

# Trafficking in Human Beings in France

Profile of victims accompanied  
by associations in 2018

Amandine SOURD, *Research Officer at the ONDRP*  
Abigail VACHER, *Policy Officer*



Trafficking in human beings is an international criminal phenomenon. The precarious and clandestine circumstances in which the victims are placed make it a complex subject to grasp statistically. Although the hold of criminal networks limits victims' possibilities of reaching out to law enforcement agencies and associations, the data collected by the latter remain the main sources available for apprehending this criminal phenomenon and illustrating its main trends.

Since 2016, in partnership with the member associations of the «Together against human trafficking» collective, the Interministerial Mission for Protecting Women Against Violence and for Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings (MIPROF) and the National Observatory of Crime and Criminal Justice (ONDRP) have designed an annual survey that compiles the data regarding victims of trafficking who were accompanied by associations in France. The information on the victims' profiles and paths provided through this tool contribute to a better knowledge and helps to improve understanding of this phenomenon.

This publication summarises the results of the third edition of the survey. It covers human trafficking victims accompanied by associations in 2018. Special attention was paid to child victims.

# 2,918 HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS

accompanied by **53 associations** in 2018

## Results for all victims

For this third edition, 53 associations<sup>1</sup> provided data on 2,918 human trafficking victims<sup>2</sup>, whether or not the support began in 2018. Participation in the survey is clearly on the rise, as the number of responding associations accompanying victims of human trafficking has more than doubled compared to the previous edition. At the same time, there was an increase in the number of victims accompanied. However, it should be noted that the variations observed are, based on the activity of the responding associations.

Number of associations and accompanied victims according to the different editions

	2017	2018	2019
Victims accompanied in	2015	2016	2018
Number of responding associations	13	24	53
Number of accompanied victims	1,826	1,857	2,918

Source: "Les victimes de traite des êtres humains" Questionnaire, MIPROF - ONDRP, 2015, 2016, 2018

## Profile of trafficking victims

### accompanied by associations in 2018

#### Most associations support victims of sexual exploitation

Of the 2,918 human trafficking victims accompanied in 2018, 74% were victims of sexual exploitation. This over-representation of victims of sexual exploitation in the sample must, as in previous years, be put in perspective for two reasons. The first one relates to the large number of associations responding to the survey that work with this population. The second one is linked to the fact that victims of this form of exploitation are more visible and reachable.

Forced Labour is the second most frequently observed form of exploitation. It concerns 510 people, which represents 17% of the victims accompanied by associations in 2018. Almost half of them are victims of domestic exploitation (233 victims).

Victims of forced criminality account for 5% of all victims accompanied by the associations (135 victims), and those of forced begging for 3% (73 victims). Lastly, 40 victims (1%) suffered from another form of exploitation.



(1) The term "association" includes associations and specific establishments of some associations. For ease of reading, this term is used to refer to both of these possibilities.

(2) For more information on the definition of "victims of trafficking in human beings" as used in the survey, see Methodology.

At least three-quarters (75%) of the victims of trafficking identified in the survey were exploited on French territory. Victims who were not exploited on French territory may have been in transit in the country and the associations were able to detect a potential trafficking situation concerning them (see box in the fact sheet on the trafficking of minors).

Depending on the form of exploitation, the profiles of the victims and the conditions of exploitation may vary. Fact sheets on each exploitation form highlight these specificities.

### A majority of adult women

Of the total number of trafficking victims accompanied by associations in 2018, 2,382 were women, i.e. 82%. Men accounted for 17% of victims (493 victims). The associations also accompanied 33 transgender persons (1%). For 10 victims, information on gender could not be recorded.

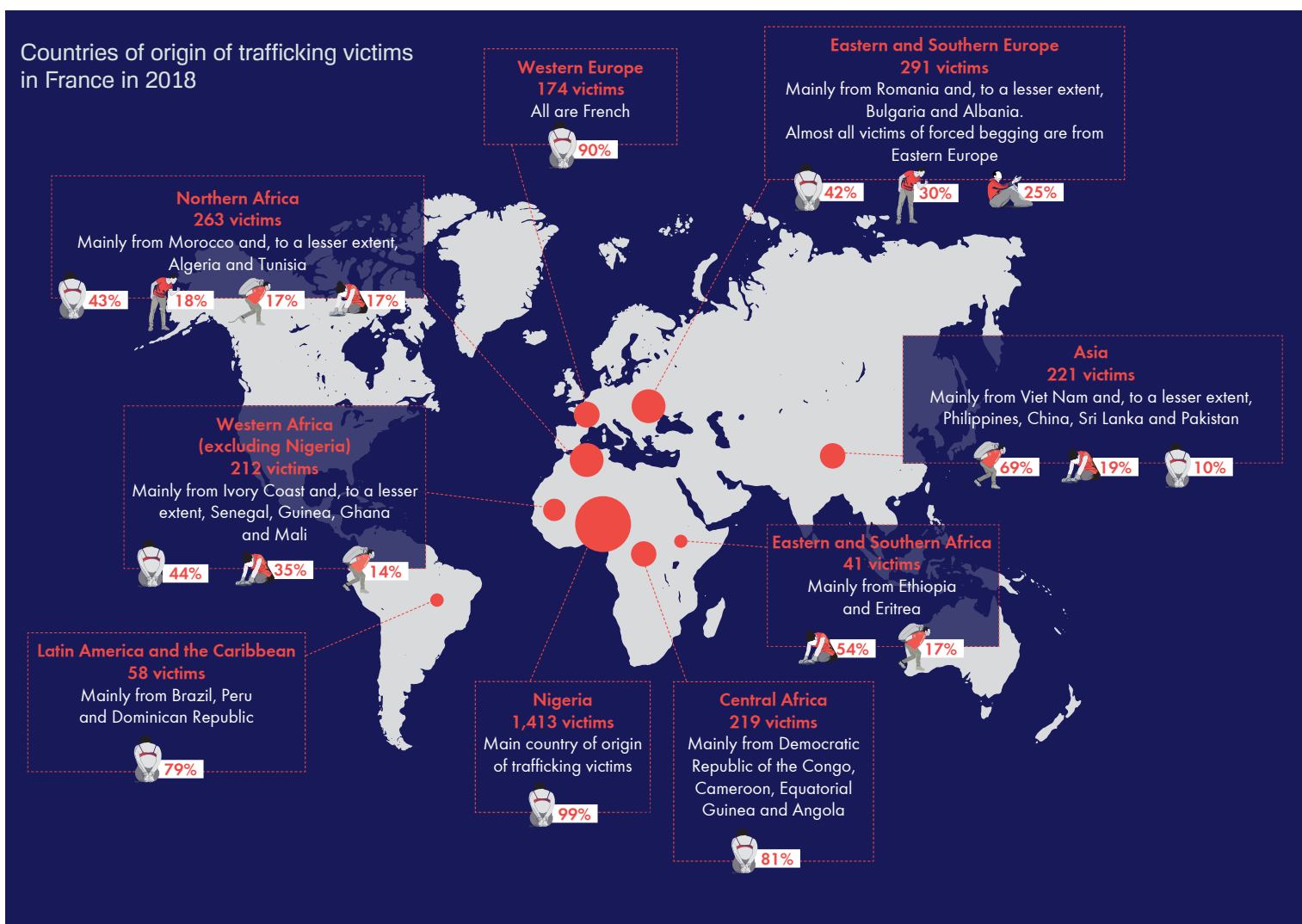
Of the victims, 2,412 were adults (83%), while 339 were minors (12%). For 167 victims, information on the minority or majority could not be recorded. When the age range was given, the victims were young: 42% were under 30.

