

MIGRATION AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

A Call to Action for Christians

STUDY GUIDE



**LOVING THE SOJOURNER
RESISTING SYSTEMS THAT HOLD THEM CAPTIVE**



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

ELCA Service and Justice
Asia Pacific Desk



“Migration and Human Trafficking: A Call to Action for Christians” Study Guide

In response to human trafficking, the church brings its distinctive theological outlook, particularly its proclamation of the image of God in all people. This theological foundation affirms the inherent dignity and worth of every human being, which compels faith communities to act against the injustices of human trafficking.

There are some actions that can be taken by people who, though not experts on these issues, have a commitment to addressing them. Antitrafficking work must be comprehensive. It must include knowledge and action that relate to both emergency assistance and prevention.

This study guide, with integrated biblical reflections and comprehensive reflection questions, aims to deepen churches’ understanding of human trafficking and to facilitate action against it.

All Bible references are to the New Living Translation.

Churches outside the United States may disregard the appendices and questions related to U.S. law and are encouraged to investigate similar laws and regulations in their own countries.

Module 1: Introduction to Migration and Human Trafficking

Key Concepts

- Definition and forms
- Legal framework
- Statistics

Study

1. Migration and Human Trafficking: A Call to Christians
 2. Trafficking Victims Protection Act
 3. U.N. Protocol
 4. U.S. State Department's Annual Trafficking in Persons Report
 5. International Organization for Migration "Glossary on Migration"
 6. The U.N High Commissioner for Refugees master glossary
- Definition and Forms of Human Trafficking (documents 5, 6)
 - Legal Framework (documents 1, 2)
 - Statistics (document 3)
 - Tiers (document 4)

Reflection Questions

1. What new understanding have you gained about human trafficking? How has your perception of it changed?
2. Reflect on any myths or misconceptions you previously held. How can you challenge these in your community?
3. Which laws did you find most impactful? How can you advocate for better implementation?
4. Does human trafficking affect your country, community or life? How?
5. Do you see the organizations highlighted in "Migration and Human Trafficking: A Call to Action for Christians" implementing any of the laws outlined in these policies?

Exercises

- Using the U.S. State Department's Annual Trafficking in Persons Report, find your country's tier ranking. Share and discuss the report.
- Group quiz to test knowledge of definitions, forms and legal frameworks.

Multiple-choice Quiz:

1. What is the primary purpose of the Victims Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000?
 - a) To regulate immigration laws
 - b) To combat human trafficking and protect victims
 - c) To provide employment to immigrants

d) To monitor labor unions
(Correct answer: b)

2. Which of the following is NOT a focus area of the TVPA?

- a) Prevention
 - b) Education reform
 - c) Protection
 - d) Prosecution
- (Correct answer: b)

3. What type of visa does the TVPA offer to trafficking victims in the U.S.?

- a) H1B Visa
 - b) J1 Visa
 - c) T Visa
 - d) F1 Visa
- (Correct answer: c)

4. Countries that fail to meet minimum standards in combating human trafficking are placed in which tier?

- a) Tier 1
 - b) Tier 2
 - c) Tier 3
 - d) Tier 4
- (Correct answer: c)

5. What is another name for the U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons?

- a) Vienna Protocol
 - b) Geneva Convention
 - c) Palermo Protocol
 - d) Trafficking in Persons Act
- (Correct answer: c)

6. Which of the following is NOT a focus of the U.N. protocol cited above?

- a) Prevention of trafficking
 - b) Protection of victims
 - c) Criminalization of migration
 - d) International cooperation
- (Correct answer: c)

7. What does the U.N. protocol require signatory states to do to help trafficking victims?

- a) Ensure that victims are prosecuted for crimes committed under coercion
 - b) Provide legal, medical and psychological support
 - c) Deny victims repatriation to their home country
 - d) Monitor victims after reintegration
- (Correct answer: b)

8. What does the U.N. protocol emphasize about penalties for trafficking offenses?

- a) They should be negotiable.
- b) They should be minor to encourage cooperation.
- c) They should include severe penalties such as imprisonment.

d) They should apply only to cross-border trafficking.

