

UNODC
Global Report on Trafficking in Persons

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and Smuggling of Migrants

Mandates and Resources

- **Mandated by UN General Assembly in 2010**
- **Periodic global data collection (using standardized and flexible data instruments) to capture core indicators:**
 - Officially detected cases of trafficking in persons
 - Validation with national authorities and local experts
- **Largest dataset on TiP from 2003 to 2022**
 - 500,000 victims detected
 - 300,000 individuals who have been suspected, prosecuted or convicted
 - Only for the year 2018 (or most recent), GLOTIP 2020 is based on info for about 50,000 victims
- **The narrative of 800 cases from 85 different countries, involving a total of 4000 victims and 3000 offenders**

GLOTIP 2020 Chapter 5

TRAFFICKERS USE OF THE INTERNET; DIGITAL HUNTING FIELDS

- **Dataset on trafficking and technology**
- **Technology integrated in the modus operandi of traffickers**
- **Emergence of ‘cyber flows’**
- **Emergence of internet-based forms of exploitation**
- **Trafficking on social media platforms expanded**



- The first TiP case to the knowledge of UNODC that reports the use of internet dates to 2004. This case described how traffickers used a free-standing webpage to promote sexual services and to connect with interested consumers in a tourist destination
- Traffickers use internet for **advertising** exploitative services. Through the internet, traffickers easily gain access to an increased pool of customers, particularly sex buyers. Examples of advertisements used to exploit victims include those on classified listing sites or on social media platforms and applications
- Traffickers use internet for **recruiting** victims. Recruitment practices are widely reported upon, when it comes to both sexual exploitation and forced labour. Technology-based recruitment hinges on the anonymity of communications via the internet.
- Traffickers use internet for **exploitation** The internet can be used to broadcast or livestream acts of exploitation, reaching a large base of consumers in different locations throughout different regions of the world. In this scenario, traffickers organize “cybersex den” to exploit victims through coerced performances in front of webcams.

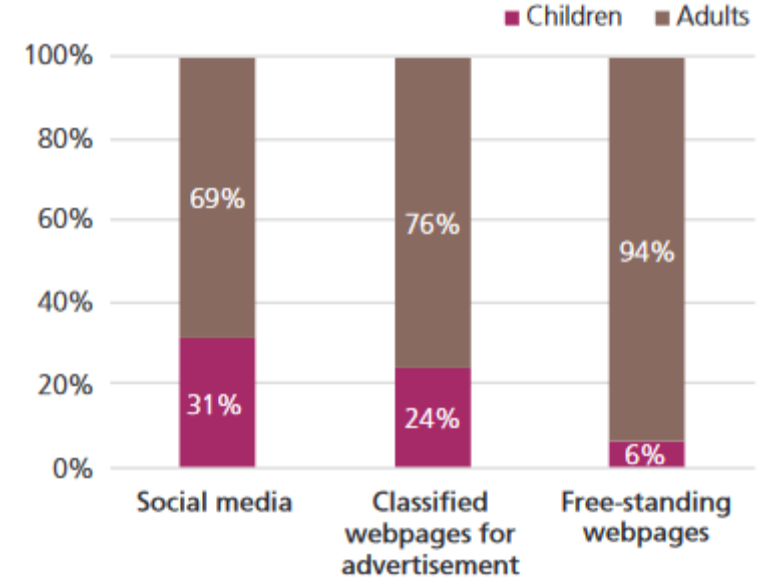


Traffickers use of internet platforms over time



- The **dynamism of social media platforms** makes them useful for criminal business. The rapid pace of communication on social media is instrumental to the recruitment victims
- The use of different platforms appears to relate with the age profile of the victims. **Younger victims** are reported in cases of trafficking **through social media** as compared to trafficking perpetrated across other platforms.
- **Adult victims are more exposed** to trafficking through **free-standing websites** such as escort sites, where advertising of victims is not hidden