### Nearly half of the victims are from Nigeria

The victims came from 79 different countries. Nearly three-quarters (74%) of them were from Africa, 16% from Europe, 8% from Asia, and 2% from South America and the Caribbean.

That said, the distribution of victims depending on their country of origin is very unequal. Indeed, victims of Nigerian origin account for 48% of the victims recorded in the survey (1,413 victims). This preponderance must be contextualised by the large proportion of victims being accompanied by associations working with sex workers, the majority of Nigerian victims being victims of sexual exploitation.

This year, the data collected differ from those of the two previous surveys because the second most represented country of origin of the victims is France, and almost all of them are concerned by sexual exploitation (156 victims out of 174). This change is probably linked to the phenomenon of sexual exploitation of young French girls, which has been increasing in recent years (see box in the fact sheet on sexual exploitation).



## The hold of the trafficker or the network

Although only one exploitation form is identified in the survey per victim, it appears that 12% of them suffered multiple forms of exploitation, whether simultaneously or successively (data provided by 12 associations having accompanied 727 victims).

A common feature of all trafficking victims is the hold of the trafficker or the network, which is highlighted by several factors in the survey. In particular, we can see that when they meet with the association, 62% of the victims are still being exploited (data provided by 16 associations having accompanied 594 victims). Moreover, for 75% of victims, the trafficker or the network organises the victim's transport to France, to the place of exploitation (data provided by 15 associations having accompanied 730 victims). Lastly, nearly 9 out of 10 victims are hosted by the trafficker or the network (86%), which allows for more control (data provided by 19 associations having accompanied 690 victims).

## Victims unknown to the authorities

Contact between victims and associations is generally made during outreach activities such as patrols (27%) and, for a quarter, during open-access drop-in hours (data provided by 26 associations having accompanied 1,925 victims). It should be noted that 12% of victims had been referred by another association or professional (police officer, doctor, social worker, etc.) and 9% had been met in places of deprivation of liberty, including 7% in administrative detention centres.

Moreover, the majority of the victims are unknown to the authorities. Only 21% file a complaint with the police (data provided by 26 associations having monitored 1,096 victims). For 4% of victims who went to the police or gendarmerie, the complaint was not recorded.

The invisibility and vulnerability of victims are also accentuated by the illegality with regard to their right of residence. Only 28% have a residence permit, including 9% under Article L.316-1 of the Code for Entry and Residence of Foreigners and Right of Asylum (CESEDA) and 11% under international protection (data provided by 26 associations having accompanied 828 victims). It should be noted that 5% of victims are not concerned by these issues (French victims for example).



**82%** women

**17%** men

**1%** transgender persons



**83%** adults

**12%** minors



For **75%** of the victims the transport to France is planned by the trafficker or the network (data provided by 15 associations having accompanied 730 victims)



For **86%** of the victims, the housing is organised by the trafficker or the network (data provided by 19 associations having accompanied 690 victims)



**21%** of the victims file a complaint (data provided by 26 associations having accompanied 1,096 victims)



**28%** of the victims have a residence permit (data provided by 26 associations having accompanied 828 victims)

Source: "Les victimes de traite des êtres humains" Questionnaire, MIPROF - ONDRP, 2018.

## Methodology

### Unit of count: the accompanied victims

The unit of count, **human trafficking victims accompanied** by an association, corresponds to victims supported by the association over a year. Accompanying may have begun in 2018 or before.

Victims are counted on the basis of the form of exploitation endured. The selected exploitation form corresponds to the one for which the victim reached out to the association, or the one identified by the association, even if the victim has suffered several forms.

Four forms of exploitation have been identified based on the [Article 225-4-1](#) of the Penal Code and according to the experience of the partner associations:

- ✓ Sexual exploitation;
- ✓ Forced labour, which includes domestic exploitation and other forms of labour exploitation;
- ✓ Forced begging;
- ✓ Forced criminality.

The modality “other form of exploitation” also permitted associations to count victims for whom the form of exploitation was unknown.

### The questionnaire

Data are gathered by distributing an online questionnaire to associations likely to work with human trafficking victims. It was designed by the MIPROF and the ONDRP, in partnership with the member associations of the “Together against human trafficking” collective. The questions answered by each association for each exploitation form are asked with regards to a set of victims over a given year. Thus, no individual data are included in the questionnaire.

The questionnaire is divided into two parts. The first one bears on the number of victims accompanied by associations according to the form of exploitation, gender, age and victims’ origin. The second one is optional and provides details on victims’ profiles, conditions of exploitation, guidance and procedures.

### Data collection

The questionnaire was sent out to associations likely to support human trafficking victims. These associations can be divided into four categories: associations specialised in accompanying human trafficking victims, whether in one or more forms of exploitation (8 associations having accompanied 686 victims in 2018, or 24% of all victims); those working with sex workers (7 associations having accompanied 1,437 victims, or 49% of all victims); those providing assistance to migrants (32 associations having accompanied 707 victims, or 24% of the total); and those working with people in precarious situations (6 associations having accompanied 88 victims, or 3% of the total).

The data was collected between April 16 and June 30, 2019. This survey relies solely on associations’ willingness to take part. For this edition, 53 associations and establishments responded to the questionnaire.

## Interpretations of results

### Clarifications on the results

In France, the identification of trafficking victims is the responsibility of the police and gendarmerie, as well as the labour inspectorate since 2016. The identification process begins when the authorities consider there are reasonable grounds to believe that an individual is victim of trafficking. Not all of the people accompanied by associations, on which this study bears, have decided to initiate procedures with these authorities. There is therefore a difference between the notions of victims’ identification by the authorities and of victim detection by associations. The people counted as victims of trafficking in this study are those for whom the associations consider, according to their own criteria<sup>3</sup> that they are or were in a trafficking situation.

