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Introduction

The previous Newsletter focused on displaying the extent and dimensions of the problem of THB in Sub-Saharan Africa, where you could find information, facts, statistics and all available data on the problem of THB on this geographic region, see the measures taken by the Emmaus community, through European Resource Center, in combating this problem, as well as the precautions and steps taken by governments to prevent and reduce trafficking in human beings and other forms of exploitation.

In this Newsletter, focus will be on the problem of trafficking in human beings in American continent, the extents of it, the most common ways and forms of trafficking

in human beings, statistical findings and measures of prevention and reaction taken by the Emmaus community in combating this problem.



The Americas are exceedingly diverse across their cultures, languages and economies. Individuals within these nations are highly mobile, both inter- and intra-nationally—which, in addition to the prevalence of poverty and lack of employment opportunities, provides fertile soil for labour trafficking and forced labour within national borders and across the region.

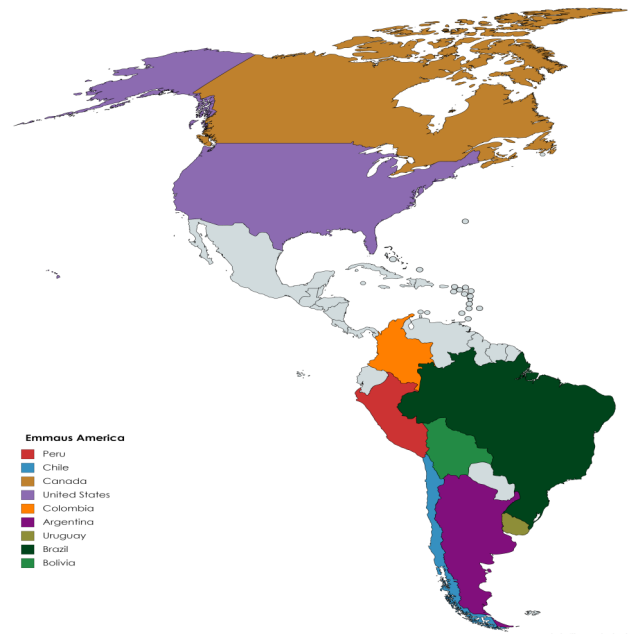
Emmaus America

The beginnings

Latin America is Emmaus' oldest and most important location outside Europe

From June to September 1959, Abbe Pierre made his first trip to Latin America, where he discovered the activities carried out by the various groups.

But the story of Emmaus also began very early in North America, Canada. In 1955, Abbé Pierre gave a series of lectures in Quebec and asked the clergy about his rather luxurious lifestyle. In spite of the opposition of a part of the clergy, the action of Emmaus begins there with the support of the archbishopric of Montreal. The Emmaus community in Montreal welcomed the Emmaus International Constituent Assembly in 1971. The headquarters and the International Secretariat of Emmaus were established there until the end of 1976, when they were transferred to France, Charenton-le -Bridge.



Emmaus America Today

Every year, Emmaus organisations and their partner organisations who want to develop their activities put forward projects to Emmaus International.

Most of the activities focus on education, health, recycling, hosting, and fair trade.

In America, Emmaus is implemented in **8 countries**: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, United States, Peru and Uruguay.

Argentina: Buenos Aires, Burzaco, Córdoba, Mendoza, Paraná, Resistencia;

Bolivia: La Paz, Oruro;

Brazil: Amor e justiça, Amor e Vida, Arujá, Igualdade, Recife, Resende, Teresina, Vila Velha;

Chile: Las Urracas;

Colombia: Buenaventura, Buga, Pereira;

United States: HOME, St Francis;

Peru: Cuna Nazareth, Lambayeque, Piura, San Agustín, Solidaridad y Apoyo, Villa el Salvador;

Uruguay: Grupo Aportes, Nuevo París, Maldonado.

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Most common forms of THB in America

Modern slavery in the Americas affects men, women and children, and has manifested as forced labour, commercial sexual exploitation and, to a lesser degree, forced begging. Forced labour primarily affects men and women in the agricultural, mining, construction and domestic industries, predominantly in North and Central America and the Caribbean. Forced labour is a prevalent issue among indigenous groups in Peru, Bolivia and Colombia. These incarnations of modern slavery are prevalent in labour-intensive, unskilled industries, including agriculture, clothing manufacture, construction and mining. Young men are particularly vulnerable to forced labour.



