



Trafficking in Human Beings in Ireland Annual Report 2015



AN ROINN DLÍ AGUS CIRT AGUS COMHIONANNAIS
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND EQUALITY

www.blueblindfold.gov.ie

Contents

Introduction and summary analysis.....	1
Introduction.....	1
Summary analysis	2
Statistics	3
Victim demographics.....	3
Exploitation data.....	5
Persons encountered by non-State groups.....	7
The work of the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit in 2015.....	8
The REACH Project.....	8
Council of Europe Group of Experts (GRETA) Roundtable	8
Consultation process for second National Action Plan	8
Roundtable on victim identification	8
Dormant accounts funding	9
Cooperation with industry.....	9
Criminal justice response to human trafficking.....	10
Ongoing investigations	10
Prosecutions	10
Convictions	12
European arrest warrants.....	12
The work of the Human Trafficking Investigation and Coordination Unit	13
International cooperation	13
Other international activities	13
Appendices.....	15
Appendix 1: Table of statistical data	15
Glossary of terms	16

INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY ANALYSIS

INTRODUCTION

We are pleased to introduce the seventh annual report produced by the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit, Department of Justice and Equality. This report includes demographic statistical data on all alleged victims of human trafficking reported to An Garda Síochána in 2015, alongside information on the work of the unit and the Department's criminal justice response to the crime of trafficking in human beings.

As reported in previous years the crime of human trafficking is perpetrated upon persons of all ages, genders and nationalities, and there is no requirement that a person must have crossed a border for trafficking to take place.

Offences relating to child pornography may contain the elements of human trafficking, such as recruitment and exploitation, to bring such actions within the legal definition of human trafficking. Charges under Section 3 (2) of the Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008 were preferred in these cases, and the trend of exploitation by Irish adults continued.

As such, our statistics include Irish victims of crimes committed under that Act, though in general, these Irish victims, all of them minors, suffered sexual offences relating to child pornography, sexual assault and sexual indecency, rather than what might be considered 'commercial sexual exploitation' such as exploitation through prostitution. Readers should bear this in mind in considering the statistics which are contained throughout the report, and particularly when comparing the Irish statistics with those of other jurisdictions.

Previously our annual reports provided detailed statistical data on suspected victims encountered by international organisations, non-governmental groups and civil society groups in the Republic of Ireland. While we have received data in relation to suspected victims encountered by non-State organisations for the purposes of this report, it was decided to only include a brief overview of these potential victims rather than providing detailed statistical breakdowns in duplicate, which can lead to confusion.

The law of small numbers should be kept in mind when drawing conclusions or attempting to observe trends in the data, given the relatively low numbers reported in any given year. While stark increases or decreases on previous years are mentioned in the report, it should be noted that this may be general flux rather than observable trends.

As noted in previous reports, it is important to recognise that due to the clandestine nature of human trafficking, and its overlap with other illegal activities, estimating the prevalence of this crime is difficult. Therefore, these reports should be understood as providing detailed analysis of the information that is to hand, rather than an estimate of the precise nature of the extent of the phenomenon in Ireland.

Anti-Human Trafficking Unit
Department of Justice and Equality

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

The main statistical findings of this report are as follows. In 2015:

- 91 new human trafficking related investigations were initiated by An Garda Síochána.
- 78 alleged victims of human trafficking were reported to An Garda Síochána, this equates to a 70% increase on 2014 (46).
- Females accounted for two thirds of the alleged victims reported. The ratio of females to males remains similar to 2014 levels at approximately 2:1.
- 29% of alleged victims were minors. The ratio of adults to minors reported also remains relatively unchanged since 2014, at approximately 5:2.
- Irish citizens accounted for 19% of the total. As mentioned in the introduction, all Irish nationals were minors and alleged victims of sexual exploitation.
- EEA citizens, including Irish nationals, accounted for two thirds of all alleged victims.
- Non-Irish EEA citizens, 47% of the total, are the only geographic cohort where males outnumber females, albeit only by 1.
- The gender divide within other geographical regions is relatively homogenous, except in the case of African nationals where female victims dominate at a stark ratio of 19:1.
- 15% of alleged victims reported in 2015 were in the asylum system when reported to An Garda Síochána. This level is similar to that which was reported in 2014.
- There were 271 ongoing investigations related to human trafficking at year end.
- There were 17 cases prosecuted before the courts in 2015 that were not finalised at time of reporting.
- 12 cases under Section 3 of the Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008 were finalised in the courts.
- 2 European Arrest Warrants were received by the Irish Authorities for the offence of trafficking in human beings.

STATISTICS

VICTIM DEMOGRAPHICS

During 2015, a total of 78 alleged victims of human trafficking were reported to An Garda Síochána. This equates to a 70% increase on the number identified in 2014 (46).

As seen in all previous years the crime is predominately perpetrated against women. Female victims account for two thirds of the alleged victims reported in 2015. The female to male ratio of 2:1 remains the same as 2014.

2015 was the first year in which a transgender alleged victim of trafficking was reported to An Garda Síochána.

