

# Trafficking in Human Beings in Ireland 2014

Anti-Human Trafficking Unit  
Department of Justice and Equality



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## Foreword

The Annual Report of Trafficking in Human Beings in Ireland for 2014 covers the period between January and December 2014 and is the sixth such annual report to be produced by the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) of the Department of Justice and Equality.

The 2014 Report includes information concerning alleged victims of human trafficking reported to An Garda Síochána and NGOs in addition to information regarding the criminal justice response to human trafficking.

The prevention and detection of trafficking in human beings was a stated priority of An Garda Síochána in 2014. In 2014, An Garda Síochána commenced 79 human trafficking investigations involving **46** alleged victims. Allegations of trafficking in human beings made in applications for refugee status and in applications for other immigration permissions were reported to An Garda Síochána and investigated for human trafficking offences. Allegations of human trafficking in relation to participation in criminal activities and forced begging were also investigated by An Garda Síochána. Where there was no or insufficient evidence of a human trafficking offence investigations were closed.

**23** adults were reported as being victims of human trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation in 2014, 22 female and 1 male. In 2014, **9** minors were reported as victims of human trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation, **8** of whom were Irish. The other case involving an allegation of sexual exploitation of a minor related to prostitution. None of the 8 Irish minors reported as being victims of human trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation in 2014 were reported as having being exploited in the context of prostitution. While being victims of sexual exploitation, these children suffered sexual offences relating to child pornography, sexual assault and sexual indecency, rather than what might be termed 'commercial sexual exploitation' such as exploitation through prostitution.

This again highlights the fact that the criminal offence of human trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation covers a very broad range of exploitative activities

and practices (see the footnote for the links to the relevant legislation)<sup>1</sup>. Offences relating to child, pornography, for example, may often contain the elements of human trafficking – such as recruitment and sexual exploitation – to bring such actions within the legal definition of human trafficking.

As in previous years, the number of persons reported as being victims of human trafficking for the purposes of labour exploitation, **7** in 2014, is significantly lower than reports in respect of sexual exploitation. In 2014, all of the persons reported in this category were adults with **3** being female and **4** being male. **1** person, an adult female, was reported as being a victim of both labour and sexual exploitation. **1** male minor was the victim of uncategorised exploitation.

The Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) (Amendment) Act 2013<sup>2</sup> which came into effect in August 2013 expanded the definition of human trafficking to include exploitation of a person for the purpose of forced begging and for forced participation in criminal activities for financial gain and these categories of exploitation are included in the 2014 Report. In 2014, **3** adults and **1** minor, all male, were reported as being victims of human trafficking for the purposes of criminal activities and **1** female minor was reported as being a victim of trafficking for forced begging. In 2014, An Garda Síochána cooperated in a number of human trafficking related investigations which had an international dimension. An Garda Síochána cooperated with the Romanian authorities in investigating suspected human trafficking for forced labour, with the UK National Crime Agency in relation to suspected trafficking for sexual and labour exploitation and with the Dutch authorities, Europol and Interpol in relation to investigations into suspected trafficking for sexual exploitation.

The 2014 Report, as with all previous annual reports, also includes information provided by NGOs and IOs. These figures provide a valuable measure to the extent of the number of alleged human trafficking victims encountered by non-state organisations. In 2014, as in previous years, these figures mirror to a large extent cases encountered by An Garda Síochána in terms of observable trends in types of exploitation and the demographic profile of those encountered, with the exception of Irish alleged victims who were only reported by An Garda Síochána. (*See methodology section for more details on these figures*).

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<sup>1</sup> The Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008, The Child Trafficking and Pornography Act 1998.

<sup>2</sup> Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) (Amendment) Act 2013.  
<http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2013/act/24/enacted/en/html>

Figures for 2014 are broadly in line with the number of reported cases of human trafficking in previous years. An examination of data between 2009 and 2014 reveals that the number of persons from outside of the EU has been declining on a yearly basis with the notable exception in 2014 of the number of persons from Brazil reported as victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation, (8). Given the relatively small numbers and the limitations of the available data on human trafficking it is difficult to say to what extent this is associated with more general Irish migration trends or some other phenomenon.

Finally, as noted in previous Annual Reports, it is important to recognise that due to the clandestine nature of human trafficking and its overlap with other illegal activities such as those related to prostitution and various forms of exploitative labour practices, estimating the prevalence of this crime is highly problematic. Bearing this in mind, and recognising that the headline figures provided in the Report are already in the public domain, the 2014 Report should be understood as providing a more comprehensive understanding of the information currently available regarding trafficking in human beings as provided by Governmental and Non-Governmental sources, rather than an estimate of the precise nature and extent of the phenomenon in Ireland.

For further information regarding trafficking in human beings please visit Ireland's dedicated anti-human trafficking website at <http://www.blueblindfold.gov.ie>

## Glossary of terms

**Administrative Immigration Arrangements for the Protection of Victims of Trafficking**<sup>3</sup> (hereinafter: Administrative Arrangements). 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. The Administrative Arrangements will be given legislative effect in an Immigration, and Residence Bill. For a copy of the Administrative Arrangements please visit Ireland's dedicated anti-human trafficking website at <http://www.blueblindfold.gov.ie>.

**Ireland:** for the purposes of this report Ireland refers to the Republic Ireland.

**Minor** is defined in Irish law as a person of less than 18 years.

**Uncategorised exploitation** is referred to in Section 2 and Appendix 1 of this report. In the cases in point, uncategorised exploitation signifies that while at the outset of the investigation there were general suspicions that these persons could be victims of human trafficking there were no firm indications as to the precise nature of the trafficking involved.

## Overview of contents

This report has been divided into 4 sections. **Section 1** sets out the methodology used to compile the report. **Section 2** provides information concerning alleged victims of trafficking in human beings reported to An Garda Síochána in 2014. Information contained in Section 2 includes the total number of persons reported in addition to the gender, age, region of origin and immigration status of these persons. All of the aforementioned information is disaggregated according to the type of exploitation reported, thereby enabling the reader to gain a greater understanding of the occurrence of human trafficking as reported to An Garda Síochána in 2014. Please note that Section 2 of the report refers to individual alleged victims and not

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<sup>3</sup> See the INIS website ([www.inis.gov.ie](http://www.inis.gov.ie)) for full text of Administrative Arrangements.

investigations. For information concerning the investigations please refer to Section 4 of the report.

**Section 3** provides information concerning those persons encountered by or referred to different International Organisations (IOs) and NGOs for whom these organisations believed indications of trafficking were present. IOs and NGOs that provided information to the AHTU in 2014 included, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), the Migrant Rights Centre of Ireland (MRCI), Doras Luminí, the Immigrant Council of Ireland (ICI), Sexual Violence Centre Cork (SVCC) and Ruhama. Section 3 also provides information in regard to the number of persons referred to An Garda Síochána. In some instances such persons were referred directly by IOs and NGOs to An Garda Síochána while in others, persons had already been referred to An Garda Síochána prior to coming into contact with these organisations. Information detailed in Section 3 includes the number of persons reported to the AHTU by the 5 organisations in addition to information regarding the gender, age, region of origin and immigration status of these persons.

**Section 4** provides information concerning the various aspects of the criminal justice response to trafficking in human beings. Information contained in this section includes the end of year status of human trafficking investigations, prosecutions taken against alleged traffickers, convictions secured in relation to trafficking related offences, international cooperation against human trafficking and applications for European Arrest Warrants.

Please note that Section 4 refers to various aspects of the criminal justice response to human trafficking and not to individual alleged victims. For information on individual alleged victims please refer to Section 2 of the report.

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# Section 1 Methodology

## **Background**

On 1 January 2009, the AHTU initiated a data collection strategy for the purposes of gaining a more informed view of the nature and extent of trafficking in human beings in Ireland. The strategy functions by collecting depersonalised information in a standardised format from a range of Governmental, International (IOs) and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and then collating and analysing this data centrally in the AHTU. The AHTU also provides data on human trafficking to Eurostat for the purposes of compiling statistics at the EU level on human trafficking.

## **The information collection process**

Depersonalised information was collected from a number of sources.

An Garda Síochána provided standardised information concerning the demographic characteristics of any alleged victims of human trafficking reported to them, in addition to information concerning the criminal justice response to trafficking in human beings.

