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## Human trafficking: more than 20 million victims worldwide

**More than 20 million people living today around the world have been trafficked for sexual exploitation, forced labour and other activities across the world, generating a profit of €117 billion a year. It is also a very lucrative crime in Europe. On the occasion of the EU's Anti-Trafficking Day on 18 October, check out the facts in our infographic and discover what the EU and Parliament have been doing to tackle human trafficking.**

### Situation in the EU

In 2012 EU countries [reported](#) 11,000 registered, identified and presumed victims of human trafficking. Women and girls comprise 95% of victims trafficked for sexual exploitation, men comprise 70% of registered victims of labour exploitation. The majority of identified victims and suspected traffickers in the EU are EU nationals.

### Parliament's role

MEPs adopted an [anti-trafficking directive](#) in 2011, covering anything from prevention, to victims support and prosecution of offenders. The EU also has a [strategy](#) for the period 2012-2016 with 40 different measures targeting human trafficking as well as an EU coordinator to facilitate its implementation.

Earlier this year MEPs assessed current European legislation to combat human trafficking and recommended several measures to improve the situation in two resolutions adopted in [May](#) and [July](#). MEPs called on EU countries to better implement existing laws and provide better support to victims.

UK ALDE member [Catherine Bearder](#), who wrote the May resolution, said: "Five years ago the EU made huge strides when the anti-trafficking directive was brought into force but we are still not joined-up enough in our approach as data shows the number of trafficked individuals continues to rise."

The MEP said the refugee crisis had made the issue of trafficking even more pertinent: "We must be doing all we can right across Europe to protect the many, many thousands of unaccompanied vulnerable minors who are particularly exposed to traffickers and go missing all too easily."

## About Anti-Trafficking Day

The first EU Anti-Trafficking Day took place in 2007 following a recommendation by the European Parliament and a proposal by the European Commission.

## Find out more

[European Commission website on human trafficking](#)

[Human trafficking: "Like any market, there must be a demand that drives it" \(11 May 2016\)](#)

[Human trafficking: "Few victims go to court because we don't protect them enough" \(11 July 2016\)](#)

[Parliament resolution on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims from a gender perspective \(12 May 2016\)](#)

[Parliament resolution on the fight against trafficking in human beings in the EU's external relations \(5 July 2016\)](#)

[Eurostat report on human trafficking](#)



Check out the facts in our infographic