Figure 1. Gender

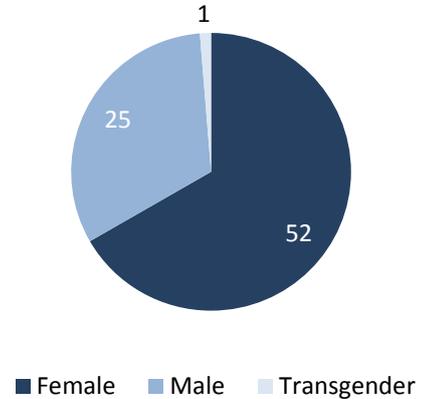
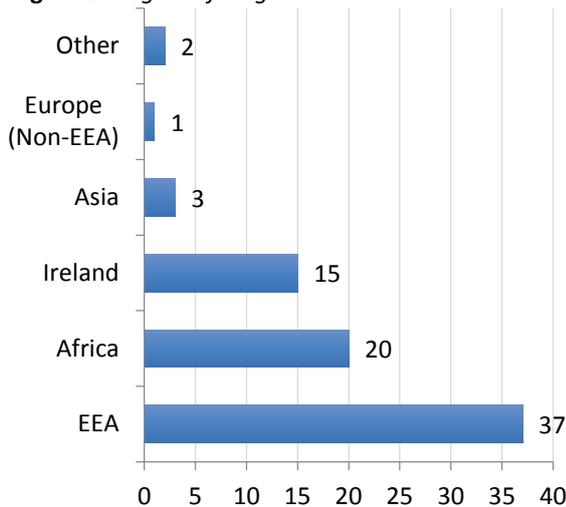


Figure 2. Region of Origin



Non-Irish EEA citizens accounted the largest geographic grouping of alleged victims at 47%. Including Irish nationals, all EEA citizen alleged victims account for two thirds of the total. This emphasises that the Irish experience of trafficking in human beings is not linked, in the main, to immigration from outside the EEA.

Africa accounts for the largest non-EEA region, with 20 alleged victims or 26% of the total. This equates to a 150% increase in African alleged victims compared to 2014. This increase was driven by a 180% increase in Western African (14), mostly Nigerian (13), nationals.

Of the 78 alleged victims reported in 2015, 29% were minors under the age of 18.

While the actual number of minors reported in 2015 increased by 92%, compared to 2014, the ratio of adults to minors remained relatively the same at approximately 5:2.

Figure 3. Age

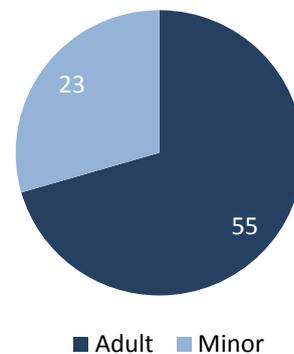
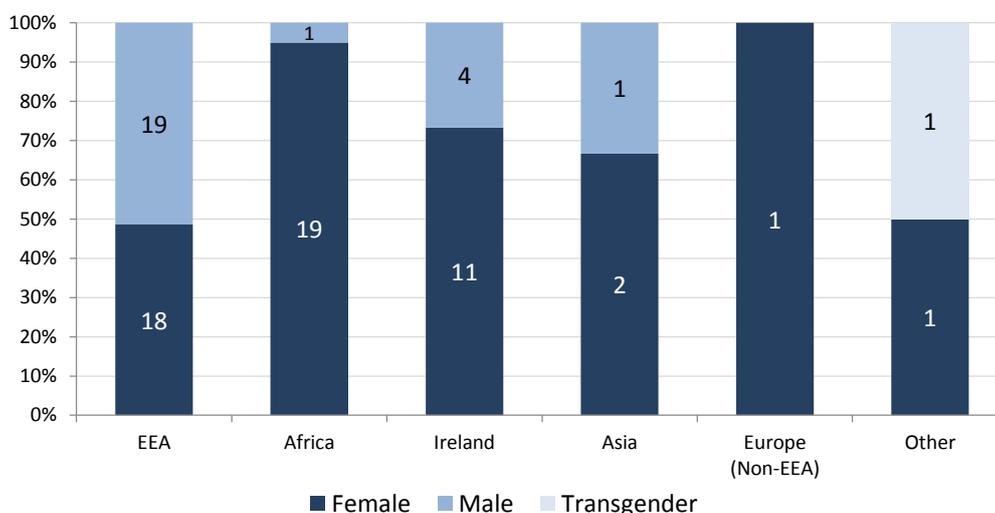


Figure 4 shows that regional gender breakdowns are relatively homogenous for non-Irish EEA citizen alleged victims.

Figure 4. Region (by gender)



However, the homogeneity is not apparent in the next largest groups, African & Irish victims. Here it is mostly females who are reported. The gender imbalance is stark in regards to African alleged victims, at a ratio of 19:1 (F:M).