(Correct answer: c)

9. What is the purpose of the U.S. State Department's Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report?

- a) To determine immigration quotas
- b) To rank countries based on their efforts to combat human trafficking
- c) To regulate international trade agreements
- d) To monitor refugee resettlement

(Correct answer: b)

10. What potential consequences do Tier 3 countries face?

- a) Additional foreign aid
- b) U.S. sanctions and limited financial institution support
- c) Automatic promotion to Tier 2
- d) Exemption from international human rights obligations

(Correct answer: b)

11. Which form of trafficking involves exploitation of people for labor in industries such as agriculture and domestic work?

- a) Sex trafficking
- b) Organ trafficking
- c) Labor trafficking
- d) Child trafficking

(Correct answer: c)

12. What are Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)?

- a) People who migrate legally across international borders
- b) Individuals who are forced to flee their homes but remain within their country
- c) Refugees seeking asylum in a foreign country
- d) Victims of human trafficking within their home country

(Correct answer: b)

13. Which group is particularly vulnerable to human trafficking, according to the UNHCR?

- a) Tourists
- b) Refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless people
- c) College students
- d) Retired individuals

(Correct answer: b)

14. What does labor trafficking typically involve?

- a) Organ removal for transplantation
- b) Exploitation of individuals for forced labor in industries such as agriculture or domestic work
- c) Recruitment of individuals for voluntary migration
- d) Provision of safe housing for vulnerable populations

(Correct answer: b)

Module 2: Biblical Perspectives

Key Biblical Concepts

- Betrayal
- Accountability
- The stranger

Genesis 37:12-28

Soon after this, Joseph's brothers went to pasture their father's flocks at Shechem. When they had been gone for some time, Jacob said to Joseph, "Your brothers are pasturing the sheep at Shechem. Get ready, and I will send you to them."

"I'm ready to go," Joseph replied.

"Go and see how your brothers and the flocks are getting along," Jacob said. "Then come back and bring me a report." So Jacob sent him on his way, and Joseph traveled to Shechem from their home in the valley of Hebron.

When he arrived there, a man from the area noticed him wandering around the countryside. "What are you looking for?" he asked.

"I'm looking for my brothers," Joseph replied. "Do you know where they are pasturing their sheep?"

"Yes," the man told him. "They have moved on from here, but I heard them say, 'Let's go on to Dothan.'" So Joseph followed his brothers to Dothan and found them there.

When Joseph's brothers saw him coming, they recognized him in the distance. As he approached, they made plans to kill him.

Reflection questions

1. How does the story of Joseph and his brothers relate to the issue of human trafficking?
2. What insights can be drawn about exploitation and betrayal?

Revelation 18:11-13

The merchants of the world will weep and mourn for [the fallen city of Babylon], for there is no one left to buy their goods. She bought great quantities of gold, silver, jewels, and pearls; fine linen, purple, silk, and scarlet cloth; things made of fragrant thyme wood, ivory goods, and objects made of expensive wood; and bronze, iron, and marble. She also bought cinnamon, spice, incense, myrrh, frankincense, wine, olive oil, fine flour, wheat, cattle, sheep, horses, wagons, and bodies — that is, human slaves.

Reflection questions

1. "Bodies" are listed among the riches of Babylon. What do these verses reveal about human trafficking from a biblical perspective?
2. How does this passage inform your understanding of justice and accountability?

Further Investigation

- The Bible makes clear that those who forsake the oppressed are to be cursed (Exodus 22, 23; Deuteronomy 23, 24; Jeremiah 7, 22; Zechariah 7; Ezekiel 22; Psalm 146; Malachi 3; Deuteronomy 27; Matthew 25).
- The Bible also repeatedly calls us to love and care for the stranger because we too were once strangers (Exodus 22; Leviticus 19, 24; Deuteronomy 6, 10; Psalm 105).
- Remembering that we were once strangers invites us into a deeper sense of empathy and understanding of what it means to “do to others as you would have them do to you,” which includes loving the stranger, the foreigner and the sojourner (Leviticus 19:18, Matthew 7:12, Luke 6:31).
- We are also instructed that the body of Christ should accept strangers with open arms (Romans 15:7-9) and treat them as equals (Colossians 3:11).

Reflection questions

1. Who were the oppressed strangers in the context of each text?
2. What is God’s command on welcome and love?
3. If we — as individuals and, collectively, as the church — follow God’s command, will that solve the problem of human trafficking?

