

2022

HUMAN TRAFFICKING REPORT

Human trafficking is a crime



Ministry of the Interior and Administration
Republic of Poland

Department of International Affairs and Migration

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2. Introduction

As in previous years, we are presenting this Report on human trafficking in Poland. 2022 was a year marked by armed conflict triggered by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. It caused massive population movements, forcing millions of Ukrainian citizens to leave their homes in search of a safe shelter. Due to its geographical location and the aid measures taken, Poland has become one of the main migration destinations for Ukrainian refugees seeking work and better living conditions.

Unfortunately, increased migration entails the risk of human trafficking crime. Refugees who often experience the helplessness, insecurity and financial difficulties associated with leaving their homeland are particularly vulnerable to exploitation by criminal groups. They may become victims of exploitation in forced labour, sex business or other forms of extortion.

At the same time, it should be borne in mind that since the beginning of 2021, the Belarusian regime, has escalated its actions against the opposition and civil society, conducting a campaign of repression, arrests and persecution of opposition. As a consequence, many Belarusians have fled to Poland in search of refuge and protection from persecution. In addition, Belarus destabilises the European Union and its Member States by organising state-sponsored smuggling of migrants. They are transported to Belarus by air from more than a dozen third countries (Middle East and Africa) with an attempt to cross the Polish-Belarusian border illegally.

There is no doubt that the actions of the Belarusian regime, including those directly targeting foreigners present at the external border of the EU with Belarus, can be classified as instrumentalization of illegal migration demonstrating the characteristics of a hybrid aggression. The aforementioned actions taken by Belarus clearly constitute a violation of humanitarian law and human rights. The migrants brought to Belarus are treated by the authorities in an instrumental manner. Their situation is extremely bad, which puts them, among others, at risk of becoming victims of human trafficking. It can be assumed that such actions by the Minsk regime are aimed at triggering the humanitarian and migration crisis.

These events, to a large extent, determined the actions taken by institutions dealing with the crime of human trafficking. However, it should not be forgotten that Poland is simultaneously a country of origin, a transit country and a destination country for victims of human trafficking. Polish citizens, both men and women, are recruited within the country and then used for forced labour, begging, theft or extortion of benefits and loans abroad. In 2022, a significant number of people from South America (Colombia, Guatemala, Venezuela) were also reported to have been exploited in forced labour on the territory of our country.

Accordingly, the activities of institutions combating the crime of human trafficking mainly targeted forced labour, through both active prosecution of the perpetrators of this crime as well as conducting information and education activities.

3. Legal grounds

International law



Poland is one of the numerous countries that actively counteract human trafficking; moreover, it also provides assistance and support for people who have fallen victim to this practice. Poland is a party to many acts of international law, including the following:

[Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings](#)

[Directive 2011/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims](#)

[Directive 2012/29/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime](#)

[Council Directive 2004/81/EC of 29 April 2004 on the residence permit issued to third-country nationals who are victims of trafficking in human beings or who have been the subject of an action to facilitate illegal immigration, who cooperate with the competent authorities](#)

[Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly](#)

[Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly](#)

[United Nations Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others](#)

[International Labour organisation Convention no. 182 Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour](#)

[International Labour organisation Convention no. 105 Concerning the Abolition of Forced Labour.](#)

National law

In addition to its international obligations, Poland has adopted a number of national laws related to countering human trafficking. The Polish legal grounds for combating human trafficking include:

Penal Code

The concept of human trafficking has been captured as a three-element definition, which consists of: the manner of action of the perpetrators, the means and methods used by them and the purpose of exploitation of a person.

Pursuant to Article 115 §22 of the Penal Code (hereinafter referred to as PC):

“Human trafficking is the recruitment, transportation, delivery, transfer, harbouring, or receipt of a person using:

1. violence or an unlawful threat;
2. abduction;
3. deception;
4. misinformation or the exploitation of a mistake or the inability to properly comprehend the action taken;
5. abuse of a relationship of dependence, taking advantage of a critical position or a state of helplessness;
6. giving or accepting a material or personal benefit, or the promise thereof to or from a person having custody of, or supervision over, another person;

- for the purpose of exploitation of that person, even with his or her consent, particularly in prostitution, pornography, or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, begging, slavery, or other forms of exploitation that are degrading to human dignity, or for the purpose of obtaining cells, tissues, or organs in violation of law.

If the perpetrator’s behaviour involves a minor, it constitutes human trafficking, even if the methods or means listed in points 1 - 6 are not used.”

On the other hand, the last paragraph of the cited legal regulation refers only to situations where the victim is a child. Accepting the need to provide special protection to minor victims, the legislator has limited the legal qualification of the perpetrator’s act to the aim of his or her action only. Thus, in the case of minor victims, the second element of the definition (relating to the methods and means) does not have to be identified for an act to qualify as human trafficking.

In Poland, according to Article 189a of the Penal Code:

§ 1 Whoever commits human trafficking shall be subject to the penalty of imprisonment for not less than 3 years.

§ 2 Whoever makes preparations for the commission of the crime specified in § 1 shall be subject to the penalty of imprisonment for 3 months to 5 years.

In the light of Article 189a §1 of the PC, human trafficking is subject to the penalty of imprisonment for no less than 3 years, which means that it is a crime. Due to the high degree of social harm, the legislator has also introduced the punishment of a stage of the crime, i.e., preparation for the crime of human

trafficking (Article 189a§2 of the PC). Preparation is a minor offence (punishable by imprisonment from 3 months to 5 years).

Crimes associated with human trafficking:

Other crimes regulated by the Penal Code that are often associated with human trafficking include:

- deprivation of liberty (Art. 189 of the PC)
Whoever deprives a person of his or her liberty shall be subject to the penalty of imprisonment for 3 months to 5 years; however, if the deprivation of liberty lasts more than 7 days, the perpetrator shall be subject to the penalty of imprisonment for 1 to 10 years. In addition, if the deprivation of liberty lasts more than 7 days, involves a person who is incapacitated due to his or her age, or mental or physical condition, the perpetrator shall be subject to the penalty of imprisonment for 2 to 12 years. On the other hand, if the deprivation of liberty is combined with special tormenting, the perpetrator shall be subject to the penalty of imprisonment for no less than 3 years;
- forcing a specific behaviour (Article 191§1 of the PC)
Whoever uses violence against a person or an unlawful threat to force another person to perform a specific action, commit an omission, or to tolerate something, shall be subject to the penalty of imprisonment for up to 3 years.
- forcing prostitution (Article 203 of the PC)
Whoever, by means of violence, an unlawful threat, or deception, or by taking advantage of a relationship of dependence or critical situation, leads another person to engage in prostitution shall be subject to the penalty of imprisonment for 1 to 10 years;
- pimping and pandering (Article 204 of the PC)
Whoever, with the aim to achieve a financial gain, induces or facilitates another person to engage in prostitution, shall be subject to the penalty of imprisonment for 3 months to 5 years. The same punishment shall be imposed on anyone who derives a material profit from the practice of prostitution by another person. If such person is a minor, the perpetrator shall be subject to the penalty of imprisonment for 1 to 10 years.

Act on Foreigners

The legal act that ensures compliance with the law applicable to, among others, counteracting human trafficking is the Act on Foreigners of 12 December 2013.

The Act on Foreigners (hereinafter referred to as AOF) defines the rules on the entry, transit, and stay of foreigners in the territory of the Republic of Poland, as well as the departure of foreigners from that territory. The Act specifies the procedure to be followed and the authorities competent in these matters. It indicates, among others, that:

- a foreigner who is presumed to be a victim of human trafficking within the meaning of Article 115§22 of the PC shall be issued a certificate confirming the existence of such a presumption [Article 170 of the AOF];
- the stay in the territory of the Republic of Poland of a foreigner presumed to be a victim of human trafficking shall be considered legal for the period of validity of the certificate referred to in Article 170 of the AOC issued to that foreigner. The stay of a foreigner to whom the

certificate has been issued shall cease to be considered legal as soon as the minister competent for the interior records information in the relevant register that the foreigner: actively, voluntarily, and on his or her own initiative, re-established contacts with persons suspected of committing the crime of human trafficking (Article 189a§1 of the PC) or crossed or attempted to cross the national border in violation of the law;

- the certificate issued by the authority competent to prosecute the crime of human trafficking (Article 189a§1 of the PC) shall be valid for a period of 3 months from the date of its issuance, and in the case of a minor foreigner - for a period of 4 months from the date of its issuance [Article 172 of the AOF];
- a temporary residence permit for a foreigner who is a victim of human trafficking shall be granted after all of the following conditions have been met: he or she resides in the territory of the Republic of Poland; he or she has cooperated with the authority competent to prosecute the crime of human trafficking (Article 189a§1 of the PC) and in the case of a minor foreigner, he or she has been granted the status of a victim in a case concerning the crime of human trafficking (Article 189a§1 of the PC); and he or she has severed contacts with persons suspected of committing the crime of human trafficking (Article 189a§1 of the PC). [Article 176 of the AOF];
- the minimum validity period of a temporary residence permit shall be 6 months [Art. 177 of the AOF];
- a permanent residence permit shall be granted to a foreigner for an indefinite period of time in response to his or her application, if: he or she is a victim of human trafficking within the meaning of Article 115§22 of the PC and: he or she has resided in the territory of the Republic of Poland immediately before applying for the permanent residence permit for a period of no less than 1 year on the basis of a temporary residence permit for victims of human trafficking, has cooperated with law enforcement authorities in criminal proceedings in a case concerning the crime of human trafficking (Article 189a§1 of the PC) and has a well-founded fear of returning to his or her country of origin [Article 195(1)(5) of the AOF].

[Act on Granting Protection to Foreigners in the Territory of the Republic of Poland](#)

Article 68. 1. If an application for international protection concerns a person who may be vulnerable, in particular a person being:

6) a victim of human trafficking

- the Head of the Office shall assess whether that person is vulnerable in international protection or social assistance proceedings.

2. The applicant or the person on whose behalf the applicant is acting shall be considered to be vulnerable with regard to social assistance, where there may be a need to:

1) accommodate him or her at a centre that:

a) is adapted to the needs of persons with disabilities;

b) provides accommodation in single rooms;

c) is intended exclusively for women or women with children;

2) place them in a nursing and treatment facility, a nursing and care facility, or a hospice;

3) place them in foster care that corresponds to the psycho-physical situation of these persons;

4) adjust the diet according to their health status.

3. The Head of the Office, in order to assess whether the person referred to in section 1 is vulnerable, may order medical or psychological examinations, the cost of which shall be covered by the national budget from the part at the disposal of the minister competent for the interior, from the funds at the disposal of the Head of the Office.

4. If the Head of the Office does not order the medical or psychological examination referred to in section 3, he or she shall inform the person who may be vulnerable that he or she may, on his or her own initiative and at his or her own expense, undergo such an examination.

5. A person who has not consented to the medical or psychological examinations referred to in section 3 shall be considered a person who is not vulnerable.

6. The Head of the Office shall make the assessment referred to in section 1 immediately after the submission of an application for international protection and at any time until the completion of the proceedings, in case new circumstances concerning the applicant or the person represented by the applicant are revealed.

Article 69. 1. In the case of a foreigner who is a vulnerable person, the activities in the proceedings concerning granting of international protection shall be performed:

1) in conditions that ensure the foreigner's freedom of expression, in a manner tailored to his or her psycho-physical condition;

2) within a timeframe appropriate to his or her mental and physical state, designated taking into account the dates for the foreigner's use of the health services;

3) at the foreigner's place of residence, where it is justified by his or her health condition;

4) with the participation of a psychologist, a physician, or an interpreter, if necessary.

2. At the request of a foreigner who is a vulnerable person, in cases justified by his or her needs, the activities carried out in the proceedings concerning granting of international protection:

1) shall be performed by a person of the same sex;

2) shall be performed with the participation of a psychologist, a physician, or an interpreter of the sex indicated

by the foreigner.