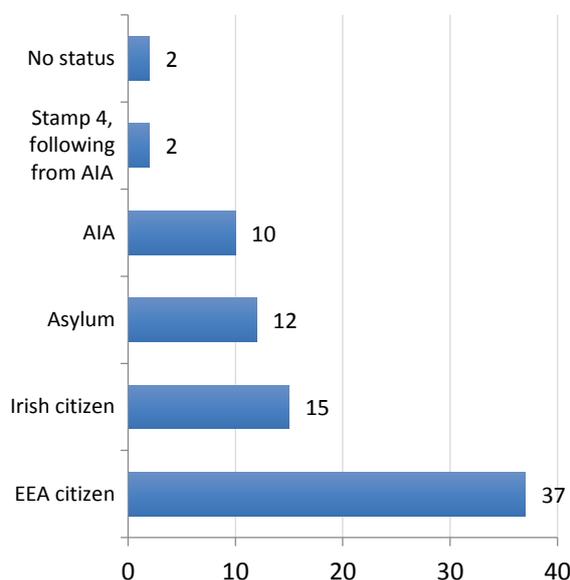
As stated previously the majority (67%) of alleged victims identified in Ireland are either Irish or from another EEA territory.

Persons in the asylum process are the next biggest cohort at 15%.

A further 15% of victims were either granted permission to remain under the Administrative Immigration Arrangements (AIA), or moved onto a Stamp 4 permission following from previous permission under the AIA¹.

Two persons had no immigration status in the Republic of Ireland at the time of reporting. One had permission to remain in the United Kingdom only.

Figure 5. Immigration status



¹ See the 'Glossary of Terms' for a detailed explanation.

EXPLOITATION DATA

Sexual exploitation remains the largest exploitation category in 2015 with 48 alleged victims, which represents 62% of the total. This marks a 50% rise on actual numbers reported in 2014 (32), however the proportion of sexual exploitation victims to all other forms remains relatively unchanged at approximately two thirds.

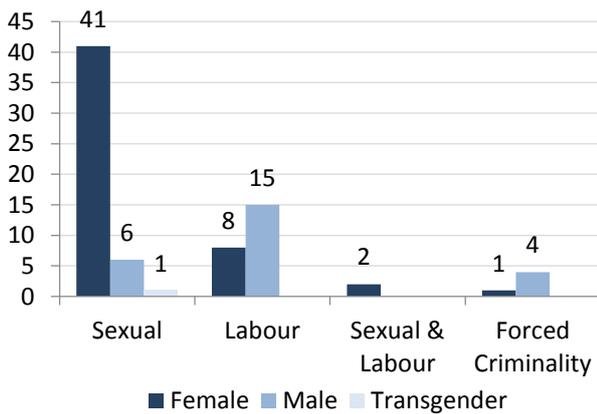
Labour exploitation remains the second largest category at 23 alleged victims, or 29% of the total. This marks a dramatic 229% increase on 2014 levels, where only 7 alleged victims of labour exploitation were reported.

The numbers of alleged victims of forced criminality (5) remain similar to levels seen in 2014.

Figure 6. Exploitation type



Figure 7. Gender (by type of exploitation)



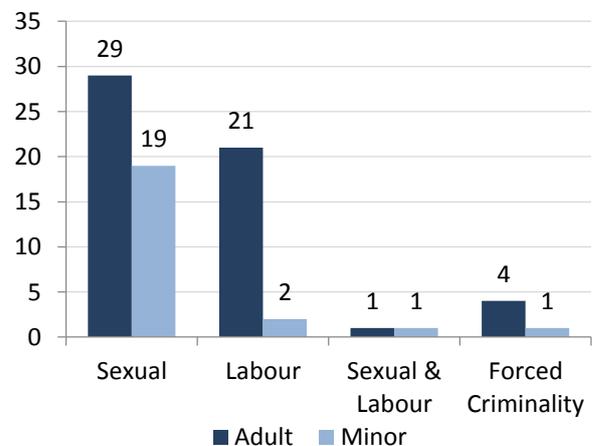
The gender breakdown of exploitation types shows a familiar pattern with a high weighting of females in the sexual exploitation category, and a reversal of this within labour exploitation.

Similarly the age breakdown shows expected results with adults accounting for 91% of alleged victims of labour exploitation, while the sexual exploitation category shows more variation between adults and minors.

Of the minor alleged victims of sexual exploitation, 79% were Irish nationals.

Excluding Irish nationals from the sexual exploitation category shows that minors account for 12% of the remaining total.

Figure 8. Age (by type of exploitation)



When broken down by region of origin, the exploitation data shows that all Asian alleged victims were found to be in the labour exploitation category. Alleged victims from the EEA are spread across all exploitation types, while, as previously mentioned, all Irish nationals were minors and victims of sexual exploitation. Of the African alleged victims 74% fell into the sexual exploitation category, with a further individual experiencing both sexual and labour exploitation. The 5 alleged victims of forced criminality were all EEA citizens.