Only some of the human trafficking victims are accompanied by associations. **Thus, the victims recorded in the survey cannot be considered as a representative sample of all victims present on French territory.** It is possible that certain categories of victims are more likely to be detected and accompanied by associations than others, particularly according to the type of exploitation they endure. The activities of responding associations therefore have a significant impact on the findings and may lead to an over-representation of victims of certain exploitation forms.

Lastly, it should be noted that the number of victims may be underestimated due to the fact that associations support persons (for example, in the context of social and/or educational care, legal assistance, etc.) without necessarily identifying them as victims of trafficking.

### Calculation method

All 53 associations that provided data on victims’ accompanied in 2018 completed the main questionnaire. As for the optional questionnaire, the respondents were able to choose the questions for which they had information on the victims. The respondents were not able to provide data for all of the questions. For each question, the results were calculated on the number of victims accompanied by the associations that selected the question.

(3) Criteria defined in particular with regards to the Warsaw Convention and Article 225-4-1 of the Penal Code.

## Acknowledgements

The MIPROF and ONDRP would like to extend their joint thanks to the associations who took part in this project, in terms of both designing the questionnaires and collecting the data. Our particular gratitude goes to the member associations of the "Together against human trafficking" collective and its coordinator, Geneviève Colas, from Secours Catholique - Caritas France. We would also like to thank the Ac.Sé network which, by mobilising its partners, has significantly contributed to the dissemination of this survey.

Aware of the work this survey involved, we would like to thank all the associations that responded to the questionnaire: ABEJ Solidarité (CHRS Rosa Parks), Agir Contre la Prostitution des Enfants (ACPE), Association Foyer Jorbalan (AFJ), Amicale du Nid, ARAP Rubis (Association Réflexion Action Prévention Communautaire), Armée du Salut (including several establishments), Association ALC (Les Lucioles and National Ac.Sé Network), Autres Regards, L'Embellie, Aux captifs, la libération, Comité Contre l'Esclavage Moderne (CCEM), Croix-Rouge française (including several services and establishments in mainland France and Martinique), Equipe d'action contre le proxénétisme (EACP), Fondation Diaconesses de Reuilly, Forum réfugiés - COSI, France terre d'asile (including several Centres for Asylum Seekers and services), Groupe ADDAP 13 (Unaccompanied Minors Hub), Gynécologie sans frontières, Hors la rue, La Cimade (including several services), Ordre de Malte France, Organisation internationale contre l'esclavage moderne (OICEM), Pôle Prostitution du Comité d'études et d'informations sur la drogue et les addictions (CEID - Comité d'étude et d'information sur la drogue et les addictions, Ruelle (Relais Urbain d'Échanges et de Lutte contre l'Exploitation), SOS Esclaves.

We would also like to thank the associations that completed the questionnaire without providing data, as well as those that expressed an interest in this study.

## Published by the ONDRP



Interministerial Mission for Protecting Women Against Violence and for Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings

### Contact

Elisabeth MOIRON-BRAUD, *Secretary-General of the MIPROF*  
+33 1 40 56 88 81 - +33 1 74 64 49 60  
elisabeth.moiron-braud@miprof.gouv.fr



French National Institute for Advanced Studies in Security and Justice  
National Observatory of Crime and Criminal Justice

### Contact

Christophe SOULLEZ, *Head of the ONDRP*  
+33 1 76 64 89 49 - +33 1 07 12 29 73  
christophe.soullez@inhesj.fr

# Sexual exploitation

## 2,160 VICTIMS

of sexual exploitation were accompanied  
by **49 associations** in France in 2018

In France, trafficking in human beings for sexual exploitation as defined by Article 225-4-1 of the Penal Code is notably related to procuring offences. They account for the majority of all victims (74%). This result must be interpreted in the light of the large number of associations that support these victims.



### Mostly youth and women are victims

The victims were mainly women (93%). Men account for 5% of victims and transgender persons<sup>1</sup> account for 2%. As in previous editions, transgender persons are only represented in this exploitation form.

Nearly 9 out of 10 victims were adults (88%). Minors account for 4% of victims. It should be noted that 18% of the adult victims were minors when the exploitation began (data provided by 8 associations having accompanied 233 victims). Minority is an issue for traffickers who will encourage victims to declare themselves adults to prevent them from being taken into child welfare services<sup>2</sup>. Moreover, when the age of the victims is known, they are usually young. Two-fifths of victims were under 30 (41%).

The majority of victims were from sub-Saharan Africa, particularly Nigeria (65% or 1,404 victims). According to the Central Office for the Suppression of Trafficking in Human Beings (OCRTEH), the Nigerian networks of human trafficking for sexual exploitation, the modus operandi of which was described in a previous publication<sup>3</sup>, are still relevant. This office also notes that victims arriving in Europe are getting younger. It is very difficult to officially demonstrate their legal minority, given that they mostly travel with false documents, as theirs have been confiscated.

Victims from Europe accounted for 13% of all victims, including 7% from France. The proportion of these French victims may in particular be due to the phenomenon of sexual exploitation of young French girls identified by the police and gendarmerie services.

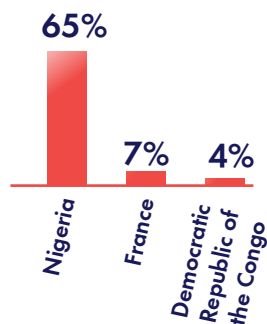
### The vulnerability of victims

Human trafficking victims find themselves in vulnerable situations that are taken advantage of by traffickers. These situations are further accentuated by the presence of children with the victim. Of the 158 victims of sexual exploitation accompanied by 12 associations, 23% had children living with them at the time of the exploitation. One-quarter of women victims had experienced pregnancy while being exploited (data provided by 20 associations having accompanied 202 women victims).

Moreover, traffickers can sometimes maintain a victim in, or bring a victim into, a situation of addiction (alcohol, drugs or medication): for 19% of victims, these situations were detected by the association (data provided by 8 associations having accompanied 234 victims). Lastly, the administrative situation of victims with regards to right of residence may make them illegal on the territory and make them more vulnerable. Only a quarter of the victims had a residence permit in 2018, of which 9% were under Article L316-1 of the CESEDA and 12% under international protection (data provided by 25 associations having accompanied 640 victims). It should be noted that 3% of victims were not concerned by obtaining a residence permit (French victims for example).