Article 69a. When providing social assistance to a foreigner who is a vulnerable person, the accommodation and food needs of such a person shall be taken into account.

Article 69b. When providing social assistance to a minor, the need to safeguard his or her interests shall be considered, taking into account in particular:

3) the safety and security considerations, particularly where there is a risk that the minor is a victim of human trafficking.

[Act on Social Assistance](#)

Another act of law that provides protection and includes the appropriate tools to meet the basic needs of Polish and foreign victims of human trafficking is the Act on Social Assistance of 12 March 2004 (hereinafter referred to as ASA).

The most important provisions of the Act that concern the issue of human trafficking provide that:

- foreigners residing in the territory of the Republic of Poland on the basis of the certificate referred to in Article 170 of the AOF or on the basis of the permit referred to in Article 176 of the AOF shall be entitled to benefits in the form of crisis intervention, shelter, a meal, the necessary clothing, and a purpose-specific benefit [Article 5a of the ASA];
- social assistance shall be provided to individuals and families because of the need to protect victims of human trafficking [Article 7(7a) of the ASA];
- the tasks of the provincial governor include coordination, within the framework of the social assistance system, of the activities related to the prevention of human trafficking and the support provided to victims of human trafficking [Article 22 (15) of the ASA];

[Act on the Entry into, Residence in, and Exit from the Territory of the Republic of Poland of Citizens of Member States of the European Union and Members of Their Families](#)

In accordance with Article 41a (1) of the Act on the Entry into, Residence in, and Exit from the Territory of the Republic of Poland of Citizens of Member States of the European Union and Members of Their Families, an EU citizen or non-EU family member who is deemed to be a victim of human trafficking within the meaning of Article 115 § 22 of the Penal Code shall be issued with a certificate confirming the presumption that the person is a victim of a human trafficking crime. The first certificate shall be valid for a period of 3 months, and in the case of a minor EU citizen or a minor family member who is not an EU citizen, for a period of 4 months from the date of its issuance (Article 41b(2)). According to Article 41b(3) of the aforementioned Act, another certificate may be issued for a period of at least 6 months, but no longer than for a period of 3 years, if the following conditions are met for an EU citizen or a member of his or her family:

1) he or she is staying in the territory of the Republic of Poland;

2) he or she has undertaken cooperation with the authority competent to conduct proceedings in the case of the offence referred to in Article 189a§1 of the Penal Code and, in the case of a minor foreigner, has been granted the status of a victim in proceedings in the case of the offence referred to in Article 189a§1 of the Penal Code;

3) has terminated any contacts with persons suspected of committing the offence referred to in Article 189a§1 of the Penal Code.

These provisions are modelled on the relevant provisions of the Act on Foreigners, i.e., Articles 170-176.

Legislative Changes concerning Human Trafficking

As a result of Russia's armed aggression against Ukraine, thousands of Ukrainian citizens began to move towards the territory of the Republic of Poland in search of refuge. Considering the foregoing, it became necessary to develop legal solutions addressing the group of foreigners described above.

In 2022, the Act on Assistance for Citizens of Ukraine in Connection with the Armed Conflict on the Territory of that State was enacted, the aim of which is to create a specific regulation providing an ad hoc legal basis for the legal stay of citizens of Ukraine who, as a result of hostilities, were forced to leave their country of origin and entered, with the appropriate entry authorisation, the territory of the Republic of Poland. The citizens of Ukraine referred to in paragraph 1 of this Act are recognised as persons enjoying temporary protection in the Republic of Poland within the meaning of Article 106(1) of the Act of 13 June 2003 on granting protection to foreigners within the territory of the Republic of Poland.

The regulations on human trafficking contained in the above-mentioned Act are of a preventive nature and have strengthened the penalties provided for in the Penal Code for committing this crime.

To quote the aforementioned regulations:

- Article 72. Convicting a perpetrator who, during the armed conflict on the territory of Ukraine, committed an offence referred to in:

4) Article 189a § 1 of the Act of 6 June 1997. - Penal Code - the court shall impose a sentence of deprivation of liberty of between 10 and 15 years or a sentence of 25 years of imprisonment.

Internal procedures

In order to increase the effectiveness of the activities carried out by authorities dealing with the crime of human trafficking, baseline procedures have been developed such as:

- The algorithm of conduct of law enforcement officers in the case of disclosing a human trafficking crime,
- The algorithm for identifying and dealing with a minor victim of human trafficking for Police and Border Guard officers,
- The procedure for employees of the Office for Foreigners processing applications for international protection in case of preliminary identification of a foreigner as a victim of human trafficking,
- Guidelines for labour inspectors with an accompanying list of indicators for identifying potential victims of human trafficking for forced labour.



4. Organisation of the anti-human trafficking system in Poland

National Action Plan



The National Action Plan Against Human Trafficking (hereinafter referred to as the NAP) is the basic document on the functioning of the system for combating and preventing human trafficking in Poland. This is a government document adopted by the Council of Ministers that obliges its addressees to perform certain tasks in the scope of combating human trafficking. The addressees of the NAP are individual units of the central administration and other institutions and NGOs that are voluntarily involved in anti-human trafficking activities in Poland. The goal of the NAP is to ensure the necessary conditions for effectively countering human trafficking in Poland and supporting the victims of this crime. In this context, the detailed objectives of the NAP are as follows:

- to raise the awareness of the problem of human trafficking;
- to raise the standard of support provided to the victims of human trafficking (including minor victims of human trafficking);
- to improve the effectiveness of the institutions responsible for prosecuting the crime of human trafficking by improving the legal tools and the structures, and implementing best practices;
- to improve the skills of the representatives of institutions and organisations involved in counteracting human trafficking and supporting victims of this crime;
- to extend the knowledge of the problem of human trafficking and to improve the effectiveness of the actions taken;
- to strengthen international cooperation.

On 17 November 2021, the Council of Ministers adopted the NAP for 2022-2024. This is a government plan, effective as of 1 January 2022, which defines the directions for the activities in the area of counteracting human trafficking.

Institutions involved in the system for combating and preventing human trafficking

Anti-Human Trafficking Team

Pursuant to the Ordinance no. 6 of the Minister of Interior and Administration of 15 February 2019, the Anti- Human Trafficking Team was established. The Team is an auxiliary body of the Minister of Interior and Administration and continues the activities of the Inter-Ministerial Human Trafficking Combatting and Prevention Team operating since 2004. In December 2022, the Ministry of the Interior and Administration launched activities addressing the legitimacy of establishing the Anti- Human Trafficking Team as an advisory body to the Prime Minister and thus assigning it an inter-ministerial level.

The key tasks of the Team include:

- evaluation of the implementation of programmes aimed to combat and prevent human trafficking;
- initiating actions aimed to combat and prevent human trafficking;
- preparing draft NAPs to address human trafficking, monitoring the feasibility of the planned tasks and drafting annual reports on the implementation of the NAPs.

Two permanent groups and ad hoc groups appointed to perform a task indicated by the National Action Plan operate within the Team.

Permanent groups

- **Working Group for Monitoring the Implementation of the NAP**
- **Working Group for the Support for Victims of Human Trafficking**

Ad hoc group

- **Working Group for the Handbook for Judiciary and Law Enforcement Authorities**, as well as other bodies involved in the fight against human trafficking, as regards the handling of human trafficking cases

(In 2022, work was undertaken to update the Handbook. The publishing process continued until July 2022. The manual was finally published in August 2022 and is available online at: <https://www.gov.pl/attachment/dc41a856-3f04-4540-ab53-1c40731699ae;>

In connection with the foregoing, the Group concluded its activity)

As of 2022, the Anti- Human Trafficking Team was composed of representatives of the following institutions: Ministry of Interior and Administration, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Family and Social Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy, Ministry of Education and Science, Police Headquarters, Border Guard Headquarters, Office for

Foreigners, Government Plenipotentiary for Equal Treatment, National Prosecutor's Office, Chief Labour Inspectorate, Office of the Ombudsman, Office of the Children's Rights Ombudsman, Centre for Education Development, Academy of Justice, La Strada Foundation against Human Trafficking and Slavery, Immaculate Mary Pomace Association for Women and Children, ITAKA Foundation - Centre for the Search for Missing People, Halina Nice Centre for Legal Aid, Salvation Army, International Organisation for Migration - IOM, Light House Foundation, Empowering Children Strength Foundation.

Institutional level

Ministry of Interior and Administration



**Ministerstwo Spraw
Wewnętrznych i Administracji**

The structure of the Department of International Affairs and Migration of the Ministry of Interior includes the Anti-Human Trafficking Coordination Team, which is responsible for:

- monitoring the work related to the performance of the tasks provided for in the National Action Plan Against Human Trafficking;
- proposing tasks in future editions of the National Action Plan;
- monitoring the performance of public tasks concerning support for and protection of victims of human trafficking commissioned by the Minister of Interior and Administration, (currently the task appears under the name “Running the National Intervention and Consultation Centre for Victims of Human Trafficking”);
- supporting the work of the Anti-Human Trafficking Team and the Working Groups;
- raising awareness in the area of human trafficking problems.

Office for Foreigners



The Office plays an important role in the preliminary identification of possible victims of human trafficking among foreigners seeking international protection in Poland. As part of the ongoing asylum proceedings, the staff of the Office can obtain information indicating that a foreigner has been a victim of human trafficking. A part-time human trafficking coordinator responsible for coordinating activities and ensuring proper flow of information has been appointed at the Office.

Police



The decision of the Chief Commander of the Police of 22 January 2014, established the Anti-Human Trafficking Department of the Criminal Service Office (now Criminal Office) of the National Police Headquarters. The Department's main tasks include first of all combating crime related to human trafficking, paedophilia and child pornography, as well as crime against sexual freedom and morality. Human Trafficking Department cooperates with judiciary authorities, public administration and state audit bodies, non-governmental organisations, community organisations, and public utility institutions. In addition, the

Department carries out activities of an international nature through operational and investigative cooperation with law enforcement agencies of other countries. The work of the Anti- Human Trafficking Department includes supervision and coordination the work of anti-human trafficking units established by the Order of the National Police Headquarters¹ in the criminal departments of provincial police headquarters. The tasks of the anti-human trafficking units include, in particular, detection of human trafficking, supervision and coordination of the tasks performed by district Police headquarters and their subordinate Police units in detecting human trafficking, identification of and support for the process of identification of victims of human trafficking, participation in international operations, in particular in joint investigation teams formed to detect human trafficking, non-police cooperation, as well as organisation and conducting in-service training classes for criminal service officers in the scope of detection of human trafficking. Representatives of the Anti-Human Trafficking Department participate in the work of international teams/working groups/expert groups, among others as:

- national coordinator/expert of the Europol Analysis Work File AWF SOC -

AP Phoenix focused on combating the crime of human trafficking,

- national coordinator/expert of Europol’s analytical working project AWF SOC - AP Twins (combating sexual exploitation of minors and child pornography),
- national coordinator of the EU priority EMPACT THB (European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats – Trafficking in Human Beings), which is an implementation of the tasks set by the Ministry of Interior and Administration and one of the elements of the EU Security Policy for 20212023,
- national coordinator of the EU priority EMPACT CSE (European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats - Child Sexual Exploitation) “cybercrime - combating sexual exploitation of children” as part of the EU Security Policy Cycle in the area of combating serious and organised crime for 2021 - 2023.

Border Guard



The Border Guard plays a special role in the fight against human trafficking with regard to foreigners. It is Border Guard officers who very often make the first contact with victims of this crime and, consequently, they often identify these victims. Like all the institutions described herein, the Border Guard participates in carrying out the tasks included in the NAP. The Operational and Investigative Board of the National Headquarters of the Border Guard coordinates the performance of projects arising from the NAP, as well as substantively supervises the activities of the organisational units of the Border Guard that involve combating and preventing human trafficking

in Poland.