Figure 9. Exploitation type (by region of origin)

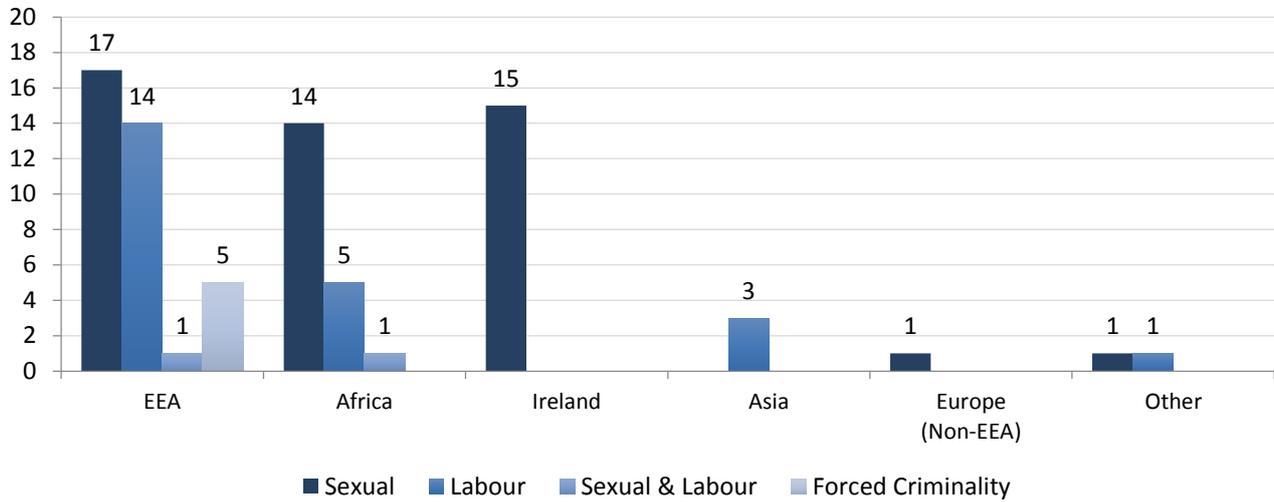
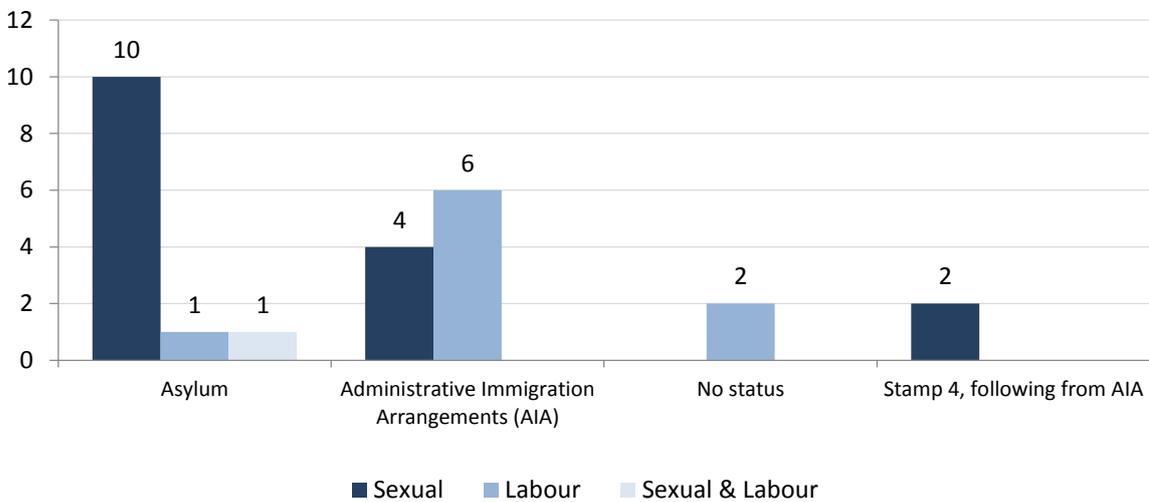


Figure 10 shows the immigration status of alleged victims in 2015 broken into the exploitation category. EEA and Irish nationals are excluded from the figures as they are not in need of specific immigration permissions.

Figure 10. Immigration status (by type of exploitation)



PERSONS ENCOUNTERED BY NON-STATE GROUPS

In 2015 the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit received 44 reports of potential victims from various non-State groups, a level unchanged since 2014. In some instances the reporting organisation acted as a first responder, passing the potential victim’s information on to An Garda Síochána, while in others the potential victim was referred to the reporting organisation by a State service provider. In some cases the potential victim may have been provided with services from a number of different non-State organisations.

Of the potential victims detected by non-State organisations in 2015, 68% were subsequently referred to An Garda Síochána or were previously known to Gardaí.

Potential victims who were not referred to An Garda Síochána either did not wish to proceed, or were not ready to be referred at that point.

Figure 11. Victim referred to An Garda Síochána?