### Networks exploiting other victims

According to the findings, unlike other forms of exploitation, traffickers are rarely relatives of the victims. Out of 162 victims accompanied by 7 associations,



(1) "Denotes a person who is transsexualism and who adopts the appearance and lifestyle of the other gender, but without changing sex," translation of the Larousse definition, <https://www.larousse.fr/dictionnaires/francais/transgenre/186826?q=transgenre#10928263> accessed 5 September 2019

(2) Lavaud-Legendre, B. & Peyroux, O. (2014). Mineur(e)s nigérian(e)s et originaires des Balkans en situation de traite en France. Regards pluridisciplinaires sur les processus d'asservissement et les échecs de protection. *Revue européenne des migrations internationales*. 30(1). 105-130.

(3) Simon, S. & Sourd, A. (2018). *Les victimes de traite des êtres humains suivies par les associations en 2016*. Grand Angle. ONDRP.

38% of primary traffickers were unknown to the victims and 26% were acquaintances. It should be noted, however, that 6% of traffickers were the victim's spouse. This may relate to the phenomenon of "loverboys" – young men who seduce young women by taking advantage of their vulnerability and promising them a better life in order to exploit them<sup>4</sup>.

Almost all victims of sexual exploitation are exploited as part of a trafficking network: 93% of victims reported that they were not the only victim in the network in which they were exploited (data provided by 23 associations having accompanied 1,416 victims). The transfer to the place of exploitation as well as the accommodation of the victim are mainly organised by the trafficker or the network: this is the case for 81% and 72% of victims respectively (data provided by 13 associations having accompanied 432 victims and data provided by 17 associations having accompanied 241 victims).

In response to an economic reason and highly adaptable to local contexts<sup>5</sup>, traffickers or networks frequently move

victims in order to isolate them by cutting them off from their geographical and emotional ties<sup>6</sup>. Of the 309 victims accompanied by 21 associations, 40% were exploited in another country.

The traffickers or network also maintain their hold on victims through the use of violence. Of 1,338 victims of sexual exploitation accompanied by 21 associations, 88% had suffered psychological violence from the trafficker or network, but also 18% had suffered physical violence and 16% sexual violence. Violence is not only committed by the trafficker or network. Indeed, 84% suffered sexual violence committed by others in the context of their exploitation (data provided by 11 associations having accompanied 1,146 victims).

Of the 777 victims accompanied by 25 associations, 20% filed a complaint (14% for human trafficking and 6% for other reasons). It should be noted that for 6% of the victims, the complaint was not registered.

## The sexual exploitation of young French girls, an emerging and worrying phenomenon

According to a note from the Victim Assistance Delegation, a service of the General Directorate of the National Police (DGPN), the sexual exploitation of young French girls, which has been on the rise since 2014, concerned 14% of the victims of procuring identified in 2016 by the OCRTEH<sup>7</sup>. The methods used by the exploiters are similar to those used for drug trafficking (violence against victims, lookouts around hotels, etc.).

More than half of the victims, who are seeking financial independence, are minors. The profile of these victims, who are often experiencing family (and/or school) breakdowns and are psychologically fragile, leads them into prostitution. In the vast majority of cases, they subsequently enter a system of exploitation from which they are unable to break free. They may not be conscious of their status as victims.

According to the OCRTEH, the perpetrators are young (between 20 and 25 years old), often known to the police for common law crimes (drugs, theft with violence or weapons, receiving stolen goods, etc.) and see procuring as a new source of income. Procurers handle the logistics and control of people engaging in prostitution. A procurer can exploit between 2 and 10 young girls by imposing the prices and the pace at which they must practice. The exploitation takes place in hotels or apartments by means of advertisements on the internet.

The constituent elements of the offence of «trafficking in human beings» are thus brought together by an **action** (recruitment of young girls, transport to hotels, room reservations, management of clients and advertisements on the internet), a **means**<sup>8</sup> (coercion, threats and sequestration) and a **purpose**: sexual exploitation.



**25%** of the women victims experienced a pregnancy during their exploitation (data provided by 20 associations having accompanied 202 women victims)



**84%** suffered sexual violence as part of their exploitation, committed by persons outside the network (data provided by 11 associations having accompanied 1,146 victims)



**93%** are exploited as part of a human trafficking network exploiting other victims (data provided by 23 associations having accompanied 1,416 victims)



**40%** were exploited in another country (data provided by 21 associations having accompanied 309 victims)



**25%** of the victims have a residence permit (data provided by 25 associations having accompanied 640 victims)



**20%** of the victims filed a complaint (data provided by 25 associations having accompanied 777 victims)

Source: "Les victimes de traite des êtres humains" Questionnaire, MIPROF - ONDRP, 2018.

(4) Guinamard, L. under the direction of Geneviève Colas, Secours Catholique Caritas France. (2015): Les nouveaux visages de l'esclavage. Ivry-sur-Seine: Les Éditions de l'Atelier.  
Et Peyroux, O. (2012). Traite des mineurs roumains migrants : processus d'exclusion, types d'exploitation et stratégie d'adaptation. *Journal du droit des jeunes*. 313(3). 9-16.  
(5) Scarpa, S. (2010). Fighting Against Human Trafficking for Commercial Sexual Exploitation: The Actions in Western Europe. *Revue internationale de droit pénal*. 81(3). 563-587.  
(6) Guinamard, L. under the direction of Geneviève Colas, Secours Catholique Caritas France. (2015): Les nouveaux visages de l'esclavage. Ivry-sur-Seine: Les Éditions de l'Atelier.  
(7) The exploitation of young French girls is also referred to as "proxénétisme de cité" by the security forces.  
(8) As a reminder, coercion is not compulsory where the victim is a child.



# Forced Labour

## 510 VICTIMS

of forced labour were accompanied  
by **30 associations** in France in 2018

In order to provide the most accurate picture of the situations encountered, data on the profile of victims and conditions of exploitation are presented separately for domestic exploitation and other labour exploitation.

Slavery or servitude, forced labour or services, as well as submission to undignified working and housing conditions are among the violations defined by Article 225-4-1 of the Penal Code. Owing to the common characteristics they share, these offences are grouped under a single category entitled "forced labour". This exploitation form can be characterised as forcing a person to perform work without remuneration or in exchange for remuneration that is clearly disproportionate to the significance of the work performed, by means of violence, abuse of vulnerability, false promises or threats. Victims of forced labour represent 17% of all victims.

As regards the procedures undertaken by these victims of forced labour, 48% filed a complaint, of which 44% for trafficking in human beings (data provided by 17 associations having accompanied 145 victims). The proportion of victims who file a complaint is much higher than that observed for all victims (21%) and is linked to the specialization in legal activities of the associations that accompany these victims of forced labour.

For 74% of the victims, the case was dismissed (data provided by 2 associations having accompanied 50 victims who filed a complaint). Only 12% of cases were prosecuted for the offence of trafficking in human beings and 12% for another reason.