The inverse is true of commercial sexual exploitation, where women and children are more likely to report cases in South America. Sexual exploitation is particularly prevalent among vulnerable communities including lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) groups from Central and South America, and children in welfare systems in the United States.

THAT FORM

Concentrated in rural areas, exploitation occurs in the Cerrado region of Brazil and along the Amazon, with reports of forced labour in the mahogany, brick-making, and gold mining industries in the Amazonian regions of Peru and Ecuador. In 2015, 936 workers were rescued from slave-like conditions in Brazil alone. These individuals were mainly young males aged 15–39 with low levels of education who had migrated internally to seek job opportunities.

Other reports from 2015 indicate that approximately 500 Brazilian workers were transported to Angola, where they worked in circumstances akin to modern day slavery. In the Caribbean, limited job opportunities in Haiti leads many nationals to illegally cross the border with the Dominican Republic, where they live, work and sometimes perish in the sugarcane field bateyes. Conditions reported include indebtedness to recruiters and employers, physical confinement in the work location, no rest days, lack of potable water, deception about terms of work, withholding of wages and unlawful overtime performed under the threat of deportation.



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Sexual Exploitation

Reported instances of forced prostitution and commercial sexual exploitation of children across the region reflect a complex pattern of both internal and external migration.

Young women and children migrate from rural areas to cities, or to wealthier nations, or in some instances mining sites, with the promise of employment, but upon arrival they are subjected to forced labour, debt bondage and sexual exploitation by their recruiter. Commercial sexual exploitation of girls and women is highly prevalent in Mexico, particularly in the town of Tenancingo, where the interplay of influential organised crime syndicates, the grooming of young boys to become pimps by teaching them to 'honey trap' victims, and coercion through violent threats combine to trap women and girls in a cycle of sexual exploitation. Recruitment is also increasing in other states, including in rural communities and even in Central America.

Women and girls from Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Mexico and other nations within the Americas are trafficked by family members to the United States. There are reports that Mexican drug cartels facilitate the movement of girls too however more research is needed to know the extent of their involvement.



Forced Labour

Through surveys conducted, the prevalence of modern slavery can be more precisely identified in several countries within the Americas including Brazil, Guatemala, Mexico, Chile, Dominican Republic and Bolivia. The survey results suggest that across these countries forced labour accounts for most instances of modern slavery, which is particularly prevalent in manual labour sectors such as construction, manufacturing and factory work, and domestic work.

Poverty is a considerable motivating factor which prompts vulnerable, low-skilled populations to migrate where often, upon arrival, they are vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. These practices are evident all across the Americas, and wealthier countries such as the United States and Canada are not immune to such exploitation, particularly in the agricultural sector.

Others sectors have also been identified as high risk including construction, hospitality and domestic service. However, detecting this exploitation is made more difficult as a large percent of victims of labour exploitation enter the United States with valid visas, for which many victims paid a steep cost of on average US \$6,150 in recruitment fees.



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Statistical findings on THB in America

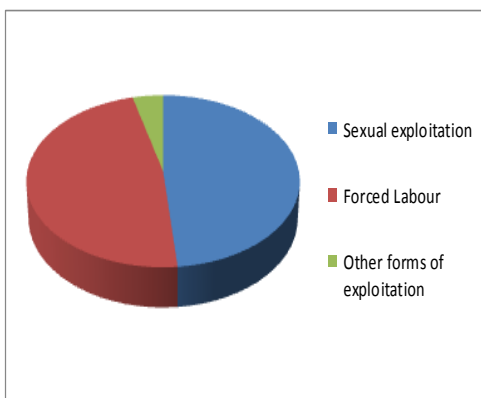
In this table and the following charts, we will present to you the latest updated statistics obtained from the most recent researches and surveys conducted in 2016, on trafficking in human beings and other forms of exploitation, on the American continent.