In addition, the structures of the Operational and Investigative Board of the National Headquarters of the Border Guard include Section I, existing within Department I, which focuses on illegal migration and human trafficking and is responsible for, among other things, coordination of and supervision over the actions taken by the Border Guard with the aim to counteract human trafficking. In each Border

¹ Order no. 14 of the Chief Police Commander of 22 September 2016, on the performance of certain tasks by the Police in the detection of human trafficking (Official Gazette of NPH, item 61).

Guard unit, in the Operations and Investigations Department, a part-time anti-human trafficking coordinator has been appointed who is responsible for coordination and cooperation between the relevant organisational units of the Border Guard, the Police, and other institutions involved in the fight against this crime.

Public Prosecutor's Office



PROKURATURA
KRAJOWA

The Department for Organised Crime and Corruption is responsible for combating human trafficking at the National Public Prosecutor's Office. The unit coordinates the actions taken by the Public Prosecutor's Office's to prosecute human trafficking. A special prosecutor-coordinator for human trafficking has been appointed. Since 2007, the former Appellate Public Prosecutor's Offices and now each of the Regional Public Prosecutor's Offices and Circuit Public Prosecutor's Offices have appointed prosecutors to act as consultants on human trafficking. In 2014, the *Guidelines for Investigating Human Trafficking Cases* were presented for use by prosecutors handling human trafficking cases.

Ministry of Family and Social Policy



Social assistance plays a key role in supporting the victims of human trafficking. Social assistance allows for carrying out crisis intervention directly due to the need to protect the victims. In 2014, the Ministry of Family and Social Policy (MFSP) adopted the *Standards for Safe Shelter for Victims of Human Trafficking* drafted by the expert group on supporting victims of human trafficking and distributed them to the participants of special training courses entitled "Support for Victims of Human Trafficking" as an element of expert knowledge in this area. Since 2008, the MFSP, together with the Ministry of Interior and Administration, the Border Guard, and NGOs, has been conducting an annual series of training courses for staff of social assistance organisational units on the support for victims of human trafficking, including on the principles and cooperation with the National Intervention and Consultation Centre.

State labour Inspectorate



The State labour Inspectorate (SLI) is a body established to monitor compliance with labour law regulations, including occupational health and safety laws, and the legality of employment. The SLI's tasks include activities aimed at identifying cases of work performed in violation of applicable laws. Labour inspectors of the SLI, within the framework of their powers authorising them to enter work premises at any time, obtain information from employees and other persons on the premises and, through their powers to inspect labour and temporary employment service providers and the user employers, are able to identify potential victims of human trafficking for the purpose of forced labour and notify the authorities competent to combat this type of crime. Since foreigners are often the victims of human trafficking for the purpose of forced labour, the SLI's inspection activities are carried out - in justified cases - in cooperation with Border Guard officers. Cooperation with the Border Guard is carried out based on, among other regulations, based on the provisions of an agreement on the principles of cooperation between the State labour Inspectorate and the Border Guard of 10 December 2018 (which replaced the previous agreement of

12 May 2015). The agreement provides not only for the performance of joint inspections concerning the legality of employment of foreigners, but also for joint information and educational activities addressed both to entities that employ foreigners and to foreigners who work in Poland. Thanks to their cooperation, the identified cases of human trafficking for the purpose of forced labour can be investigated by the Border Guard. At the central level, representatives of the Chief Labour Inspectorate participate in the work of both the Anti-Human Trafficking Team supporting the Minister of Interior and Administration and the Working Groups that operate within that Team. SLI bodies perform - both centrally and at the local level - the tasks included in the National Action Plan Against Human Trafficking. What is also important for the performance of the tasks of the SLI in the area of prevention and combating of human trafficking for the purpose of forced labour is the SLI's cooperation with other institutions and organisations as part of provincial anti-human trafficking teams and its cooperation with the LA STRADA Foundation.

Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy



The Ministry of Funds and Regional Policy has a Team for Sustainable Development and Corporate Social Responsibility, which is an auxiliary body supporting the minister competent for regional development. In its current form, the Team was established by an Order of the Minister of Development Funds and Regional Policy of 21 January 21. The Team is a platform for cooperation between the government administration and representatives of the business, as well as partner community and economic organisations with the aim of adaptation to the challenges of sustainable development through the dissemination of social responsibility in market practices. According to ISO 26000, the concept of social responsibility, on which the Team's work is focused, refers to the areas of organisational governance, human rights, labour practices, environment, fair operating practices, consumer issues, community involvement and local community development. At the heart of social responsibility in the broadly defined areas of human rights and labour practices is the need to ensure that forced labour, which is the gravest form of violation of workers' rights, does not occur.

Regional level

Provincial Anti-Human Trafficking Teams



The Provincial Teams include representatives of various public institutions, law enforcement agencies, and NGOs operating at the regional level. The participation of representatives of individual institutions depends on the decision of the province governor. The work of the teams established so far involves, first and foremost, representatives of provincial offices, the Police, the Border Guard, public prosecutor's offices, labour inspectorates, labour offices, local governments, school superintendents of schools and educational institutions, and non-governmental organisations.

The representatives of the institutions participating in the work of regional teams improve the effectiveness of their activities through the ongoing exchange of information and coordination of all undertakings, including those of a preventive nature.

Level of non-governmental organisations

Non-governmental organisations provide support for state authorities and institutions in their efforts to combat human trafficking, assist victims and educate the public.

Nation-wide Network of Non-Governmental Organisations Against Human Trafficking



Non-governmental organisations involved in combating human trafficking form the Nation-Wide Network of Non-Governmental organisations Against Human Trafficking, which was established in July 2014 as part of the implementation of a project funded by the Norwegian Fund. Currently, the Network brings together 19 non-governmental organisations. The main intention of the Network is to create a highly specialised network of anti-human trafficking organisations in order to improve the quality and efficiency of their work, professionalize their activities, and strengthen their capacity, so that they can become partners of public institutions and law enforcement agencies in joint activities aimed at preventing human trafficking and supporting the victims of this crime. The Network's activities include strengthening provincial anti-trafficking teams, developing standards for the provision of services to victims of trafficking, in particular maintaining security, privacy, and respect for the victims' choices, and organising a series of workshops on human trafficking for non-governmental organisations. Thanks to the Network's activities, selected NGOs from all over Poland are being prepared to work with victims of human trafficking.

La Strada Foundation Against Human Trafficking and Slavery



The goal of the Foundation, established in 1996, is to work for the respect of human rights, to combat human trafficking, slavery, and forced labour, and to counter the exploitation of prostitution, as well as crimes against the freedom and health of individuals. The Foundation has been actively working to help victims since its inception. In 2021, the La Strada Foundation won a competition organised by the Ministry of Interior and Administration for running the National Intervention and Consultation Centre for Victims of Human Trafficking in 2022, providing specialised staff and a shelter for victims in Warsaw.

Immaculate Mary Pomace Association for Women and Children



The mission of the Association, established in 1998, is to provide comprehensive assistance to women in crisis by providing them safe shelter, supporting them in the process of personal development, and conducting preventive and educational activities on violence, human trafficking, and forced prostitution. The main goal of the Association is to help women and their children at risk of or affected by sexual, physical, and psychological violence, victims of trafficking in women, and their families. The Association is involved in the operation of the National Intervention and Consultation Centre, as part of which it runs a shelter for disadvantaged women and women with children in Katowice.

Halina Nice Centre for Legal Aid



A non-governmental public benefit organisation founded in 2002 in Kraków. The Halina Nice Centre for Legal Aid (HNCLA) works to protect human rights, primarily by providing free legal assistance to people from groups at risk of social exclusion and discrimination, including the poor, victims of domestic violence, foreigners, and refugees. It conducts monitoring of compliance with human rights standards, undertakes legal interventions and advocacy activities, and implements research and education projects. The Centre is also working to counter human trafficking, including in children, by organising public campaigns and providing legal support to victims. The Centre also publishes periodic reports on human trafficking in Poland, in which, in addition to providing an analysis of the scale and picture of the problem, it also assesses the system of assistance to victims of the crime.

Empowering Children Foundation



The Empowering Children Foundation (formerly named Nobody's Children Foundation), which has been in operation since 1991, supports children and their families by providing assistance in cases of abuse. Its facilities offer psychological and legal assistance to children who have experienced abuse (physical violence, psychological abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, or cyberbullying) and their families. Support is also offered to parents of young children aged 0-6 who, for various reasons, are unprepared to provide informed and safe care and upbringing to their children. The Foundation's goal is to support children in overcoming the traumas caused by the harm they experienced. The Foundation actively cooperates with the Police with the aim to combat the crime of sexual abuse of children. The Foundation runs the Helpline for Children and Adolescents (tel. no. 116 111), and is the initiator of the stopseksturystyce.fdds.pl website, where incidents of sexual abuse of children can be reported directly to the Police.

Itaka Foundation - Centre for the Search for Missing People



This NGO, established in 1999, deals with the problem of missing persons in Poland. The Foundation is a public benefit organisation. Itaka finds missing persons, helps their families, and prevents disappearances. It maintains an online database of missing persons, a 24/7 support line for missing persons and their families, and the *Missing Child Helpline*. Itaka provides all assistance free of charge. The Foundation cooperates with the National Police Headquarters and is a member of the Missing Children Europe Federation.

Light House Foundation



The Light House Foundation is a Christian human rights organisation founded in 2017, but with 10 years of experience in the fight against human trafficking and contemporary slavery on an international scale. The goal of the Light House Foundation is to prevent and combat human trafficking, modern slavery, forced labour, and forced prostitution, to provide assistance to victims of these and other similar crimes, and to support the victims in reconstructing their lives. The Foundation offers shelter, counselling, and support for victims and their families, including direct support in contacts with law enforcement agencies. An important goal of the Foundation is to create new solutions and standards of assistance, including training for law enforcement agencies, institutions, and organisations. The Foundation works by creating networks and actively raising public awareness through lectures, training courses, and social campaigns.

Time of Freedom Foundation



The Time for Freedom Foundation is an organisation whose main goal is to prevent the problem of human trafficking and forced labour, to bring freedom to those who have been victims of slavery, forced prostitution, victims of violence, the oppressed, enslaved and exploited, and to provide them with assistance, care, protection, rehabilitation and development opportunities.

Other

The above list of non-governmental organisations is not exhaustive. Assistance to victims of human trafficking is provided by dozens of entities, including Caritas, the Polish Red Cross, the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, the St. Brother Albert's Aid Society, and many other organisations, foundations, and associations that provide various forms of support to victims, including those affected by the crime of human trafficking.

Institutional support

National Intervention and Consultation Centre for Polish and foreign victims of human trafficking



The National Intervention and Consultation Centre for Victims of Human Trafficking (hereinafter referred to as NICC) is a public task implemented and financed by the Ministry of Interior and Administration, addressed to Polish and foreign victims of human trafficking. Each year, the Ministry of Interior and Administration announces an open contest to run the NICC. In 2022, the Centre was run by the La Strada Foundation Against Human Trafficking and Slavery and the Immaculate Mary Po-MOC Association for Women and Children.

The NICC was established to help victims of human trafficking in Poland. Its tasks include identification of human trafficking victims, intervention, preventive counselling, consultation for institutions and organisations, and running a specialised shelter for victims. The staff of the NICC provide counselling not only to victims of human trafficking, but also to their relatives, organisations and institutions

involved in counteracting human trafficking and ensuring aid to victims, people at risk of human trafficking.

Crucial in providing assistance to victims of human trafficking is their initial identification, which in most cases is done by law enforcement agencies. Once a victim has been identified, it is necessary to ensure his or her safety, isolate him or her from the perpetrators, and place him or her in a safe place. This is the most important objective of the work carried out by the NICC: comprehensive assistance to victims of the crime, provided by NGOs. The person who benefits from the assistance can count on full support, including safe accommodation, medical and psychological care and legal consultation.