Module 3: Driving Forces of Migration and Human Trafficking

Key Concepts

- Victim profiles
- Trafficker profiles
- Red flags

Study Resources

- “Migration and Human Trafficking: A Call to Action for Christians” testimonies
- [“Identify and Assist a Trafficking Victim”](#)

Exercise

- Create a checklist of risk factors and red flags.
- Review testimonies in the statement to find identifying characteristics of migration and human trafficking.

Reflection Questions

1. How did creating a checklist help you to understand risk factors?
2. How will you use this list as a tool to identify people at risk in your church or community?

Module 4: Prevention Strategies

Key Concepts

- Education and awareness
- Policy and advocacy
- Empowerment

Study Resource

New Life Center Foundation — Thailand

Exercise (choose one)

- Create an advocacy campaign in your congregation, centered on one of the many issues found in “Migration and Human Trafficking: A Call to Action for Christians.”
- Explore, share and discuss technologies used in prevention efforts.
- Review emergency response protocols, acting out role-playing scenarios. Run simulation exercises where participants respond to a mock trafficking crisis, coordinating with law enforcement and providing victim support. Discuss.

Reflection Questions

1. What did you learn about handling crises? How would you apply these lessons in a real situation?
2. What did you learn about providing trauma-informed care? How will you ensure that your interactions with victims are effective?
3. What action could your church take to “speak out” on behalf of migrants and refugees?
4. What emerging trends or challenges concern you? How can you address these in your church?
5. Are there refugee or migrant organizations in your region that could be contacted for partnership?
6. Could partnership with organizations run by ethnic minorities and survivors of human trafficking help to prevent further exploitation or imbalanced power dynamics? Explain.
7. Are there perpetrators in our churches and schools? How can we address and prevent their actions?

Module 5: Congregational Action Plan

Key Concepts

- Action
- Equipping

Exercise

- Map your community to discover where migrants come from, which organizations are walking with them and how.
- How might your congregation partner with these organizations?
- Invite a migrant community organization to talk about its work and how you can participate.
- Undertake an immersion experience at the borders of your country or in large cities where trafficked people might go unseen.

Reflection Questions

1. Does your congregation speak about trafficking? Why or why not?
2. In what ways is the church specially equipped to respond to human trafficking?
3. How do you think a victim of trafficking would feel in your church community and typical worship service? Why?
4. In what ways might your congregation harbor migrant, human trafficking activity? How can you correct that issue?
5. How could your church incorporate education about human trafficking into worship or other parts of church life?

Final Exercise

Reflecting on what you have learned so far, create a litany (prayer) that petitions your church to engage in the migrant community, to equip itself to help end suffering and to educate church and community members about the sin of human trafficking.

Additional Resources

- Recommended readings and journals
- Webinars and online courses
- Relevant organizations and support networks

Appendices

Appendix A: Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000 is the foundational U.S. law designed to combat human trafficking and protect victims. It was created to address both **sex trafficking** and **labor trafficking**, and it has been reauthorized and amended several times. The act outlines several important legal frameworks:

Prevention

- Mandates the implementation of public awareness programs to educate about human trafficking in the U.S. and abroad.
- Provides for assistance to other countries to help them prevent trafficking and strengthen their laws.
- Establishes the President's Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, which coordinates efforts across federal agencies.

Protection

- Victims of trafficking are eligible for a **T Visa**, which provides temporary legal status and work authorization in the U.S. This visa also allows victims to apply for permanent residency.
- The act provides for services such as housing, medical care, legal assistance and job training for trafficking survivors.
- Victims of trafficking are protected from deportation and are eligible for certain federal benefits.

Prosecution

- The TVPA establishes severe penalties for traffickers, including life imprisonment for crimes involving aggravated circumstances such as the use of force, fraud or coercion.
- The act criminalizes both forced labor and sex trafficking, including the recruitment, harboring or transport of people for the purpose of exploitation.
- Victims are allowed to sue their traffickers for damages.

Partnerships and Accountability

- The U.S. State Department publishes a report that ranks countries based on their efforts to combat human trafficking. It holds foreign governments accountable and influences U.S. foreign assistance.
- Countries are ranked in tiers, based on their efforts to combat trafficking. Tier 1 is the highest, and Tier 3 countries potentially face sanctions for failing to meet minimum standards.