	AMERICA
Estimate number enslaved	2168600
Regional proportion of global number	4,7 %
Average vulnerability score	34.9/100
Average government response rating	44.7/100

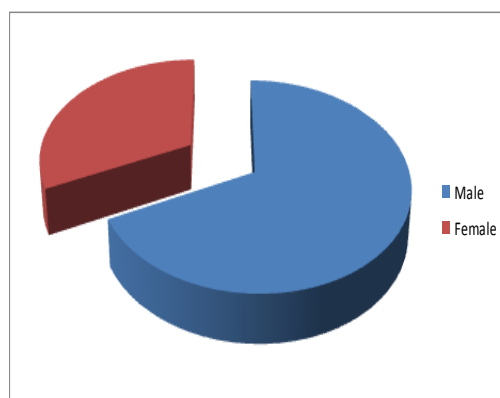
Within the Americas, the highest government response rankings were held by the United States, Argentina, Canada and Brazil. In 2015, the United States passed the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, which expanded anti-trafficking training and the amount of compensation provided to victims. The United States offered a model for survivor leadership. President Obama formed an Advisory Council on Human Trafficking made up entirely of survivors. While having a markedly-different risk profile and access to resources than the United States, it is notable that Haiti's efforts to combat trafficking improved markedly with the introduction of its Law on the Fight Against Trafficking in Persons. The new law criminalised all forms of human trafficking, established victim protection measures along with an anti-trafficking committee and enabled victims to receive compensation. Additionally, Argentina adopted a new National Action Plan to combat trafficking and gender-based violence and Paraguay adopted new guidelines for the identification and screening of trafficking victims. While Brazil maintained a high ranking in the 2015 Index, it is important to note that the country was forced to suspend its public register of companies fined for the use of forced labour by court order.

Overall **government response trends** in the region were mixed. While all countries provided victim support services and 20 of 27 countries had a toll-free reporting mechanism available to all demographics, only six countries had formal guidelines for identifying victims and only two had functioning referral mechanisms. While the existence of toll free reporting mechanisms are a good first step, efforts to build awareness of the mechanism, and training and equipping those responding to complaints are critical to improving response.

Sector of exploitation of victims trafficked in 2016



Percentual display of the trafficked in 2016 by gender



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Similar observations can be made for criminal penalties and enforcement. While 22 countries in this region have criminalised human trafficking and allow victims of the practice to receive compensation, only nine have criminalised forced labour. This fact is particularly alarming given the prevalence of forced labour in the Americas. Additionally, only eight countries have adequately criminalised child prostitution, six have criminalised forced marriage and five have criminalised the use of children in armed conflict. While 24 countries provided anti-trafficking training to front-line police and 23 provided anti-trafficking training to the judiciary, this was only delivered systematically in two cases for the police and six cases for the judiciary. Similarly, while 20 countries had a National Action Plan to combat some form of modern slavery, only four had an independent body to monitor its implementation—Argentina, Brazil, Jamaica and Uruguay. Furthermore, evidence of adequate funding for these plans was only found in Brazil and Canada.

Efforts to prevent governments from sourcing goods linked to forced labour continued to be observed in this region, principally by the United States and Brazil.

Anyone can join in the fight against human trafficking. Here are just a few ideas to consider.