National Office of the International organisation for Migration (IOM) in Warsaw



The International organisation for Migration (IOM), based on the Agreement concluded in 2005 with the Minister of Interior and Administration and annexed in November 2011, implements a programme of assistance in voluntary return and reintegration. Under the programme, people identified as victims of human trafficking can receive support in returning to their country of origin and reintegration assistance. The IOM provides, among other things, return counselling to facilitate an informed return decision, individualised return risk assessments, medical assistance, assistance in obtaining travel documents and organising the necessary return formalities. The IOM offers lodging and meals before and during the trip, as well as return travel arrangements and financing. Upon their return to the country of origin, the beneficiaries can receive reintegration assistance to satisfy their most urgent needs and support in taking up employment or starting business as well as vocational training.

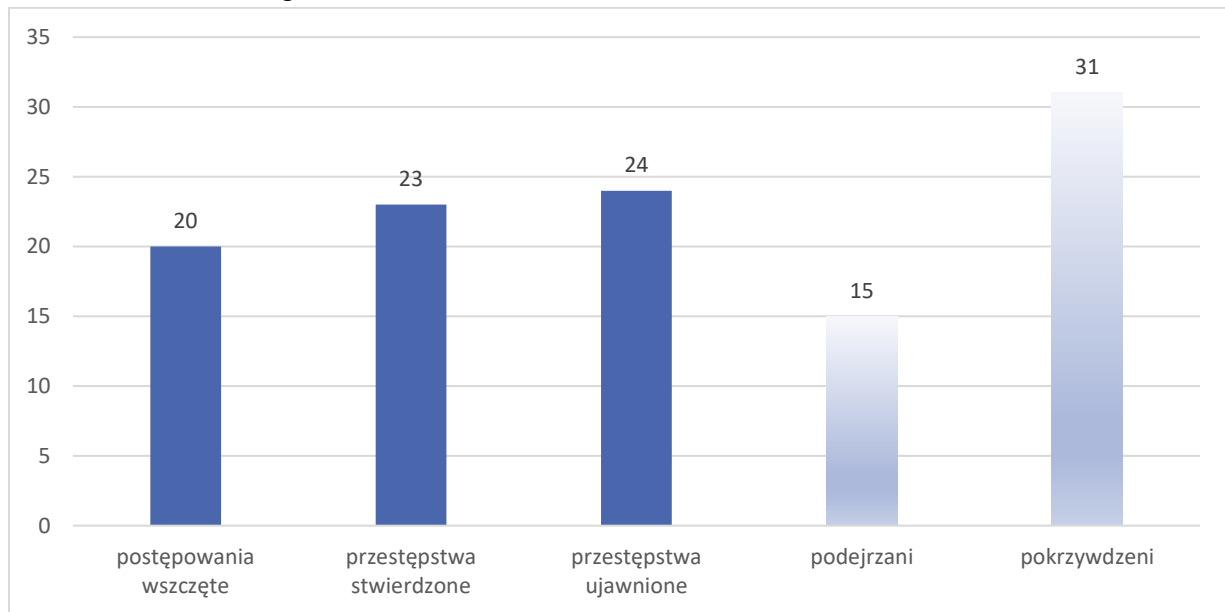
5. Statistical picture of the problem

Due to the different data collection methodologies adopted by entities dealing with human trafficking, the following statistics are presented separately for clarity. Information from non-governmental organisations working with law enforcement and the judiciary in supporting victims of this crime is also an important supplement to the current picture of the phenomenon.

Police

The Police, as the law enforcement agency, makes every effort to detect and prosecute the perpetrators of crimes. In 2023, the activities of the Police resulted in the initiation of 20 proceedings concerning human trafficking, the identification of 23 crimes, and the disclosure of 24 crimes. 15 people were charged with the crime of human trafficking. 31 victims were identified.

Chart 1. Human trafficking. Crime under Article 189a §1-2 of the PC in 2022.

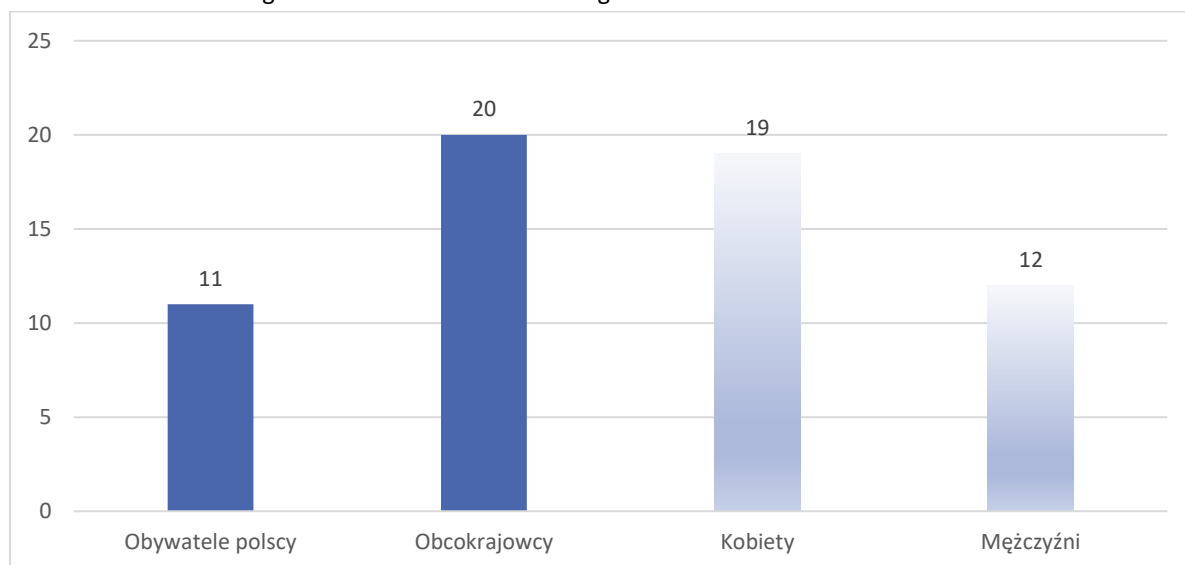


Prepared on the basis of the data provided by the National Police Headquarters

postępowania wszczęte	initiated proceedings
przestępstwa stwierdzone	crimes identified
przestępstwa ujawnione	crimes disclosed
podejrzani	suspects
pokrzywdzeni	victims

In 2022, 31 alleged victims of human trafficking were identified: 19 women and 11 men. The majority of the victims were Polish citizens (11 persons) and 20 were foreigners (9 citizens of Ukraine, 3 citizens of Vietnam, 2 citizens of Belarus, 2 citizens of Columbia and 1 citizen of Romania, Slovakia, Czech Republic and Latvia, respectively). 13 persons were exploited in forced labour or services, 12 people were exploited in prostitution or pornography, and 6 persons were exploited in begging.

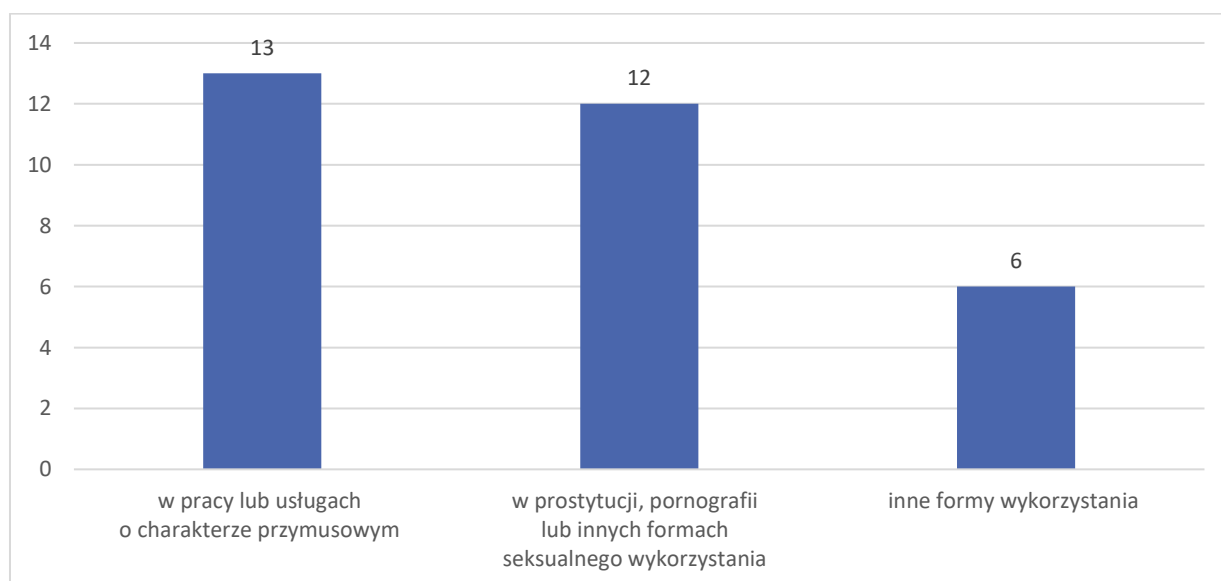
Chart 2. Number of alleged victims of human trafficking identified in 2022.



Prepared on the basis of the data provided by the National Police Headquarters

Obywatele polscy	Polish citizens
Obcokrajowcy	Foreigners
Kobiety	Women
Mężczyźni	Men

Chart 3. The nature of exploitation of potential victims of human trafficking in 2022.

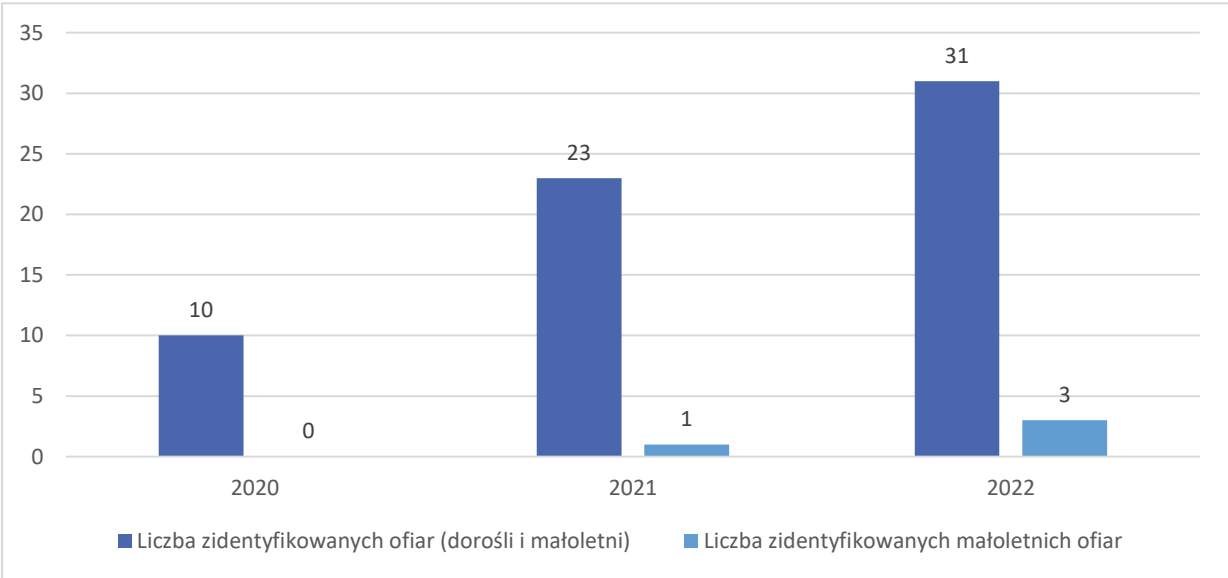


Prepared on the basis of the data provided by the National Police Headquarters

w pracy lub usługach o charakterze przymusowym	in forced work or services
w prostytucji, pornografii lub innych formach seksualnego wykorzystania	in prostitution, pornography, or other forms of sexual exploitation
inne formy wykorzystania	other forms of exploitation

In 2022, 3 minors were identified as alleged victims of human trafficking. Of the total number of alleged victims of human trafficking identified in 2022, 21 may have been exploited in Poland, 10 - in the Federal Republic of Germany and 1 - in the United Kingdom. In the case of the minor citizen of Romania, two countries of exploitation were identified: Poland and Germany. 6 persons identified by the Police expressed their willingness to use the assistance under the NICC.