## Labour exploitation (excluding domestic)

**277 VICTIMS**  
of labour exploitation (excluding  
domestic) were accompanied by  
**19 associations** in France in 2018

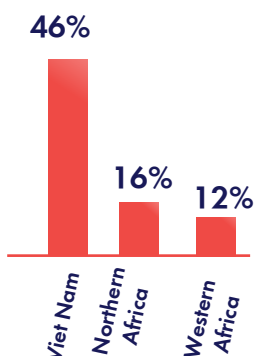
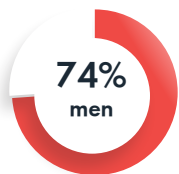
Outside the domestic setting, labour exploitation can be found across a range of activity sectors including agriculture, construction, catering, trading, and beauty and hairdressing salons. Victims of labour exploitation (excluding domestic) represent 9% of all victims accompanied by associations in 2018.

### Victims are mostly men

This exploitation form mainly concerned men (74%). Most victims were adults (77%). However, there is a significant proportion of child victims: 23% of victims of labour exploitation were under 18, of which 16% were between 15 and 17. When they were adults, the victims were older, 22% were over 30.

Nearly half of these victims of exploitation were from Southeast Asia, particularly Viet Nam (46%), in transit to the UK<sup>1</sup>. They were mainly identified in administrative detention centres or waiting areas. More than a third (36%) was from Africa, of which 16% were from Northern Africa and 12% from Western Africa.

(1) TAN, D.; NGUYEN, T., "En route vers le Royaume-Uni. Enquête de terrain auprès des migrants vietnamiens", IRASEC-France Terre d'Asile, Les cahiers du social, No.38, March 2017



**35%**  
of victims were exploited in another country  
(data provided by 13 associations having  
accompanied 51 victims)



**90%**  
of victims suffered psychological violence  
(data provided by 10 associations having  
accompanied 42 victims)

### Victims of unknown traffickers

The primary exploiter of these victims is generally not someone close to the victim: for 22%, it was a stranger, for 15% it was their employer and for 14% it was an acquaintance (data provided by 5 associations having accompanied 73 victims). Moreover, almost a third of the victims (31%) were still being exploited while they were being accompanied (data provided by 7 associations having accompanied 36 victims). The transport to France was organised by the trafficker or the network for 59% of the victims (data provided by 7 associations having accompanied 78 victims). This differs from other forms of exploitation where the transport to the place of exploitation is almost always organised by the trafficker or the network. However, the trafficker's hold over the victim is achieved by controlling the victims' living space: 90% were housed (data provided by 10 associations having accompanied 86 victims) and generally lived at the place of exploitation. Lastly, more than a third of the victims (35%) were exploited in another country (data provided by 13 associations having accompanied 51 victims).

Of 42 victims accompanied by 10 associations, where information is available, all of them suffered violence at the hands of the trafficker or the network, of which 90% were victims of psychological violence, 26% of physical violence and 10% of sexual violence.

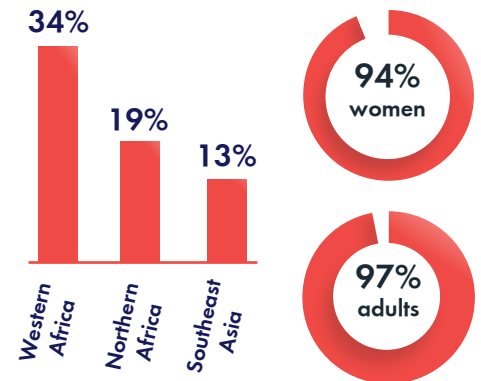
With regard to the residence status, out of 73 victims accompanied by 13 associations, 37% had a residence permit, 15% were covered by Article L316-1 of the CESEDA and 15% by international protection. Furthermore, 4% of victims were not concerned (French victims for example).

## Domestic exploitation

**233** VICTIMS of domestic exploitation were accompanied by **26 associations** in France in 2018



Domestic exploitation is defined as forcing a person to carry out household chores or home care services on a daily basis. This does not constitute a criminal offence per se, but is prosecuted under the terms of enslavement, servitude, forced labour or other offences. In 2018, victims of domestic exploitation accounted for 8% of all victims accompanied by associations.



### Victims are mostly adult women

In 2018, almost all the victims of domestic exploitation accompanied in 2018 by the associations responding to the survey in France were women (94%).

Nearly all the victims were over 18 (97%). These victims are older compared to other forms of exploitation. Indeed, 41% of victims were 30 or older. Minors accounted for 3% of victims. It should be noted that, out of 175 adult victims accompanied by 9 associations, 13% were under 18 at the beginning of their exploitation.

Just over a third was from Western Africa (34%), mainly from Ivory Coast and Senegal. About one in five victims came from a Northern African country (19%), mainly from Morocco, and to a lesser extent from Algeria. Victims from an Asian country (13%) were mainly from Southeast Asia (especially the Philippines).

Unlike other forms of exploitation, victims are usually taken out of exploitation when they are accompanied by the association. Three-quarters of the victims were no longer in a situation of exploitation when they began to be provided with support (data provided by 9 associations having accompanied 57 victims).

### Traffickers known to the victim

Unlike other forms of exploitation, traffickers usually exploit a single victim. Only 7% of victims were part of a human trafficking network exploiting others (data provided by 13 associations having accompanied 60 victims).

The primary trafficker is known to the victim: for 27%, it was an acquaintance, for 24% it was their employer and for 12% it was a family member (data provided by 6 associations having monitored 173 victims).

With regard to the transport of the victim to the place of exploitation, in 83% of cases it was organised by the trafficker or the network (data provided by 10 associations having accompanied 181 victims). Their hold over the victim is stronger as accommodation is also managed by the trafficker in almost all (97%) of the cases (data provided by 11 associations having accompanied 181 victims), and is generally located at the place of exploitation.

More than half (54%) of the victims were also exploited in other countries (data provided by 12 associations having monitored 60 victims).

Of 57 victims accompanied by 11 associations, when the information is known, 84% suffered psychological violence perpetrated by the trafficker or the exploitation network. 16% of victims also suffered physical violence and 7% sexual violence.

### Victims' vulnerability

Victims' vulnerability is greater for women. Of 54 women victims monitored by 11 associations, 11% experienced a pregnancy during their exploitation (data provided by 11 associations having accompanied 54 victims). Moreover, 11% of the victims had children living with them during their exploitation (data provided by 9 associations having accompanied 53 victims).

Victims' illegal status with regards to their right of residence also makes them more vulnerable. Among 81 victims accompanied by 16 associations, 56% of the victims had a residence permit, including 6% under Article L316-1 of the CESEDA, 6% under international protection and 44% for other reasons. Only 1% of victims were not concerned by this issue (French victims for example).