- Learn the indicators of human trafficking so you can help identify a potential trafficking victim. Human trafficking awareness training is available for individuals, businesses, first responders, law enforcement, educators, and federal employees, among others.
- If you are in the United States and believe someone may be a victim of human trafficking, report your suspicions to law enforcement. Trafficking victims, including undocumented individuals, are eligible for services and immigration assistance.
- Be a conscientious and informed consumer. Discover your slavery footprint, ask who picked your tomatoes or made your clothes, or check out the Department of Labor's List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor.
- Volunteer and support anti-trafficking efforts in your community.
- Meet with and/or write to your local, state, and federal government representatives to let them know you care about combating human trafficking, and ask what they are doing to address it.
- Host an awareness-raising event to watch and discuss films about human trafficking. For example, learn how modern slavery exists today; watch an investigative documentary about sex trafficking; or discover how human trafficking can affect global food supply chains.
- Organize a fundraiser and donate the proceeds to an anti-trafficking organization.
- Encourage your local schools to partner with students and include modern slavery in their curricula. As a parent, educator, or school administrator, be aware of how traffickers target school-aged children.
- Be well-informed. Set up a web alert to receive current human trafficking news. Become familiar with public awareness materials available from the Department of Health and Human Services or the Department of Homeland Security.
- Work with a local religious community or congregation to help stop trafficking by supporting a victim service provider or spreading awareness of human trafficking.
- Businesses: Provide jobs, internships, skills training, and other opportunities to trafficking survivors.
- Students: Take action on your campus. Join or establish a university club to raise awareness about human trafficking and initiate action throughout your local community. Health Care
- Providers: Learn how to identify the indicators of human trafficking and assist victims. With assistance from anti-trafficking organizations, extend low-cost or free services to human trafficking victims.
- Journalists: The media plays an enormous role in shaping perceptions and guiding the public conversation about human trafficking. Here are some media best practices on how to effectively and responsibly report stories on human trafficking.
- Attorneys: Offer human trafficking victims legal services, including support for those seeking benefits or special immigration status. Resources are available for attorneys representing victims of human trafficking.

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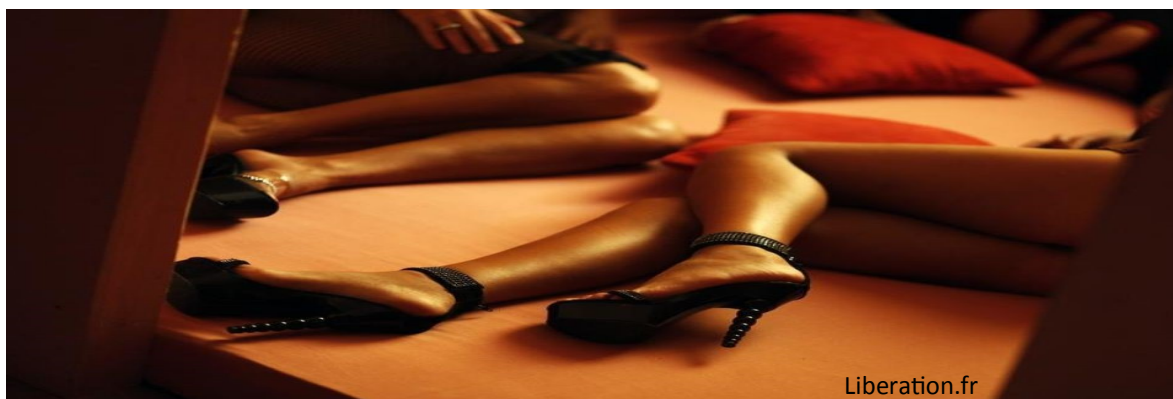
Real Life Stories

These following stories illustrate only some of the many forms of trafficking and the wide variety of places in which they occur. Many of the victims' names have been changed and uncaptioned photographs are not images of confirmed trafficking victims. Still, they illustrate the myriad forms of exploitation that comprise trafficking and the variety of situations in which trafficking victims are found.

Central America

The case of Maria, a girl from Central America is notable. She left her country with the promise of working as a waitress in a restaurant. However, she was sold and resold and transported from brothel to brothel. She now lives in a center for victims of trafficking in Mexico.

"Some clients treat you well and others do not, but I thank God that nothing has happened to me, some of my friends have finished dead. They took away my papers and they even took my mother's phone number. They told me I had to work until I finished paying my debt. I was 16 years old. One day a friend told me that Mexican women were looking for people who wanted to work. I contacted them and they offered me a waitress job in a restaurant and they said they would pay me 400 pesos a week. I had no money to maintain my baby and my two brothers so I agreed. When I arrived, they made me work in a bar. A client said he wanted to have sex with me. I refused. Then the owner hit me and shouted, "You do what I tell you. You owe me money: I paid to bring you here. When you finish paying me, you will do whatever you want. That day, I was forced to have sex with four clients. » [...]"



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United States

In 2001, Flor Molina became a victim of slavery in the garment industry in Los Angeles. She was an easy target: a desperate mother who had just lost her baby because she didn't have the money to hospitalize her sick child. With the hope of starting her own business to support her three other children, Flor began taking sewing classes. It was Flor's sewing teacher that would eventually facilitate her 40 days of enslavement in the U.S.