Chart 4. The number of potential victims of human trafficking identified in 2020 - 2022.



Prepared on the basis of the data provided by the National Police Headquarters

Liczba zidentyfikowanych ofiar (dorośli i małoletni)	number of identified victims (adults and minors)
Liczba zidentyfikowanych małoletnich ofiar	number of identified minor victims

Example proceedings/investigation:

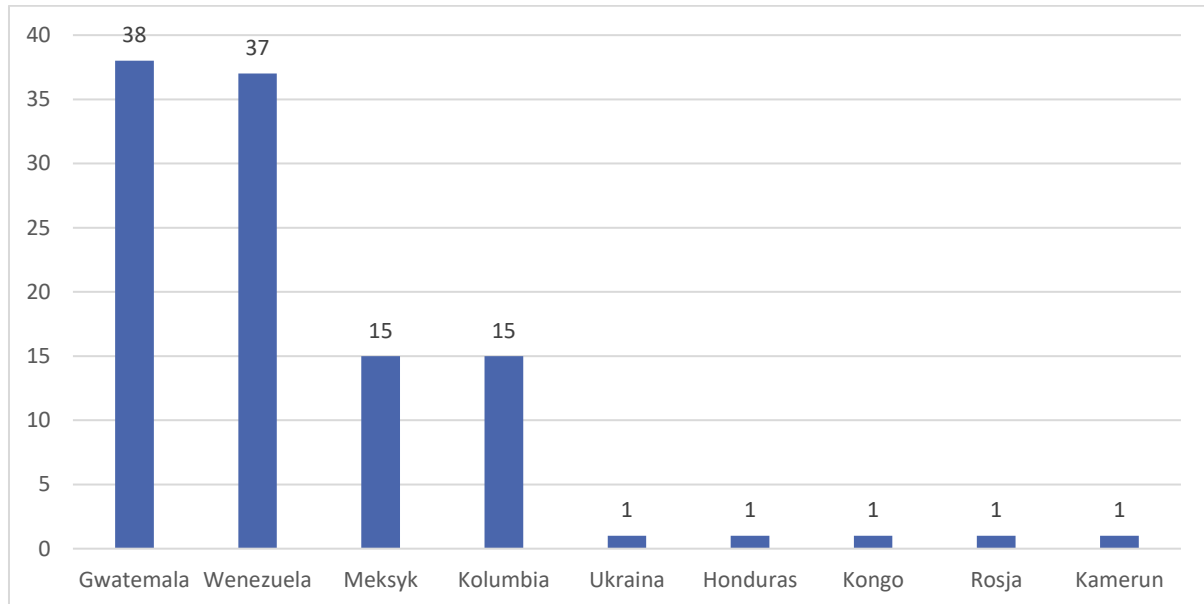
"...the investigation, initiated on 5 October 2022 on the occurrence of the offence of human trafficking in the period from at least July 2022 to 3 October 2022, involving the joint and concerted action of members of an organised criminal group who, taking advantage of the critical situation with regard to the financial situation of the aggrieved person, recruited him on the territory of the Republic of Latvia and transported the victim to the territory of the Republic of Poland in order to use him in begging. Subsequently, committing the offence under Article 189a of the Penal Code, they held the wronged person in a residential room in the territory of the Wielkopolskie Province, while committing attacks of violence against him in the form of hitting him with the hand on the body and unlawful threats, as well as taking the aggrieved person to the forest and leaving him there, under the circumstances that the victim is a person with physical disabilities, moving in a wheelchair..."

Source: National Police Headquarters

Border Guard

The Border Guard was another law enforcement agency that identified 110 potential victims of human trafficking, 85 men and 25 women, in 2022. 107 people were forced to perform labour while three were forced into prostitution, pornography, or other forms of sexual abuse.

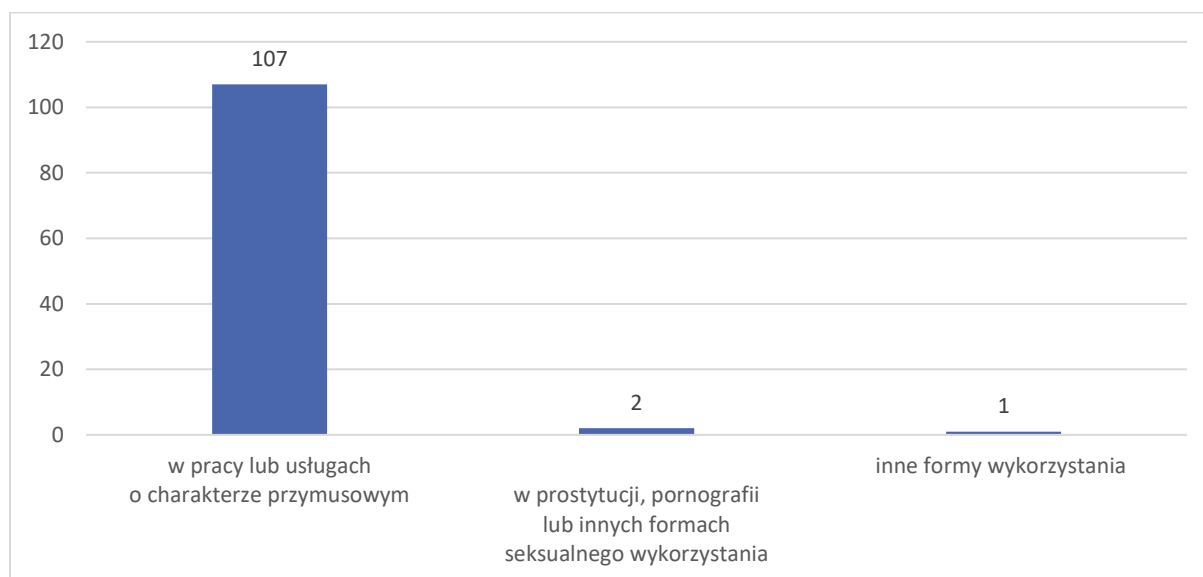
Chart 5. The nationality of potential victims of human trafficking identified by the Border Guard in 2022.



Prepared on the basis of the data provided by the National Headquarters of the Border Guard

Gwatemala	Guatemala
Wenezuela	Venezuela
Meksyk	Mexico
Kolumbia	Columbia
Ukraina	Ukraine
Honduras	Honduras
Kongo	Congo
Rosja	Russia
Kamerun	Cameroon

Chart 6. The nature of exploitation of potential victims of human trafficking in 2022.



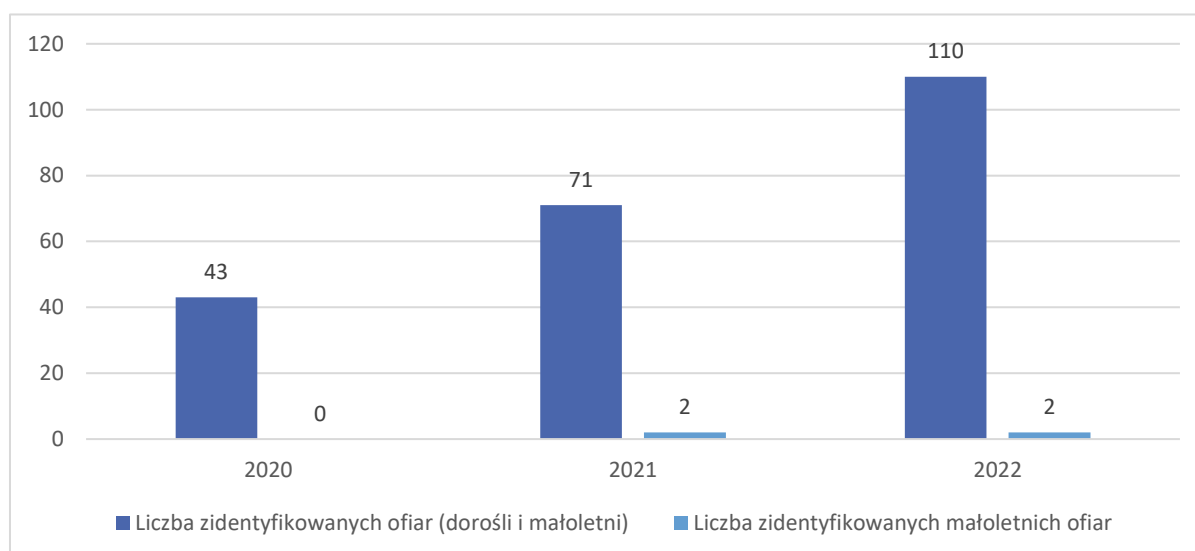
Prepared on the basis of the data provided by the National Headquarters of the Border Guard

w pracy lub usługach o charakterze przymusowym	in forced work or services
w prostytucji, pornografii lub innych formach seksualnego wykorzystania	in prostitution, pornography, or other forms of sexual exploitation
inne formy wykorzystania	other forms of exploitation

In 2022, 4 new investigations were started: two concerning exploitation for forced labour and two concerning exploitation in begging. In the course of the investigations conducted in 2022, 8 suspects were charged with human trafficking (2 citizens of Moldova, 5 citizens of Poland and 1 citizen of Ukraine).

Out of 110 alleged victims of human trafficking disclosed, 106 come from Latin American countries such as: Mexico, Venezuela, Guatemala, Colombia. Foreigners from the indicated geographical region, due to very difficult financial and political situation in their country of origin, demonstrate a strong desire to satisfy their life needs, deciding to take up employment on the territory of Europe, including, among others, Poland. These persons belong to a strict risk group as potential victims of human trafficking. The foregoing is confirmed by the results of measures undertaken by the Border Guard and a significant increase in the number of disclosed alleged victims of human trafficking among this group of persons.

Chart 7. The number of potential victims of human trafficking identified in 2020 - 2022.



Prepared on the basis of the data provided by the National Headquarters of the Border Guard

Liczba zidentyfikowanych ofiar (dorośli i małoletni)	number of identified victims (adults and minors)
Liczba zidentyfikowanych małoletnich ofiar	number of identified minor victims

Example proceedings/investigation:

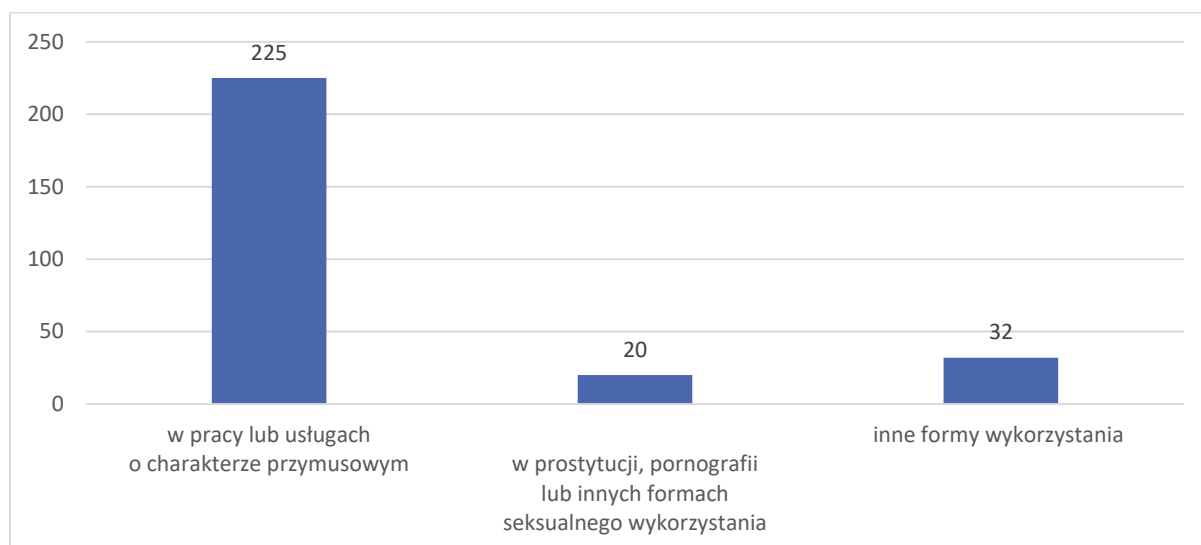
"...In the course of the investigation it was found that 3 persons with family ties had exploited Ukrainian and Moldovan citizens for forced labour by using their business activity. The perpetrators did not comply with the agreed terms and conditions of work, induced the employees to perform work in an increased number of working hours than originally agreed upon, did not sign employment contracts under the terms and conditions specified in the declarations of assigning work to foreigners, did not register the employees with the compulsory social insurance and the tax office, deducted insurance money from their wages, withheld amounts for travel costs, arranging residence documentation, obtaining a sanitary health record booklet, medical examinations and waste segregation, and threatened with repatriation and inducing criminal proceedings against the victims. ..."

