

Forced Labour

“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.”

[\(Article 3 of the Palermo Protocol definition of trafficking¹ *Palermo Protocol to Prevent, suppress and Punish trafficking in persons, especially Women and Children'\)](#)

Sexual Exploitation and the ‘Lover boy Technique’

A person who is trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation may be controlled by violence, threats, substance abuse, deception or grooming. Grooming of children and young people can also include what is described as the ‘lover boy’ approach. Vulnerable girls may be approached and befriended by a man who acts like their boyfriend and gains their trust by giving them attention, affection and/or gifts. This ‘lover boy’ then asks the girl to go with his ‘friend’, the “lover boy” is a recruiter and his ‘friend’ is the trafficker. The trafficker controls the recruiter through threats and/or payments. The girl is then financially and sexually exploited by the trafficker and his clients. ([Tackling the Problems of Loverboys, Government of Netherlands](#))

Statistics

- 21 million people are trafficked each year
- 80% of these are abused as sexual slaves
- 5.5 million of which are children
- \$150 billion profit generated through trafficking worldwide
- \$99 billion from sex trafficking worldwide
- \$46.9 billion generated in developed countries
- \$80,000 annual profits per victim in wealthier economies
- A third of all detected trafficking victims are children

Source: United National Office on Drugs and Crime: Global Report On Trafficking In Persons Profits and Poverty: The Economics of Forced Labour, International Labour Office, Geneva. Special Action Programme to Combat Forced Labour (SAP-FL) Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work Branch (FPRW) 2014