**97%**

of the victims were housed by the trafficker or the network (data provided by 11 associations having accompanied 181 victims)



**11%**

of the women victims experienced a pregnancy during their exploitation (data provided by 11 associations having accompanied 54 women victims)

Source: "Les victimes de traite des êtres humains" Questionnaire, MIPROF - ONDRP, 2018.

# Forced criminality

## 135 VICTIMS

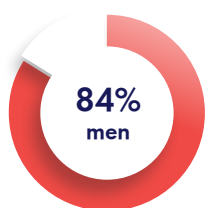
of forced criminality were accompanied  
by **5 associations** in France in 2018



In France, forced criminality is one of the purposes of trafficking in human beings as defined by Article 225-4-1 of the Penal Code. This form of exploitation corresponds to the fact of forcing someone to commit a crime or an offence in order to reap the profits. The main offences in this regard are theft-related (pickpocketing, ATM thefts, burglaries, etc.), even though this form of exploitation also exists in the context of drugs<sup>1</sup>. In 2018, victims of forced criminality accounted for 5% of all victims.

### Victims are mainly young boys

Unlike other forms of exploitation, victims of forced criminality are mainly minors. Of all the victims, 96% were under 18, 79% of whom were between 15 and 17. Sometimes these victims are very young – 17% under 15. More noticeably than in previous surveys, most of these minors were young boys (84%).



In 2018, victims of forced criminality came from 7 countries, of which almost two thirds were from Eastern and Southern Europe (64%). The victims were mainly from Romania (61%). More than a third of the victims (35%) were from a Northern African country, including 22% from Algeria and 10% from Morocco. The associations point out that these Northern African victims of forced criminality represent a new criminal phenomenon. An action-research study on unaccompanied Moroccan minors conducted in 2018 highlighted this phenomenon of forced criminality for Moroccan minors<sup>2</sup>.

### Family members as traffickers

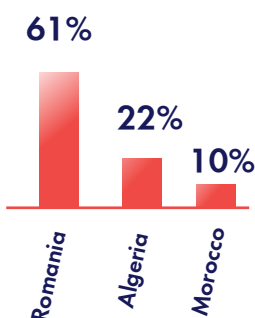
One of the specific features of this exploitation form is the proximity between the exploiters and the victims. In 2018, for 96% of the 103 victims accompanied by 4 associations, the primary trafficker was a member of their family or family-in-law (73% were family members and 23% were in-laws). The associations

pointed out that there were sometimes multiple exploiters, including family, in-laws and spouses. In-laws' involvement may consist of offering money to the victim's family in order to obtain «ownership» of the victim, and then subjecting them to exploitation. The traffickers' hold on the victims is stronger because of their family proximity, which implies conflicts of loyalty if the victims denounce their relatives<sup>3</sup>.

When they are first supported by the association, the victims are always in a situation of exploitation (*data provided by 3 associations having accompanied 133 victims*). Similarly, due to the relationship with the trafficker, 91% of the victims were housed by the exploiter or the network (*data provided by 5 associations having accompanied 135 victims*).

Although the exploiters are family members or in-laws, they are organised in a human trafficking network exploiting several victims. Indeed, all the victims were part of such a network (*data provided by 3 associations having accompanied 35 victims*). These networks are structured, adapt to local legislation and maintain their grip on victims by using violence. Of 101 victims accompanied by 2 associations, all suffered both physical and psychological violence at the hands of their traffickers.

In addition, the sense of control can be accentuated by the situation of addiction of these young victims<sup>4</sup>. Of 133 victims of forced criminality accompanied by 3 associations, all were concerned by a situation of addiction (alcohol, drugs or medication).



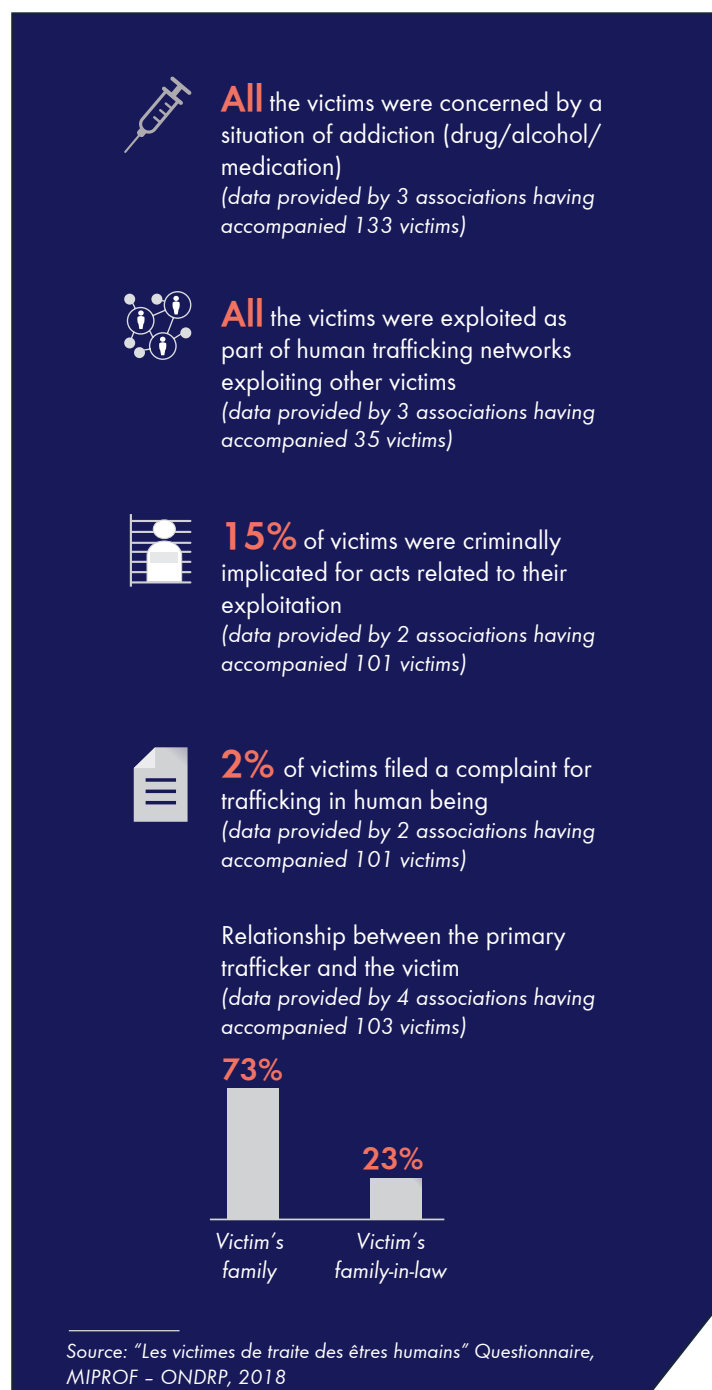
(1) UNICEF France & Trajectoires. (2016): Ni sains ni saufs. Enquête sur les enfants non accompagnés dans le nord de la France.  
(2) Association Trajectoires. (2018): Recherche-action sur la situation des mineurs non accompagnés marocains.  
(3) Lavaud-Legendre, B. & Peyroux, O. (2014). Mineur(e)s nigérian(e)s et originaires des Balkans en situation de traite en France. Regards pluridisciplinaires sur les processus d'asservissement et les échecs de la protection. *Revue européenne des migrations internationales* 30(1), 105-130..  
(4) Sebtaoui, N. & Harrison, C. (2017). Identification et protection des victimes de traite dans un contexte de migration de transit. Paris: France terre d'asile.