Appendix B: The U.N. Protocol

The U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, also known as the Palermo Protocol, is a key international legal framework designed to combat human trafficking. It supplements the **United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime** and was adopted in 2000. The Palermo Protocol is the first internationally binding agreement that creates a comprehensive and shared framework for addressing human trafficking, ensuring that all countries work together to prevent trafficking, protect victims and prosecute traffickers. It is a cornerstone of international efforts to combat trafficking in people.

The Palermo Protocol outlines several legal frameworks aimed at addressing trafficking globally:

Prevention

- Signatory states are required to adopt measures to prevent and combat trafficking in people, which include public awareness campaigns, law enforcement training, and addressing the root causes of trafficking such as poverty and lack of opportunity.
- Countries are obligated to establish comprehensive legal and policy frameworks to prevent trafficking, which include criminalizing the trafficking of people and establishing national laws aligned with the protocol's standards.
- States are encouraged to strengthen border control measures and cooperation between law enforcement agencies to prevent and detect trafficking.

Protection of and Assistance to Victims

- States are required to take appropriate measures to identify and assist victims of trafficking, and especially women and children, who are considered to be particularly vulnerable.
- The protocol emphasizes the importance of providing victims with legal, medical and psychological support. This includes ensuring that they are not prosecuted for crimes they were forced to commit as a result of their trafficking situation.
- Trafficked people must be returned to their country of origin safely and voluntarily. There are also provisions for facilitating their reintegration into society, whether in their home country or the country of destination.
- Assistance to victims must be provided without discrimination on grounds of race, color, sex, language, religion or other status.

Criminalization and Prosecution

- The Palermo Protocol provides an internationally accepted definition of human trafficking, covering the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of people by means of threat, force or other forms of coercion for exploitation (including sexual exploitation, forced labor and organ removal).
- Signatory states are required to criminalize all forms of trafficking in people, including the attempt to commit trafficking and participation in trafficking activities.
- The protocol emphasizes that trafficking offenses should be met with appropriate and severe penalties, including imprisonment, to deter offenders.
- States are encouraged to adopt measures that allow for the seizure and confiscation of the proceeds of trafficking activities and to use those assets to support victims and prevention programs.

International Cooperation

- Countries are required to cooperate with each other in the investigation, prosecution and punishment of trafficking offenses, which includes sharing relevant information and providing assistance in extraditing traffickers.

- The protocol encourages law enforcement agencies across borders to collaborate more effectively through joint investigations, information exchange and capacity building.
- States are encouraged to train their border officials, police officers and other relevant actors in identifying trafficking cases and effectively addressing them.

Human Rights and Nonpunishment of Victims

- Victims of trafficking should not be penalized or prosecuted for unlawful acts they were compelled to commit as a result of their trafficking.
- The protocol emphasizes that the rights of trafficked people must be respected and protected at all stages to ensure that antitrafficking measures do not compromise the human rights of individuals.

Appendix C: U.S. State Department Annual Trafficking in Persons Report

The U.S. State Department's Annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report ranks countries into **four tiers** based on their efforts to combat human trafficking. These rankings are part of the **Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA)** framework and are used to hold countries accountable for addressing trafficking within their borders. The four tiers reflect the degree to which governments meet the minimum standards outlined by the TVPA.

Tier 1

- Countries in this tier fully meet the **TVPA's minimum standards** for eliminating human trafficking.
- A Tier 1 ranking does not mean that a country has no human trafficking issues, rather that the government is making significant and sustained efforts to combat the problem, including prevention, protection of victims and prosecution of traffickers.
- **Examples:** Many developed nations, such as the U.S., UK and Germany, often fall into this category.

Tier 2

- Countries that **do not fully meet the minimum standards** but are making significant efforts to do so.
- While these countries have not yet reached the ideal level of compliance, they are making measurable progress. Their governments demonstrate a willingness to improve their antitrafficking initiatives.
- **Examples:** Countries that are developing antitrafficking infrastructure but still face challenges, such as India or Brazil, may be placed in this tier.