"My sewing teacher was approached by a trafficker because she knew a lot of women who knew how to sew and would be desperate to come to the United States to make money. There were no opportunities in my town, so when my sewing teacher told me about the opportunity to go to the U.S., I was definitely interested. I had to leave my mom and my children behind. I was told that when I got to the U.S. I will have a job so I could send money home, food and a place to stay. When I arrived in Los Angeles, I quickly realized it had all been a lie. My trafficker told me that now I owe her almost \$3,000 for bringing me to the U.S. and that I had to work for her in order to pay her back. I was forced to work 18 hours a day making dresses that were being sold for \$200 department stores. When all the workers in the factory got to go home, I had to clean the factory. I was forced to sleep at the factory in a storage room, and I had to share a single mattress with another victim. The other workers in the factory were able to come and go at the end of their shift. I was forbidden to talk to anyone or from putting one step outside of the factory. I worked hard, and I was always hungry. I was given only one meal a day, and I had 10 minutes to eat. If I took longer, I was punished. After only a few weeks of being there, one of my co-workers started suspecting that something was not right. She had realized that I was always there in the morning when she got there and was working at night after everybody left. She gave me her phone number on a piece of paper and told me that if I needed help, I could call her. I was so afraid, I didn't really trust anybody. My trafficker told me that if I ever go to the police, they wouldn't believe me. She said that she knew where my children and my mother lived and that I wouldn't want them to pay the consequences. This went on for 40 days, but I tell you it felt like 40 years. I thought I was going to die. I thought I would never see my children again. I was sick with worry about how my children were in Mexico and how they didn't know what happened to me. After weeks of begging my trafficker to let me go to church, she finally let me go. The moment I set foot outside the factory, I decided not to go back. I went to a pay phone to call my co-worker, but I didn't know how the pay phone worked. After a while, someone walked by, and I asked him if he spoke Spanish, and he did. He helped me dial the phone number, and my co-worker came and picked me up and took me to a restaurant".



World Vision International

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International Calendar of Anti-trafficking Events

July 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	Final Conference "Achievements and Next Steps" in the project „Promoting a Victim Centered Approach in Trafficking Cases in Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina“	3	4	5	6	8
9		10	11	12	13 Strike Force for Fight against THB and Illegal Migrations, OPDAT – Meeting (Trebevic, BiH)	15 World Youth Skills Day
16	World Day for International Justice	17	18	19	20	22
23		24	25	26	27	29
30 World Day against Trafficking in Persons		31				

August 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Activation of the European Resource Center – EURC Facebook Page for eased communication of the THB collective	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 29th Annual Crimes Against Children Conference Dallas, Texas, USA	9 29th Annual Crimes Against Children Conference Dallas, Texas, USA	10 29th Annual Crimes Against Children Conference Dallas, Texas, USA	11	12 International Youth Day
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 World Humanitarian Day
20	21	22	23 International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition	24 Men Standing Against Trafficking - Event	25	26
27	28 Multi-Disciplinary Team Response to Child Sex Trafficking Charleston, Carolina, USA	29 Multi-Disciplinary Team Response to Child Sex Trafficking Charleston, Carolina, USA	30 International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances	31		

Impressum



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EUROPEAN RESOURCE CENTER
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Is Your organization/community active in the combat against trafficking in human beings? Share with us your activities and experiences by e-mail: info@eurcenter.net.

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Related documents

[Global Slavery Index](#)

[Global Report: Marking progress against child labour](#)

[South-East Asia Fact Sheet : Children in labour and employment](#)

Sources and references:

www.childsafe-international.org

www.humantrafficking.org

www.inhope.org

www.prajwalaindia.com

www.savethechildrenindia.org

www.stopthetraffik.org

www.terredeshommes.org

www.walkfree.org

www.youngmeninitiative.net

www.globalslaveryindex.org

www.ilo.org

Useful links:

www.emmaus-international.org

[INHOPE network](#)

www.inhope.org

[ECPAT international](#)

www.ecpat.net

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