## Both crime perpetrators and victims of trafficking

One of the distinctive features of forced criminality is that exploited persons are both human trafficking victims and perpetrators of offences. These victims can thus be criminally implicated for acts related to this exploitation form – this was the case for 15% of victims (data provided by 2 associations having accompanied 101 victims). More than 8 out of 10

criminally implicated persons were convicted of these acts<sup>5</sup>. It should be noted that 4% of the victims were first encountered in prisons (data provided by 3 associations having accompanied 102 victims).

Few of these victims go to the police or the gendarmerie – in fact, 98% did not (data provided by 2 associations having accompanied 101 victims). Of the 2% who went and filed a complaint for trafficking in human beings, all cases were prosecuted on such grounds.



(5) In a circular dated 22 January 2015, the Ministry of Justice recalled the need to prioritise criminal proceedings by targeting the heads of networks, and not the victims.

# Forced begging

73 VICTIMS

of forced begging were accompanied  
by 7 associations in France in 2018

In France, exploitation through begging is one of the purposes of trafficking in human beings as defined by Article 225-4-1 of the Penal Code. The aim of this exploitation form is to force a person to beg for money to then collect their earnings. It can be difficult to ascertain as it must be distinguished from begging out of absolute necessity. Furthermore, even in situations where children may be thought to be exploited by their parents, it is possible that the parents themselves are being forced to beg by a criminal network.

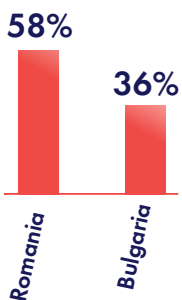
In 2018, victims of forced begging accounted for 3% of all victims. Since the first edition of the survey, the number of victims of forced begging has continued to increase.



58%  
girls

42%  
boys

59%  
minors



## Victims are young boys and girls

Forced begging mainly concerns women. However, the gender distribution of victims is less pronounced than for other forms of exploitation: 58% were women and 42% were men. As with forced criminality, the victims are young: 59% were under 18, 40% of whom were between 15 and 17. These victims can sometimes be very young, with almost two-fifths (38%) under 15.

When the information on gender and age group is cross-referenced, differences can be noted: more than 8 out of 10 women victims of forced begging were minors (88%), whereas the situation is different for men: 81% were adults.

Like the victims of forced criminality, almost all victims were from Eastern and Southern Europe. Indeed, 58% of the victims were from Romania and 36% from Bulgaria. A 2014 report<sup>1</sup> notes the resurgence of child trafficking in the region, particularly for exploitation through begging and forced criminality.

## Traffickers who are family members

As in the case of forced criminality, the primary exploiter is someone close to the victim, which further strengthens their hold. In 2018, for 96% of the victims, the primary trafficker was part of the family, the family-in-law, or was a spouse (data provided by 4 associations having accompanied 46 victims). More specifically, the primary exploiter was a family member for 61% of victims and an in-law for 33%.

Of 42 victims accompanied by an association, all were still in a situation of exploitation at the time the association began to support them. These victims are generally housed by the trafficker or the network: this was the case for 44 victims accompanied by 3 associations. These victims beg for long hours and have particularly difficult living conditions<sup>2</sup>.

(1) Anti-Slavery International. (2014): Trafficking for Forced Criminal Activities and Begging in Europe. Exploratory Study and Good Practice Examples. Brussels: European Commission.

(2) Delap, E. (2009). Begging for Change. Research findings and recommendations on forced child begging in Albania/Greece, India and Senegal. Anti-Slavery International.

## Victims not reporting to law enforcement agencies

Like victims of forced criminality, victims of forced begging do not go to the police or the gendarmerie to file a complaint, according to the data collected by the associations. These victims are therefore usually totally invisible to the authorities.

None of these victims were criminally implicated for offences related to their exploitation (data provided by one association having accompanied 42 victims).

Owing to the specific features of this exploitation form, 95% of the victims were encountered by the association during outreach activities such as patrols (data provided by 3 associations having accompanied 44 victims).

As these victims are mainly from Eastern Europe, they do not face issues in terms of staying in France. As such, of 26 victims accompanied by two associations, 25 were not concerned by the issue of residence permits.



**All** the victims were still in a situation of exploitation at the time the association began to provide support  
(data provided by 1 association having accompanied 42 victims)



**All** the victims were housed by the trafficker or the network  
(data provided by 3 associations having accompanied 44 victims)



**No** victim filed a complaint  
(data provided by 3 associations having accompanied 68 victims)

Relationship between the primary trafficker and the victim  
(data provided by 4 associations having accompanied 46 victims)



Source: "Les victimes de traite des êtres humains" Questionnaire, MIPROF - ONDRP, 2018.

# Child victims of trafficking in human beings

**339** CHILD VICTIMS  
of human trafficking were monitored  
by **21 associations** in France in 2018



Forced criminality

**38%**



Sexual exploitation

**26%**



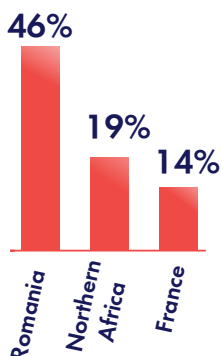
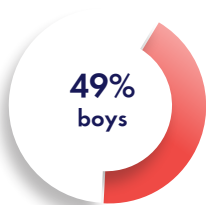
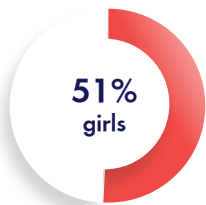
Forced labour

**22%**



Forced begging

**13%**



In France, the offence of trafficking in human beings is defined by [Article 225-4-1](#) of the Penal Code and is committed when three elements are present: an action, a means, and a purpose. However, for child victims, the offence is committed without any coercion (the means) being required.