Source: National Headquarters of the Border Guard

Public Prosecutor's Office

According to the data provided by the National Public Prosecutor's Office, the most common forms of exploitation of people in 2022 included forced labour, harassment in prostitution, pornography or other forms of sexual exploitation and other forms of exploitation. The number of victims of the crime of human trafficking in 2022 was 277 people, including 25 minors.

Chart 8. The nature of the exploitation of victims in 2022.

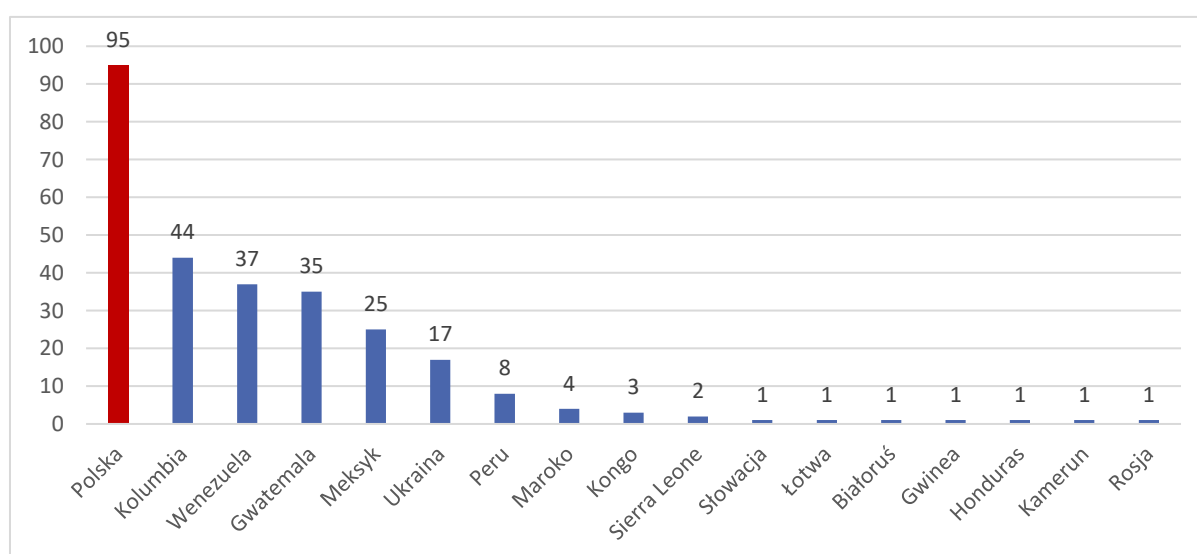


Prepared on the basis of the data provided by the National Public Prosecutor's Office

w pracy lub usługach o charakterze przymusowym	in forced work or services
w prostytucji, pornografii lub innych formach seksualnego wykorzystania	in prostitution, pornography, or other forms of sexual exploitation
inne formy wykorzystania	other forms of exploitation

The data provided by the National Public Prosecutor's Office in 2022 specify the citizenship of the victims, which can be illustrated in the chart below. The largest number of victims were citizens of Poland (95 people) and South America (Columbia, Guatemala, Venezuela or Peru). Citizens of the European Union (Slovakia, Latvia) were also recorded among the victims.

Chart 8. The country of origin of adult victims in 2022.

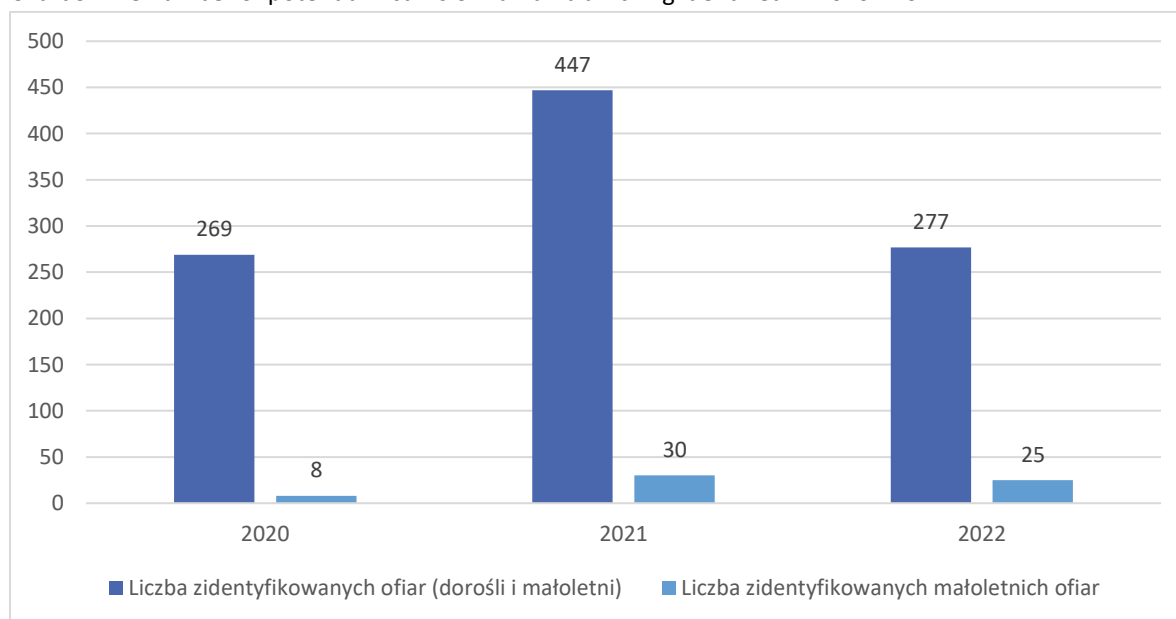


Prepared on the basis of the data provided by the National Public Prosecutor's Office

Polska	Poland
Kolumbia	Columbia
Wenezuela	Venezuela
Gwatemala	Guatemala
Meksyk	Mexico
Ukraina	Ukraine
Peru	Peru
Maroko	Morocco
Kongo	Congo
Sierra Leone	Sierra Leone
Słowacja	Slovakia
Łotwa	Latvia
Białoruś	Belarus
Gwinea	Guinea
Honduras	Honduras
Kamerun	Cameroon

In 2022, 17 suspected perpetrators of human trafficking were recorded. All suspects were citizens of Poland.

Chart 9. The number of potential victims of human trafficking identified in 2020 - 2022.



Prepared on the basis of the data provided by the National Public Prosecutor's Office

Liczba zidentyfikowanych ofiar (dorośli i małoletni)	number of identified victims (adults and minors)
Liczba zidentyfikowanych małoletnich ofiar	number of identified minor victims

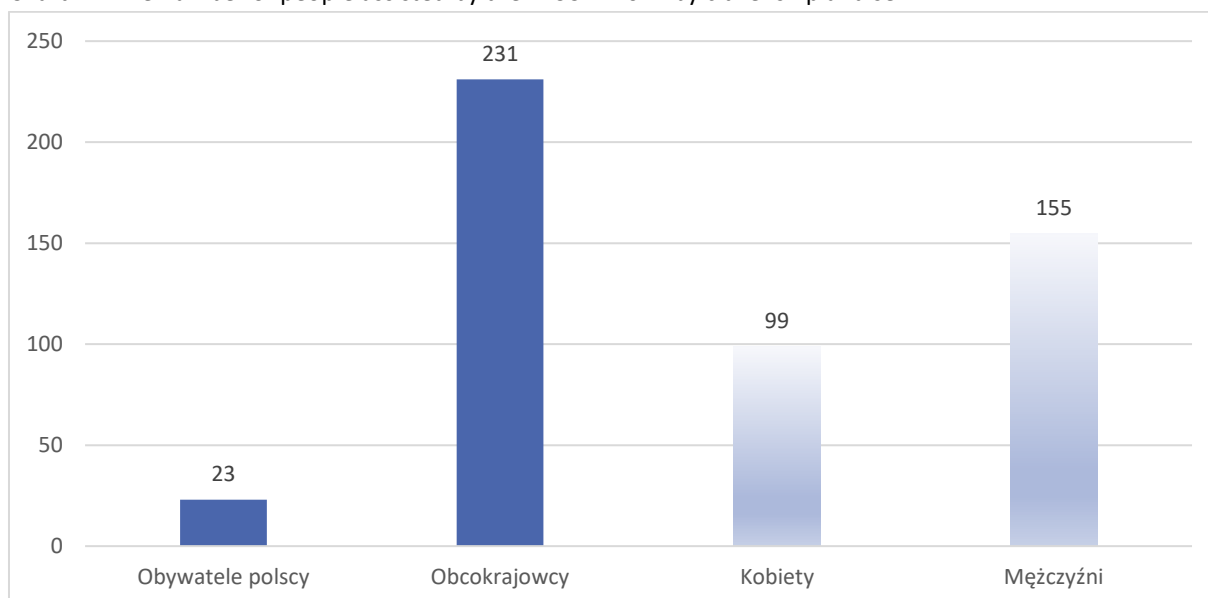
Ministry of Justice

According to the data provided by the Ministry of Justice in 2022, as part of the assistance provided by the Justice Fund to victims "affected" by the crime of human trafficking, assistance was provided to 24 persons, including 20 victims (1 witness and 3 relatives). Of the total number of eligible persons who reported to the aid provision sites, 12 were women and 12 were men. As part of the assistance provided, the time spent for consultation with a psychologist was 8 hours, while legal assistance was provided over a period of 54 hours. At the same time, 3.5 hours of interpreter assistance were provided to victims of the aforementioned crime. Financial assistance (related to accommodation, purchase of tickets, food vouchers, clothing or footwear) for 24 persons amounted to PLN 7,048.51.

National Intervention and Consultation Centre for victims of human trafficking

According to the data provided by the NICC for victims of human trafficking, 254 people (23 Polish citizens and 231 foreigners), including 18 minors, benefited from the centre's support in 2022. Persons covered by the support included 99 women and 155 men.

Chart 11. The number of people assisted by the NICC in 2022 by citizenship and sex

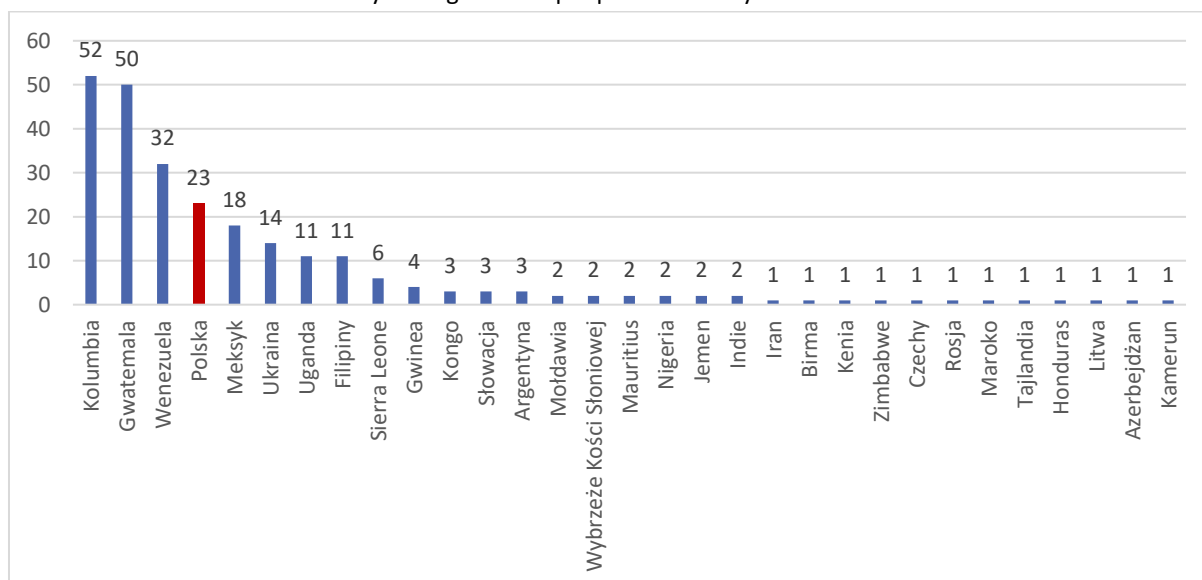


Prepared on the basis of the NICC data.

