traffickers, Indonesia has major issues involving trafficking for forced labor, debt bondage, and sexual exploitation.

Japan

Japan has signed but not ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

The country does not have a law that specifically targets human trafficking. Instead, laws covering labor,



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prostitution, and child welfare are used to prosecute traffickers. Japanese law still permits illicit recruitment of workers to be used as forced labor.

Very few traffickers are prosecuted for their crimes. Of those who are convicted, they typically receive a few years' imprisonment or suspended sentences.

North Korea (Democratic People's Republic of Korea)

North Korea has not signed the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

A totalitarian regime, North Korea does not make any efforts to combat human trafficking. The government runs slave labor camps that contain approximately 200,000, men, women, and children. See Jeff Jacoby, [An Auschwitz in Korea](#), Boston Globe (Feb. 8, 2004).

South Korea (Republic of Korea)

South Korea has signed but not ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Under its Act on the Punishment of Intermediating in the Sex Trade and Associated Acts (2004), South Korea outlaws sex trafficking and penalties include up to 10 years' imprisonment. Trafficking in foreign brides is addressed by the Marriage Brokerage Act (2007), violations of which can lead to prison terms of up to three years.



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Per the Labor Standards Act, those engaged in forced labor trafficking are subject to a maximum of five years of incarceration.

Laos

Laos has, with reservations, acceded to the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Laos Penal Code art. 134 (2006) bans all types of human trafficking. Although the government prosecutes traffickers, law enforcement and the judicial system are inadequate to deal with the enormity of the issue. Laos's citizens are frequently trafficked to nearby countries for sexual exploitation or forced labor.

Macau

Macau has not signed the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Due to the inadequacies in existing anti-trafficking law, Macau's legislative assembly passed a new law in June 2008. Under the Anti Human Trafficking Crime Law (2008), traffickers for forced labor or sexual exploitation face imprisonment for up to 12 years. If the victims are minors, stiffer prison terms can be imposed.

Malaysia



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Malaysia has not signed the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

In June 2007, Malaysia enacted a comprehensive anti-trafficking law that covers forced labor and sexual exploitation. Those who are prosecuted for trafficking can face long prison terms and even caning. However, human trafficking for forced labor, debt bondage and sex workers remains common because most traffickers are not caught.

Mongolia

Mongolia has not signed the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Mongolia outlaws both human trafficking and forced prostitution. Mongolian Crim. Code art. 113, 124. Penalties include up to 15 years' imprisonment. However, traffickers are rarely prosecuted.

Myanmar (Burma)

Myanmar has, with reservations, acceded to the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Under the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law (2005), Burma prohibits trafficking for forced labor and sexual exploitation. Because the government is a military junta, application of the law to traffickers is arbitrary. The government includes in trafficking data those individuals who attempt to leave the country without permission. In addition, traffickers who are connected to the junta are not prosecuted.



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Philippines

The Philippines have ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

The country bans human trafficking for purposes of both forced labor and sexual exploitation. [Philippines Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act \(2003\)](#). Convictions have resulted in sentences to life imprisonment.

The government has assigned special prosecutors to handle trafficking cases. However, only one-third of human trafficking cases reported by law enforcement lead to prosecution.

Singapore

Singapore has not signed the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

The country bans all human trafficking. Singapore Penal Code (Amendment) Act of 2007 (effective Feb. 01, 2008). This includes trafficking in some minors for sexual exploitation. Trafficking in forced labor is prohibited by Singapore's Penal Code, the Employment Agency Rules, and the Employment of Foreign Workers Act.

Under these laws, traffickers face penalties that include imprisonment and caning. However, Singapore isn't prosecuting or convicting traffickers despite human trafficking being a major issue in the country.

Taiwan



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Taiwan has not signed the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

The country does not have a specific law that targets human traffickers. Taiwan Crim. Code §§ 296, 296-1 bans slavery and the use of coercion or deception for exploitation. Under these provisions, traffickers face up to seven years of incarceration.

Force labor is also prohibited by Taiwan Labor Standards Law arts. 5, 75. The Employment Service Act also bans trafficking in labor.

However, the above laws are rarely enforced. Those who are prosecuted and convicted typically receive a fine or imprisonment of less than a year.

Thailand

Thailand has signed but not ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

The country's new anti-trafficking law became effective in June 2008. The law bans all forms of human trafficking and convicted traffickers can face long prison terms. In April 2008, Thailand and Vietnam signed a memorandum of understanding for jointly combating human trafficking.

However, trafficking is likely to remain a major issue in Thailand because of lax law enforcement and a large migrant population susceptible to abuse. Some contend that corrupt police are active participants in human



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trafficking.

Vietnam

Vietnam has not signed the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Vietnam does not have a specific law that targets trafficking. Instead, provisions of the Vietnam Penal Code are used to prosecute traffickers.

In July 2007, the Ministry of Justice was ordered to draft anti-trafficking legislation for submission to the National Assembly for consideration. In April 2008, Thailand and Vietnam signed a memorandum of understanding for jointly combating human trafficking.