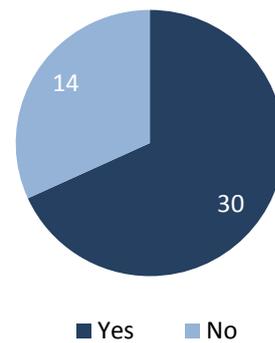
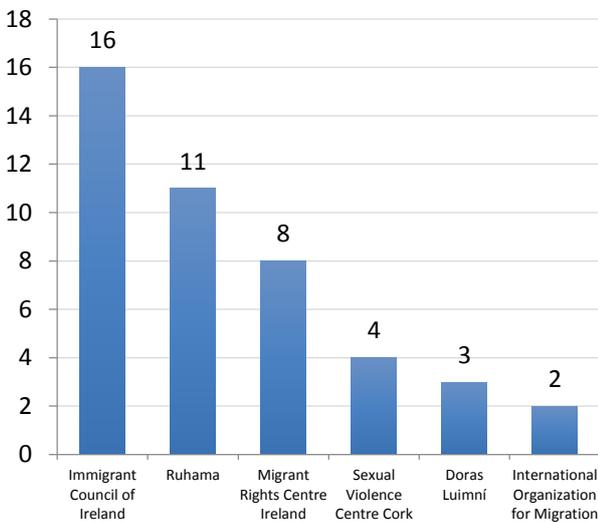


Figure 12. Reporting organisation



The Immigrant Council of Ireland (36%), Ruhama (25%) and the Migrant Rights Centre Ireland (18%) were the main reporting organisations. When combined, these 3 organisations reported almost 80% of all potential victims in 2015.

In 2015 the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit provided funding to the Migrant Rights Centre Ireland, Ruhama and Doras Luimní.

THE WORK OF THE ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING UNIT IN 2015

THE REACH PROJECT

During 2015 the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit and Ruhama successfully completed the REACH project. This project was co-funded by the European Commission and its aim was to raise awareness of trafficking as a form of violence against women and girls and improve responses to this issue across the whole island of Ireland.

REACH is the first 'all island of Ireland' initiative of its kind, developed by the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit, Ruhama, the Health Service Executive, the Child and Family Agency (Tusla), An Garda Síochána and Cosc in the Republic of Ireland, alongside the Department of Justice, Women's Aid and the PSNI in Northern Ireland.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE GROUP OF EXPERTS (GRETA) ROUNDTABLE

The Anti-Human Trafficking Unit invited the Council of Europe Group of Experts to hold a roundtable meeting with all State and NGO actors to discuss the GRETA evaluation of Ireland. This meeting was held in May 2015. The aim of the meeting was to hold an exchange between Council of Europe representatives and relevant stakeholders in Ireland responsible for planning and implementing measures against trafficking in human

beings. The objective was to discuss the state of affairs in the field of combating human trafficking in Ireland in the period following GRETA's first evaluation round report on Ireland and identify areas of future co-operation with the Council of Europe. GRETA's report and the subsequent recommendations of the Committee of the Parties formed the basis of the discussions.

CONSULTATION PROCESS FOR SECOND NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

The Second National Action Plan to Prevent and Combat Human Trafficking in Ireland was issued for consultation to civil society organisations active in this field in mid-2015. Submissions from 13 organisations and one individual were received by the Anti Human Trafficking Unit during this consultation phase. In October, a Roundtable meeting was held with non-State groups active in the field to discuss the issues raised in the written submissions and priorities for implementation in the Second National Action Plan. This forum facilitated

an engaged discussion concerning non-State group priorities and led to the emergence of consensus on actions that would be given greater weight and precedence in early stage implementation.

This new Plan seeks to build on progress made to date and to address issues raised in independent international evaluations of Ireland's response to this important issue. The new National Action Plan was subsequently published in October 2016.

ROUNDTABLE ON VICTIM IDENTIFICATION

Building on the work of the aforementioned GRETA Roundtable held in May 2015 and the consultation process on the Second National Action Plan during the Summer and Autumn, it was agreed with State and non-State groups that 'Identification' was the key issue to be addressed in the National Action Plan. Responding to this broad consensus it was agreed to prioritise early work on the identification process and funding was sought from the Council of Europe for a facilitated discussion on this important issue. The roundtable on victim identification was convened as a joint initiative by the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit and a non-State

coalition and comprised of the Migrant Rights Centre Ireland (MRCI), the Immigrant Council of Ireland (ICI) and Ruhama. The aim of the meeting was to examine multi-agency models of victim identification from other EU countries and their applicability in an Irish context, to explore gaps as well as identify what is currently working in the Irish system, and to design a potential new framework for identification and referral to assistance for victims of trafficking in Ireland.

The roundtable was a timely opportunity for all key anti-trafficking stakeholders to meet, discuss and agree on

what works and does not work in the current system of identification and to generate a consensus on key elements (actors, processes, standards) of a new multi-agency framework or other model for the identification of victims of human trafficking. The event also presented an opportunity for participants to familiarise themselves with, and learn from good practice and challenges in Scotland and the Netherlands with representatives from the Legal Services Agency in Scotland, the Dutch Ministry of Security and Justice and the Dutch non-governmental organisation ‘CoMensha’ presenting their work and experience.

The roundtable aimed at providing an inclusive and constructive forum to discuss and jointly design a

potential framework for the identification of victims of human trafficking in Ireland. This in turn would inform new policy in this area, and in particular feed into the review of the current identification system and the development of a new model which is taking place in the context of the development of the Second National Action Plan. The roundtable was held under the Chatham House rules and in an atmosphere of openness, cooperation and constructive dialogue to find common effective strategies and solutions towards a more effective and adequate mechanism for victim identification and assistance in line with Ireland’s commitments in the fight against human trafficking.