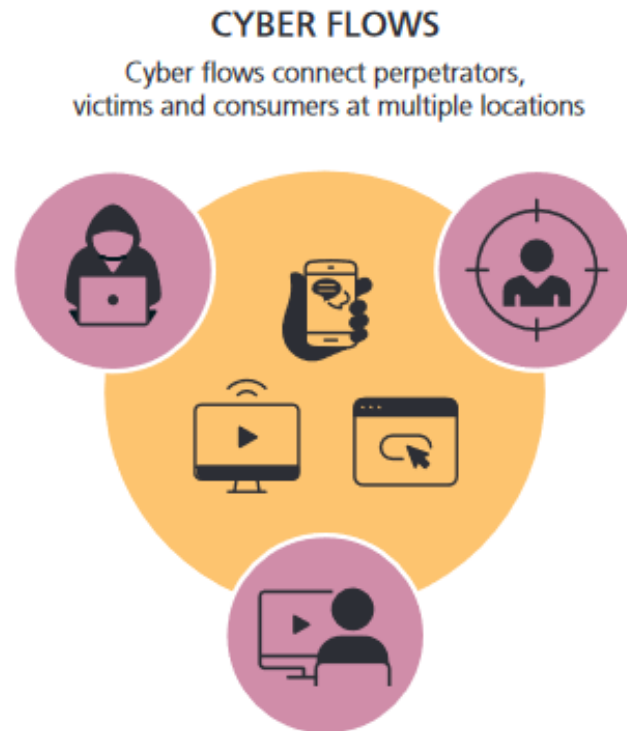
Age of the victims and platform used by traffickers to recruit, exploit or advertise, as reported in the GLOTIP court cases



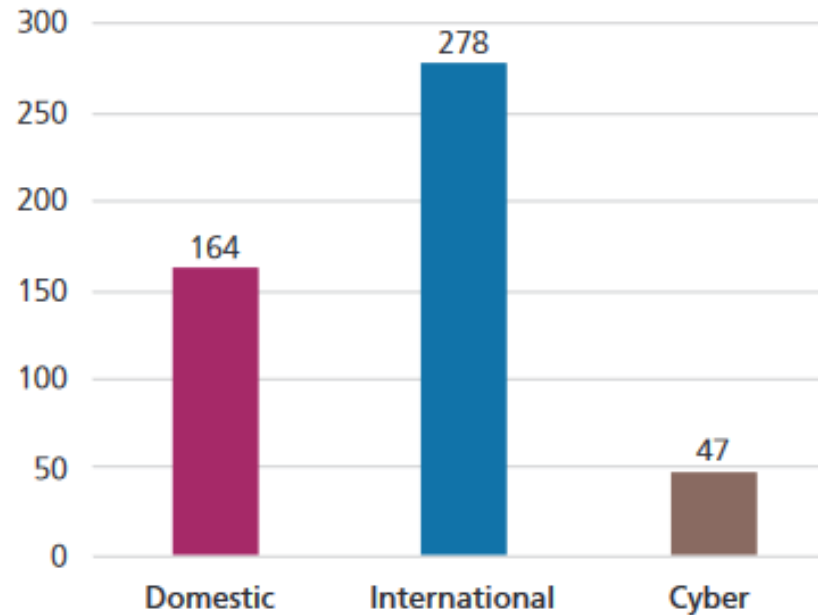
Source: GLOTIP collection of court case summaries (supplemented with UNODC SHERLOC cases).



When it comes to exploitation, by making use of internet technologies, traffickers are able to **overcome geographical distances using the 'cyber-space'** to connect themselves, victims and the final consumers of exploitative services. **Images can be re-used over time**, making exploitation perpetual.



Victims*trafficked by means of Internet, by domestic or cross-border trafficking, as reported in the GLOTIP court cases



Source: GLOTIP collection of court case summaries (supplemented with UNODC SHERLOC cases).

When it comes to recruitment or advertisement, traffickers appear to adopt different approaches in the way they use internet technologies:

Hunting strategies are used both for getting access to victims and establishing direct connections with potential victims of buyers of exploitative services. The **trafficker proactively pursues the victim or the potential customer online.**

Fishing strategies involve traffickers **posting advertisements online and waiting for potential clients or victims to respond.** Typically offering well paid jobs, prompting potential victims to make initial contact with traffickers.

Hunting and Fishing Strategies



Hunting strategies
Perpetrators actively approach victims in online spaces



Fishing strategies
Perpetrators wait for victims or consumers to respond to ads

Thank you!

<http://www.unodc.org/glotip.html>

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