IOs and NGOs which furnished reports to the AHTU are the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), the Migrant Rights Centre of Ireland (MRCI), Immigrant Council of Ireland (ICI), Doras Luminí, Sexual Violence Centre Cork (SVCC) and Ruhama. These organisations provided information, via a standardised data collection template developed by the AHTU.

Information regarding European Arrest Warrants was provided by the Mutual Assistance & Extradition Unit of Department of Justice and Equality.

## **Data collation and analysis**

Depersonalised data provided by the various reporting organisations was emailed to the AHTU. Information not provided via standardised data collection templates was recoded in line with the AHTU's reporting format. All data were checked across a number of different variables to help ensure double counting was avoided with further checks with the reporting organisations conducted if necessary. Following recoding and quality control checks, information was entered into a data file and analysed using IBM SPSS software.

### **Interpreting figures provided by An Garda Síochána, IOs and NGOs**

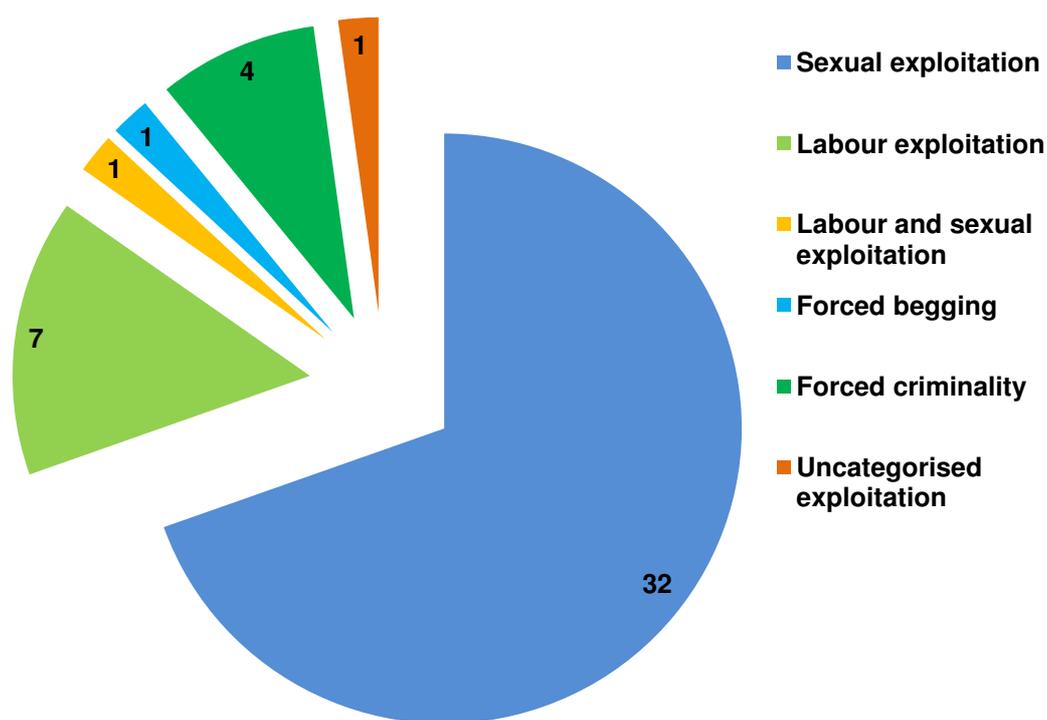
On the basis of information provided by NGOs and IOs regarding the referral of alleged victims of human trafficking to An Garda Síochána (see section 3.2 page 18), it was evident that in the majority of instances, alleged victims of human trafficking encountered by/referred to IOs and NGOs were also reported to An Garda Síochána. This was further corroborated by trends apparent in both sets of figures. Given that the AHTU, in accordance with data protection legislation, does not seek to collect personal information such as names and dates of birth, it was not possible to match these two sets of figures on a case by case basis. As such, figures received from An Garda Síochána, as outlined in Section 2), IOs and NGOs, as outlined in Section 3, are presented separately and have not been merged. Readers should not therefore attempt to combine figures for alleged victims from An Garda Síochána and NGOs as this would result in double counting.

## Section 2 Overview of persons reported to An Garda Síochána

### 2.1 Total number reported

During 2014, 79 suspected cases of trafficking in human beings involving 46 alleged victims were either reported to or detected by An Garda Síochána. Of the 46 (100%) persons, 32 (70%) were alleged victims of sexual exploitation, 7 (15%) were alleged victims of labour exploitation and 4 (9%) were alleged victims of forced criminality. Of the remaining persons 1 (2%) was an alleged victim of uncategorised exploitation, 1 (2%) was an alleged victim of both labour and sexual exploitation and 1 (2%) was an alleged victim of forced begging.

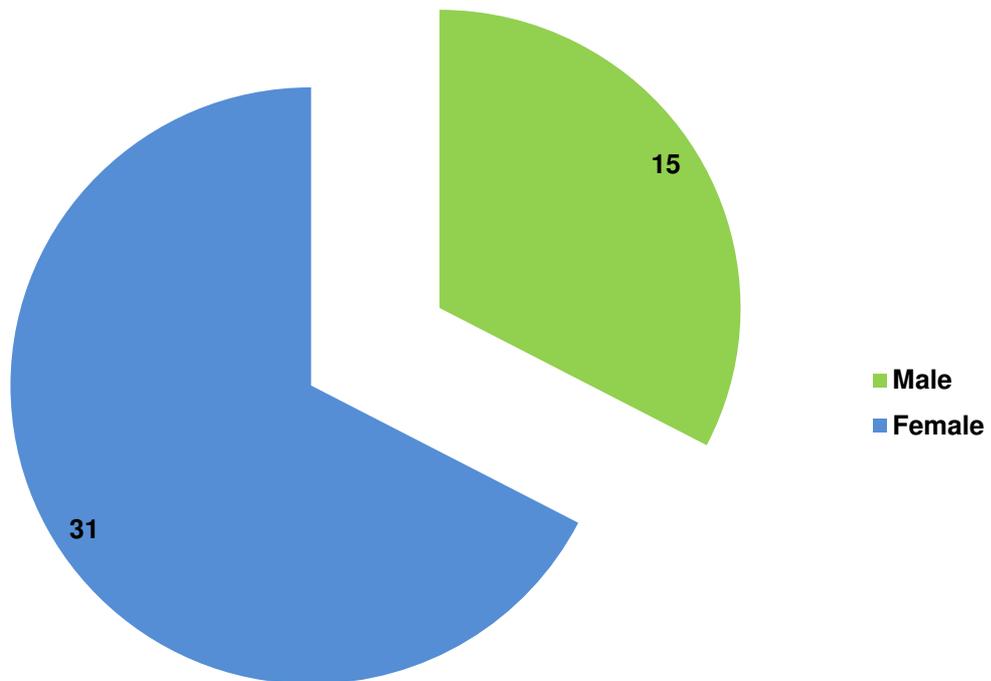
Figure 1. Number of alleged victims



## 2.2 Gender

Of the 46 alleged victims of human trafficking reported to or detected by An Garda Síochána, 31 were female and 15 were male.