DORMANT ACCOUNTS FUNDING

The Anti-Human Trafficking Unit facilitated funding, under the Government’s ‘Dormant Accounts Scheme’ to three organisations working with victims of human trafficking. This funding enabled them to undertake projects which have addressed the personal and social development needs of this group. These projects have had a significant impact on the lives of the participants equipping them to overcome significant economic and educational disadvantage and allowing them to either access mainstream education and training opportunities or obtain suitable employment depending on their individual circumstances.

The projects included the recruitment of an Anti-Trafficking support project worker, a project to strengthen prevention and protection measures for trafficking for forced labour and two training courses specifically designed to support women at different life stages towards social inclusion and a brighter future for themselves and their children. Specific projects were as follows:

- €43,000 to Doras Luimní to employ a support project worker to work with migrants affected

by trafficking in the mid-west region of Ireland to provide the support required to help them rebuild their lives.

- €40,000 to the Migrants Rights Centre Ireland for a three stranded project involving (a) the prevention of trafficking for labour exploitation in restaurant or domestic work by assisting them to move from precarious work situations to decent employment, (b) a safe house initiative for victims of forced labour in cannabis production and (c) addressing the knowledge gap in relation to trafficking for forced begging.
- €16,225 to Ruhama for two new innovative training programmes to support women victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation at different stages to advance towards social inclusion and an improved future; from those experiencing Post Traumatic Stress Disorder to those exploring career options.

COOPERATION WITH INDUSTRY

Building on the Cross Border Conference focused on Human Trafficking for Labour Exploitation, held in January 2015, the Government brought renewed focus to engagement with industry. The Anti-Human Trafficking Unit has engaged with the second largest

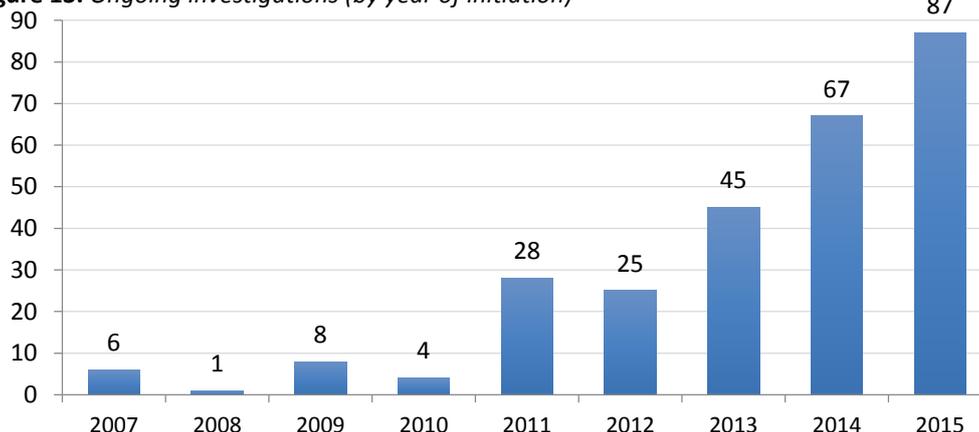
food production company in the UK and Ireland (2 Sisters Food Group) with a focus on supply chain issues. In 2015, the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit also conducted human trafficking awareness raising sessions in two of the group’s sites in Longford and Naas.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING

ONGOING INVESTIGATIONS

In 2015, An Garda Síochána initiated 91 new human trafficking related investigations. As stated previously, 78 alleged victims were identified in 62 of these investigations. As at 31st of December 2015 An Garda Síochána had 271 ongoing investigations related to trafficking in human beings.

Figure 13. Ongoing investigations (by year of initiation)



73% of cases refer to those initiated within the last 3 years (2013-2015 inclusive).

PROSECUTIONS

There were 17 cases prosecuted before the Courts in 2015 that have not yet been finalised. Sixteen of these cases relate to prosecutions under Section 3 of the Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008. One case relates to charges for organising prostitution and trafficking of an illegal immigrant.

#	Prosecution		Accused		Victim	
	Act	Charges	Gender	Age	Gender	Age
1	Section 3 of Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008	Sexual exploitation, 1 charge	Male	Adult	Male	Minor
2	Section 3 of Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008	Sexual exploitation, 1 charge	Male	Adult	Male	Minor
3	Section 3 of Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008	Sexual exploitation, 2 charges	Male	Adult	Male	Minor
4	Section 3 of Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008	Sexual exploitation, 3 charges	Male	Adult	Female	Minor
5	Section 3 of Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008	Sexual exploitation, 1 charge. Indecency, 1 charge	Male	Adult	Female	Minor
6	Section 3 of Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008	Sexual exploitation, 1 charge.	Male	Adult	Male	Minor
7	Section 3 of Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008	Sexual exploitation, 1 charge.	Male	Minor	Female	Minor