Tier 2 Watch List

- Countries that fall under Tier 2 criteria but face **special scrutiny** because:
 - Their **absolute number of trafficking victims** is very high or there is a significant increase in trafficking cases.
 - They **fail to provide evidence of increasing efforts** to combat human trafficking from the previous year.
 - Their government **has committed to take specific steps to combat trafficking** in the next year.
- The Tier 2 Watch List comprises countries that could slip to Tier 3 if they demonstrate no progress. This tier is closely monitored, and a country on it could be downgraded if it does not improve.
- **Examples:** Countries with deteriorating conditions or insufficient efforts, such as some Southeast Asian or African nations, may be placed on the watch list.

Tier 3

- Countries that **do not meet the minimum standards** and are **not making significant efforts** to do so.
- Governments in this tier face the harshest scrutiny. They are not taking adequate steps to combat human trafficking due to lack of resources or political will or due to their own complicity. Tier 3 countries may face **U.S. sanctions**, such as withholding nonhumanitarian, non-trade-related foreign assistance and support in global financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund or World Bank.
- **Examples:** Countries such as North Korea, Eritrea and Syria, which have poor human rights records or tolerate systemic exploitation, are often found in Tier 3.

Appendix D: International Organization for Migration Glossary

The International Organization for Migration's "Glossary on Migration" provides clear and standardized definitions and forms of human trafficking and migration. Below are key terms and definitions related to these concepts:

Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is defined as the **recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of people** by means of the **threat or use of force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or vulnerability**, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation includes, at a minimum:

- Sexual exploitation.
- Forced labor or services.
- Slavery or practices similar to slavery.
- Servitude.
- Organ removal.

This definition is based on the **Palermo Protocol** and emphasizes that trafficking can occur both across borders and within a country.

Forms of Human Trafficking

- **Sex trafficking:** The exploitation of people, primarily women and children, through prostitution or other forms of sexual exploitation, often by force, fraud or coercion.
- **Labor trafficking:** The exploitation of individuals for forced labor or services, typically in industries such as agriculture, construction, manufacturing and domestic work. This can include bonded labor, child labor or involuntary servitude.
- **Child trafficking:** The recruitment, transportation or exploitation of children (under 18) for various purposes, including forced labor, sexual exploitation or illegal activities, without the need for force or coercion since children cannot consent.
- **Organ trafficking:** The trafficking of people for the purpose of removing their organs for sale or medical purposes.
- **Debt bondage (bonded labor):** Victims are forced to work to pay off a debt, often with escalating interest or under conditions in which the debt cannot realistically be repaid, which traps them in a cycle of exploitation.

Migration

Migration refers to the **movement of people from one place to another**, either across international borders or within a country. Migration can be **voluntary** or **involuntary**, and there are several subcategories:

- **Voluntary migration:** People move of their own accord, often for economic reasons, to seek better living conditions, education or employment.
- **Involuntary or forced migration:** Movement of individuals or groups against their will, often due to conflict, persecution, natural disasters or human trafficking.
- **Regular migration:** Migration that occurs through legal channels, where the migrant follows the rules and regulations of the country of destination.
- **Irregular migration:** Movement that takes place outside the regulatory norms of the sending, transitory or receiving countries. Irregular migrants may enter a country without proper documentation or overstay their visas.

Related Terms in Migration and Human Trafficking

- **Smuggling of migrants:** The act of facilitating the illegal entry of a person into a state of which they are not a national or resident, for financial or material gain. Unlike trafficking, smuggling typically involves consent, but the conditions may still be dangerous and exploitative.

- **Refugees:** Persons who flee their country of origin due to persecution, conflict or violence and are unable or unwilling to return due to a well-founded fear of persecution based on race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group.
- **Asylum-seekers:** Individuals who seek international protection and whose claim for refugee status has not yet been determined.
- **Internally displaced persons (IDPs):** People who have been forced to flee their homes but remain within their own country's borders due to conflict, violence or natural disasters.
- **Migrants in vulnerable situations:** People who, due to the reasons for their migration or the conditions they face during migration, are at a higher risk of exploitation, abuse or trafficking.

Exploitation in the Context of Trafficking

Exploitation refers to the misuse of another person for personal gain, and in the context of trafficking, it is often linked to severe forms of abuse such as:

- Coerced labor.
- Sexual exploitation.
- Slavery or servitude.
- Forced criminality.
- Organ harvesting.

