

5.2 GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP



Ending the Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Women and Girls

In September 2015, United Nations Member States adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which provides clear guidelines for governments to address the world’s most significant challenges. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets further codify UN commitments to sustain our planet and protect the fundamental rights of every human being by 2030. Each goal is “integrated, indivisible and balances the economic, social and environmental” dimensions of sustainable development.¹

Three SDGs, Goals 5, 8 and 16, address human trafficking, from its causes to its consequences, with specific targets (5.2, 8.7 and 16.2) that each focus on combating trafficking in persons — from the trafficking and sexual exploitation of women and girls (target 5.2), to forced labour and child labour (target 8.7), to all forms of child trafficking (16.2). Within its respective scope, each target is distinct in its framework and equal in importance.

National and global cross-sectoral investments often lag in financing commitments toward achieving gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls, and ending gender-based violence, including trafficking, sexual exploitation and the exploitation of the prostitution of others. The 5.2 Global Partnership seeks to address those gaps by urging Member States, the United Nations and its agencies to address violence and discrimination against women and girls as human rights violations.

Goal 5
Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

Target 5.2
Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.

The 5.2 Global Partnership is a multi-stakeholder group of national and international human rights advocates; women's rights groups; organizations providing services to and advocacy on behalf of victims of gender-based violence; survivors of trafficking and the exploitation of prostitution; survivor-led organizations and networks; faith-based and secular organizations; and concerned individuals from around the world.

The 5.2 Global Partnership calls on Member States, the United Nations and its agencies to adhere to their stated commitments to fully incorporate the language and goals of SDG target 5.2 in all efforts to end human trafficking, including in the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

5.2 and International Law

Target 5.2 mirrors the Palermo Protocol, in particular Article 3:

a) "Trafficking in persons" shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, *the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation,** forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs;

b) The consent of a victim of trafficking in persons to the intended exploitation set forth in subparagraph (a) of this article shall be irrelevant where any of the means set forth in subparagraph (a) have been used

*emphasis added

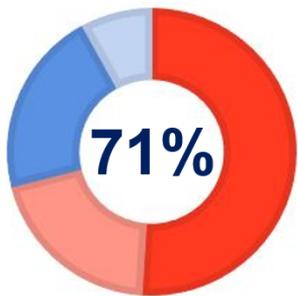
Target 5.2 adheres to Article 6 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW):

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to suppress all forms of traffic in women and exploitation of prostitution of women.

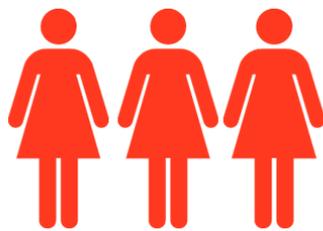
Target 5.2 reflects the commitments listed in the 1949 Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others. Under Article 16, State Parties agree:

[...] to take or to encourage, through their public and private educational, health, social, economic and other related services, measures for the prevention of prostitution and for the rehabilitation and social adjustment of the victims of prostitution and of the offences referred to in the present Convention.

By the Numbers: Trafficking of Women and Girls

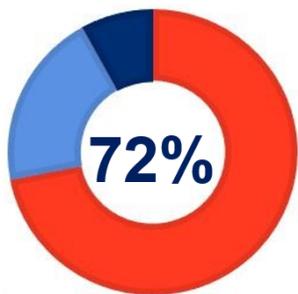


of detected trafficking victims are **women and girls**.²



Women and girls trafficked for forced labour frequently suffer sexual violence and/or exploitation.³

UNODC Global Trafficking
in Persons Report 2016



of detected female trafficking victims are **sexually exploited**.²

Investing in Equality for Women and Girls

Achieving gender equality requires the eradication of all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls globally. The 5.2 Global Partnership pledges to ensure that Member States, UN agencies and civil society intensify their collaborative efforts to eliminate the trafficking,⁴ sexual exploitation and the exploitation of prostitution of women and girls worldwide⁵ as forms of gender-based violence and inequality, by:

- **Fully implementing the provisions of international laws and conventions within its respective scope, in particular the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (Palermo Protocol).**
 - The internationally agreed definition of trafficking in persons, which distinguishes sex trafficking and the exploitation of the prostitution of others from other forms of exploitation in trafficking, including forced labour or services, child trafficking, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.
 - The means traffickers use to exploit their victims, including the abuse of power or abuse of a position of vulnerability, and the irrelevance of consent where any of the means of trafficking have been used.⁶
 - Policies that assist and protect victims.⁷
 - Legislative or other measures (educational, social or cultural) to discourage the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation of people and leads to the exploitation of prostitution and trafficking.⁸
- **Developing national plans of action to:**
 - Combat trafficking in persons, recognizing the acute and specific vulnerabilities women and girls face around the world.
 - Establish that sex trafficking, sexual exploitation and the exploitation of prostitution of others are crimes and violations of human rights that must be identified, prioritized, and addressed explicitly, pursuant to the Palermo Protocol and other related international instruments.
 - Engage the mass media, civil society, the private sector and UN agencies, in prevention, including legislative, educational and awareness-raising measures aimed at discouraging the demand that promotes the exploitation of prostitution of women and girls that leads to trafficking.⁹
 - Develop specialized services to protect and support victims, including access to health resources that recognize that trafficking for purposes of sexual exploitation has particular adverse immediate and long-term effects on the physical and psychological well-being of women.¹⁰
 - Ensure the prosecution of perpetrators through coordination with local law enforcement, national governments, the United Nations and other relevant institutions.
 - Invest, in collaboration with relevant UN agencies, in comprehensive research and data collection on the trafficking, sexual exploitation and the exploitation of prostitution of women, as disaggregated and distinct from labour trafficking, forced labour and child trafficking.
 - Support national and global survivor-led movements and promote survivor leaders as key stakeholders in efforts to combat the trafficking, sexual exploitation and the exploitation of prostitution of women and girls.

The 5.2 Global Partnership welcomes alliances with UN agencies, governments and members of civil society. To join, please fill out the [membership form](#).

References

1. A/RES/70/1 – Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
2. UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2016, 21 December 2016, pg. 23.
3. UN Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking, Trafficking for Forced Labour; US State Department 2016 Trafficking in Persons Report, pg. 30-32, 35; UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2016, 21 December 2016, pg. 23, 27, 31, 33, 38, 41, 72, 79, 91, 105, 114; UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2014, pg. 33-37, 78
4. A/RES/64/293 Article 40.
5. A/RES/64/293 Article 24.
6. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children Article 3.
7. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children Article 6.
8. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children Article 9.5.
9. A/RES/64/293 Article 18.
10. A/RES/64/293 Article 36.