#	Prosecution		Accused		Victim	
	Act	Charges	Gender	Age	Gender	Age
8	Section 3 of Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008 Section 2 Criminal Law Rape Act 1990	Sexual exploitation, 1 charge 1 charge	Male	Adult	Female	Minor
9	Section 3 of Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008	Sexual exploitation, 6 charges	Male	Adult	Female	Minor
10	Section 3 of Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008	Sexual exploitation, 1 charge	Male	Adult	Female	Minor
11	Section 3 of the Child Trafficking & Pornography Act 1998 as amended by Section 3 of Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008	Sexual exploitation, 3 charges	Male	Adult	Male	Minor
12	Section 3 of the Child Trafficking & Pornography Act 1998 as amended by Section 3 of Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008	Sexual exploitation, 1 charge	Male	Minor	Male	Minor
13	Section 3 of the Child Trafficking & Pornography Act 1998 as amended by Section 3 of Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008	Sexual exploitation, 1 charge	Female	Adult	Male	Minor
14	Section 3 of the Child Trafficking & Pornography Act 1998 as amended by Section 3 of Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008	Sexual exploitation, 9 charges	Male	Adult	Female	Minor
15	Section 2 Illegal Immigrants (Trafficking) Act 2000 Section 9 Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act 1993	Trafficking in illegal immigrants, 2 charges Organisation of prostitution, 1 charge.	Female	Adult	Female	Minor
16	Section 3 of Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008	Sexual exploitation, 1 charge	Male	Adult	Female	Minor
17	Section 3 of Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008	Sexual exploitation, 1 charge.	Male	Adult	Female	Minor

CONVICTIONS

In 2015, 12 cases under Section 3 of the Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2003 were finalised in the courts in Ireland. In the final case listed below the accused was acquitted on all charges on the direction of the Trial Judge.

Conviction			Accused		Victim	
#	Charges	Sentence	Gender	Age	Gender	Age
1	Sexual exploitation, 1 charge Sending offensive messages, 2 charges Harassment, 1 charge	2 years imprisonment	Male	Adult	Female	Adult
2	Sexual exploitation, 2 charges	3 years imprisonment	Male	Adult	Male	Minor
3	Sexual exploitation, 4 charges	3 years imprisonment	Male	Adult	Male	Minor
4	Sexual exploitation, 1 charge Defilement of a child under 15 years, 3 charges	5 years imprisonment Nolle Prosequi on Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008 charge	Male	Adult	Female	Minor
5	Sexual exploitation, 2 charge	3 years imprisonment 1 charge withdrawn	Male	Adult	Female	Minor
6	Sexual exploitation, 2 charges	5 years imprisonment	Male	Adult	Female	Minor
7	Sexual exploitation, 11 charges	2 years imprisonment	Male	Adult	Male	Minor
8	Sexual exploitation, 1 charge	5 & ½ years imprisonment (2 years suspended)	Male	Adult	Male	Minor
9	Sexual exploitation, 1 charge	Awaiting Sentence/Probation Report	Male	Adult	Female	Minor
10	Sexual exploitation, 1 charge	6 months imprisonment	Male	Adult	Male	Minor
11	Sexual exploitation, 1 charge	Suspect committed suicide in 2015	Male	Adult	Male	Minor
12	Sexual exploitation, 1 charge	7 years imprisonment	Male	Adult	Female	Minor
-	Sexual exploitation, 9 charges Defilement of a child, 10 charges	Acquitted on all charges. Judge directed acquittal as there was not enough evidence.	Male	Adult	Female	Minor

EUROPEAN ARREST WARRANTS

In 2015, two applications for a European Arrest Warrant relating to trafficking in human beings were received by the Irish Authorities. The applications were made by the Romanian and Lithuanian Authorities.

THE WORK OF THE HUMAN TRAFFICKING INVESTIGATION AND COORDINATION UNIT

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

In 2015 the Human Trafficking Investigation and Coordination Unit (HTICU) co-operated in a number of human trafficking related investigations which had an international dimension. Human trafficking related enquiries involving an input from Interpol and Europol are carried out by An Garda Síochána on a regular basis. The mutual assistance channel is utilised by An Garda Síochána for this purpose on a regular basis also.

Some examples of bilateral police cooperation in relation to human trafficking during 2015 include An Garda Síochána contacting the:

- Romanian Authorities in regards to an investigation into suspected human trafficking for forced labour.
- UK National Crime Agency, who alerted An Garda Síochána in regards to serious offences which occurred in Ireland over a number of years. The victim in this case, an African woman, currently resides in the UK and is being cared for by a non-governmental agency.
- Slovakian Authorities in regards to a Slovakian minor who had been trafficked into Ireland.

This request was a catalyst for a human trafficking investigation in July 2015. Three suspects were identified, arrested and interviewed and a file is being prepared in this case.

- Brazilian Authorities in regards to claims of
 - a transgender person who claims they were trafficked into Ireland for sexual exploitation. It is alleged that this person was forced into prostitution.
 - a young Brazilian women being brought to Ireland for the purpose prostitution by a Brazilian Organised Crime Group.
- Swiss, American and British Authorities regarding a Nigerian national, the subject of a human trafficking investigation.
- Czech Authorities in connection with ‘Operation Grof’. Irish investigations into this matter are led by a specialist unit targeting sham marriages in Ireland codenamed ‘Operation Vantage’.