Safe Migration

Safe migration refers to the migration of individuals under legal frameworks that protect their human rights and ensure their well-being. This contrasts with irregular or forced migration, where migrants may be vulnerable to exploitation and trafficking.

Appendix E: U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

The **U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)** provides clear definitions and classifications of **migration** and **human trafficking**, often focusing on vulnerable populations such as refugees, asylum-seekers, and internally displaced persons. Here are the key terms and forms of migration and human trafficking according to the **UNHCR glossary**:

Human Trafficking

The UNHCR defines human trafficking as the **recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of persons**, by means of the **threat or use of force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power**, or vulnerability for the purpose of **exploitation**. Trafficking differs from smuggling in that it involves coercion and exploitation, whereas smuggling typically involves consent but can still involve dangerous and exploitative conditions.

Forms of exploitation include:

- **Sexual exploitation**
- **Forced labor or services**
- **Slavery or practices similar to slavery**
- **Servitude**
- **Removal of organs**

The UNHCR emphasizes that refugees, asylum-seekers, and stateless people are particularly vulnerable to trafficking because of their precarious situations and lack of legal protection.

Forms of Human Trafficking

- **Sexual trafficking:** The exploitation of people, primarily women and children, for prostitution or other forms of sexual exploitation.
- **Labor trafficking:** The exploitation of individuals for forced labor, typically in industries such as agriculture, construction and domestic work.
- **Child trafficking:** The recruitment, transportation and exploitation of children under the age of 18, often for forced labor or sexual exploitation.
- **Trafficking for organ removal:** Exploitation of individuals through the illegal removal of their organs for transplantation or sale.

Migration

Migration, as defined by the UNHCR, refers to the **movement of people** from one place to another, either across international borders or within a country. Migration can be driven by a range of factors, from voluntary movement for better economic opportunities to forced migration due to conflict or natural disasters. The UNHCR particularly focuses on **forced migration** due to its mandate to protect refugees and other displaced populations.

Types of Migration:

- **Voluntary migration:** The movement of individuals who choose to relocate, often for economic reasons, education or better living conditions.
- **Forced migration:** Movement of people due to external pressures such as conflict, persecution or natural disasters. This includes refugees, asylum-seekers and internally displaced people.

- **Regular migration:** Migration that occurs within the legal frameworks established by the destination country, where the migrant follows immigration rules and policies.
- **Irregular migration:** The movement of people that takes place outside legal frameworks, often without proper documentation or through overstaying visas.

Related Terms in Migration and Human Trafficking

- **Refugees:** Persons who have fled their country of origin due to a well-founded fear of persecution based on race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion, and who are unable or unwilling to return to that country.
- **Asylum-seekers:** Individuals who seek protection in another country due to persecution in their home country but whose refugee status has not yet been determined.
- **Internally displaced persons (IDPs):** Individuals who are forced to flee their homes due to conflict, violence or disasters but who remain within their own country's borders.
- **Stateless persons:** Individuals who are not considered citizens by any country, which leaves them vulnerable to discrimination, exploitation and denial of rights.
- **Migrants in vulnerable situations:** People whose circumstances during migration make them more susceptible to exploitation, abuse or trafficking, including women, children and unaccompanied minors.

Exploitation in the Context of Human Trafficking

The UNHCR emphasizes that trafficking victims are often subject to **severe exploitation**, including:

- **Forced labor.**
- **Sexual exploitation.**
- **Slavery or servitude.**
- **Forced criminal activities.**
- **Organ removal.**
- **Debt bondage.**

These forms of exploitation are often targeted at individuals who lack legal status or protection, such as refugees, asylum-seekers or undocumented migrants.

Protection and Assistance for Trafficking Victims

The UNHCR highlights the importance of identifying and protecting trafficking victims among refugee and migrant populations, offering:

- **Access to asylum procedures.**
- **Legal protection and counseling.**
- **Medical care and safe housing.**
- **Rehabilitation services.**

Distinction Between Trafficking and Smuggling

The UNHCR distinguishes **human trafficking** from **migrant smuggling**:

- Human trafficking involves **coercion** and **exploitation** and can occur within or across borders.
- Smuggling of migrants refers to the illegal transportation of people across borders with their consent, typically in exchange for financial compensation. However, smuggling can also lead to exploitative conditions, putting migrants at risk.