Sex traffickers are typically prosecuted under Vietnam Penal Code arts. 119, 120, and 275. Criminal penalties can include more than 15 years imprisonment.

However, traffickers in forced labor are ignored by the government. Such traffickers are not prosecuted or convicted.

Argentina

Latin America and Belize

Argentina has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).



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Trafficking for forced labor and sexual exploitation is an issue for Argentina. In April 2008, the country banned all human trafficking. [Prevencion y Sancion de la Trata de Personas y Asistencia a Sus Victimas](#). Traffickers face penalties of up to 15 years' imprisonment.

It remains to be seen how effectively this law can be used to combat trafficking. For example, the law requires adult victims to prove they did not consent to sexual exploitation.

Belize

Belize has acceded to the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Traffickers face fines and up to five years of incarceration under Belize's Trafficking in Persons Prohibition Act. However, sexual exploitation and forced labor remains common because enforcement of the law is lax. There have been few prosecutions or convictions for trafficking in recent years.

Bolivia

Bolivia has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

As of 2006, Bolivia outlaws all human trafficking. Traffickers face up to 12 years' imprisonment. Although there have been increased prosecutions, trafficking for forced labor and sexual exploitation remains a problem within the country.



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Brazil

Brazil has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Under [Brazilian Penal Code § 231](#), traffickers for sexual exploitation face up to 10 years of incarceration. For forced labor trafficking, one can be imprisoned for a maximum of three years per Brazilian Penal Code § 148. Those who fraudulently recruit for labor exploitation and engage in debt bondage can also be imprisoned.

However, trafficking for forced labor and sexual exploitation continues to exist. Child prostitution and male slave labor on sugar plantations are two examples of where trafficking remains common.

Chile

Chile has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Some types of human trafficking are not barred by Chilean law. [Chilean Penal Code art. 367](#) prohibits international trafficking for sexual exploitation. Traffickers face up to 20 years' imprisonment.

In 2007, there was anti-trafficking legislation pending but its current status is unknown.

However, trafficking for sexual exploitation and forced labor remains common. Of the few prosecuted for trafficking, less than half are convicted.



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Colombia

Colombia has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Under [Colombian Law 985](#) (pdf file), all types of trafficking are outlawed. Traffickers can be incarcerated for up to 23 years.

Although some trafficking in forced labor exists, sexual exploitation of women and children is more frequent. Less than one quarter of those prosecuted for trafficking are convicted.

Costa Rica

Costa Rica has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Internal trafficking of forced labor is not barred by Costa Rican law. Under [Costa Rica Crim. Code art. 172](#) (pdf file), it is illegal to engage in international trafficking. International traffickers face up to six years of incarceration.

Child trafficking can be punished by a maximum of four years in prison. [Costa Rica Crim. Code art. 376](#) (pdf file). Commercial sexual exploitation of children can lead to up to 10 years of incarceration. [Costa Rica Crim. Code art. 161](#) (pdf file).

Cuba



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Cuba is not a signatory to the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

A totalitarian regime where the rule of law is weak, Cuba permits those over age 16 to engage in prostitution, denies the existence of a human trafficking problem, and accordingly does nothing to discourage trafficking. Women and children are frequently sexually exploited for commercial purposes.

On the books, Cuba has laws that could be enforced to combat traffickers. Cuba Penal Code art. 316 bans international trafficking in minors. Promoting or benefiting from prostitution is illegal. Cuba Penal Code art. 302; Cuba Law No. 87, art. 17.

Dominican Republic

The Dominican Republic has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

[Dominican Republic Law 137-03](#) bans all types of human trafficking. Violators face up to 20 years of incarceration. However, trafficking for forced labor and sexual exploitation remains common, including for sex tourism, because traffickers are rarely prosecuted or convicted.

Ecuador

Ecuador has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).



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To combat trafficking for sexual exploitation and forced labor, in 2005, Ecuador enacted an anti-trafficking law. Traffickers face up to 35 years of incarceration. Although the government has made efforts to fight trafficking, it remains common because few are prosecuted or convicted.

Traffickers in illegal immigrants face 3 to 12 years of incarceration. [Ecuadorian Penal Code arts. 440-A, 440-B](#).

El Salvador

El Salvador has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

[Salvadoran Penal Code art. 367B](#) (pdf file) bans all types of human trafficking. Traffickers face up to eight years of incarceration.

However, trafficking for forced labor and sexual exploitation is commonplace. Of the few traffickers who are prosecuted, only about 10% are convicted.

Guatemala

Guatemala has acceded to the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

The country has issues with trafficking for forced labor and sexual exploitation. That latter includes child sex



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tourism.

[Guatemalan Penal Code art. 194](#) (pdf file) outlaws trafficking and provides for up to 12 years of incarceration. Lesser offenses traffickers can be charged with include procurement, pandering, and corruption of minors. These lesser offenses carry penalties ranging from fines to a maximum of six years' imprisonment.

Few are prosecuted for trafficking because judges dismiss Article 194 charges in favor of the lesser offenses.

Honduras

Honduras has acceded to the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

The country does not prohibit trafficking in forced labor. However, [Honduran Penal Code art. 149](#) (pdf file) and an anti-trafficking law enacted in February 2006 bans trafficking for purposes of commercial sexual exploitation.