Obywatele polscy	Polish citizens
Obcokrajowcy	Foreigners
Kobiety	Women
Mężczyźni	Men

The chart below shows the number and origin of the victims of human trafficking in 2022. The most represented groups of people receiving support from the NICC were citizens of South America (Colombia, Guatemala and Venezuela). Polish citizens (23 persons) as well as citizens of Mexico (18 Persons) and Ukraine (14 persons) also constituted a considerable group of beneficiaries.

Chart 12. The number and country of origin of the people assisted by the NICC in 2022.



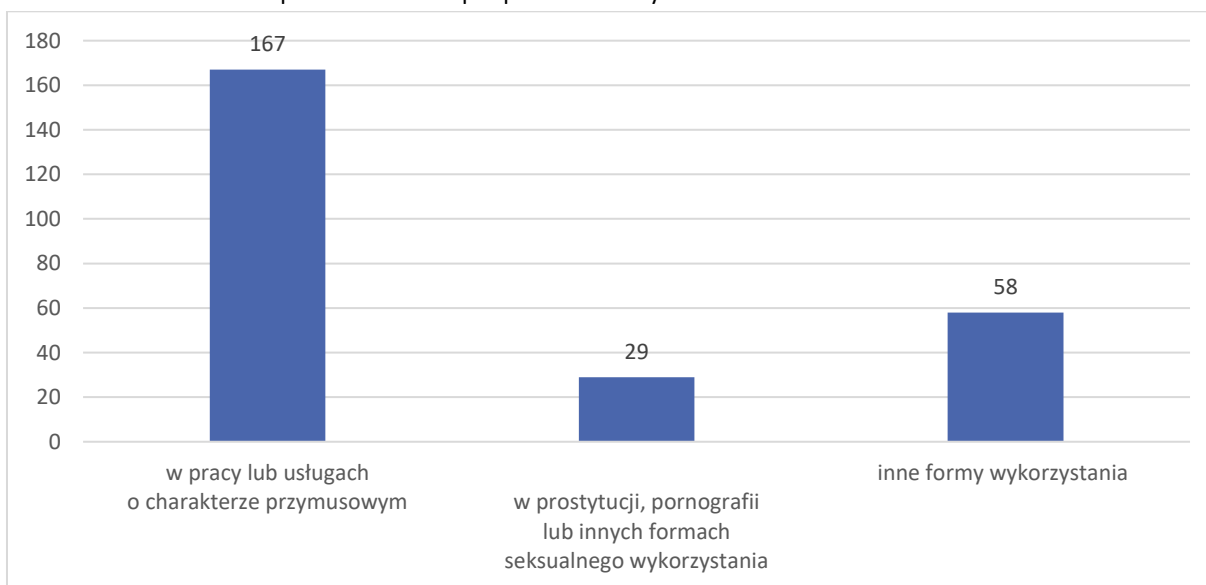
Prepared on the basis of the NICC data.

Kolumbia	Columbia
Gwatemala	Guatemala
Wenezuela	Venezuela
Polska	Poland
Meksyk	Mexico
Ukraina	Ukraine
Uganda	Uganda
Filipiny	Philippines
Sierra Leone	Sierra Leone
Gwinea	Guinea
Kongo	Congo
Słowacja	Slovakia
Argentyna	Argentina
Mołdawia	Moldova
Wybrzeże Kości Słoniowej	Ivory Coast
Mauritius	Mauritius
Nigeria	Nigeria
Jemen	Yemen
Indie	India
Iran	Iran
Birma	Burma
Kenia	Kenya
Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe
Czechy	Czechia
Rosja	Russia
Maroko	Morocco
Tajlandia	Thailand

Honduras	Honduras
Litwa	Latvia
Azerbejdżan	Azerbaijan
Kamerun	Cameroon

The chart below illustrates the forms of exploitation of the persons assisted by the NICC in 2022. The predominant forms of exploitation included forced labour and sexual exploitation. People were also exploited as domestic slaves, forced to marry, beg or commit crimes.

Chart 13. The forms of exploitation of the people assisted by the NICC in 2022.



Prepared on the basis of the NICC data.

w pracy lub usługach o charakterze przymusowym	in forced work or services
w prostytucji, pornografii lub innych formach seksualnego wykorzystania	in prostitution, pornography, or other forms of sexual exploitation
inne formy wykorzystania	other forms of exploitation

Ministry of Family and Social Policy

The statistics for the first half of 2022 on the support provided to victims of human trafficking in the social assistance system are the following:

due to the need to protect victims of human trafficking, 133 families received social assistance; support was provided to 79 foreign victims of human trafficking, including:

- 15 foreigners who received purpose-specific benefits in the form of cash and
- 64 foreigners who received assistance in kind (shelter, meal, necessary clothing).

In addition, as at 31 December 2021, there are a total of 167 Crisis Intervention Centres (CICs) in Poland, of which 16 CICs are prepared to receive victims of human trafficking.

Office for Foreigners

In 2022, workers conducting proceedings concerning the provision of international protection initially identified potential victims of human trafficking, i.e., 3 women - citizens of the Democratic Republic of Congo, presumably used in prostitution, pornography, or other forms of sexual exploitation.

In addition, the Office for Foreigners is required to identify those victims of human trafficking who are persons with special needs, not only immediately after they file their applications, but also at all stages of the procedure concerning the provision of international protection.

The assessment of whether a foreigner is a vulnerable person who requires special treatment during the procedure for granting protection in the territory of Poland with regard to social assistance is made by:

- a physician, during a special, preliminary, three-step procedure in an epidemiological filter facility at a reception centre,
- a psychologist or a physician doctor, if new circumstances arise in the course of provision of social assistance,
- employees of the Department of Social Assistance of the Office for Foreigners present at all centres for foreigners, based on their daily conversations and observations,
- employees of the Refugee Proceedings Department of the Office for Foreigners on the basis of the foreigner's statements made in the application for international protection and during the status interview,
- a psychologist, on request of an employee of the Refugee Proceedings Department of the Office for Foreigners.

Such assessment is performed immediately after the submission of an application for international protection and at any time until the completion of the proceedings, in case new circumstances concerning the applicant or the person represented by the applicant are revealed.

6. Activities carried out in 2022

In 2022, the activities of the Ministry of Interior and Administration and other ministries, institutions and non-governmental entities were determined by the consequences of Russia's armed aggression against Ukraine. A number of coordinated activities were carried out, targeting both war refugees and the general public, as well as specific social and professional groups particularly exposed to the phenomenon of human trafficking, such as youth and the unemployed, as well as foreigners searching for work in Poland.

Selected important projects

Prevention activities under the name "Do not trust unconditionally. Do not become a victim of human trafficking"

In 2022, the Ministry of Interior and Administration, in cooperation with the Border Guard Headquarters, organised preventive activities under the name "Do not trust unconditionally. Do not become a victim of human trafficking" Leaflets (UA and EN language versions) were distributed at the

border containing basic information on the risk of human trafficking and contact details of relevant aid institutions on human trafficking (more than 0.5 million leaflets were distributed).

НЕ ДОВІРЯЙТЕ БЕЗМЕЖНО
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- НІКОМУ НЕ ДАВАЙТЕ СВОЇХ ДОКУМЕНТІВ
- НІКОМУ НЕ ДАВАЙТЕ ТЕЛЕФОН
- НЕ ПЛАТІТЬ ГРОШЕЙ ЗА КВАРТИРУ, ДОПОМОГУ
- РАНІШЕ ДОМОВТЕСЯ ПРО ЦІНУ ПОЇЗДКИ
- ЗАПИТАЙТЕ ОСОБУ, З ЯКОЮ МАЄТЕ НАМІР ПОДОРОЖУВАТИ ПРО ТОЧНУ АДРЕСУ, НОМЕР ТЕЛЕФОНУ, ПОПРОСИТЬ ОСОБУ, З ЯКОЮ МАЄТЕ НАМІР ПОДОРОЖУВАТИ, ЩОБ ПОКАЗАЛА ВАМ СВІЙ ДОКУМЕНТ
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ПАМ'ЯТАЙТЕ, ЩО ВИ ЗАВЖДИ МОЖЕТЕ ПОПРОСИТИ ПРО ДОПОМОГУ



Ministerstwo Spraw Wewnętrznych i Administracji #SG #MSWIA



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Фонд проти торгівлі людьми та рабства «La Strada», Варшава, тел. 22 628 99 99
Товариство «Рю-МОС» для жінок та дітей ім. Непорочної Діви Марії, Катовіце, тел. 32 255 38 69
Міжнародна організація з міграції (МОМ), Варшава, тел. 666 34 34 66

Ви завжди можете отримати допомогу в Национальному інтервенційно-консультативному центрі для жертв торгівлі людьми (НИКЦ).

Центр забезпечує:

- телефон довіри - 24h
- цілодобове телефонне обслуговування
- безпечне житло
- медична допомога
- допомога перекладача
- психологічна підтримка
- юридичні консультації
- задоволення основних потреб - продукти харчування, одяг, взуття, засоби гігієни

А якщо Ви вирішите звернутися в правоохоронні органи і будете визнані жертвою торгівлі людьми, Ви також маєте право на:

- соціальну допомогу;
- легальне перебування на території Польщі;
- безпечне повернення - якщо Ви вирішите повернутися в свою країну.

Повідомте в поліцію або прикордонну службу.

Розкажіть про свою ситуацію.

Перевірте контакт зі злочинцями.

Ministerstwo Spraw Wewnętrznych i Administracji

Information materials prepared by the Ministry of Interior and Administration and the Border Guard Headquarters

Government Centre for Security (GCS) Alert

An SMS alert was launched including comprehensive information on potential threats and the number of the National Intervention and Consultation Centre for Victims of Human Trafficking and the special police hotline (providing information on human trafficking and sexual crimes, paedophilia and child pornography). These alerts are received by persons coming to Poland from the territory of Ukraine.

“Note:

Be careful. Use only reliable transport. Do not hand over your documents. If you do not have accommodation, contact the Police, the Border Guard or the reception desk.

Verified websites www.ua.gov.pl or www.pomagamukrainie.gov.pl

In case of danger, call 112 or the Office for Foreigners hotline +48 47 721 7575 and the National Intervention and Consultation Centre for Victims of Human Trafficking (NICC) + 48 22 628 01 20.”



Educational material for Spanish-speaking people

In 2022, the Ministry of Interior and Administration recorded a significant increase in the number of victims of human trafficking coming from South America on the territory of Poland. These persons were mainly exploited in forced labour and represent the largest group among foreign victims of human trafficking registered in Poland last year. Statistics show that 2022 saw a 476 % increase in identified victims of human trafficking from South America compared to 2021.