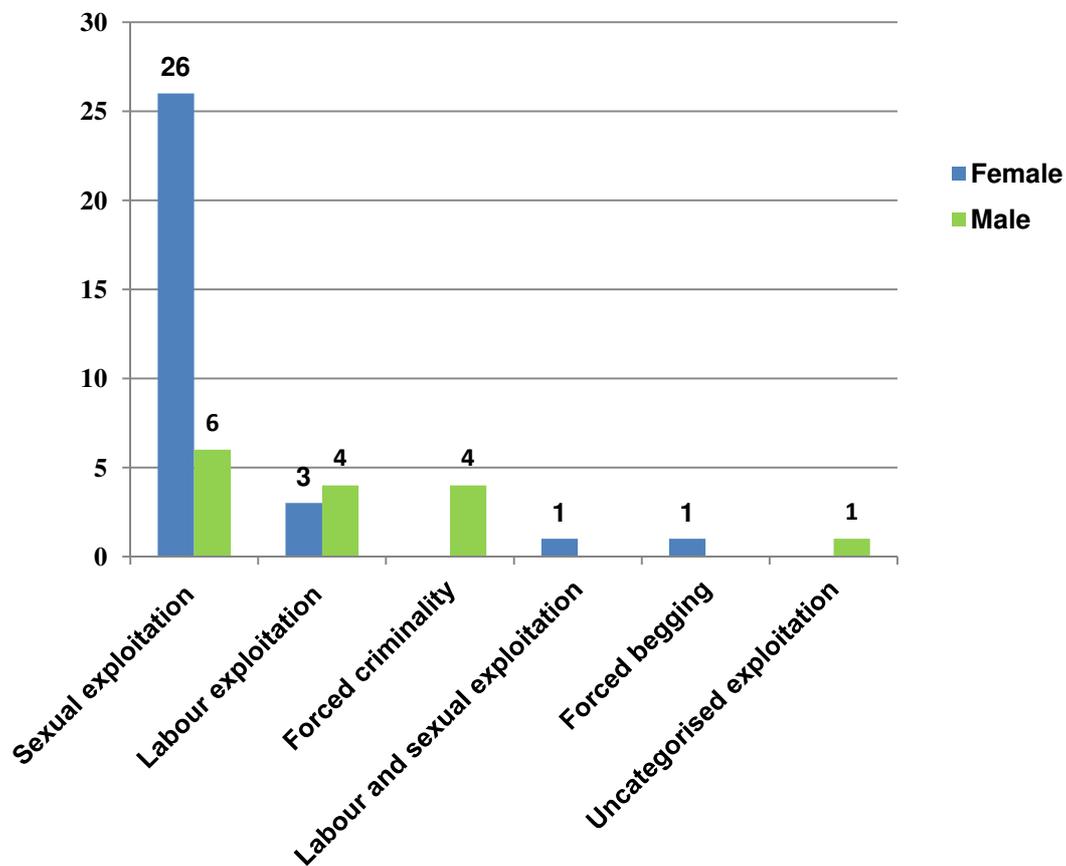
**Figure 2.** *Gender*



### 2.3 Gender (by type of exploitation)

When divided according to the type of exploitation reported, of the 32 persons who were alleged victims of sexual exploitation, 26 were female and 6 were male. Of the 7 victims of labour exploitation 3 were female and 4 were male. Of the 4 persons who were alleged victims of forced criminality all 4 were male. Of the remaining 3 persons, the alleged victim of labour and sexual exploitation was female; the victim of forced begging was female and the alleged victim of uncategorised exploitation was male.

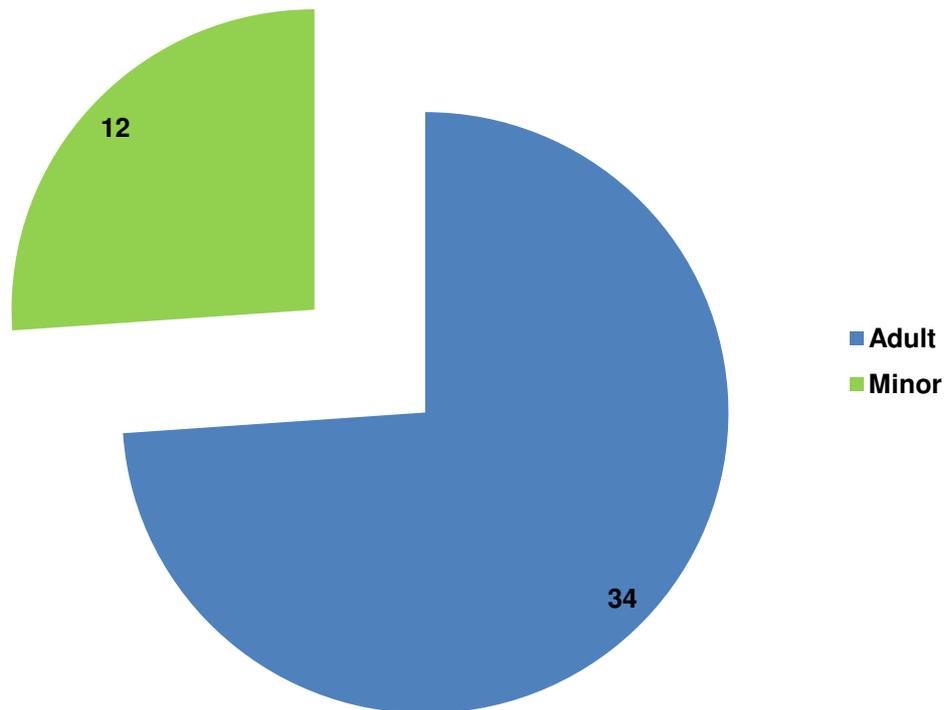
**Figure 3.** Gender (by type of exploitation)



## 2.4 Age

Of the 46 alleged victims of human trafficking reported to or detected by An Garda Síochána, 34 were adults and 12 were children.

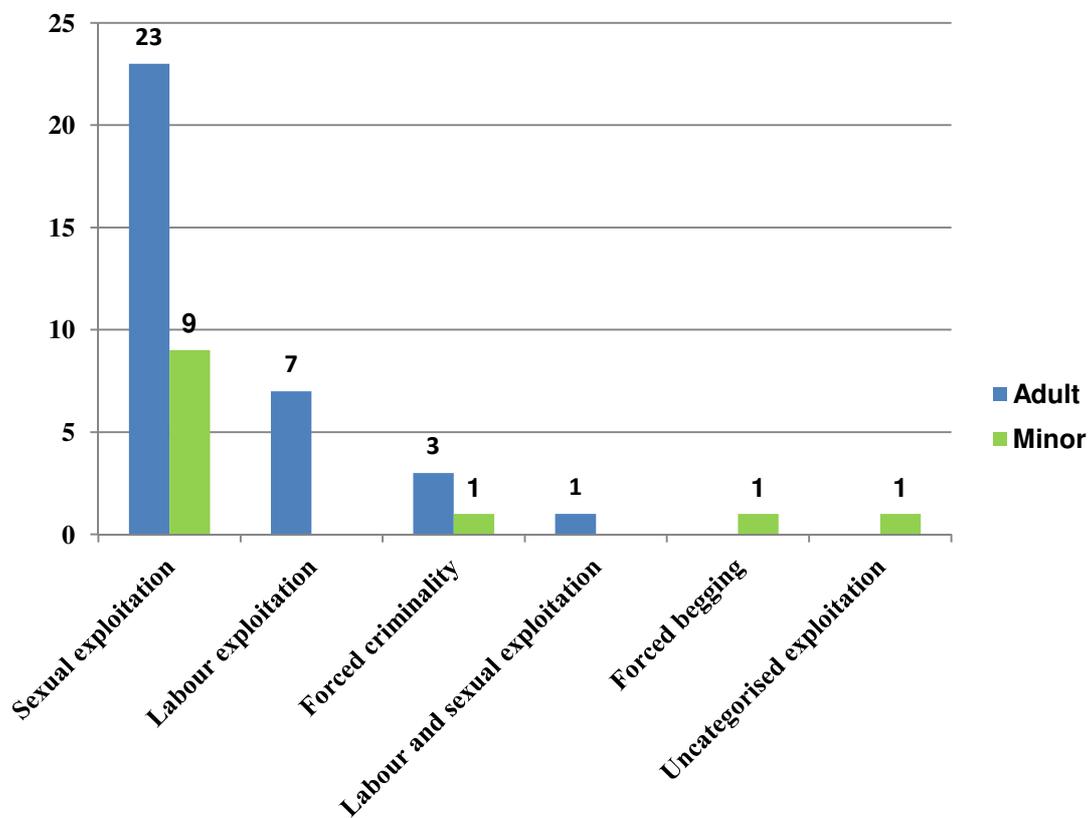
**Figure 4.** *Age*



## 2.5 Age (by type of exploitation)

When divided according to the type of exploitation reported, of the 32 alleged victims of sexual exploitation 23 were adults and 9 were minors. Of the 7 alleged victims of labour exploitation all were adults. Of the 4 alleged victims of forced criminality 3 were adults and 1 was a minor. Of the remaining persons, the alleged victim of labour and sexual exploitation was an adult. The victims of uncategorised exploitation and forced begging were both minors.

