



## Joint Statement of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT) on the World Day against Trafficking in Persons, 30 July 2023

Multiple and diverse crises, conflicts, the COVID-19 pandemic, technological advancements that outpace legislative frameworks and socioeconomic development, and the climate emergency increase vulnerability to trafficking in persons and diversify trafficking risks. Yet, responses to trafficking in persons significantly lag behind: according to the latest evidence, fewer trafficking cases are being detected, despite recent global estimates suggesting an increase in the total number of people, especially children, in various situations of exploitation. This means that growing numbers of trafficked persons and those at risk are left behind, without access to assistance, justice, and remedy.

We all must do more to implement our global, regional, and national anti-trafficking commitments, including those enshrined under SDGs 5, 8 and 16, to end all forms of violence, forced labour, and abuse and exploitation of all people in vulnerable situations, especially children. Preventing and combating trafficking in persons should be prioritized and allocated adequate attention and resources, both as part of crisis responses and as a distinct, continuous effort, by governments, civil society, trade unions, the private sector, and other stakeholders.

The Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT) calls on all States and other duty bearers **to act immediately to strengthen measures addressing vulnerability to trafficking in persons, ensure effective prosecution of perpetrators and of those who benefit from exploitation, as well as improve access of trafficked persons to protection and support that is human rights-based, trauma-informed, and gender-, age-, and disability-sensitive, so that no one – trafficked or at risk – is left behind. All anti-trafficking efforts must be developed and implemented with meaningful and ethical inclusion of survivors' voices and perspectives.**

ICAT and its membership stand ready to support all concerned actors in aligning their efforts to eradicate trafficking in persons with the relevant international standards and existing best practices.



**REACH EVERY VICTIM OF TRAFFICKING,  
LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND**



## For more information, see ICAT's Publications

### SDGs 1.5

[Issue Brief on Vulnerability to Trafficking in Persons](#)

### SDG 5.2

[Issue Brief on the Gender Dimensions of Human Trafficking](#)

### SDG 8.7

[Issue Brief on Trafficking in Humanitarian Crises & Call to Action 2022: A World in Crisis](#)

### SDG 16.2

[Issue Brief on Trafficking in Children](#)

The **Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT)** is a UN policy forum mandated by the General Assembly resolution 61/180, to improve coordination and cooperation among UN agencies and other relevant international organizations to facilitate a holistic and comprehensive approach to preventing and combating trafficking in persons, including protection and support for victims and survivors.

In 2023, ICAT is co-chaired by the **International Organization for Migration (IOM)** and the **Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children (OSRSG-VAC)**, and is continuously coordinated by the **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)**.

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WORLD DAY AGAINST  
**TRAFFICKING  
IN PERSONS**  
30 JULY



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**#End  
Human  
Trafficking**