OTHER INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The Santa Marta Group (North Atlantic Fisheries Project) is an alliance of International Police Chiefs and Bishops from around the world working together with Civil Society to eradicate human trafficking and modern day slavery. This group was set up as a result of a Papal initiative in 2014. In 2015 there have been a number of cross border operational interventions with regard to the fisheries industry, in particular with the United Kingdom. In October 2015 An Garda Síochána was represented at the Santa Marta Group Conference in Madrid by the Deputy Commissioner of Operations, the Assistant Commissioner of National Support Services and members of the Human Trafficking Investigation & Co-ordination Unit.

A representative from the Human Trafficking Investigation and Coordination Unit sits on the Organised Crime Task Force (OCTF) Immigration and Human Trafficking Sub-Group which meets in Belfast on a quarterly basis. This group involves consultation

between representatives from the Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland administrations.

At the Annual Cross Border Policing Conference held in Sligo in October 2015 human trafficking again featured as a theme of the conference with a presentation by An Garda Síochána on human trafficking. This conference was attended by Police and State Authorities from both sides of the border.

The EMPACT Group meets at Europol in The Hague and is the Multidisciplinary Platform against Criminal Threats; human trafficking is one of these priority areas. Ireland continued to be a member and contributor of this Group in 2015 as part of the co-ordinated European Union approach to combat human trafficking.

In 2015 Ireland continued to be a member of the Interpol Task Force on Human Trafficking (ITHT), an international working group for law enforcement

specialists dedicated to preventing and fighting trafficking in human beings at a global level. Through shared intelligence, research, education and learning, the Task Force aims to be the voice of the international specialised 'trafficking in human beings' officers. A member of the Human Trafficking Investigation and Coordination Unit advises regularly on this group.

In 2015 Ireland were part of and contributed to Eurojust and Europol initiatives regarding financial investigations and human trafficking. A number of conferences were

held at Eurojust and Europol and focusing on the financial aspect of human trafficking continues to be a priority for Ireland.

In 2015 'Operation Vantage' was set up to investigate marriages of convenience in Ireland. As part of this investigation some human trafficking issues have arisen and are being actively pursued in partnership with other member states including the United Kingdom and the Czech Republic.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: TABLE OF STATISTICAL DATA

Alleged victims of human trafficking reported to An Garda Síochána in 2015, by exploitation, region, gender and age:

Exploitation	Region	Female			Male			Transgender			Total		
		Adult	Minor	Total	Adult	Minor	Total	Adult	Minor	Total	Adult	Minor	Total
Sexual	EEA	13	3	16	-	1	1	-	-	-	13	4	17
	Ireland	-	11	11	-	4	4	-	-	-	-	15	15
	Africa	13	-	13	1	-	1	-	-	-	14	-	14
	Europe (Non-EEA)	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
	Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	1
	Total		27	14	41	1	5	6	1	-	1	29	19
Labour	EEA	-	-	-	14	-	14	-	-	-	14	-	14
	Africa	3	2	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	5
	Asia	2	-	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	3	-	3
	Other	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
	Total		6	2	8	15	-	15	-	-	-	21	2
Sexual & Labour	EEA	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
	Africa	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
	Total	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Forced Criminality	EEA	1	-	1	3	1	4	-	-	-	4	1	5
	Total	1	-	1	3	1	4	-	-	-	4	1	5
Total	EEA	15	3	18	17	2	19	-	-	-	32	5	37
	Africa	16	3	19	1	-	1	-	-	-	17	3	20
	Ireland	-	11	11	-	4	4	-	-	-	-	15	15
	Asia	2	-	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	3	-	3
	Europe (Non-EEA)	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
	Other	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	-	2
	Total		35	17	52	19	6	25	1	-	1	55	23

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Administrative Immigration Arrangements for the Protection of Victims of Trafficking (AIA)

The Administrative Arrangements set out the protections from removal, such as a 60 day period of recovery and reflection and renewable 6 month temporary residence permission in addition to other protections, available to suspected victims of human trafficking who have no legal permission to be present in the State. They were established in June 2008 to coincide with the commencement of the Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008 and were updated and republished in July 2010 and March 2011. For a copy of the Administrative Arrangements please visit Ireland's dedicated anti-human trafficking website at <http://www.blueblindfold.gov.ie>.

EEA

For the purposes of this report any mention of 'EEA', in regards to nationality, refers to countries within the European Union, the European Economic Area and the European Free Trade Association.

Minor

A minor is defined in Irish law as a person of less than 18 years.

Stamp 4 following AIA

Following a period of residency under temporary permission, mentioned above, a victim may apply to the Irish Naturalisation & Immigration Service to change their immigration status. Stamp 4 indicates permission to stay in Ireland for a specified period, subject to conditions, with full access to the labour market.



**TO
HUMAN
TRAFFICKING**

www.blueblindfold.gov.ie



**AN ROINN DLÍ AGUS CIRT AGUS COMHIONANNAIS
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND EQUALITY**