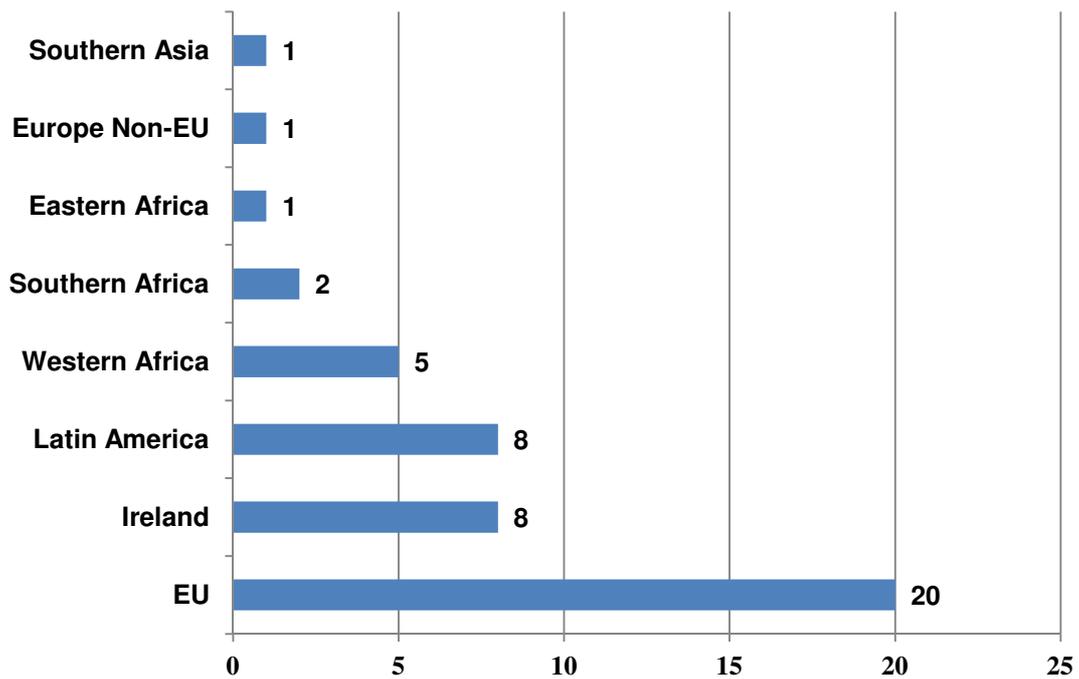
**Figure 5.** Age (by type of exploitation)



## 2.6 Region of origin

Of the 46 alleged victims of human trafficking reported to or detected by An Garda Síochána, 20 were citizens of EU Member States, 8 were from Ireland while a further 8 persons were from Latin America. Of the remaining 10 persons 5 were from Western Africa, 2 were from Southern Africa, 1 was from Eastern Africa, 1 was from Southern Asia and 1 was from a European country outside of the EU.

**Figure 6.** *Region of origin*



## 2.7 Region of origin (by type of exploitation)

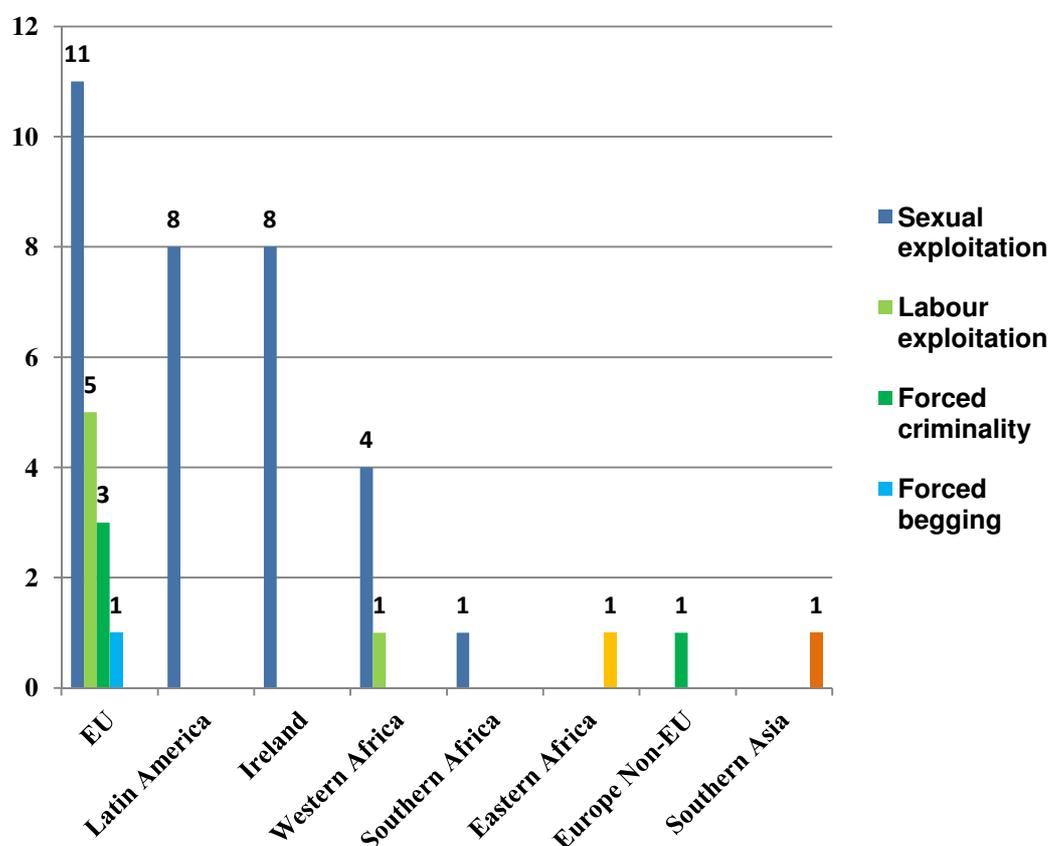
When divided according to the type of exploitation reported, of the 32 alleged victims of sexual exploitation, 11 were from the EU, 8 were from Ireland while a further 8 persons were from Latin America. Of the remaining 5 persons 4 were from Western Africa and 1 was from Southern Africa.

Of the 7 alleged victims of labour exploitation 5 were from the EU, 1 was from Western Africa and 1 was from Southern Africa.

Of the 4 alleged victims of forced criminality 3 were from the EU while 1 was from a European country outside of the EU.

Of the remaining 3 persons, the alleged victim of labour and sexual exploitation was from Eastern Africa, the alleged victim of forced begging was from the EU and the victim of uncategorised exploitation was from Southern Asia.

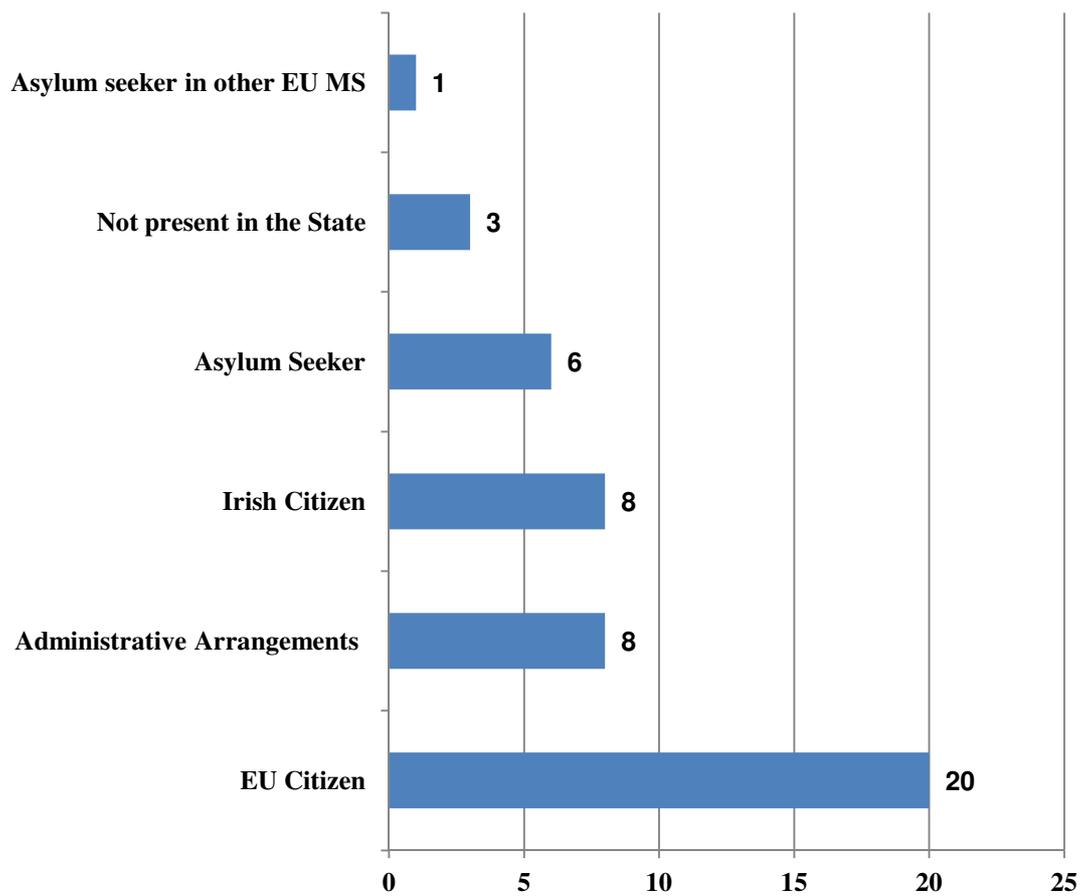
**Figure 7.** *Region of origin (by type of exploitation)*