In 2018, minors accounted for 12% of all victims accompanied by associations. It should be noted that 4% of the adult victims were presumed minors at the time the association began to provide support (*data provided by 7 associations having monitored 624 victims*). Of 488 adult victims accompanied by 11 associations, 15% were minors at the beginning of their exploitation. Victims' minority or majority status is decisive for exploiters, who will leverage this in different ways depending on the form of exploitation. For example, exploiters will force victims of sexual exploitation to claim to be of adult age, unlike victims of forced criminality.

The child victims accompanied in 2018 suffered three main forms of exploitation: forced criminality (38% of all child victims), sexual exploitation (26%) and forced labour (22%), of which 19% non-domestic and 3% domestic exploitation. Child victims of forced begging accounted for 13% of the total. Another 1% were victims of some other form of exploitation. It should be noted that, although having been exploited when they were minors, some victims only come into contact with associations when they reach the age of majority, which is particularly the case for victims of domestic exploitation.

## As many girls as boys are victims

The child victims accompanied by the associations are both girls and boys. According to the survey results, in 2018, 51% of child victims were girls and 49% were boys. However, differences in the exploitation form should be noted. Young girls are predominantly victims of sexual exploitation (accounting for 94% of child victims of sexual exploitation), forced begging (86%) and domestic exploitation (100%), while young boys are more likely to be victims of forced criminality (83%) or non-domestic labour exploitation (73%).

The majority of minors were between 15 and 17 (76%). These victims can sometimes be very young, with almost 12% were between 10 and 14 and 1% under 10. Those under 10 were either victims of forced begging or criminality.

In order to analyse the characteristics of these child victims in detail, we had to isolate information from associations that support only victims under 18. The rest of this fact sheet concerns a sample of 269 victims accompanied by 6 associations representing 79% of all child victims.

## Child victims are mainly from Europe

The victims were from 14 different countries, more than three-fifths of them from Europe (62%). The latter were mainly from two countries: Romania (46% of victims) and France (14%). Romanian victims are above all victims of forced criminality and begging, while French victims are mainly victims of sexual exploitation<sup>1</sup>. A quarter of the victims were from an

(1) For more information on the specific features of French victims of sexual exploitation, see the box on sexual exploitation of young French girls in the fact sheet on sexual exploitation.

African country, 19% of whom were from a Northern African country. The majority of these victims came from Algeria (12%). In addition, 14% of the child victims were from an Asian country, 13% of whom from Viet Nam. These victims were mainly identified in waiting areas<sup>2</sup>.

## Traffickers are family members or in-laws

The main traffickers of the underage victims are relatives, further strengthening the hold on the latter. In 2018, among 180 victims accompanied by 3 associations, the main perpetrator was a family member or an in-law (79%). For 21% of victims, the trafficker was an acquaintance of the victim. However, situations differ according to the exploitation form. For victims of sexual exploitation, the main trafficker was not a relative, unlike minors who are victims of forced criminality or begging. Underage victims are also part of trafficking networks exploiting other victims. This was the case for 82% of the victims (data provided by 3 associations having accompanied 85 victims).

Of 227 victims accompanied by 4 associations, 97% were still in a situation of exploitation at the time the association began to support them. Networks adapt to the legislative frameworks relating to the care to minors. For example, the associations note that these networks encourage minors to spontaneously show distance from the network in order to be cared for, without this distance being real. The control the trafficker or the network has over these victims is firm:

91% of these victims were housed by the exploiter or the network (data provided by 4 associations having accompanied 227 victims).

One of the specific features brought to light by the survey is the situation of addiction of these young victims. Indeed, of 227 victims accompanied by 4 associations, the association detected a situation of addiction (drug, alcohol, medication) for 75% of them. These minors in a situation of addiction are mainly victims of sexual exploitation or forced criminality.

## High levels of violence suffered by the victims

When the information is known, all child victims have suffered violence at the hands of the trafficker or the network: 76% psychological violence, 53% physical violence and 16% sexual violence (data provided by 4 associations having accompanied 92 victims).

Minors may be criminally implicated for offences related to their situation of exploitation. Of 180 victims accompanied by 3 associations, 9% were criminally implicated. These were only victims of sexual exploitation and forced criminality.

Few child victims go to the police or gendarmerie to file a complaint - indeed, only 3% filed a complaint for trafficking in human beings. According to the information gathered by the associations, these complaints were dismissed.



**75%** of the victims were concerned by a situation of addiction (drug/alcohol/medication) (data provided by 4 associations having accompanied 227 victims)



**97%** of the victims were still in a situation of exploitation at the time the association began to provide support (data provided by 4 associations having accompanied 227 victims)



**91%** of the victims were housed by the trafficker or the network (data provided by 4 associations having accompanied 227 victims)

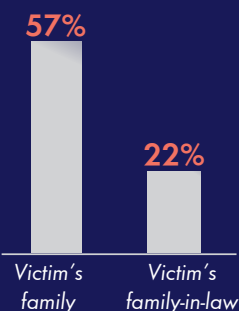


**76%** of victims suffered psychological violence (data provided by 4 associations having accompanied 92 victims)



**3%** of the victims filed a complaint (data provided by 3 associations having accompanied 180 victims)

Relationship between the primary trafficker and the victim (data provided by 3 associations having accompanied 180 victims)



Source: "Les victimes de traite des êtres humains" Questionnaire, MIPROF - ONDRP, 2018.

## Vietnamese minors in waiting areas

Many stakeholders in the field have noted specific features concerning the Vietnamese minors encountered in waiting areas. These minors, who are potentially victims of trafficking, are generally looking to reach the UK.

The French Red Cross informed us about its experience with Vietnamese minors encountered in waiting areas, from which they are able to identify several elements and recurring themes that allow for trafficking situations to be recognized. These minors will all tell a similar story. They usually arrive in groups, but none of them claim to know each other. Their journeys and the recruitment

method employed are similar. Moreover, young people are warned by exploiters or networks of what awaits them in waiting areas and know that they will be released. They will not want to apply for international protection. When they leave the waiting areas, they flee their accommodation, leaving all their belongings behind.

These minors are generally victims of non-domestic labour exploitation and are in transit in France on their way to the UK. A report by the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner<sup>3</sup> highlights the sharp increase (122%) in Vietnamese victims between 2014 and 2015.

(2) Waiting areas are located in airports, ports or train stations open to international traffic. The persons concerned are non-European foreigners who have been refused entry to France, persons in transit who have been refused entry by the country of destination, or when an asylum application is made at the border. The detention ends either by departure (voluntary or forced) from France or temporary entry into France.

(3) Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner. (2017): Combating modern slavery experienced by Vietnamese nationals en route to, and within, the UK.