The government has increased prosecutions for trafficking, and those convicted have faced sentences up to 27 years' imprisonment. However, trafficking in women and children for sexual exploitation still occurs.

Mexico

Mexico has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).



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Trafficking for forced labor and sexual exploitation frequently occurs in Mexico. Child sex tourism is a growing problem.

In November 2007, the Mexican government passed an anti-trafficking law, [Ley para Prevenir y Sancionar la Trata de Personas](#) (pdf file). Under this new law, traffickers face up to 18 years of incarceration plus large fines. It remains to be seen how effectively this law will be enforced. Prior to passage, there were no recent convictions for trafficking.

In addition to this new anti-trafficking law, Mexico can take action to protect children under laws protecting minors against corruption, prostitution, and pornography. [Mexico Penal Code arts. 201-204](#) (doc file). Under these provisions, offenders face up to 10 years' imprisonment.

Nicaragua

Nicaragua has acceded to the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Trafficking for forced labor and sexual exploitation frequently occurs. Few traffickers are prosecuted or convicted.

However, there are laws that could be enforced to reduce trafficking. [Nicaraguan Penal Code art. 203](#) bans trafficking for sexual exploitation and carries a maximum penalty of 10 years of incarceration. A replacement law passed in November 2007 is designed to carry tougher penalties and make it easier to prosecute. [Nicaraguan Penal Code art. 182](#).



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There is also a law that bans promotion of child sex tourism. [Nicaraguan Penal Code art. 177](#). Offenders face up to seven years' imprisonment.

Panama

Panama has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

The country does not ban all types of trafficking. Furthermore, trafficking in women and children for sexual exploitation commonly occurs in Panama despite the law.

Under [Panama Law 16](#) (2004), trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation is illegal. Offenders face up to eight years of incarceration. In practice, there have been few prosecutions or convictions, and sentencing upon conviction has been light.

Paraguay

Paraguay has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#) (TIP Protocol).

Although [Paraguay's 1997 Penal Code art. 129](#) outlaws international trafficking, internal trafficking in adults is not banned. International traffickers face up to 10 years of incarceration.

Trafficking in women and children for sexual exploitation frequently occurs. Prosecutions and convictions are few and those traffickers convicted received light sentences.



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However, in January 2008, the country enacted a TIP Protocol-compliant anti-trafficking statute that takes effect in 2009. At that time, all types of human trafficking will be outlawed. It remains to be seen how effectively this new law will be enforced.

Peru

Peru has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

In January 2007, the country enacted a comprehensive anti-trafficking law. Peruvian Law 28950. However, because the regulations to implement this law have not been promulgated, enforcement is an issue.

Trafficking in women and children for sexual exploitation frequently occurs. There have been few prosecutions or convictions.

Uruguay

Uruguay has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

[Uruguayan Penal Code tit. XI, § 1](#) prohibits forced labor. However, trafficking for sexual exploitation and forced labor commonly occurs in this country. Few traffickers are prosecuted or convicted.

In December 2007, Uruguay enacted a comprehensive anti-trafficking law that provides a maximum penalty



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of 16 years of incarceration. It remains to be seen how effectively this law will be enforced.

Venezuela

Venezuela has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Although Venezuelan law prohibits most types of trafficking, it remains a problem for forced labor and sexual exploitation. Few traffickers have been prosecuted or convicted.

In 2005, Venezuela banned international trafficking. [Venezuelan Organic Law Against Organized Crime](#) (2005) (pdf file). Traffickers face up to 18 years of incarceration. Immigration law also prohibits trafficking for labor exploitation. Venezuelan Naturalization and Immigration Law (2004). Offenders can be imprisoned for up to 10 years.

In March 2007, Venezuela enacted a new law designed to protect women and girls from internal trafficking. [Venezuelan Organic Law on the Right of Women to a Violence-Free Life](#) (2007) (pdf file). Offenders can be imprisoned for up to 20 years. Males do not have similar statutory protection.

Australia

Australia has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

Australia bans human trafficking. Australian Commonwealth Criminal Code div. 270, 271. Among recent convictions, the maximum sentence imposed was eight years' incarceration. Under the [Migration Amendment](#)

Australia and New Zealand



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[\(Employer Sanctions\) Act](#), traffickers can also be sentenced to up to five years in prison. Trafficking for sexual exploitation and forced labor remains an issue within this country.

New Zealand

With an exclusion for self-governing Tokelau, New Zealand has ratified the [U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#).

The New Zealand Crimes Act pt. 5 (1961) bans human trafficking. Convicted traffickers for sexual exploitation face up to 20 years of incarceration. In practice, the majority of convicted traffickers are sentenced to community service, given probation, or fined instead of incarcerated. Trafficking for sexual exploitation remains an issue for this country.

[U.N. Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking](#)

Useful Resources

[U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime \(UNODC\)](#)

[U.S. Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons](#)

Charts are editorially created by legal experts and are frequently updated to reflect changes to laws and rules. This chart is current as of December 2008.