## 2.8 Immigration status

Of the 46 alleged victims of human trafficking reported to or detected by An Garda Síochána, 20 were citizens of EU Member States, 8 had been granted protection under the Administrative Immigration Arrangements, 8 were Irish citizens, 6 were asylum seekers, 1 was an asylum seeker in another EU Member State and 3 were no longer present in the State at the end of the reporting period.

**Figure 8.** *Immigration status*



## 2.9 Immigration status (by type of exploitation)

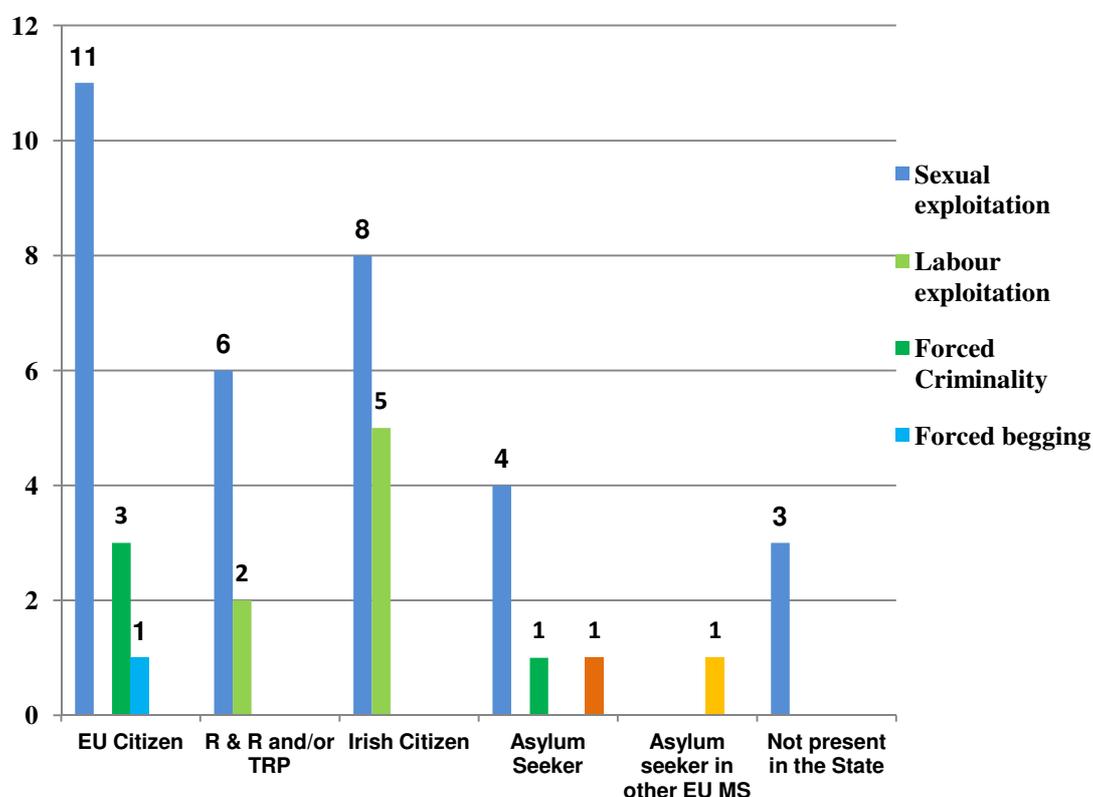
When divided according to the type of exploitation reported, of the 32 alleged victims of sexual exploitation, 11 were citizens of EU Member States, 8 were Irish, 6 were granted protection under the Administrative Immigration Arrangements, 4 were asylum seekers and 3 were no longer present in the State at the end of the reporting period.

Of the 7 alleged victims of labour exploitation, 5 were citizens of EU Member States and 2 were granted protection under the Administrative Immigration Arrangements.

Of the 4 alleged victims of forced criminality 3 were citizens of EU Member States and 1 was an asylum seeker.

Of the remaining 3 person, the alleged victim of labour and sexual exploitation was an asylum seeker in another EU Member State. The alleged victim of forced begging was a citizen of an EU Member State and the alleged victim of uncategorised exploitation was an asylum seeker.

**Figure 9.** *Immigration status (by type of exploitation)*



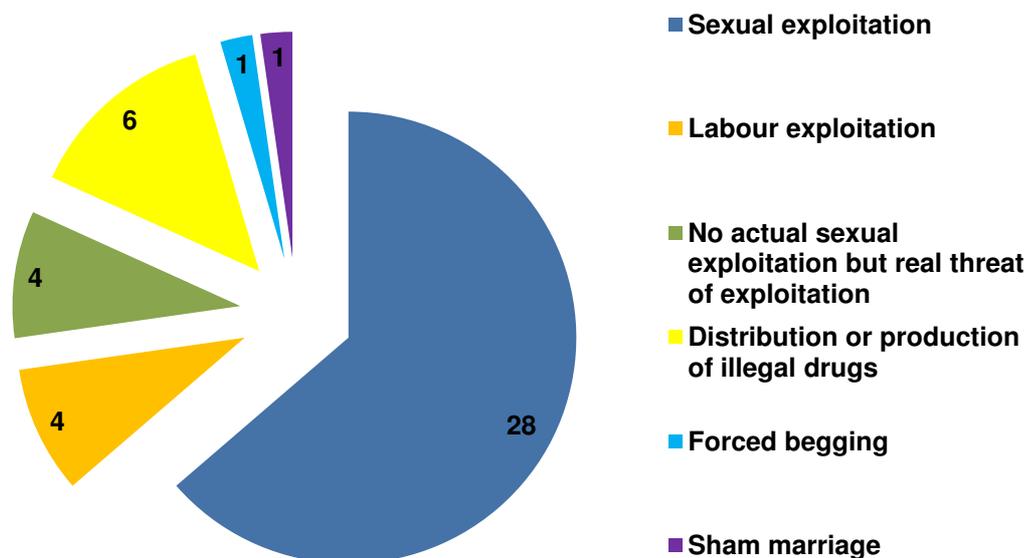
## Section 3 Overview of persons encountered or referred to NGOs or IOs

### 3.1 Total number reported by NGO

During 2014, the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit received reports from 5 NGOs and 1 International Organisation (IO) in regard to 44 alleged victims of human trafficking. In some cases reporting organisations acted as first responders while in others they received referrals from state service providers, or from other NGOs. In a number of cases the same individual may have been provided with services from a number of different NGOs.

Of persons reported, alleged victims of sexual exploitation were the largest group with 28 (64%) persons while alleged victims of trafficking for the distribution or production of illegal drugs were the second largest group with 6 persons. Other groups included alleged victims of labour exploitation with (4 persons), persons who had escaped their traffickers before the exploitation took place (4 persons), 1 alleged victim of forced begging and 1 alleged victim of a sham marriage.

