

# Progress Report on Fight Against THB



**Cornelia Riehle**

## News

On 20 October 2020, the European Commission presented its [third report on progress made in the fight against trafficking in human beings \(THB\)](#). The report identifies key patterns and challenges in addressing THB, provides an analysis of statistics, and outlines the results of anti-trafficking actions. It covers the period from 2017 to 2018.

According to the report, 14,145 victims of trafficking were registered in the EU in 2017 and 2018; the actual number is likely considerably higher, however, since many victims of trafficking remain undetected. 49% of all victims were EU citizens, with more than 34% of them being trafficked in their own EU Member State. 72% of all registered victims were women and girls, mainly trafficked for sexual exploitation. Children accounted for 22% of all victims.

While sexual exploitation remains the dominant form of trafficking (60% of all victims), trafficking for labour exploitation affects 15% of all victims, the majority of them being men (68%). Other forms of trafficking include forced begging and criminality, forced and sham marriages, and even organ removal.

Given that only 2424 convictions were reported in the 2017-2018 period, but that there is a high number of registered victims in the EU, the report calls for a strong response to the impunity of the perpetrators and making trafficking a “high-risk low-profit” crime.

While the report sees progress in several areas, notably within the framework of the European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT-THB), it calls for further efforts to better implement [Directive 2011/36](#) and to find new strategic approaches towards countering THB. The report is rounded off by a [staff working document](#), a [study on data collection on THB in the EU](#), and a [factsheet](#).

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