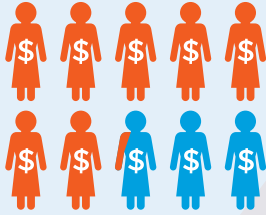




# TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND GIRLS\*



Women and girls represent **72%** of all trafficking survivors globally.



**77%** of identified female survivors are trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

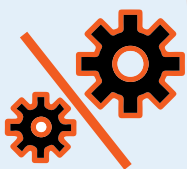
**47 MILLION** more women and girls will be pushed below the poverty line due to COVID-19, and the worsening of **VULNERABILITIES** may **INCREASE** their risk of trafficking.



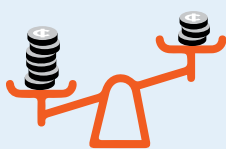
Due to COVID-19, **TWO THIRDS** of anti-trafficking workers reported seeing an increase in **ONLINE RECRUITMENT** by traffickers for the purpose of sexual exploitation online.



Implementation of the **NON-PUNISHMENT PRINCIPLE** remains **WEAK** and continues to put victims at risk of being punished for related offences.



**ONLY 14%** of anti-trafficking organizations reported that National Referral Mechanisms for trafficking survivors were fully operational during the pandemic.



Women's **ECONOMIC INEQUALITY** increases their vulnerability to trafficking.



**67%** of female trafficking survivors say COVID-19 has negatively impacted their financial well-being.



Preventing trafficking requires **CHANGING CULTURAL NORMS** and practices that objectify and control women's and girls' bodies.

# SG Report recommendations

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The COVID-19 pandemic could severely undermine progress made towards the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls (SDG 5, Target 5.2), including targets on the elimination of trafficking, which is a barrier to the achievement of many other SDGs and targets. Member States must act to:

- 1. Ensure** within their capabilities and in the context of COVID-19, that women have universal access to social protection and income protection, including for all female migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons. States should designate services for trafficking survivors as essential services and adapt services through technology.
- 2. Ensure** that law enforcement agencies retain the capacity to detect and investigate trafficking of women and girls, and the justice system to investigate and prosecute traffickers through teleconferencing. States should ensure that female survivors have access to information and communication technologies, comprehensive health services, and put stronger measures in place to ensure female survivors of trafficking are not punished for the crimes they were forced to commit during their exploitation (non-punishment principle).
- 3. Ensure** that female migrant workers have access to rights and entitlements under labor laws, including for female domestic workers, or women working in the informal economy, and continue with labor inspections and compliance monitoring.
- 4. Create** partnerships with financial institutions and other private sector organizations to regularly monitor, detect and report suspicious activities associated with trafficking of women and girls. Law enforcement agencies require the mandate, capability and resources to conduct financial investigations and prosecute perpetrators.
- 5. Increase** investments in evidence-based women's economic empowerment programmes, and introduce measures to realize women's economic and social rights, including access to education, decent work, equal pay, and equal rights over assets, as well as the elimination of gender-discriminatory laws and policies.
- 6. Invest** in long-term prevention measures to address the root causes of sexual exploitation, including harmful masculinities and male sexual entitlement. Programmes that engage men and boys to shift norms and attitudes that accept violence against women are critical.
- 7. Compensate** women survivors of trafficking through State-based schemes. Compensation should not be reliant on the seizure of assets from traffickers, cooperation with law enforcement or exhausting remedies through judicial processes.