**Figure: 10.** Total number reported

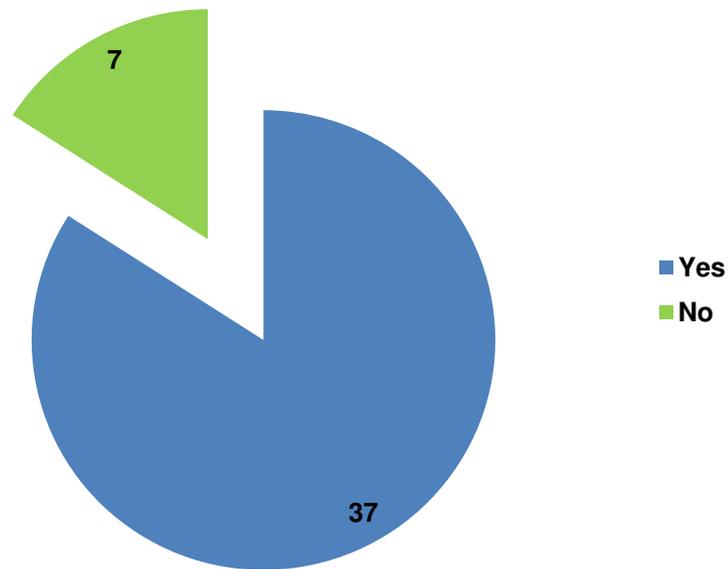


### 3.2 Referrals to An Garda Síochána by NGOs

Of the 44 persons encountered by or referred to NGOs in 2014, 37 were reported to An Garda Síochána or were already known to An Garda Síochána prior to a referral to the NGO.

In regard to the remaining 7, these persons either did not wish to be referred or were not yet ready to be referred at that point.

**Figure: 11** *Referrals to An Garda Síochána*

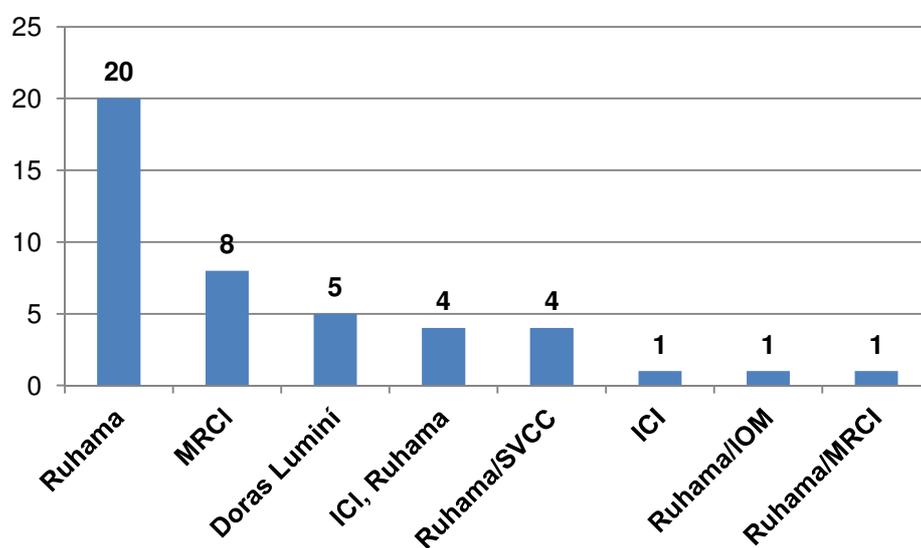


### 3.3 Organisations making the report

A number of different organisations provided services and supports to alleged victims of human trafficking during 2014. These included Ruhama, the Immigrant Council of Ireland (ICI), the Sexual Violence Centre Cork (SVCC), the Migrants Rights Centre of Ireland (MRCI), and Doras Lumini. The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) also provided a Voluntary Assisted Return service for persons seeking to return home (see Section 3.8).

In some cases organisations acted as first responders, however in the majority of cases persons were referred to NGOs by State Agencies such as An Garda Síochána or the HSE or by other NGOs for the purpose of providing persons with more specialised services. In a large number of cases the same individuals received services and support from 2 organisations. This was particularly the case with organisations such as Ruhama, the Immigrant Council of Ireland and the Sexual Violence Centre Cork who cooperate closely to provide victims with a range of support services.

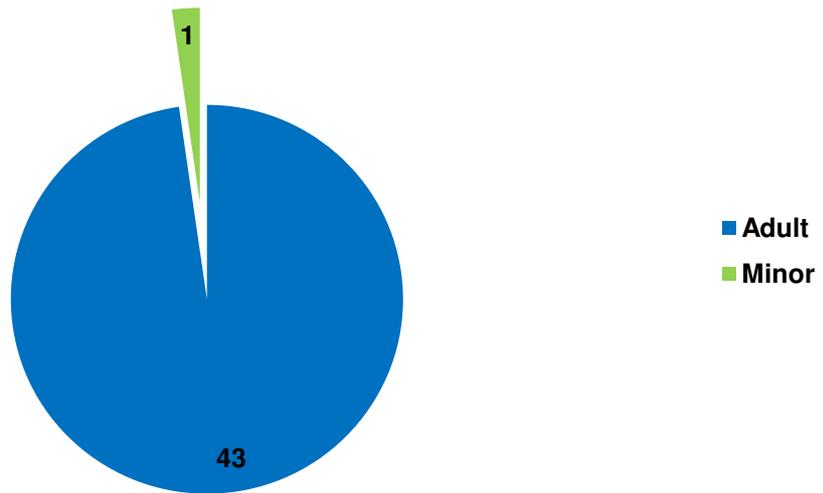
**Figure 12:** Organisation making the report



### 3.4 Age

Of the 44 persons referred to or encountered by reporting organisations in 2014, 43 were adults and 1 was a minor.

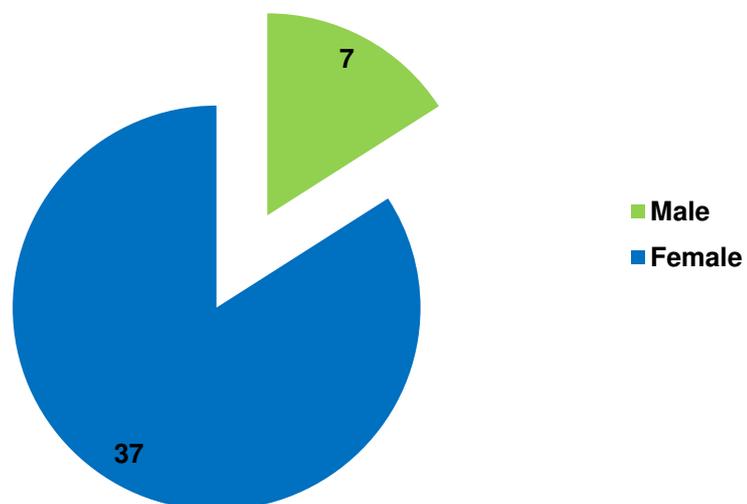
**Figure 13:** *Age*



### 3.5 Gender

Of the 44 persons referred to or encountered by reporting organisations in 2014, females accounted for 37 persons while 7 were males.

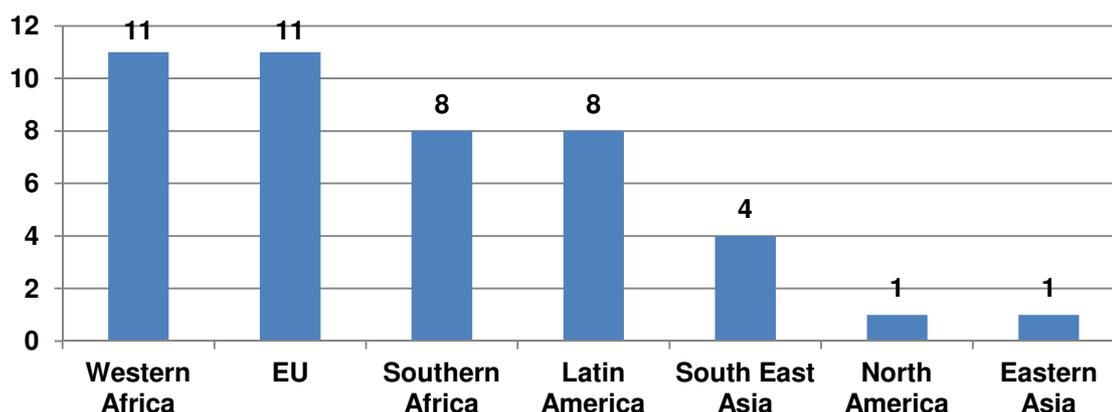
**Figure 14:** *Gender*



### 3.6 Region of origin

Of the 44 persons referred to or encountered by reporting organisations in 2014, half were from Western Africa (11 persons) and the EU (11 persons). Other persons included 8 from Southern Africa, 8 from Latin America, 4 from South East Asia, 1 from Eastern Asia and 1 from North America.