Based on the analysis of available data, including information reported by the Provincial Anti-Human Trafficking Teams, confirmed by law enforcement agencies and the National Intervention and Consultation Centre for Victims of Human Trafficking, a decision was made to print prevention leaflets (250,000 pieces) in languages understood by people coming from countries such as Guatemala, Colombia, Venezuela and Mexico. The aim of the action was to distribute materials through Provincial Anti-Human Trafficking Teams to, among others, Police Headquarters, Border Guard divisions, social welfare centres, labour offices and other institutions involved in combating human trafficking.

Activities undertaken by the National Police Headquarters

The Prevention Office of the Police Headquarters developed and printed 15,000 pieces of information and education brochures in Polish and Ukrainian “Do you know that” and “Be alert and cautious” for each Provincial Police Headquarters / Police Headquarters for the Capital City, which were distributed by subordinate units across the country, in places where potential victims of human trafficking could be found, including railway stations, bus stations, petrol stations, shopping malls, airports, schools.

In addition to this, the Prevention Office of the Police Headquarters developed a spot in four language versions (Polish, English, Ukrainian and Romanian) addressed to 16–45-year-olds planning to travel abroad, especially final students of vocational/technical/secondary schools, students, unemployed and financially disadvantaged people and individuals. The first broadcast of the spot took place on 18 October 2022 on the website of the National Police Headquarters and subordinate units. The online broadcast took place on the Internet platforms of the Interia.pl group and lasted until 20 December 2022. The spot was displayed 5,507,116 times, of which 4,042,057 times the user watched the complete material. The above activities were carried out as part of the nationwide project entitled. “Identification of victims of human trafficking as a basis for receiving support by the victim”, implemented under the Internal Security Fund.

JAKO OFIARA HANDLU LUDZMI MASZ PRAWO DO:

- POMOZY I WSPARCIA
- OCHRONY
- ODSZKODOWANIA
- OKRESU REFLEKCYJI I LEGALNEGO POBYTU
- REINTEGRACJI I PODJECIA PRACY
- POWROTU

Czy wiesz, że:

- Handel ludźmi to trzeci pod względem wielkości nielegalny biznes na świecie
- Obecnie na świecie jest ponad 40 mln ofiar współczesnego niewolnictwa (w tym 25 mln ofiar pracy przymusowej)
- Ofiarą tego nielegalnego procederu może stać się każdy, Pleć, wiek, wykształcenie czy pochodzenie nie gra tu roli.

Handel ludźmi uznawany jest za współczesną formę niewolnictwa. Jest przestępstwem rażąco naruszającym podstawowe prawa człowieka, którego istotą jest wykorzystanie osoby nawet za jej zgodą w celu osiągnięcia korzyści.

Należyciel ludzie są wykorzystywani do:

- Pracy przymusowej
- Proszynię i seksu biznesu
- Zebraćwa
- Popelniania przestępstw

KRAJOWE CENTRUM INTERWENCYJNO-KONSULTACYJNE DLA OFIAR HANDLU LUDZMI (KCIK)
tel. + 48 22 628 01 20
e-mail: kci@strada.org.pl
www.kcik.pl

BIURO KRYMINALNE KOMENDY GŁÓWNEJ POLICJI
tel. + 48 664 974 934
e-mail: handel.ludzi@policja.gov.pl

EUROPEJSKI NUMER ALARMOWY 112

więcej informacji na temat przeciwdziałania handlowi ludźmi na stronie:
www.gov.pl/web/handel-ludzi

Czujesz się zagrożony/a lub obawiasz się o swoje życie/zdrowie z powodu, że ktoś:

- zabrał Ci paszport lub inny dokument tożsamości
- bije Cię, szantażuje, zmusza się lub grozi
- zmusza Cię do kradzieży, zebraćwa, prostytucji, pracy w bardzo ciężkich warunkach
- nie wypłaca Ci należnych pieniędzy
- wykorzystuje Cię do zaciągania kredytów
- odmawia podstawowych środków do życia
- izoluje od świata, wiadomości, najbliższych...

MOŻESZ BYĆ OFIARĄ PRZESTĘPSTWA HANDLU LUDZMI!

NIE OBWINIAJ SIĘ ZA ZAISTNIAŁĄ SYTUACJĘ. WINNY JEST SPRAWCA!

ZAWSZE SZUKAJ POMOCY!

SZUKASZ PRACY W POLSCE LUB ZA GRANICĄ? INTERESUJĄ CIĘ OFERTY PRACY ZA WYSOKĄ STAWKĄ PRZY MINIMUM KWALIFIKACJI? JESTEŚ NARAŻONY NA NIEBEZPIECZYSTWO!

Zanim podejmiesz pracę/wyjedziesz do pracy:

- zwerifikuj pośrednika pracy oraz czy oferowana praca jest legalna
- upewnij się, że pracodawca istnieje, sprawdź opinie o nim
- przeczytaj dokładnie dokumenty, które podpisujesz
- poinformuj bliskich, gdzie wyjeżdżasz, bądź z nimi w stałym kontakcie
- ustal wspólnie z najbliższymi hasło bezpieczeństwa
- zeskanyj i wyślij na adres mailowy lub zrób ksero dokumentów tożsamości
- zapisz adres konsulatu i namiary, gdzie uzyskasz pomoc w kraju, do którego jedziesz
- zabezpiecz pewną kwotę, która pozwoli Ci na wczesniejszy powrót do domu, jeśli będzie to konieczne.

Activities undertaken by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM)

In 2022, IOM organised training sessions concerning the identification and support for potential victims of human trafficking and cooperation with law enforcement and victim support organisations. A total of 531 representatives from the following institutions were trained:

- Border Guards – 403 persons trained
- Police – 24 persons trained
- Employees of Warsaw Centre for Family Assistance – 24 persons trained
- Employees of reception points – 20 persons trained
- Representatives of non-governmental organisations – 40 persons trained
- Local authorities (Officers of Podkarpackie Provincial Office) – 20 persons trained.

As part of the prevention of human trafficking and building awareness among people with migration experience and the local community regarding the increased risk of human trafficking related to the humanitarian crisis and the war in Ukraine, IOM developed and distributed information materials in the form of posters and leaflets near border crossings, at transit points and residence centres. In addition, IOM staff working in the field undertook information and intervention activities in the face of the threat of human trafficking, mainly by establishing cooperation with the Border Guard or the police in situations of suspected threat.

IOM organised the voluntary return to their country of origin for 48 people who were identified as victims of human trafficking. These individuals returned to Colombia, Guatemala, Venezuela and Mexico. Furthermore, in 2022, IOM supported two Polish citizens who were provided with reintegration assistance after their return to their country.

Preventive actions taken in the regions

Provincial Anti-Human Trafficking Teams regularly organised events addressed to the general public or to particular professional and social groups. Details of activities undertaken in regions can be found in the report on the implementation of the National Action Plan Against Human Trafficking (NAP) in 2022 at:

<https://www.gov.pl/web/handel-ludzmi/krajowy-plan-dzialan-przeciwko-handlowi-ludzmi-na-lata-2022-2024>

7. Summary



The current situation on the Polish-Ukrainian and Polish-Belarusian borders provides an opportunity for the activation of various criminal groups seeking to gain quick profit by exploiting the dramatic situation of people escaping military aggression and humanitarian disaster. The context of the war and the movement of large groups of refugees calls for special attention to be paid to the issue of counteracting pathological attitudes or human abuse. Human trafficking is a multifactorial crime and perpetrators use a number of means to effectively recruit and exploit victims. The most common methods involve deception regarding the job offered or the nature of the

emotional relationship between the recruiter and the prospective victim (the so-called “love” method). Victims thus become strongly dependent on the perpetrators both financially and emotionally.

In the face of these specific threats, it is important to focus primarily on the group of children and women who can relatively easily become victims of the crime of human trafficking.

The increased number of migrants to Poland also indicates an increased demand for labour in certain sectors, such as agriculture, construction or seasonal work. This, on the other hand, may lead to exploitation of migrants at work, where they may be deprived of labour rights, insurance or decent wages. Under such conditions, victims are even more vulnerable to exploitation and criminal groups can take advantage of their helplessness to gain easy profit.

Strengthening the social dialogue, cooperation with NGOs, trade unions and other stakeholders can contribute to raising awareness about forced labour and the phenomenon of human trafficking in Poland more generally. Activities comprising social campaigns, monitoring and reporting on the incidence of this crime and protection of victims will certainly have an impact on reducing the phenomenon of human trafficking.

International cooperation is essential in combating human trafficking. Poland is strengthening cooperation with countries in the region, countries of victims' origin and international organisations. The exchange of information, coordination of activities and prosecution of criminals involved in human trafficking are essential to effectively combat this crime.

8. The ABC of Help

Contact details of institutions and non-governmental organisations that provide assistance to victims of human trafficking

Ministry of Interior and Administration

National Intervention and Consultation Centre for victims of human trafficking

As part of the public task entitled “Running the National Intervention and Consultation Centre for Victims of Human Trafficking” which aims to secure the needs of victims of human trafficking - Polish citizens, EU citizens, or foreigners, as well as persons at risk of becoming victims of this crime, a 24-hour helpline and preventive telephone counselling is provided.

Tel. +48 22 628 01 20

24/7 helpline

National Police Headquarters

Anti-Human Trafficking Department

tel. (22) 60-148-33 (office)

E-mail: handelludzmibsk@policja.gov.pl or call: **664 974 934**.

Police officers operate the hotline from 6 AM to 10 PM. During the night hours, reports on the crime and any information can be recorded on an answering machine and officers contact those interested in providing information.

In emergencies involving risks to life or health, the emergency numbers **112** or **997** should be called.

International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in Poland

Poland has been a member of the IOM since 1992. The IOM's National Office in Warsaw has been operating since 2002 and runs projects in the scope of promoting and supporting regulated migration and integration of migrants, combating human trafficking, assistance in voluntary return and reintegration as well as information and training activities aimed at raising awareness of migration phenomena. IOM also provides direct support to persons with migration experience including those affected by the war in Ukraine.

Migrant Info Helpline: **22 490 20 44** - open Monday through Friday from 9 AM to 5 PM.

Foreigners interested in obtaining assistance with voluntary return are asked to call IOM staff at **666 34 34 66**,

or send an email message to: iomwarsawavr@iom.int

or use the online application avr.iom.pl

Non-governmental organisations

La Strada - Foundation Against Human Trafficking and Slavery

Helpline: **+48 22 628 99 99*** (assistance, advice)

- Monday through Thursday from 9 AM to 6 PM
- Fridays from 9 AM to 2 PM

*Wednesdays from 2 to 6 PM, the person on duty speaks Russian

Telephone number for Vietnamese-speaking clients: **+48 22 621 56 18**

Foundation office: **+48 22 622 19 85** (administrative and office phone number)

E-mail: strada@strada.org.pl

<https://www.strada.org.pl/>

Immaculate Mary Pomace Association for Women and Children

Hotline: **511 801 161**

Information on possible assistance - pomoc@Po-MOC.pl

Association's Office: tel. **+48 32 255 38 69**

e-mail: biuro@Po-MOC.pl

<https://www.po-moc.pl/pl>

Light House Foundation

E-mail: biuro@fundacjalighthouse.pl

Hotline: [+48 881 22 33 33](tel:+48881223333)

Salvation Army

e-mail: armia.zbawienia@armia-zbawienia.pl

Halina Nice Centre for Legal Aid

E-mail: biuro@pomocprawna.org, porady@pomocprawna.org

Empowering Children Foundation

E-mail: <https://fdds.pl/szukasz-pomocy/>

tel. **116 111** Child and Youth Helpline (open 24/7)

tel. **800 100 100** – Phone number for parents and teachers on child safety

Itaka Foundation - Centre for the Search for Missing People

Support line numbers

+48 22 654 70 70 - for calls from landline phones in Poland

+48 22 654 70 70 – for calls from abroad

+48 22 654 70 70 – for calls from cell phones

Caritas Polska

<https://caritas.pl/szukam-pomocy/>

Time of Freedom Foundation

e-mail: biuro@czaswolnosci.pl

Warsaw 2023

This material has been prepared at the Department of International Affairs and Migration, Ministry of Interior and Administration.