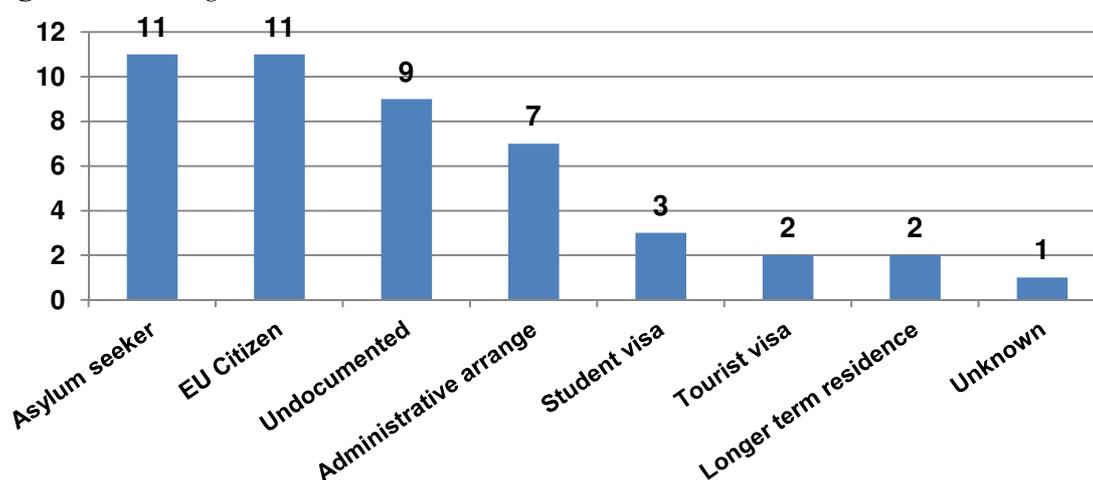
Figure 15: *Region of origin*



### 3.7 Immigration status as reported by NGOs

Of the 44 persons referred to or encountered by reporting organisations in 2014, 11 were asylum seekers while a further 11 were citizens of EU Member States. 9 persons were reported as undocumented. 5 persons were reported as having been granted protection under the Administrative Arrangements while a further 2 had been granted longer term residence. The status of other persons included 3 with student visa, 2 with tourist visas and the status of 1 person was unknown.

Figure 16: *Immigration status*



### **3.8 Assistance provided by IOM**

IOM Ireland provide a Voluntary Return Programme that is open to migrants from non-EEA countries, who wish to return home voluntarily but do not have the means, including the necessary documentation, to do so. IOM Ireland can assist with obtaining the necessary travel documentation, as well as covering the financial costs of the travel from Ireland to the country of origin.

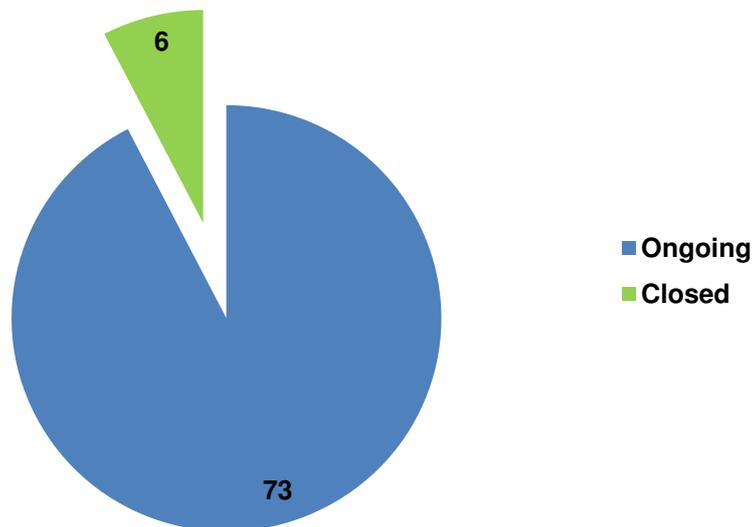
During 2014, IOM Ireland provided Voluntary Assisted Return to 12 persons.

## Section 4 Criminal justice response to human trafficking

### 4.1 Status of investigations (All exploitation types)

In 2014, An Garda Síochána initiated 79 investigations relating to allegations of trafficking in human beings involving 46 alleged victims. Seventy three cases were ongoing investigations at the end of the reporting period. Six cases were closed in 2014.

**Figure 17.** *Status of investigations*



## **4.2 Prosecutions**

Fourteen prosecutions in respect of 13 defendants were initiated during 2014 as a result of trafficking related investigations. In 13 cases the DPP directed that charges be brought under Section 3 of the Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008, which relates to the trafficking, taking, etc., of child for purpose of sexual exploitation, in addition to charges under a number of other related offences. In all these cases, the defendants were adult Irish males and the victims were Irish minors. It should be noted that none of aforementioned victims were exploited in the context of prostitution but for offences related to other forms of sexual exploitation such as child pornography, sexual assault and sexual indecency, rather than what might be termed 'commercial sexual exploitation'. In 1 case the defendant was charged under the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act 1993 and the Illegal Immigrants (Trafficking) Act 2000 in relation to prostitution of minors.

**Table 1: Prosecutions**

<b>Case</b>	<b>Act</b>	<b>Charges</b>	<b>Accused</b>
1	Section 3 of the Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008.	Sexual exploitation of a minor. 10 charges of defilement of a child	Adult male
2	Section 3 of the Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008.	Sexual exploitation of a minor. 2 charges of offensive messages and 1 charge of harassment.	Adult male
3	Section 3 of the Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008.	Sexual exploitation of a minor. (social media)	Adult male
4	Section 3 of the Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008.	Sexual exploitation of a minor. (social media)	Adult male
5	Section 3 of the Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008.	Sexual exploitation of a minor. (phone)	Adult male
6	Section 3 of the Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008.	Sexual exploitation of a minor. 3 charges of defilement of a child	Adult male
7	Section 3 of the Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008.	Sexual exploitation of a minor.	Adult male
8	Section 3 of the Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008.	Sexual exploitation of a minor.	Adult male
9	Section 3 of the Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008. Section 2 Criminal Law (Rape) Amendment Act 1990	Sexual exploitation of a minor.	Adult male
10	Section 3 of the Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008.	Sexual exploitation of a minor. (on-line)	Adult male
11	Section 3 of the Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008.	Sexual exploitation of a minor. (child pornography)	Adult male
12	Section 3 of the Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008.	Sexual exploitation of a minor.	Adult male
13	Section 3 of the Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008.	Sexual exploitation of a minor.	Adult male
14	Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act 1993, Illegal Immigrants (Trafficking) Act 2000.	Sexual exploitation of a minor. (prostitution)	Adult female

### 4.3 Convictions

Nine offenders were convicted and sentenced during 2014 as a result of human trafficking related investigations, 1 person was awaiting sentence for sexual assault charges at the end of 2014 and 1 person was acquitted.

**Table 2. Convictions**

Case	Charges	Accused	Sentence
1	One count of sexual exploitation contrary to Section 3 of the Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008, 1 count of sexual assault and 1 count of attempted sexual assault.	Adult Male	2.5 years imprisonment.
2	One count of sexual exploitation contrary to Section 3 of the Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008 for each of 5 injured parties.	Adult Male	3 charges withdrawn, 4 years imprisonment on remaining 2 charges.
3	1 count of Section 3 of the Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008 and 1 charge of possession of child pornography.	Adult Male	3 years imprisonment
4	Two counts contrary to Section 3 of the Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008.	Adult Male	5 years imprisonment, last 3 years suspended
5	One count of sexual exploitation contrary to Section 3 of the Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008 and 1 charge of sexual assault.	Adult Male	3 years imprisonment
6	One count of sexual exploitation contrary to Section 3 of the Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008.	Adult Male	18 months imprisonment
7	1 charge of sexual exploitation contrary to Section 3 of the Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008 and 1 charge of defilement of a child under 17 years.	Adult Male	3 years imprisonment
8	1 charge of sexual exploitation contrary to Section 3 of the Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008 and 1 charge of defilement of a child under 17 years.	Adult Male	3 years imprisonment
9	1 charge of sexual exploitation contrary to Section 3 of the Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008	Adult Male	6 years imprisonment concurrent with 9 year sentence for previous offence.
10	One count of sexual exploitation contrary to Section 3 of the Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008 and 1 charge of sexual assault.	Adult Male	S.3 CL(HT) Act 2008 charge withdrawn. Awaiting sentence on sexual assault charge.
11	One charge of sexual exploitation contrary to Section 3 of the Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act	Adult Male	Acquitted

## 4.4 International cooperation

### Law enforcement cooperation

Ireland co-operated in a number of human trafficking related investigations which had an international dimension in 2014. 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 utilized by An Garda Síochána for this purpose on a regular basis also.

- The Garda Síochána is working with Romanian law enforcement Authorities with regard to an investigation into suspected human trafficking for forced labour. This case involves the recruitment of Romanian nationals, in Romania, who are trafficked into Ireland and exploited for their labour, while providing car wash services, in a number of locations throughout Ireland. This investigation is continuing and enquiries are being co-ordinated through the Romanian Police Attaché based at the Romanian Embassy in Dublin. The Garda Síochána is utilizing a number of other State Agencies, including the Workplace Relations Commission (formerly NERA ) to further this investigation. In the course of this investigation four Romanian nationals suspected to be victims of human trafficking, have been rescued and have received the support of the State Services. A number of suspects have been identified and four premises, in Ireland, have been searched under warrant.
- The National Crime Agency, UK, has alerted the Garda Síochána to allegations of serious offences which occurred in Ireland over a number of years. The victim in this case, an African national female, is currently in the UK and being cared for there by a non-governmental agency. The alleged offences include sexual and labour exploitation. The Garda Síochána has initiated an investigation into the two suspects in this case, under the Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008. The Garda Síochána continues to liaise with the National Crime Agency in the UK, on a regular basis and are progressing their investigation with the assistance from the UK authorities.
- In October 2014, the Human Trafficking Investigation & Co-Ordination Unit (HTICU) received a request from the Dutch Authorities in relation to the

possible attempted trafficking of a Nigerian child into Ireland by her adoptive mother. Enquiries were carried out by the Garda Síochána into the travel arrangements of a Nigerian national female, now a naturalized Dutch citizen and her mother and son who travelled from Nigeria to Dublin via Amsterdam. Interviews and enquiries were conducted in Dublin and results of such were forwarded to the Dutch Authorities who are conducting their own investigation into Human Trafficking.

- Operation ETUTU: Ireland is part of the Europol EMPACT group on Human Trafficking. This group contains representatives from EU Member States and is co-ordinated through Europol in The Hague. Ireland joined this project in early 2014. This project was set up to combat human trafficking from West Africa into the EU. On the 11th June 2014 Operation ETUTU held a Europe wide Day of Action 'to combat the trafficking of human beings from West Africa into the European Union'. The Operation was aimed at targeting Nigerian Criminal Networks operating across Europe for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Fourteen European countries, including Ireland, participated. The operation was led by Germany and coordinated by Europol and Europol's Liaison Officers from participating Member States and third countries.

In Ireland, 2 human trafficking Organised Crime Group's were targeted. A premises, in West Dublin, was searched under warrant. Two persons were arrested for human trafficking related offences. These arrests were made in connection with the suspected human trafficking of Nigerian nationals into Ireland, all of whom are considered victims of human trafficking. One victim who was identified as a result of this investigation is receiving the support of both State services and NGO's.

- In an investigation, carried out on 11th June 2014, as part of the *Operation ETUTU* European Day of Action, a 37 year old Nigerian national female, was arrested for the offence of human trafficking for sexual exploitation, contrary to section 4 of the Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) 2008. She was detained under the provisions of section 4 of the Criminal Justice Act 1984 at Blanchardstown Garda Station. Following her detention she was released without charge. One (1) victim was identified as a result of this investigation, a young Nigerian national female, who is now receiving the support of both

State services and NGO's. A file is being prepared for the Director of Public Prosecutions from whom direction will be sought as to whether charges should be preferred.

- Ireland took part in a co-ordinated operation against organized crime in the EU during the week of 15 – 23 September 2014 (part of the EMPACT Human Trafficking Group at Europol). This operation targeted Brazilian nationals involved in various crime areas, including trafficking in human beings. This operation was co-ordinated by Europol and targeted organized crime groups and their infrastructures across the European Union. The Garda Síochána utilized the services of the Irish Customs Service, the Irish Revenue Service, the Irish Naval Service, and the Workplace Relations Commission (formerly NERA) to conduct a number of intelligence led searches which included the boarding of a cargo ship which had travelled from South America.
- There were a number of locations searched within the Republic of Ireland where it was believed that Brazilian females may have been involved in the sex industry. These investigations into the trafficking of young Brazilian women into Ireland for Sexual Exploitation (prostitution) has identified four suspects and a total of eight suspected victims have been identified. All the suspected victims are receiving both the services of the State and support from NGO's.

#### **Other International Activity:**

1. Ireland and the Garda Síochána joined an international group called the 'Santa Marta' Project in 2014. This group initiated by the Roman Catholic Church is led by Pope Francis I. The Santa Marta Project began with a Conference held in the Vatican in April 2014. Within the Santa Marta Group, Ireland has agreed to take a lead in the North Atlantic Fisheries Project with the United Kingdom, Spain and Portugal. The purpose of this project is to examine human trafficking in the Fisheries Industry in the North Atlantic. Currently the Garda Síochána is carrying out a scoping exercise to try to measure to some degree the extent of the problems of illegal immigration and human trafficking in the Fisheries and Maritime Industry. During the scoping exercise into the maritime and particularly the fisheries industry in Ireland, it has become apparent that there are a significant number of non-nationals

working on fishing boats off the coast of Ireland. The initial emphasis in the project is to develop relationships, both within Ireland and the United Kingdom, with key stakeholders from state agencies and civil society with a focus on building intelligence and to develop operation action plans.

2. Ireland joined the current EU Cycle 2014 – 2017 EMPACT Group for Human Trafficking. The EMPACT Group meets at Europol in The Hague and is the Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats. It is part of the intelligence led policing approach to tackling organized crime, identifying priorities and establishing an international team work approach to bring down criminal groups that threaten the security of the European Union. Eight EMPACT priorities have been selected by the Council of Europe. Human Trafficking is one of these priority areas.
3. A representative from the Human Trafficking Investigation and Co-Ordination Unit sits on the Organised Crime Task Force 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.
4. At the Annual Cross Border Policing Conference held in Belfast on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2014 there was a human trafficking workshop focusing on forced labour. This workshop was presented jointly by members of An Garda Síochána and the Police Service of Northern Ireland.
5. A representative from the Human Trafficking Investigation and Co-Ordination Unit attended a Forced Labour Conference in Warnsveld, The Netherlands on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> February 2014 organized by Anti Slavery International and attended by experts from all over Europe.
6. A representative from the Human Trafficking Investigation and Co-Ordination Unit attended a conference titled 'HOTT Project - Combating trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal in Europol, The Hague on 21 November 2014. This conference was financed by the European Commission.

7. On 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> November 2014, the 3<sup>rd</sup> INTERPOL Global Trafficking in Human Beings Conference was held at the Interpol General Secretariat, Lyon, France. A representative from the Human Trafficking Investigation and Co-ordination Unit attended this conference. It was attended international experts from both policing and non-policing backgrounds. The purpose of this meeting is to enhance and promote international co-operation and support member countries in understanding new trends within the THB field.

#### **4.5 European Arrest Warrants**

In 2014, 1 application for a European Arrest Warrant relating to trafficking in human beings was received by the Irish Authorities. The application was made by the Lithuanian Authorities.